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THE FOLLOWING PRESS COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE AT 4 PM LONDON TIME TODAY (THURSDAY):

GATT, MFA TOP LIST AT JLG TALKS

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+THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN LONDON FROM JULY 22-25, 1985.

THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE.

THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED AND ESTABLISHED WORKING PROCEDURES FOR THE GROUP.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 4 OF ANNEX II TO THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE GROUP HELD A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. AMONG OTHER THINGS THEY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF HOW HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE, AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GATT, MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENTS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE GROUP EXCHANGED IDEAS ON THE WORKING PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINING THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS TO HONG KONG.

THE GROUP ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ROLE OF THE GATT AND MFA IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN ITS EXTERNAL TRADE ACTIVITIES. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR WISH TO COOPERATE CLOSELY TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ABOVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE GROUP WILL CONTINUE ITS WORK ON THESE SUBJECTS.

THE GROUP DECIDED THAT THE NEXT MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN BEIJING FROM NOVEMBER 26 TO 29, 1985.+

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ROAD WORKS ARE FOR LONG-TERM BENEFIT - SIR DAVID

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EXISTING AND FUTURE WORKS ON HONG KONG'S ROAD SYSTEM UNDERLINED THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TO KEEP THE WHEELS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TURNING SO AS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+AND THEY ARE BUILT FOR THE LONG-TERM FUTURE AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

/OPENING THE .....

OPENING THE SECOND SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR FROM TAIKOO SHING TO SHAU KEI WAN, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE SPECTACULAR HIGHWAY, BUILT AT A COST OF $1.5 BILLION, RUNS TO THE HEART OF EASTERN DISTRICT.

HE SAID THE SECOND STAGE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, AND THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MTR, COMPLETED IN THE SAME YEAR, HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A DRAMATIC CHANGE TO LIFE ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

+IN PARTICULAR THEY HAVE ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND WILL ENCOURAGE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT AND BRING GREATER PROSPERITY TO EASTERN HONG KONG.

+BUT NOT ONLY HAS THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR COST $1.5 BILLION, EACH AND EVERY YEAR WE SPEND $1.5 BILLION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ROAD SYSTEM.

+LATER THIS YEAR WHEN FURTHER STRETCHES OF THE MAIN NORTH-SOUTH TRAFFIC ROUTE ARE OPENED, WE WILL HAVE COMPLETED A MODERN HIGHWAY SYSTEM STRETCHING FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO FANLING,+ HE SAID.

BEYOND FANLING, SIR DAVID SAID, CONSTRUCTION WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS TO COMPLETE THE NORTHERN CIRCULAR ROAD, AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR WORK WOULD START ON A NEW HIGHWAY, CROSSING THE BORDER TO SHENZHEN AND GUANGZHOU.

RECALLING THAT PLANS TO COMPLETE A ROAD AND RAIL LINK IN THE EASTERN HARBOUR HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY, SIR DAVID ADDED: +NEXT YEAR, CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL HIGHWAY LINKING SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN WILL BEGIN. FROM SHAM SHUI PO TO WAN CHAI, WORKS ARE IN PROGRESS EXPANDING AND IMPROVING THE ROAD SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

THE FULL LIST OF ALL THAT WAS BEING DONE WAS TOO LONG TO MENTION, BUT IT WOULD BE CLEAR FROM WHAT HE HAD SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT STANDING STILL, SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS AN IMPRESSIVE TRIBUTE TO THE ENGINEERS WHO CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED IT AND TO THE CONTRACTORS WHO BUILT IT, HE SAID.

+ALL THOSE INVOLVED CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT AND TO HONG KONG AND I CONGRATULATE THEM ON A JOB WELL DONE,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, DR K.F. NIP, SAID THAT WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW SECTION MOTORISTS WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO SHAU KEI WAN IN JUST SIX MINUTES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT +SINCE THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, FROM CAUSEWAY BAY TO TAIKOO SHING LAST YEAR, THE COMMUNITIES ALONG KING'S ROAD HAVE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL RELIEF FROM TRAFFIC CONGESTION, NOISE AND FUMES.

/+THIS HAS .....

+THIS HAS RESULTED IN MUCH SHORTER JOURNEY TIMES, AN IMPROVED LIVING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND SAFER CONDITIONS FOR BOTH PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS.

+THESE BENEFITS WILL NOW BE EXTENDED TO THE COMMUNITIES OF SAI WAN HO AND SHAU KEI WAN.+

DR NIP SAID THE SECOND SECTION, COSTING $450 MILLION, HAD TAKEN THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE. HE DESCRIBED IT AS A DUAL THREE-LANE HIGHWAY WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED ROAD NETWORKS OF KORNHILL, SAI WAN HO AND SHAU KEI WAN.

POINTING OUT THE ADDED BENEFITS FROM THE ROAD'S CONSTRUCTION, DR NIP SAID RECLAMATION FOR THE PROJECT HAD MADE AVAILABLE LARGE AREAS OF LAND FOR OPEN SPACE USE. OVER 20 000 SQUARE METRES OF LANDSCAPING WORK WAS BEING PROVIDED AS PART OF THE PROJECT.

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BASIC LAW DISCUSSION A MATTER FOR LEGCO MEMBERS

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WISHED TO DISCUSS THE BASIC LAW, HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD DO SO.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE SECOND SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR THIS AFTERNOON.

ASKED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT ON THE LEGITIMACY OF LEGCO MEMBERS DISCUSSING THE BASIC LAW IN OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, HE SAID: +AS I SAID, I THINK, A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL CONSULT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, AND THEY ARE FORMING A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN HONG KONG FOR THAT PURPOSE.

+I IMAGINE THAT THE INPUT INTO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL COME FROM A GREAT MANY SOURCES, AND IF THE MEMBERS OF LEGCO WISH TO DISCUSS THE BASIC LAW, I AM SURE THEY WILL DO SO.+

ASKED IF HE WOULD EXPECT LEGCO MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE BASIC LAW IN OPEN MEETINGS OF LEGCO, SIR DAVID SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION BUT WOULD NOT EXPECT IT.

ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEW ON MISS LYDIA DUNN'S STATEMENT THAT LEGCO SHOULD DISCUSS THE BASIC LAW, HE REPLIED: +I DIDN'T HEAR HER MAKE THAT STATEMENT BUT I AM SURE IF MISS DUNN MAKES IT, IT IS A VERY SERIOUS STATEMENT.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE SECOND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AWARD OF A CONTRACT YET.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT IN PRINCIPLE, AND THAT EVALUATION OF VARIOUS TENDERS WAS STILL GOING ON.

/ASKED IF .....

ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY REACTION FROM THE U.K. ON THE AWARDING OF THE LRT CONTRACT TO AN AUSTRALIAN CONSORTIUM, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NONE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE.

ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE ERP SCHEME, HE SAID THE CONSULTANT'S REPORT WAS BEING LOOKED AT BY THE TRANSPORT BRANCH.

ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE A PAY RISE FOR TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, HE SAID THERE WERE VARIOUS PAY REVIEWS UNDER CONSIDERATION ALL THE TIME AND THAT SOME PAY REVIEWS HAD BEEN LONG OUTSTANDING.

HE CONFIRMED THAT PAY REVIEWS FOR DIRECTORATE OFFICERS WOULD BE COMING UP SHORTLY.

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DORWARD REPEATS JENKINS BILL MESSAGE

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COMMISSIONER FOR HONG KONG COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN NEW YORK, MR WILLIAM DORWARD HAS WRITTEN THIS WEEK TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE U.S. CONGRESS SAYING THE JENKINS BILL, IF ENACTED, WILL REDUCE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) EXPORTS COVERED BY THE CURRENT U.S./HONG KONG TEXTILES AGREEMENT BY 13 PER CENT AND NON-MFA TEXTILE AND APPAREL EXPORT BY AS MUCH AS 70 PER CENT.

IN THE LETTER MR DORWARD SAID SUCH ACTION AGAINST HONG KONG WAS BOTH UNJUST AND UNJUSTIFIED, POINTING OUT THAT THE TERRITORY MAINTAINED A COMPLETELY OPEN MARKET, WITHOUT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OR CUSTOMS DUTIES, AND HAD ALWAYS RESPECTED ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), THE MFA AND ITS BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

HE ALSO WARNED THAT THE BILL, IF ENACTED, WOULD DESTROY THE MFA, POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE GATT, AND INEVITABLY HINDER THE PROPOSED NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

+IT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE EARNINGS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD IN TURN REDUCE THEIR ABILITY TO PURCHASE IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, MOST IMPORTANTLY IN AREAS NECESSARY TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD AFFECT THE ABILITY OF CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REPAY DEBTS. AND IT WOULD INVITE RAPID AND DAMAGING RETALIATION AGAINST U.S. EXPORTS.+

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VALUE OF U.S. GSP TO HK STRESSED

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HONG KONG'S GOOD TRADE PRACTICES MEAN THAT THE TERRITORY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ENTITLED TO THE FULL BENEFITS OF A BENEFICIARY COUNTRY UNDER THE UNITED STATES GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

THIS WAS THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUBMISSION MADE BY HONG KONG TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WHICH IS NOW REVIEWING THE OPERATION OF THE GSP SCHEME IN WASHINGTON.

+THE GSP PROGRAMME IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING. THE GOOD TRADE PRACTICES MAINTAINED BY HONG KONG REPRESENT THE FULL EXTENT OF THE DESIRED BENEFICIARY COUNTRY PRACTICES STIPULATED IN THE TRADE AND TARIFF ACT OF 1984,+ SAID THE SUBMISSION PREPARED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

+HONG KONG SHOULD THUS CONTINUE TO BE ENTITLED TO THE FULL BENEFITS OF A BENEFICIARY COUNTRY UNDER UNITED STATES GSP.+

HONG KONG IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO AN OPEN MARKET POLICY AND THIS APPLIES TO TRADE IN GOODS AND FINANCIAL AND OTHER SERVICES AS WELL AS TO INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY. LEGISLATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THAT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND IT IS RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED. THE WORK FORCE ENJOYS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED WORKER'S RIGHTS.

THE SUBMISSION POINTED OUT THAT THE TERRITORY ADHERES STRICTLY TO THE DISCIPLINE OF THE WORLD'S TRADING SYSTEM - IN PARTICULAR THE GATT. ECONOMIC PLANNING, EXCEPT IN THE VERY BROADEST SENSE, IS NOT PRACTISED BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SEES ITS MAJOR ROLE AS TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE AND STABLE FRAMEWORK FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH A MINIMUM OF INTERFERENCE.

IN 1984 THE TERRITORY IMPORTED U.S. $3.1 BILLION WORTH OF GOODS FROM THE UNITED STATES - ALL FREE OF IMPORT DUTY. IN CONTRAST ONLY U.S. $1.3 BILLION WORTH OF IMPORTS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, OR 16.1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, ENTERED THE U.S. FROM HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY UNDER GSP.

POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE NOW SOME 14 000 AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, THE SUBMISSION SAID THAT THE TERRITORY PROVIDES A BASE FOR OVER 800 AMERICAN FIRMS. THE U.S. IS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, ACCOUNTING FOR 54 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

+HONG KONG IS FAITHFUL TO LIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND FREE TRADE,+ SAID THE SUBMISSION. THERE ARE NO IMPORT TARIFFS OR QUOTA RESTRICTIONS, HONG KONG HAS NO CONTROLS ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OTHER THAN THOSE ARISING FROM INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THOSE REQUIRED FOR HEALTH, SAFETY OR SECURITY REASONS.

/THE TERRITORY'S .....

THE TERRITORY'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WAS STRESSED. THERE ARE COMPREHENSIVE LAWS COVERING TRADE MARKS, TRADE DESCRIPTIONS, COPYRIGHT, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND PATENTS AND SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO ENFORCEMENT.

+HONG KONG DOES NOT HAVE ANY TRADE-DISTORTING INVESTMENT PRACTICES OR POLICIES,+ SAID THE STATEMENT. +FREE MARKET INFLUENCES PREDOMINATE IN HONG KONG AND GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THIS AREA IS STRICTLY LIMITED. THERE IS NO CENTRAL DIRECTION GIVEN TO ANY OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY, OTHER THAN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE HONG KONG INDUSTRY TO DIVERSIFY FROM ITS HEAVY RELIANCE ON THE TEXTILES SECTOR.+

THE TERRITORY'S LIBERAL POLICIES ON SERVICES WERE DEMONSTRATED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN FIRMS INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BANKING, INSURANCE, ADVERTISING AND ENGINEERING. BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCALLY-OWNED COMPANIES ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME REQUIREMENTS COVERING REGISTRATION AND OPERATION.

FINALLY IT WAS STATED THAT THE TERRITORY'S LABOUR FORCE ENJOYS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED WORKERS' RIGHTS AND THAT COMPREHENSIVE LABOUR LEGISLATION IS IN FORCE REFLECTING HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A SIGNATORY TO INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS.

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+BOAT BRIDES+ GIVEN MORE TIME TO LEAVE

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING AGREED TO A REQUEST BY THE HUSBANDS OF THE 14 +BOAT BRIDES+ TO GIVE THE WOMEN TWO MORE WEEKS TO PREPARE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CHINA.

THE REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE AT A MEETING THIS MORNING BETWEEN THE HUSBANDS AND AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR C.S. TANG.

IN AGREEING TO THE REQUEST BY THE HUSBANDS OF THE 14 +BOAT BRIDES+, WHO ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN TO CHINA BECAUSE THEY HAVE BREACHED THEIR CONDITIONS OF STAY, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT EMPHASISED THAT NO FURTHER DELAYS WOULD BE ALLOWED.

+WE EXPECT THE MATTER TO BE RESOLVED BY AUGUST 9,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

AT THE MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO AGREED TO HELP ANY +BOAT BRIDE+ WHO MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING FOR HER DEPARTURE.

ARRANGEMENTS TO RETURN BY LAND WOULD BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THOSE WOMEN WHO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO CHINA IN THEIR OWN BOATS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/+AS REGARDS .....

+AS REGARDS THEIR REQUEST THAT BABIES BORN IN CHINA AFTER THEIR RETURN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME TO HONG KONG TOGETHER WITH THEIR MOTHERS, WE WILL RELAY THIS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

THIS MORNING'S MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL MANNER, HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE

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THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW IN JUNE 1985, BY $1 579 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT OVER JUNE 1984, TO REACH $8 341 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, HOWEVER, FELL BY $1 410 MILLION, OR 11 PER CENT, TO $10 956 MILLION. THUS, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY $169 MILLION, OR ONE PER CENT, TO $19 297 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, AT $19 758 MILLION IN JUNE 1985, WAS TWO PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1984.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW AT A SLOWER RATE THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE GAP (THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS) OF TWO PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN JUNE 1985, COMPARED WITH ONE PER CENT IN JUNE 1984.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 WAS $113 050 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF $60 408 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF $52 642 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1984, THE VALUES OF TOTAL EXPORTS AND OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 13 PER CENT AND 41 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY FOUR PER CENT. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY SEVEN PER CENT TO $112 772 MILLION. A SMALL VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF FIVE PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DECLINING TREND IN THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985.

THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR OVER THE PAST YEAR AND IN THE BEGINNING MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS ALSO A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR. RE-EXPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUED TO EXPAND.

/THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1985:

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: $10 956 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: $ 8 341 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	: $19 297 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: $19 758 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: $ 461 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	APR - JUN 1985	APR - JUN 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	$ MN.	$ MN.	$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	31 432	34 525	- 3 093	- 9.0
RE-EXPORTS	27 169	19 509	+ 7 660	+39.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	58 601	54 034	+ 4 567	+ 8.5
IMPORTS	58 772	56 770	+ 2 002	+ 3.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 171	- 2 736	+ 2 565	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JUNE 1985	JUNE 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	$ MN.	$ MN.	$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	10 956 (56.8%)	12 366 (64.6%)	- 1 410	-11.4
RE-EXPORTS	8 341	6 762	+ 1 579	+23.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 297	19 128	+ 169	+ 0.9
IMPORTS	19 758	19 375	+ 383	+ 2.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 461	- 247	- 214	

LAST MONTH	JUNE 1985	MAY 1985	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	$ MN.	$ MN.	$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	10 956 (56.8%)	10 816 (53.7%)	+ 140	+ 1.3
RE-EXPORTS	8 341	9 328	- 987	-10.6

/TOTAL EXPORTS .....

TOTAL EXPORTS	19 297	20 144	- 847	- 4.2
IMPORTS	19 758	19 216	+ 542	+ 2.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 461	+ 928	- 1 389	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN - JUN 1985	JAN - JUN 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	$ MN.	$ MN.	$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	60 408 (53.4%)	62 641 (62.7%)	- 2 233	- 3.6
RE-EXPORTS	52 642	37 231	+15 411	+41.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	113 050	99 872	+13 178	+13.2
IMPORTS	112 772	105 554	+ 7 218	+ 6.8
TRADE BALANCE	+ 278	- 5 682	+ 5 960	

LAST 12 MONTHS	JULY 1984 TO JUNE 1985	JULY 1983 TO JUNE 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	$ MN.	$ MN.	$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	135 703	123 885	+11 818	+ 9.5
RE-EXPORTS	98 916	69 550	+29 366	+42.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	234 619	193 435	+41 184	+21.3
IMPORTS	230 588	204 921	+25 667	+12.5
TRADE BALANCE	+ 4 031	-11 486	+15 517	

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REPORT ON DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES OUT

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A STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED THE +1983 SURVEY OF WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS+ HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE REPORT CONTAINS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, AND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE AND SERVICE SECTOR IN 1983.

/INCLUDED IN .....

INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE ANALYTICAL TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY-MAJOR GROUP AND ANALYSED BY NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, VALUE ADDED, PURCHASES OF GOODS FOR SALE, DISTRICT AND TYPE OF OWNERSHIP.

THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A TABLE COMPARING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY ACTIVITY AND MAJOR GROUP FOR THE YEARS 1980 TO 1983.

BESIDES PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY FORMULATION, THE STATISTICS ARE ALSO USEFUL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT $6 A COPY.

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SELF-HELP ESSENTIAL TO REHABILITATION OF DISABLED

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HONG KONG'S REGISTRY OF THE DISABLED HOLDS THE RECORDS OF 77 000 DISABLED PERSONS AND PROVIDES USEFUL INFORMATION ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISABLED POPULATION, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REHABILITATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED 1985, WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH, MRS CHAN SAID THIS FACILITATED THE PLANNING OF SERVICES TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

COUNTED BY SINGLE DISABLEMENT, 37 000 OF THOSE ON THE REGISTRY WERE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, 17 000 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, 4 000 MALADJUSTED AND SLOW LEARNING, 6 500 MENTALLY ILL, 13 000 BLIND AND 7 400 DEAF.

+THE REGISTRY HAS NOT YET ACHIEVED FULL COVERAGE OF THE DISABLED POPULATION IN HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID.

+WE EXPECT AN ANNUAL INTAKE RATE OF ABOUT 18 000 CASES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, STABILISING AT A LEVEL BETWEEN 100 000 TO 150 000 RECORDS.+

TURNING TO THE THEME OF SELF-REHABILITATION, MRS CHAN STRESSED THAT A GOOD PART OF REHABILITATION MUST DEPEND ON HOW WELL A DISABLED PERSON COULD LEARN TO DO THINGS FOR HIMSELF RATHER THAN RELY ON WHAT OTHERS COULD DO FOR HIM.

SHE NOTED THAT THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED COULD LEAD A FULL AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE BY NOT ALLOWING PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS TO DOMINATE THEIR LIVES.

/SHE TOLD .....

SHE TOLD THE HANDICAPPED: +DO NOT FOCUS TOO MUCH ON YOUR VULNERABILITY AND THEREBY MISS YOUR STRENGTHS. MAKE ROOM IN YOUR LIVES FOR OTHER CONCERNS AND ALLOW THOSE AROUND YOU TO SHARE IN YOUR FRUSTRATIONS AND YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.+

WHILE SELF-SUFFICIENCY SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S GOAL, MRS CHAN NOTED THAT MAN DEPENDED ON HIS FELLOW MEN AND THAT THIS INTER-DEPENDENCE WAS WHAT GAVE STRENGTH TO OUR SOCIETY.

+IT IS A PITY THAT IN THE PROCESS OF GROWING UP, AND IN OUR ANXIETY TO CONFORM, WE LOSE SOME OF OUR MORE ADMIRABLE NATURAL QUALITIES OF SPONTANEITY AND UNSELF-CONSCIOUSNESS,+ SHE SAID.

+WE GROW SHY OF TRYING, ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS, OR OF SEEKING HELP. THIS IS AS TRUE OF THE PERSON WITHOUT PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS AS IT IS OF THE HANDICAPPED PERSON.+

RELATING TO OTHERS IN A POSITIVE AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTING MANNER WAS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SELF-REHABILITATION.

+MANY FAMILIES WITH HANDICAPPED MEMBERS HAVE FOUND THAT WITH OPENNESS AND GENUINE SHARING, ALL CAN UNCOVER NEWFOUND STRENGTHS AND BONDS,+ MRS CHAN SAID.

THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE SET-BACKS AND FRUSTRATIONS IN LIFE, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON HOW ONE TOLERATED AND ADJUSTED TO THEM WHILE HOLDING FAST TO ONE'S GOAL.

+THE POTENCY OF EXPECTATIONS HAS BEEN PROVED TIME AND AGAIN - THOSE WHO EXPECT TO SUCCEED, DO THOSE WHO EXPECT TO FAIL, FAIL,+ SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN RECALLED THAT LAST NOVEMBER, AFTER EIGHT MONTHS OF VIGOROUS TRAINING, A GROUP OF HONG KONG YOUTHS SCALED THE 5 980-METRE ISLAND PEAK IN THE HIMALAYAS TO BECOME THE FIRST PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED TEAM IN THE WORLD TO CONQUER THIS HEIGHT.

+THIS OPERATION,+ MRS CHAN SAID, +IS AN ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO THE CAPABILITIES AND UNYIELDING SPIRIT OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.+

SHE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH AND DESCRIBED IT AS +A FINE LIVING EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE HANDICAPPED CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH SELF-REHABILITATION+.

+FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN THE EARLY 1970S WITH A SMALL MEMBERSHIP OF 100, THE FEDERATION HAS NOW BECOME A VIBRANT ORGANISATION OF 1 000 MEMBERS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO HELP THEMSELVES AND EACH OTHER INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID.

THE FEDERATION'S SELF-SUPPORTING PROJECTS INCLUDE A HOSTEL FOR SINGLE HANDICAPPED YOUTHS, A WORKSHOP AND A DRIVING SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED.

IN ADDITION, IT ALSO OPERATES A SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE.

+THE COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FEDERATION CANNOT BUT COMMAND OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION,+ MRS CHAN SAID.

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3 778 HOS FLATS TO BE SOLD EQUALLY

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THE 3 778 FLATS AT THREE PROJECTS NOW BEING OFFERED FOR SALE UNDER PHASE 7C OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME WILL BE SOLD TO GREEN FORM AND WHITE FORM APPLICANTS AT A RATIO OF 50 : 50 AS IN PREVIOUS SALES EXERCISES.

HOWEVER, 75 PER CENT OF THE 978 FLATS AT NEPTUNE TERRACE, A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENT, IN CHAI WAN WILL BE SOLD TO GREEN FORM APPLICANTS.

+THIS IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE BETTER-OFF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS TO PURCHASE FLATS AT MORE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS AND TO MOVE OUT OF THEIR LOW-RENT UNITS, THUS MAKING WAY FOR FAMILIES IN GREATER NEED OF SUBSIDISED HOMES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SAID TODAY.

UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT A MAXIMUM OF 734 FLATS AT NEPTUNE TERRACE, TOGETHER WITH 1 155 OUT OF 2 800 FLATS AT SIU HEI COURT PHASE I IN TUEN MUN AND MING NGA COURT IN TAI PO WILL BE OFFERED TO GREEN FORM APPLICANTS.

+TENANTS OF MARK I/II ESTATES WILL BE GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITY OVER OTHER GREEN FORM APPLICANTS IN CHOOSING THE FLATS.

+THEREAFTER FLAT SELECTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON THE BASIS OF THREE GREEN FORM APPLICANTS ALTERNATING WITH ONE WHITE FORM APPLICANTS UNTIL THE QUOTA ALLOCATION FOR GREEN FORM APPLICANTS IS FILLED,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED THAT ASPIRING HOME-OWNERS THAT SAMPLE FLATS AT NEPTUNE TERRACE IN CHAI WAN WERE CURRENTLY OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM.

+MOCK UP FLATS SET UP ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF 01 MAN COMMERCIAL CENTRE FOR MING NGA COURT ARE ALSO OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM DURING WEEK-DAYS AND FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WHILE SAMPLE FLATS AT SIU HEI COURT WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM.+

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YOUTH POLICIES TO BE EXAMINED BY YOUTH

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THE SECOND STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE ON +YOUTH POLICIES IN PERSPECTIVE+ WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ON JULY 28 AND 29.

IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (CCCIYY) AND THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF STUDENTS (HKFS) AS A FOLLOW-UP OF THE STAGE I CONFERENCE HELD IN APRIL.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, MR LO KING-MAN, AND THE PRESIDENT OF OE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF STUDENTS, MR FUNG WAI-KWONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 9 AM ON SUNDAY (JULY 28) AT THE KESWICK HALL OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 250 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS. THEY WILL EXAMINE THE EXISTING YOUTH POLICIES IN HONG KONG AND COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING THE STAGE I CONFERENCE.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL INCLUDE FAMILY, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, MASS MEDIA, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE GROUP DISCUSSION WHICH WILL ALL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TANG PING YUAN BUILDING. THE SECOND DAY OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE KESWICK HALL FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM.

GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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YOUTHS HELP WITH CONSERVATION WORK

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TWO HUNDRED TEENAGE BOYS HAD A CHANCE TO PRACTISE WHAT THEY HAD LEARNT ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION, AT THE PAK TAM CHUNG COUNTRY PARK TODAY.

THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS' CORPS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WERE TAKING PART IN A SPECIAL PROJECT ORGANISED AS PART OF THEIR SUMMER CAMP ACTIVITIES.

THE PROJECT WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART WAS AN EDUCATIONAL TALK ON COUNTRY PARKS, NATURE CONSERVATION AND COMMON PLANTS, AND THE SECOND PART INVOLVED PRACTICAL WORK, WHERE PARTICIPANTS WERE REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE TASKS OF CLEARING VEGETATION, WEEDING AND FERTILISATION UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF COUNTRY PARK OFFICERS.

THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED BY A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY, PERFORMED BY LT. COL. T.C. VILLIERS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS); MR K.C. IU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT; AND MR LAW-BUN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS' CORPS.

/THE JUNIOR .....

THE JUNIOR LEADERS' CORPS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WAS FORMED 15 YEARS AGO AND HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 300, RANGING FROM THE AGE OF 14 TO 17.

MEMBERS ARE TRAINED THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND DISCIPLINARY COURSES, AIMED AT DEVELOPING THEIR SELF-RELIANCE, SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.

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MORE SITES TO LET

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF TWO SITES.

COVERING ABOUT A HECTARE, THE SITE AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION IS FOR THE STORAGE OF NON-DANGEROUS GOODS, FILM PRODUCTION OR WORKSHOP PURPOSES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR 18 MONTHS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE OTHER SITE, SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF KWEI TEI STREET AND TSUNG TAU HA ROAD IN FO TAN, SHA TIN, IS FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK. IT HAS AN AREA OF 9 039 SQUARE METRES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS FOR BOTH SITES IS NOON ON AUGUST 9.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLANS INSPECTED AT:

* LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND

* SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, FOR THE SHA TIN SITE.

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NEW COMPLEX TO PROVIDE BETTER TRAINING

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FIVE TRAINING CENTRES OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) WILL MOVE INTO A NEW BUILDING AT 13 SAN KWAI STREET, KWAI CHUNG, TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO PROVIDE BETTER INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

THE $120 MILLION KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX, THE SECOND TO BE BUILT BY THE COUNCIL, WILL HOUSE THE ELECTRONICS, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, AUTOMOBILE, ELECTRICAL AND TEXTILE TRAINING CENTRES.

WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 16 000 SQUARE METRES, THE FIVE CENTRES WILL OFFER IN SEPTEMBER 19 FULL-TIME AND FOUR PART-TIME COURSES RANGING FROM 30 HOURS TO ONE YEAR IN LENGTH AND WILL TURN OUT 4 100 TRAINED PERSONNEL ANNUALLY.

THE TRAINING CENTRES ARE EQUIPPED TO SIMULATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE ACTUAL WORKING CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY, SO THAT TRAINEES ARE EXPOSED TO AN INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THEIR TRAINING.

ENROLMENT OF TRAINEES TO COURSES ORGANISED BY THE TRAINING CENTRES HAS ALREADY STARTED. ENQUIRIES ON COURSE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MADE AT THE KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX ON 0-204253 OR THE KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX ON 3-7506818.

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DB MEMBERS OBSERVE USD OPERATIONS

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KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) OBSERVED VARIOUS OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

THE 10 BOARD MEMBERS WENT FIRST TO THE LAM TIN SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND TO WATCH A GENERAL DUTIES TEAM IN ACTION AGAINST HAWKERS AT TAK TIN ROAD.

IN YUET WAH STREET THEY TOURED THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WHICH IS EQUIPPED WITH A VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEM AND A CARBON FILTRATION SYSTEM TO CUT OUT THE ODOROUS SMELL EMITTED FROM THE RCP.

THEY THEN TOURED THE NGAU TAU KOK MARKET COMPLEX, WHICH WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO PROVIDE BOTH MARKET FACILITIES AND INDOOR RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES UNDER ONE ROOF.

AT SHUI WO STREET IN THE TOWN CENTRE, BOARD MEMBERS NOTED IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE ENVIRONMENT SINCE THE SETTING UP OF A HAWKER PERMITTED AREA WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF A MAJOR HAWKER RE-ORDERING EXERCISE.

/THE EXERCISE .....

THE EXERCISE WAS INITIATED LAST DECEMBER TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE $72 MILLION SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX TO BE COMPLETED IN 1987.

AFTER DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORK OF USD IN THE DISTRICT, THE TOUR CONCLUDED WITH A VISIT TO THE NEWLY COMPLETED COOKED FOOD MARKETS AT THE KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE AND IN TSUN YIP STREET.

TODAY'S TOUR WAS PART OF AN ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE WORK OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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OPEN AIR ART GALLERY FOR MONG KOK

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AN OPEN AIR ART GALLERY WILL SOON BE BUILT IN MONG KOK TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH A VENUE FOR HOLDING EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

THE SYCAMORE ART GALLERY WILL BE LOCATED IN THE ACCESS LANE BOUNDED BY SYCAMORE STREET AND BOUNDARY STREET IN TAI KOK TSUI.

THERE WILL BE DISPLAY BOARDS ARRANGED IN GROUPS OF FOUR IN THE SHAPE OF HEXAGONS AND FLANKED BY PLANTERS, PERGOLAS AND BENCHES. THE GALLERY WILL ALSO BE A PLEASANT SITTING-OUT AREA FOR RESIDENTS.

THE PROJECT COSTS MORE THAN $200 000 AND IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SHUI ON SEAGULL CLUB, WHICH IS A STAFF CLUB OF THE SHUI ON GROUP.

THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONTRIBUTE $150 000 TOWARDS THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND THE PROVISION OF ILLUMINATION WHILE THE CLUB WILL MEET THE BALANCE.

A WORKING GROUP ON THE ART GALLERY WILL BE FORMED TO PROMOTE THE FUTURE USE OF THE GALLERY AND TO ADVISE ON MANAGEMENT. IT WILL COMPRISE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE EDUCATION AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION AND THE POLICE.

THE GALLERY WILL PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH A MUCH-NEEDED VENUE FOR HOLDING PAINTING AND DRAWING EXHIBITIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER ART ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS.

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HISTORIC ROCK CARVINGS PROTECTED

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WORK ON PROTECTING THE ROCK CARVINGS NEAR THE SHEK PIK RESERVOIR ON LANTAU ISLAND WAS COMPLETED RECENTLY.

THE CARVINGS, ESTIMATED TO BE 2 500 YEARS OLD, ARE AMONG EIGHT SUCH CARVINGS DISCOVERED IN HONG KONG, AND WERE GAZETTED UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE IN 1979.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH'S ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH WHEN AND BY WHOM THESE CARVINGS WERE MADE.

+BUT THE DESIGN SHOWS GEOMETRIC PATTERNS CLOSELY RESEMBLING THOSE ON BRONZE-AGE POTTERY AND BRONZE VESSELS, AND SUGGESTS THAT THEY WERE MADE BY EARLY INHABITANTS OF THAT AREA DURING THE LOCAL BRONZE AGE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THESE EARLY INHABITANTS WERE BOAT PEOPLE WHO DEPENDED ON THE SEA FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

HE SAID THAT THE ROCK CARVINGS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO CONCILIATE THE POWER OF THE SEA AND TO PROTECT ITS SEA-FARING POPULATION.

+WHATEVER THEIR PURPOSE, TO THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THEM, THE ROCK CARVINGS MUST HAVE HELD A DEEP SPIRITUAL OR MAGICAL SIGNIFICANCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PROTECTION WORK ON THE SHEK PIK ROCK CARVING, CARRIED OUT BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

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COUNCIL TO LOOK INTO FEES

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PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR THE REVISION OF FEES CHARGED FOR THE USE OF SPORTS GROUND FACILITIES IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS AT A MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROCEDURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER.

SEVERAL PAPERS WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

THEY DEAL WITH THE POLICIES AND AIMS OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITH REGARD TO RECREATION AND SPORTS PROMOTION, MANAGEMENT OF CAMPS AND WATER SPORT CENTRES, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND AMENITY AREAS, TRANSPORT FACILITIES, SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE GOING PUBLIC

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THE FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO THROW ITS FUTURE MONTHLY MEETINGS OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED AT TODAY'S MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR WALTER SULKE.

+THIS CONTINUES THE COUNCIL'S PROCESS OF GRADUALLY OPENING UP ITS DECISION-MAKING MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC,+ SAID A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN TODAY.

+ALREADY THE LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD AND THE LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE HOLD THEIR MEETINGS IN PUBLIC, WHILE THE COUNCIL ITSELF, AT ITS MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETINGS, ALSO DISCUSSES IN THE OPEN MUCH OF THE BUSINESS FORMERLY DEALT WITH IN PRIVATE BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.+

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6.

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HOLIDAY HOURS FOR RSD LIBRARIES

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SOME OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL OPEN FOR HALF A DAY ON MONDAY (JULY 29) A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THE CHEUNG CHAU, SAI KUNG, SHEUNG SHUI, SOUTH KWAI CHUNG, TAI PO AND TUEN MUN (TAI HING) PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM WHILE THE MUI WO PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY, AS WELL AS THE PENG CHAU, NORTH KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN, SOUTH LAMMA, TAI O, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN (YAU OI) AND YUEN LONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED.

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ROOFTOP STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING THE CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OF 83 AND 85, SHEK PAI WAN ROAD, HONG KONG, TO ENABLE THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WITHOUT DANGER TO PEOPLE.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF THE EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN 1983 AND 1984 REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THESE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

/NOTICE OF .....

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON AUGUST 29, 1985 WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE MADE.

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YOUTHS TO HELP CLEAN TUEN MUN

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A TOTAL OF 200 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING RECRUITED TO HELP CLEAN TUEN MUN.

AS A PART OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, THE CLEAN TUEN MUN CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT 1985 IYY ORGANISING COMMITTEE DECIDED TO INVITE YOUTHS TO HELP CLEAN THE DISTRICT.

THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF THE +BEAUTIFY TUEN MUN ENERGETIC GROUP+, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 25, WILL BE THE BEACH DAY AT CAFETERIA BEACH ON AUGUST 18.

THE YOUTHS WILL BE GIVEN CAPS, T-SHIRTS AND TO IDENTIFY THEM WITH THE TEAM AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHER YOUTHS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLEAN TUEN MUN CAMPAIGN, WHICH LASTS UNTIL MARCH NEXT YEAR.

TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE OF +KEEP TUEN MUN CLEAN+, POSTERS AND STICKERS WOULD BE PRINTED TO HELP PUBLICISE THE CAMPAIGN.

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TUEN MUN TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM NOON ON SATURDAY (JULY 27) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD FROM TUEN MUN KAU HUI TO TAP SHEK KOK, INCLUDING PAK KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WU KING ESTATE, MELODY GARDEN, SIU SHAN COURT, AREA 44, WU KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION AND CHINA CEMENT COMPANY.

ALL CONSTRUCTION SITES ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD AND AREA 44 WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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