



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1989

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DECISIONS ON PROJECTS WITHIN TIMESCALE -- FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING AHEAD WITH ALL ITS PLANNING OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD ADHERE TO ITS TIMETABLE FOR MAKING DECISIONS.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AFTER ATTENDING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND, SIR PIERS REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON PROJECTS SUCH AS THE AIRPORT WITHIN THE TIMESCALE WHICH IT SET ITSELF.

"THERE IS A LOT THAT IS GOING ON IN THE ADMINISTRATION AT THE MOMENT," HE SAID, CITING AS EXAMPLES THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY STUDY (PADS) AND THE AIRPORT IN PARTICULAR.

ASKED WHETHER RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, HE SAID IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE SOME EFFECT BUT OVER THE MEDIUM TO LONGER TERM, HE WOULD EXPECT THAT THINGS IN HONG KONG WOULD PICK UP AGAIN.

"EVERYONE IS BEING EXTREMELY SHOCKED BY THESE GHASTLY EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE. I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT EFFECT IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE ON INVESTMENT," HE SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE DECREASE IN THE PRIME RATE WOULD HELP STIMULATE THE MARKET, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AS FAR AS BUSINESS WAS CONCERNED.

"I HAD TAKEN THE VIEW AT THE TIME OF MY BUDGET THAT HIGHER INTEREST RATES WILL BE HELPFUL TO US IN TENDING TO COOL DOWN INFLATION.

"BUT INFLATION ISN'T OUR NO. 1 PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT. IT'S STILL THERE, BUT I WILL EXPECT IT TO COOL DOWN A BIT.

"SO WHAT WE REALLY NEED TO DO IS TO SEE MORE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG," HE NOTED.

ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION OF A NEW RULE TO PROHIBIT LOCALLY LISTED OVERSEAS COMPANIES FROM BUYING ITS SHARES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL, SIR PIERS SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING LOOKED AT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM.

"BUT AT THE MOMENT OUR MAIN CONCERN IS TO SEE INVESTORS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED," HE POINTED OUT.

ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT HIS AWARD OF THE KBE, SIR PIERS SAID IT WAS A GREAT HONOUR AND HE WAS VERY DELIGHTED.

HE ALSO THANKED HIS COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE GIVEN HIM SO MUCH SUPPORT SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE.

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HONG KONG COULD SURVIVE TURMOIL IN CHINA

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IF ANYTHING, THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN CHINA HAVE SERVED TO ACCENTUATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION TO HONG KONG, NOT DETRACT FROM IT. THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY (JUNE 16).

"THEY HAVE SERVED TO BRING HOME TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THE VALUE OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND OF THE SYSTEMS AND LIFESTYLE THAT ARE PRESERVED IN THAT AGREEMENT.

"AND, I SINCERELY HOPE, THEY WILL HAVE SERVED TO MAKE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ALL THE MORE DETERMINED IN THEIR DEMAND THAT THE FREELY NEGOTIATED, BINDING INTERNATIONAL TREATY THAT GOVERNS THEIR FUTURE WILL BE HONOURED," MR CHAN SAID.

"I DO NOT FOR A MOMENT PRETEND THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS WITHOUT ITS PROBLEMS, OR THAT THE RECENT DRAMATIC GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE COME WHAT MAY.

"THERE IS A CLOUD OF UNCERTAINTY OVER HONG KONG AND CHINA WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE; BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO OVER-REACT TO IT," HE STRESSED.

"HONG KONG AND CHINA HAVE SEEN SOME VERY DIFFICULT TIMES OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS AND HAVE MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH.

"I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT AGAIN," MR CHAN SAID.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US/CHINA RELATIONS AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK DURING HIS TWO-WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MR CHAN OUTLINED A NUMBER OF PERSPECTIVES ON HONG KONG WHICH GAVE HIM GREAT HOPE FOR ITS CONTINUED PROSPERITY.

HE SAID THESE INCLUDED CHINA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, THE RE-EMERGENCE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS OF HONG KONG AS AN ENTREPOT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY AS A SERVICE AND SOURCING CENTRE FOR THE REGION.

OTHER PERSPECTIVES WERE HONG KONG'S GROWING TRADE WITH EAST ASIA, THE GROWING INTEREST OF US BUSINESSES IN HONG KONG AND CHINA AND THE TERRITORY'S PLACE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.

TAKEN TOGETHER, HE SAID, IT WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE TO VIEW HONG KONG ONLY AS A MANUFACTURER FOR A FEW LARGE EXPORT MARKETS; IT HAD BECOME THE DYNAMIC HUB OF A COMPLEX TRADING AND SERVICE SYSTEM MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD TRADE.

"THE EXTENSIVE SPREAD OF THE NETWORK AND THE SHEER VOLUME OF TRADE AND SERVICES INVOLVED ARE HELPING HONG KONG TO SUSTAIN THE SHOCK OF EVENTS IN CHINA.

/ "AMERICAN INVESTORS

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"AMERICAN INVESTORS ARE NATURALLY TAKING A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. BUT ONCE THE PICTURE IS CLEARER I BELIEVE THAT BUSINESSMEN WILL AGAIN SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HONG KONG BOTH IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND AS A MEANS OF ACCESSING THE POTENTIALLY MUCH LARGER CHINA MARKET," MR CHAN SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICY, MR CHAN SAID HE BELIEVED HONG KONG HAD A UNIQUE ROLE TO PLAY IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH OF FREE AND A STRENGTHENED MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM, NO MATTER WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN CHINA.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD FOLLOWED THE PATH FIRST TRODDEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN COMMERCIAL MATTERS AS WELL AS IN MANY OTHER FIELDS.

"HONG KONG IS AN EXAMPLE IN EAST ASIA OF A WAY OF LIFE AND OF DOING BUSINESS THAT AMERICANS APPRECIATE AND CAN UNDERSTAND AND IN CONSEQUENCE HONG KONG HAS RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES OVER THE YEARS.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO GET SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FROM OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS IN THE YEARS AHEAD," MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE GUARANTEES PROVIDED IN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, AND HONG KONG HAD MADE ITSELF A USEFUL AND IN SOME RESPECTS EXEMPLARY MEMBER OF THE TRADING COMMUNITY RESPECTED AND VALUED BY MANY INCLUDING CHINA.

"BUT ABOVE ALL I BELIEVE IT TO BE SO BECAUSE HONG KONG HAS A HARD-WORKING, RELATIVELY YOUNG AND INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED POPULATION THAT HAS SHOWN ITSELF IN RECENT WEEKS TO BE MORE POLITICALLY AWARE AND MORE COMMITTED TO HONG KONG THAN IT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN CREDIT FOR.

"SOME MAY CHOOSE TO LEAVE HONG KONG BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY WILL WISH TO STAY AND WILL WISH TO SEE HONG KONG DEVELOPED ON FOUNDATIONS IT HAS ALREADY LAID FOR ITSELF.

"FREE TRADE AND COMMERCIAL AUTONOMY ARE CORNERSTONES IN THAT BUILDING AND WILL REMAIN SO.

"WITH THESE FIRMLY IN PLACE HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECT WILL BE AS GOOD AS THEY HAVE EVER BEEN. HONG KONG'S PAST WAS BUILT ON TRADE, SO TOO WILL ITS FUTURE BE," MR CHAN SAID.

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HONG KONG'S RESILIENCE IS LEGENDARY : DIRECTOR, SAN FRANCISCO

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BEHIND THE DEEP CONCERN ABOUT EVENTS IN CHINA IT IS VERY MUCH BUSINESS AS USUAL IN HONG KONG, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO, PETER JOHNSON, SAID YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

MR JOHNSON WAS ADDRESSING BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE HK-CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN EDMONTON, THE CAPITAL CITY OF ALBERTA, DURING A SEMINAR ON HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES PRIOR TO A TRADE MISSION BY THE ASSOCIATION TO THE TERRITORY SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS YEAR.

IN HIS LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE SPEECH, MR JOHNSON REASSURED HIS AUDIENCE THAT HONG KONG, MORE THAN MOST PLACES, HAS SURVIVED MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF CRISES OVER THE YEARS. HONG KONG'S RESILIENCE IS LEGENDARY, HE SAID.

"HONG KONG REMAINS A VIBRANT, SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY AND ONE OF THE SUCCESS STORIES OF THE PAST 30-40 YEARS. IN 1967 OUR GDP STOOD AT US\$2.5 BILLION. IN 1987 IT WAS US\$46 BILLION. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF OVER 20 TIMES IN 20 YEARS, A REAL GROWTH OF 8.5 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

"GROWTH IN TRADE HAS BEEN EVEN MORE DRAMATIC. IN 1967 OUR TOTAL ANNUAL TRADE WAS WORTH US\$3.3 BILLION. IN 1988 IT WAS WORTH US\$127 BILLION. THIS IS MORE THAN TWICE OUR GDP, AND REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 38 TIMES IN 21 YEARS, OR GROWTH OF MORE THAN 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE BEEN UNSUSTAINABLE AND WOULD HAVE CAUSED GRAVE PROBLEMS HAD IT CONTINUED FOR MUCH LONGER.

"SOMETHING OF A BREATHER IS THEREFORE NOT UNWELCOME AT THIS POINT IN TIME, AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE OCCURRED ANYWAY, GIVEN THE MEASURES THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WERE ALREADY TAKING TO COOL DOWN THEIR OVERHEATED ECONOMY."

ONE OF THE MORE REMARKABLE EFFECTS ON HONG KONG AS A RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA HAS BEEN THE WAY IN WHICH THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN A COMING TOGETHER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ON A NUMBER OF BASIC ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE, MR JOHNSON SAID.

"THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, A GROWING APPRECIATION OF THE NEED TO FORGE A CONSENSUS ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BASIC LAW, ONCE CONSULTATION RESUMES, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE FREEDOMS WHICH THE COMMUNITY CURRENTLY ENJOY AGAINST THE ARBITRARY EXERCISE OF POWER.

"THIS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO REQUESTS FOR SPEEDIER PROGRESS TOWARDS A MORE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND STRENGTHENED PROTECTION AGAINST DIRECT MAINLAND PARTICIPATION IN HONG KONG AFFAIRS."

/MR JOHNSON

MR JOHNSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CHANCES OF PROGRESS ALONG THESE LINES MAY APPEAR SLIM AT PRESENT: "THE STAKES FOR CHINA ARE, HOWEVER, VERY HIGH, AND IT IS BOTH MY HOPE AND MY BELIEF THAT IN DUE COURSE COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL.

"WHEN THIS HAPPENS, HONG KONG WILL AS EVER REMAIN UNIQUELY PLACED TO SERVE BOTH CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD," MR JOHNSON CONCLUDED.

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HK-VIETNAM BILATERAL TALKS ON VBP REPATRIATION

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BILATERAL TALKS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN HONG KONG AND VIETNAM ON JUNE 26 ON THE SUBJECT OF REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE (VBP), THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"THE PRESENT INTENTION IS THAT THE POLITICAL ADVISER AND I WILL BE GOING TO HANOI FOR THAT PURPOSE," HE SAID ON HIS RETURN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES (ICIR) IN GENEVA.

"THIS IS QUITE A FIRM INTENTION UNLESS THERE IS ANY LAST-MINUTE CHANGE OF PLANS FROM VIETNAM WHICH WE DON'T EXPECT."

MR BARNES SAID THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE THAT FOLLOWED THE ICIR WAS PROBABLY REMARKABLE FOR AT LEAST ONE STATEMENT BY VIETNAM.

"IN CLEARLY WHAT WAS A PREPARED STATEMENT, VIETNAM SAID THEY WERE FULLY PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT ANY OF ITS CONTENTS WITH ANY COUNTRY AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

"THEY ALSO SAID THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY, AND WHAT THEY WANTED NOW WAS ACTION AND NOT WORDS.

"I THINK THAT WAS QUITE AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM VIETNAM; I THINK IT GIVES SOME HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

"THE HANOI MEETING IS ONE I EXPECT TO ACHIEVE IN MORE ACTION."

REFERRING TO A REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES TO VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PLANNED FOR OCTOBER, MR BARNES SAID THERE WAS A GREAT URGENCY IN HONG KONG TO DO SOMETHING MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN LATER IN THE YEAR.

"WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT AND WE'VE GOT TO GET ON WITH THE TASK OURSELVES. WE'VE MADE THIS QUITE CLEAR TO EVERYBODY, AND VIETNAM UNDERSTANDS IT; OUR AIM WITH VIETNAM WILL BE TO GET SOMETHING GOING AS SOON AS WE CAN."

/MR BARNES

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MR BARNES SAID THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING ON JULY 24 IN BANGKOK, IN WHICH HONG KONG WOULD BE TABLING A PAPER DEALING WITH THE PRACTICALITY OF REPATRIATION.

"WE WILL DRAW ON ALL OUR EXPERIENCE OF GETTING PEOPLE BACK WHEN THEY DON'T BELONG TO HONG KONG, SUCH AS EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, VOLUNTARY VBP RETURNEES AND CHINESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS."

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GOVERNOR, LADY WILSON SHARE FUN WITH PUBLIC AT MORSE PARK

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THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON, TODAY (SATURDAY) JOINED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT MORSE PARK IN A FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

ON ARRIVAL, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WERE GREETED BY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR STEPHEN LAU AND THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR A.L. PURVES.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON TOURED THE PARK AND SAW A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING BALL GAMES COMPETITIONS, CHINESE CHESS, SHUTTLECOCK, ROLLER SKATING.

THEY ALSO WATCHED A TELEMATCH FOR YOUTH, POTTED SPORTS FOR CHILDREN, GATEBALL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND FUN GAMES FOR THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED AS WELL AS A TELEMATCH FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE PARK'S INDOOR GAMES HALL.

THE COUNCIL ALSO STAGED CELEBRATION EVENTS AT VICTORIA PARK, INCLUDING BALL GAMES COMPETITIONS, PONY RIDING, FUN KART FOR YOUTH AND MINI TRAIN FOR FAMILIES.

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SWD TO LAUNCH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH FROM NEXT MONTH A SERIES OF REGIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES INCLUDING TRAINING CAMPS, SEMINARS, TALKS, DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS FOR YOUTHS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE ACTIVITIES IS TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY BY FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PERSONALITY, SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO USE THEIR LEISURE TIME BENEFICIALLY.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ABOUT 500 YOUTHS WILL PARTICIPATE.

/SENIOR SOCIAL

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SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER CO-ORDINATING THE PROGRAMMES, MISS MAY CHUNG, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY): "THESE PROGRAMMES WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT PARTICIPANTS BUT ALSO THE TARGET GROUPS SUCH AS THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED GROUP, THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED AND PROBATIONERS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER EQUIP THEMSELVES IN ORGANISING PROJECTS IN FUTURE AFTER THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FROM PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS."

THE FIRST YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 1 TO 2. SOME 60 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS FROM EASTERN KOWLOON REGION WILL TAKE PART IN A YOUTH CAMP AT PAK SHA SEA ACTIVITY CENTRE, SAI KUNG.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES INCLUDE SERVICE SKILLS IN CHILD WELFARE, MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND WORKING WITH THE DISABLED AS WELL AS BASIC SKILLS OF MANNING EXHIBITIONS. OTHER PROGRAMMES IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WILL BE PROVIDED.

THE SECOND PROJECT, "CONCERN, REALISE AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CITY", IS SPECIALLY ORGANISED FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS IN WESTERN KOWLOON REGION.

PROGRAMMES INCLUDE TALKS AND BRIEFINGS, VISITS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES AND CAMPING AT THE TAI PO DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S CAMP. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE 10-DAY PROJECT, STARTING FROM JULY 7, WILL ATTRACT ABOUT 200 PARTICIPANTS.

IN HONG KONG REGION, ABOUT 100 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WILL TAKE PART IN A SEMINAR ON "REVIEW ON VOLUNTEERISM AND FUTURE TRENDS IN VOLUNTEERS WORK" AT LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE, IN WAN CHAI, ON JULY 9.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION, A SEMINAR ON "THE CHANGING SOCIETY -- ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE" WILL BE HELD AT REGAL RIVERSIDE HOTEL IN SHA TIN ON JULY 16. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ABOUT 150 PARTICIPANTS WILL JOIN THE SEMINAR.

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IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR KOWLOON CITY BUILDINGS

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TWENTY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BENEFIT FROM AN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME MAPPED OUT BY THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM (BMCT) FOR 1989-90.

DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE TEAM, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST NOVEMBER, CARRIED OUT A SURVEY ON 108 BUILDINGS AND, BASED ON THE INFORMATION GATHERED, SELECTED 20 BUILDINGS FOR IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

/THE HOUSING

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THE HOUSING MANAGER HEADING THE TEAM, MR CHAN PAU-KUEN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE 1989-90 PROGRAMME HAD BEEN DIVIDED INTO FOUR PHASES.

THE FIRST PHASE COVERS SIX BUILDINGS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. WORK IS ALREADY IN HAND AND BMCT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN LIAISING WITH OWNERS CORPORATIONS (OC) AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES (MAC) TO IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS AND CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENTS.

"THE OCS AND MACS OF THESE BUILDINGS ARE MOST CO-OPERATIVE, AND OUR WORK IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS," MR CHAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS IN THOSE BUILDINGS WERE ENVIRONMENTAL IN NATURE.

THEIR CAUSES AROSE FROM DEFECTIVE PIPING SYSTEM, LACK OF MAINTENANCE OF COMMON AREAS OR SIMPLY IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF REFUSE, HE SAID.

IN CARRYING OUT THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME, THE BMCT WILL SOMETIMES APPROACH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE KOWLOON CITY BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS LEAVE ON STUDY TOUR

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SIX MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, LED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHUNG PUI-LAM, LEFT TODAY (SATURDAY) ON A STUDY TOUR THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO MELBOURNE IN AUSTRALIA AND TO SINGAPORE.

IN MELBOURNE, THE DELEGATION WILL MEET OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND ON BUILDING REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

THE PROGRAMME IN SINGAPORE INCLUDES DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND VISITS TO MANAGEMENT CORPORATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

THE DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO RETURN ON JUNE 25.

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SPECIAL BOY SCOUT GROUP SET UP IN SHA TIN

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A SPECIAL BOY SCOUT GROUP SET UP AT SHA TIN POLICE HEADQUARTERS IS BEING ORGANISED AND ADMINISTERED BY VOLUNTARY POLICE OFFICERS OF SHA TIN DISTRICT.

BILL BOYTON, SIU LEK YUEN DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, IS LEADER OF THE 57TH SHA TIN DISTRICT SCOUT GROUP WITH SHATIN DISTRICT COMMANDER PETER HALLIDAY TAKING UP THE ROLE OF ASSISTANT LEADER.

+THE MEMBERS OF OUR SCOUT GROUP DIFFER FROM OTHERS REGISTERED WITH THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG,+ MR HALLIDAY SAID.

+OUR BOYS ARE DISADVANTAGED KIDS WHO HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE WITH POLICE IN THE DISTRICT.

+SHA TIN HAS A POPULATION OVER 90,000 AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT WE RECORD A HIGH RATE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE DISTRICT.

+SHOP THEFT, FIGHTING AND ROBBERY ARE COMMON MISDEEDS COMMITTED BY LOCAL YOUNGSTERS.

+WE KNOW THERE ARE MANY ACTIVITIES LIKE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND OTHER FUNCTIONS ORGANISED BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

+HOWEVER, THESE ACTIVITIES ARE MOSTLY DIRECTED TO JUVENILES WITH GOOD STANDARDS.

+AS SUCH, THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE SETTING UP OF A SCOUT GROUP FOR THE DISADVANTAGED IS TO GUIDE THEM TO A RIGHT PATH ENABLING THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF LIFE.

+OUR ACTION CAN BE REGARDED AS A RESPONSE TO MR LI KWAN-HA, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, OPERATIONS, WHO CURRENTLY CHAIRS A WORKING GROUP ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY URGING THE POLICE TO TAKE A LEAD IN ORGANISING ACTIVITIES TO STOP YOUTH FROM COMMITTING CRIMES.

+WE STARTED OUR GATHERING IN JANUARY WITH ABOUT 20 MEMBERS. NOW WE HAVE MORE THAN 50 BOYS IN THE GROUP.

+OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE GENUINE ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS.

+AND LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST IS THE ENTHUSIASM AND INITIATIVE OF OUR VOLUNTARY POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE HELPING US IRON OUT TEETHING PROBLEMS IN THE COURSE OF SETTING UP THE SCOUT GROUP.+

CONTINUED INSPECTOR MUI LAM-SANG, SCOUTMASTER OF THE 57TH GROUP: +AFTER JOINING THE GROUP, THE KIDS CHANGE A LOT, THEY BECOME MORE CONSIDERATE AND MORE RESPONSIVE.

/+THE MOST

+THE MOST REMARKABLE CHANGE IS THAT THEY CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS AND ACCEPT DISCIPLINE MORE READILY.

+WE HAVE 12 CUB SCOUTS AND ABOUT 40 SCOUTS. THE YOUNGEST MEMBER IN OUR GROUP IS EIGHT YEARS OLD WHILE THE ELDEST IS 14.+

ADDED MR HALLIDAY: +WITH RESPECT TO THE EXPANSION OF OUR GROUP, WE HOPE TO SET UP A SMALL VENTURE SCOUT TEAM CATERING FOR THOSE WHO ARE WITHIN THE AGES FROM 15 TO 18.

+ADDITIONALLY, WE HOPE TO INCLUDE GIRLS IN OUR FORMATION EITHER IN THE FORM OF A GIRL GUIDE TROOP OR JOINING WITH THE SCOUT TEAM AS GIRL SCOUTS.

+NEARLY ALL THE VOLUNTARY TRAINERS HAVE BASIC SCOUTING TRAINING EXPERIENCE AND SOME OF THEM ARE UNDERTAKING THE ADVANCE TRAINING PROGRAMMES RUN BY THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

+WE HOPE THAT THE SCOUT LEADERS CAN BE RECRUITED FROM THE COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE SO THAT POLICE PERSONNEL TRANSFERS WILL NOT AFFECT OUR GROUP ACTIVITIES.+

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EMPLOYERS REMINDED NOT TO HIRE YOUNG PERSONS
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS ABOUT THE LAW GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

THIS FOLLOWS A COURT CASE IN WHICH THE PROPRIETOR OF A RESTAURANT WAS FINED \$6,000 PLUS \$4,500 COSTS BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR EMPLOYING THREE CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 14.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, A CHILD WHO HAS ATTAINED 13 YEARS OF AGE BUT HAS NOT COMPLETED FORM III IS NOT ALLOWED TO WORK IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS INCLUDING THE KITCHEN OF AN EATING PLACE, HAIR-DRESSING SALOON AND MASSAGE PARLOUR.

HOWEVER, THOSE AGED 13 OR ABOVE MAY, WITH THE CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS, BE ENGAGED ON PART-TIME BASIS IN NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.

"THESE RESTRICTION ARE TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED FORM III SECONDARY EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED DURING THEIR NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS AND THAT THEIR HOURS OF WORK BE LIMITED TO TWO HOURS ONLY ON ANY SCHOOL DAY OR FOUR HOURS ON ANY OTHER DAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE REGULATIONS

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THE REGULATIONS ALSO STIPULATE THAT YOUNG PERSONS BELOW 15 YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK IN FACTORIES OR INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO DETECT ANY ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF CHILD WORKERS, IN PARTICULAR DURING THE COMING SUMMER HOLIDAY.

ANYONE WHO CONTRAVENES THE REGULATIONS COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 UPON CONVICTION.

ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT 5-8524144.

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SWIMMING POOL, SPORTS COMPLEX FOR SAI KUNG

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A SWIMMING POOL AND SPORTS COMPLEX WILL BE BUILT IN SAI KUNG TO SERVE LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAI KUNG SWIMMING POOL AND SPORTS COMPLEX.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 1991.

THE COMPLEX WILL COMPRISE A COMPETITION/TRAINING POOL WITH A SPECTATOR STAND FOR 300 PERSONS.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE TWO SQUASH COURTS WITH A SPECTATOR STAND FOR 150 PERSONS; TWO TENNIS COURTS; A REFRESHMENT KIOSK AND CHANGING ROOM, SHOWER AND TOILET FACILITIES.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 30.

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