



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE, GOVERNOR TELLS BUSINESS	1
AIR POLLUTION STUDIES SERVE VITAL FUNCTIONS	2
YUEN LONG GETS 22 000 NEW VOTERS	3
NO POSTAL SERVICE ON OCTOBER 3	4
NTSD STAFF SHOW THEIR SWIMMING SKILLS	4
SCHEME PROMOTES YOUTH SOCCER	5
PLB TERMINUS PLANNED FOR PAK SHA WAN	5
BETTER ROAD FACILITIES	6
TENDERS CALLED FOR MA ON SHAN DEVELOPMENT	7
NO LET UP IN PRESSURE ON PESTS	7

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

- 1 -

LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE, GOVERNOR TELLS BUSINESS
* * * *

WITH THE REMOVAL OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT 1997, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LEADERS SHOULD AGAIN FEEL ABLE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YAU SAID TONIGHT.

THEY SHOULD ALSO RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAD A VITAL PART TO PLAY IN MAINTAINING THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AND MAKING IT A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH ITS PEOPLE COULD LIVE AND WORK, SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING JUST BEFORE OPENING THE HONG KONG WOMEN'S SPORTSWEAR GALA SHOW, PRESENTED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TONIGHT.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+MISS DUNN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

+IT WAS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION TO THE GALA SHOW TONIGHT. I HAVE LONG BEEN AWARE THAT ANY PRESENTATION TO WHICH YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LEND YOUR NAMES IS BOUND TO BE A MAJOR EVENT. THIS GALA SHOW WILL, I AM SURE, BE NO EXCEPTION. THE SPORTSWEAR WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED BEFORE US THIS EVENING WILL BE INDICATIVE NOT ONLY OF THE GOOD ORGANISATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF MISS ELEANOR WONG AND HER HARD WORKING ORGANISING COMMITTEE; IT WILL REFLECT THE WIDE RANGE AND HIGH QUALITY OF WHAT HONG KONG CAN PRODUCE IN THIS FIELD. AND IT WILL LEAD, I AM CONFIDENT, TO MANY A CONTRACT BEING NEGOTIATED BEFORE THIS WEEK'S PROGRAMME IS COMPLETE.

+THIS GALA SHOW IS ALSO A TIMELY EVENT. HONG KONG IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF GARMENTS, BY VALUE, AND THIS SECTOR OF OUR INDUSTRY IS A MAJOR PILLAR OF OUR ECONOMY. AS AN ECONOMY WITHOUT RESOURCES EXCEPT FOR OUR HARD WORKING PEOPLE AND OUR EXCELLENT LOCATION, HONG KONG RELIES ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON IT IN THE FUTURE. OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TEXTILES IS VITAL TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING VIABILITY AS A MAJOR EXPORT CENTRE. IT WILL, I AM SURE, BE A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU, AS IT CERTAINLY HAS BEEN TO US, THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE INITIALLED THIS WEEK PROVIDES FOR ALL THESE TO CONTINUE. HONG KONG WILL REMAIN A FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY AND MAINTAIN ITS FREE PORT STATUS.

+IT WILL CONTINUE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN ECONOMIC POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN NEEDS. IT WILL CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS AND ENJOY ITS OWN QUOTAS PREFERENCES AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. THIS MEANS, AS I EXPLAINED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLIER THIS WEEK, THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC LIFE-BLOOD CAN CONTINUE TO FLOW WITH THE SAME VIGOUR IN FUTURE AS IN THE PAST.

/+I REMAIN

+I REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONG KONG'S MAIN TRADE PARTNERS CAN BE PERSUADED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE IN THE WIDER INTEREST. WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FAVOURABLE RECEPTION WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE AGREEMENT OVERSEAS.

+AS AN EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY, HONG KONG MUST REMAIN COMPETITIVE. THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST AND RE-INVEST IN NEW EQUIPMENT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN KEEPING HONG KONG AMONG THE LEADING EXPORT TERRITORIES IN THE WORLD. THERE HAS BEEN NO LET UP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE. INVESTMENT BY INDUSTRY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS REGRETABLELY NOT KEPT PACE WITH THE GROWTH OF OUR EXPORTS. UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT 1997 HAD BECOME A DETERRENT TO THE CONFIDENCE WHICH UNDERLIES SUCH INVESTMENT.

+NOW THE OBSTACLE HAS BEEN REMOVED, HONG KONG CAN MOVE AHEAD ONCE MORE. OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LEADERS SHOULD AGAIN FEEL ABLE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE AND RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAVE A VITAL PART TO PLAY IN MAINTAINING THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AND MAKING IT A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH ITS PEOPLE CAN LIVE AND WORK.

+IT IS ON THIS OPTIMISTIC NOTE, CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, THAT I DECLARE THE HONG KONG WOMEN'S SPORTSWEAR GALA SHOW OPEN. I WISH THE SHOW AND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN IT EVERY SUCCESS.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

AIR POLLUTION STUDIES SERVE VITAL FUNCTIONS
* * * * *

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WILL SOON COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON HONG KONG'S AIR QUALITY.

THE REPORT, BASED ON DATA COLLECTED OVER THE PAST YEAR AT FIXED MONITORING STATIONS, WILL CONTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON AIR POLLUTION LEVELS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND LAND-USE PLANNING.

+IT WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY, CONTROL STRATEGIES AND LEGISLATION,+ MR MICHAEL CHAN, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, SAID.

THE EPA NOW HAS A NETWORK OF SIX MONITORING STATIONS TO KEEP TRACK OF HONG KONG'S MOST COMMON AIR POLLUTANTS.

THESE INCLUDE TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES, SULPHUR DIOXIDE, NITROGEN OXIDES AND OZONE, MOST OF WHICH ARE PRODUCED FROM FUEL COMBUSTION AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.

/+DATA COLLECTED

+DATA COLLECTED AT THESE STATIONS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE EXPOSURE OF THE POPULATION TO AIR POLLUTANTS OF CONCERN AND THE CONSEQUENT RISKS TO HEALTH,+ MR CHAN SAID.

CHRONIC EXPOSURE TO HIGH LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION COULD LEAD TO RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS AND COMPLICATIONS OF LUNG AND HEART DISEASES, WHILE SHORT-TERM EXPOSURE COULD CAUSE ACUTE EYE, NOSE AND THROAT IRRITATION, HE ADDED.

THE FIRST MONITORING STATION WAS SET UP IN JUNK BAY IN JULY 1981 TO STUDY LOCAL AIR QUALITY FOR THE PLANNING OF JUNK BAY NEW TOWN. OTHER STATIONS WERE SHORTLY SET UP IN KWUN TONG, CAUSEWAY BAY, TSIM SHA TSUI AND CENTRAL-WESTERN, WITH THE LATEST ADDITION IN SHAM SHUI PO.

+THE LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS AND TO PROVIDE A REASONABLY EVEN SPATIAL COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE URBAN AREAS.

+EACH STATION HAS AN AUTOMATIC LOGGER THAT RECORDS DATA FROM CONTINUOUSLY OPERATING AIR QUALITY ANALYSERS. READINGS ARE TAKEN EVERY MINUTE SO THAT A FULL YEAR'S MEASUREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POLLUTANT AT A GIVEN STATION COULD TOTAL HALF A MILLION INDIVIDUAL READINGS,+ MR CHAN EXPLAINED.

AT THE MOMENT, TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE ARE MEASURED AT ALL STATIONS. NITROGEN OXIDES AND OZONE ARE MONITORED AS WELL AT TSIM SHA TSUI AND CENTRAL-WESTERN.

THE STATIONS ALSO RECORD WIND SPEED AND WIND DIRECTION WHICH AFFECT THE TRANSPORT AND DISPERSION OF AIR POLLUTANTS IN HONG KONG.

SUBSEQUENT PROCESSING, COLLATION, ANALYSIS AND STORAGE OF DATA ARE PERFORMED ON THE EPA'S MINICOMPUTER.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT AIR POLLUTANTS LIKE AIRBORNE LEAD, CARBON MONOXIDE AND HYDROCARBONS, WHICH ARE GENERATED PRIMARILY BY MOTOR VEHICLES, ARE MEASURED AT THE AGENCY'S KERBSIDE STATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

YUEN LONG GETS 22 000 NEW VOTERS
* * * *

MORE THAN 22 000 PEOPLE IN YUEN LONG HAVE SIGNED UP DURING THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE, AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF TODAY (SUNDAY) SET UP ADDITIONAL COUNTERS TO URGE MORE PEOPLE TO REGISTER IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THE FIGURE WAS ENCOURAGING AND THAT ABOUT SIXTY PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE HAVE REGISTERED.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON VISITED THE COUNTERS TO ENCOURAGE HIS STAFF TO KEEP UP THEIR EFFORT.

FOUR OF SIX COUNTERS WERE OPERATING IN TOWN AND TWO IN RURAL AREAS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984.

- 4 -

NO POSTAL SERVICE ON OCTOBER 3
* * * *

THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 3), WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

ALSO, ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THAT DAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NTSD STAFF SHOW THEIR SWIMMING SKILLS
* * * *

MORE THAN 400 STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK PART IN ITS ANNUAL SWIMMING AND LIFE-SAVING DEMONSTRATION COMPETITIONS TODAY (SUNDAY).

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTARY LIFEGUARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ALSO JOINED THE CONTESTS HELD IN THE SHA TIN JOCKEY CLUB PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

THE ANNUAL FUNCTION OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NTSD STAFF AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, AS WELL AS LIFEGUARDS, TO ENJOY THE FUN OF AN OPEN TOURNAMENT, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD.

MR HEYWOOD, WHO OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT, SAID, +IN PARTICULAR, IT HELPS TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTANT SKILL OF LIFE-SAVING.+

GROWING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE VISITED SWIMMING POOLS AND BEACHES EVERY SUMMER, REFLECTING THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF SWIMMING, HE POINTED OUT.

+IT IS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO OUR UTMOST TO EDUCATE PEOPLE IN WATER SAFETY, AND ENSURE THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE HAVE THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO HELP THOSE WHO GET INTO TROUBLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR HEYWOOD PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG LIFEGUARD CLUB FOR ITS EFFORTS IN PUBLICISING THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER-SAFETY AND IN PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE LIFE-SAVING TRAINING.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO SAFE SWIMMING AND PROVIDED REGULAR TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSES FOR ITS LIFEGUARDS.

MR HEYWOOD LATER PRESENTED TROPHIES AND SOUVENIR CUPS TO THE WINNING INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR DAVID WEEKS; THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG LIFEGUARD CLUB, MR LAU HON-WAH; AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT WATER SAFETY, MR TSOI YUK-WA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

- 5 -

SCHEME PROMOTES YOUTH SOCCER
* * * * *

MORE THAN 2 300 CHILDREN BETWEEN 11 AND 15 WILL BE TAKING PART IN A TERRITORY-WIDE INTER-DISTRICT SOCCER COMPETITION FROM TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE COMPETITION IS PART OF THE PROGRAMMES INCORPORATED IN THE 1984-85 CHILDREN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WHICH HAS BEEN HELD EVERY YEAR SINCE 1981.

THIS YEAR'S SCHEME IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, URBAN COUNCIL, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE BOY'S AND GIRL'S CLUB ASSOCIATION AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, AND SPONSORED BY COCA COLA BOTTLER, HONG KONG LIMITED.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR DICKEN YUNG SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE COMPETITION AT MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND THIS MORNING, THAT THE SCHEME WAS BECOMING MORE POPULAR.

THE FIRST MATCH WAS HELD FOLLOWING A KICK-OFF BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS.

WINNING TEAMS IN THIS COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE FURTHER TRAINING AND QUALIFY TO ENTER THE INTER-REGIONAL COMPETITION LATER THIS YEAR.

SOME 300 CHILDREN WILL EVENTUALLY BE SELECTED TO RECEIVE NATIONAL SQUAD TRAINING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLB TERMINUS PLANNED FOR PAK SHA WAN
* * *

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS, A BUS BAY, ZEBRA CROSSING AND WIDEN THE ROAD AT PAK SHA WAN, HIRAM'S HIGHWAY, SAI KUNG.

THERE IS AT PRESENT NO PROPER STOP FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN PAK SHA WAN, A RECREATIONAL AREA POPULAR WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DURING WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN THE PAST THESE BUSES PICKED UP AND SET DOWN PASSENGERS AT THE PAK SHA WAN PIER, CAUSING SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

AS AN INTERIM MEASURE PARKING SPACES HAVE BEEN USED DURING WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AS A TEMPORARY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STOP.

/HOWEVER, THIS

HOWEVER, THIS HAS PROVED UNSATISFACTORY AS NO PROPER TURN-AROUND FACILITY IS PROVIDED.

TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS IS NEEDED, AND IN CONNECTION WITH THIS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO TEMPORARILY REPROVISION A SMALL REFUSE COLLECTION POINT, HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRESENT STOP FOR SAI KUNG-BOUND FRANCHISED BUSES IS OPPOSITE THE PUBLIC PIER LOCATED ON A BEND, WHERE IT IS DANGEROUS FOR PEOPLE TO CROSS HIRAM'S HIGHWAY.

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION WOULD BE:

- * TO MOVE THE FRANCHISED BUS STOP TOWARDS SAI KUNG TO WHERE A SMALL CAR PARK IS LOCATED. THIS WOULD ALLOW PEDESTRIAN GUARD-RAILS TO BE ERECTED OPPOSITE THE PUBLIC PIER SO AS TO DISCOURAGE PEDESTRIANS FROM CROSSING AT THE ROAD BEND;
- * TO FORM A ZEBRA CROSSING BETWEEN THE NEW BUS STOP AND THE PIER, CLEAR OF THE BEND; AND
- * TO WIDEN A SECTION OF THE WESTERN SIDE OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY TO ACCOMMODATE A TWO-METRE FOOTWAY.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS ARE PUBLISHED UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY NOVEMBER 27, 1984.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BETTER ROAD FACILITIES * * * *

MORE ROADS AND DRAINS ARE TO BE PROVIDED IN SHEK WU HUI AND FAN LENG WAI TO COPE WITH THE NEEDS OF FANLING NEW TOWN.

THEY WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ROADS WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF 1 300 METRES, ONE KILOMETRE OF SEWER AND 1.3 KILOMETRES OF STORMWATER DRAIN.

A SUBWAY FOR PEDESTRIANS AS WELL AS FOR CYCLISTS AND A CYCLE PARK WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED. THE SITE AREA WILL BE EXTENSIVELY LANDSCAPED.

WORK, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN 20 MONTHS, IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER.

TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE TAI PO AND FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT.

THE DEADLINE FOR TENDERS IS OCTOBER 19.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

- 7 -

TENDERS CALLED FOR MA ON SHAN DEVELOPMENT

* * * * *

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A PACKAGE OF PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MA ON SHAN IN SHA TIN.

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1.25-KILOMETRE SINGLE-CARRIAGEWAY ROAD WHICH WILL PROVIDE A PORTION OF THE FUTURE ROUTE LINKING THE PROPOSED MA ON SHAN DEVELOPMENT WITH THE EXISTING ROAD NETWORK IN SHA TIN.

AT A LATER DATE ANOTHER CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE BUILT TO CONVERT THE ROUTE INTO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY.

BESIDES THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION, AN AREA OF SITE FORMATION WILL BE PREPARED. THIS SITE IS BEING CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR AN INFIRMARY AND CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT.

WORK ON THE PROJECTS IS EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER 1984 AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, THE ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS OF THE PROJECTS, WILL SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO LET UP IN PRESSURE ON PESTS

* * * * *

THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF PERSISTENT CONTROL MEASURES TO SUPPRESS PEST NUISANCES IN URBAN AREAS HAS PAID OFF IN THE CREATING OF AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS RELATIVELY FREE OF PEST INFESTATIONS AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES.

AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE EDUCATION, THREE CAMPAIGNS -- TWO AGAINST MOSQUITOES AND ONE AGAINST RATS -- ARE LAUNCHED ANNUALLY UNDER THE OVERALL COORDINATION OF ITS HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT AND PEST CONTROL ADVISORY UNIT.

THE ANTI-MOSQUITO CAMPAIGNS BEGIN AT THE START AND THE END OF THE WET SEASON WHEN MOSQUITO NUISANCE IS GENERALLY EXPERIENCED BECAUSE OF THE HUMID AND WARM WEATHER. THIS IS USUALLY PRODUCED FROM TEMPORARY MAN-MADE CULICINE MOSQUITO-BREEDING SOURCES.

/MR CHAU

MR CHAU GAR-WAI, HEAD OF THE UNIT, SAID: +INTERMITTENT RAIN CREATES CONDITIONS THAT ARE MORE CONDUCTIVE TO MOSQUITO INFESTATION. EXAMPLES ARE DISCARDED BEER CANS, VARIOUS EMPTY CONTAINERS LEFT IN THE OPEN AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

+THROUGH THE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF MOSQUITO PREVENTION LEGISLATION, 553 PERSONS WERE CONVICTED AND FINED A TOTAL OF \$0.5 MILLION DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30 THIS YEAR.+

HE SAID THAT AN AVERAGE OF 900 SUMMONSES FOR +ILLEGAL MOSQUITO BREEDING+ ARE SERVED IN THE URBAN AREA EACH YEAR, BUT THIS HARDLY REFLECTS THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF WORK DONE BY THE PEST CONTROL STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

ALL BUILDING SITES ARE INSPECTED ONCE A WEEK WHILE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, AND VARIOUS POTENTIAL BREEDING PLACES ARE INSPECTED REGULARLY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT OFFICERS.

LAST MONTH ALONE, 4 453 BUILDING SITES AND OPEN SPACE AND 28 877 HOUSES WERE INSPECTED. ALTOGETHER 749 BREEDING PLACES WERE LOCATED, RESULTING IN THE ISSUE OF 13 WARNING LETTERS AND 49 SUMMONSES.

QUITE APART FROM THE RELATIVELY HARMLESS CULICINE MOSQUITO, A FAR MORE VICIOUS TARGET OF MOSQUITO CONTROL IS THE MALARIA-BEARING ANOPHELINE MOSQUITO.

MR CHAU RECALLED THAT AFTER 1-1/2 DECADES OF DORMANCY THIS DISEASE RESURGED AND HAS PRODUCED SOME 30 OUTBREAKS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BETWEEN AUGUST AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

CONTROL MEASURES AGAINST THE MALARIA-BEARING ANOPHELINE MOSQUITO WERE IMMEDIATELY STEPPED UP THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO PREVENT THE DISEASE FROM SPREADING.

EXPLAINING THE DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING THE TERRITORY TOTALLY MALARIA-FREE, MR CHAU SAID: +MALARIA IS NOT A QUARANTINABLE DISEASE AND EVERYDAY, AN AVERAGE OF 40 000 VISITORS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ENTERED HONG KONG. IT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK EACH ARRIVAL FOR MALARIA INFECTION.

+THERE IS, HOWEVER, LITTLE RISK OF MALARIA IN URBAN ENVIRONS. ELABORATE WATER MANAGEMENT AND SUPPRESSION OF BREEDING PLACES WERE PRACTISED CONTINUOUSLY IN ALL POTENTIAL ANOPHELINE MOSQUITO BREEDING PLACES, INCLUDING ALL HILLY STREAMS AND SEEPAGES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ALONG THE SLOPES OF THE KOWLOON HILL RANGE.

+THESE WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY WEEKLY APPLICATION OF LARVICIDAL OIL AND INSECTICIDES.+

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

- 9 -

GREAT STRIDES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE ELIMINATION OF RODENTS IN THE TERRITORY. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE UNIT'S RODENT CONTROL STAFF, ABOUT 300 RODENTS ARE POISONED OR TRAPPED EACH WORKING DAY COMPARED WITH 1 000 CAUGHT DAILY 20 YEARS AGO.

+THE DECREASE IS ONLY A REFLECTION OF THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURN,+ MR CHAU SAID. +THE FEWER RATS LEFT, THE MORE DIFFICULT IT IS TO CATCH THEM.+

DRAWING FROM HIS 17 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD, MR CHAU ESTIMATED THAT MOST OF THE RATS IN HONG KONG ARE KILLED BEFORE THEY CAN LIVE OUT THEIR NORMAL LIFE SPAN THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE COMMERCIAL PEST CONTROL COMPANIES AND THE PUBLIC.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT IN RESTAURANTS, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, WAREHOUSES AND ANY PUBLIC PLACES WHICH ARE LIKELY RODENT HARBOURAGES.

WITHIN THE URBAN AREAS, OVER 6 600 RODENTS WERE POISONED OR TRAPPED BY USD RODENT CONTROL STAFF LAST MONTH. THEY ALSO COMPLETED 66 BLOCK DISINFESTATIONS, 52 HOLE-BAITING TREATMENTS AND RESPONDED TO 279 COMPLAINTS.

RODENT INFESTATIONS REPORTED OR DISCOVERED WERE TREATED WITH ANTI-COAGULANT RODENTICIDES. TRAPPING WAS USED ONLY IN DEALING WITH MINOR INFESTATIONS IN BUILDINGS.

DESPITE THE APPEARANCE IN RECENT YEAR OF HIGH-PRICED, SOPHISTICATED RODENT ELIMINATION GADGETS, MR CHAU SAID EFFECTIVE RODENT CONTROL IS STILL VERY MUCH A LABOUR INTENSIVE ACTIVITY AND THERE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY OTHER VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OR TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MOST OF THE SERVICES RELATED TO THE SUPPRESSION AND CONTROL OF PESTS BY THE UNIT ARE PROVIDED FREE TO THE COMMUNITY. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL AT THE NEAREST URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -