



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1980

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ECONOMIC GROWTH EXPORT-LED WHILE INFLATION SLOWS DOWN

THE TREND OF EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1979, CONTINUED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1980.

THIS WAS SPELT OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT RELEASED TODAY AND ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$14 A COPY.

THE REPORT REVIEWS PRIMARILY EVENTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. IT POINTS OUT THAT THE EXTERNAL SECTOR WAS REMARKABLY ACTIVE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIES OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS WERE MOVING INTO RECESSION. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND APPEARED TO PICK UP IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980. NEVERTHELESS, ALTHOUGH THE PRELIMINARY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESTIMATES OF 1980 WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE, DOMESTIC EXPORTS PROBABLY STILL PROVIDED THE MAIN IMPETUS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AS THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND WAS VERY UNLIKELY TO HAVE OVERTAKEN THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THE REPORT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE PRESSURE OF DEMAND ON DOMESTIC RESOURCES HAS EASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST YEAR. IT ADDS THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS MOST CONSPICUOUS IN THE LABOUR SECTOR WHERE THE PREVIOUS EXCESS DEMAND FOR LABOUR APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SATISFIED, LARGELY BY A SUDDEN INCREASE IN SUPPLY, AS A RESULT OF IMMIGRATION. THE RATE OF INCREASE IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS HAD ALSO SLOWED DOWN. THE PROPERTY MARKET, WHICH HAD BEEN VERY MUCH OVERHEATED IN 1979, COOLED DOWN SOMEWHAT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

AS FOR INFLATION, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT INFLATIONARY PRESSURES IN THE ECONOMY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EASING OFF DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE IN WORLD PRICES HAS BEEN ACCELERATING.

ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE MONEY SUPPLY, THE REPORT EXPLAINS THAT IT HAS BEEN RATHER ERRATIC IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET THE MOVEMENTS OF MONETARY AGGREGATES IN TERMS OF THEIR PRECISE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY. NEVERTHELESS, THE DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENTS IN INTEREST RATES IN RECENT MONTHS WILL PROBABLY HAVE STIMULATED THE DEMAND FOR LOANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FOR PURCHASING PROPERTY OR STOCKS.

THE REPORT CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, PRODUCTION, AND PRICES, PRECEDED BY A CHAPTER GIVING THE OVERALL VIEW.

/EXTERNAL SECTOR

EXTERNAL SECTOR

THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THE ENCOURAGING PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVERALL AND PARTICULARLY OF THOSE TO THE UNITED STATES. BUT IT EXPRESSES DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER SUCH AN ENCOURAGING PERFORMANCE COULD BE SUSTAINED FOR LONG. WHILE THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, NORMALLY A LEADING INDICATOR OF FUTURE EXPORT PERFORMANCE, SUGGESTS THAT EXPORT PROSPECTS SHOULD REMAIN REASONABLY BRIGHT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY HAD A NEGATIVE GROWTH RATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND THE ORDER SITUATION WAS REPORTED TO BE NOT AT ALL PROMISING.

THE REPORT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT, AS ENVISAGED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS 1980 BUDGET SPEECH, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ALMOST CAUGHT UP WITH THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, PRESUMABLY A REFLECTION OF THE PICK-UP IN THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP WAS 14.6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE 15.3 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT MOVEMENTS IN THE MONETARY AGGREGATES ARE DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE INADEQUACY OF THE MONETARY STATISTICS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF DISTORTIONS CAUSED BY SUCH SEASONAL FACTORS AS THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN FEBRUARY. IT HAS BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT IN JUNE WHEN THE UNDERLYING TREND IN THE GROWTH RATE OF MONEY SUPPLY WAS OBSCURED BY THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIVITIES IN THE STOCK MARKET AND BY THE FACT THAT HALF-YEARLY INTEREST OF SAVING ACCOUNTS WAS CREDITED DURING THIS MONTH.

CONCERNING THE RECENT REDUCTIONS IN INTEREST RATES IN MAY AND JUNE, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WERE FIRST, THE SUCCESSIVE REDUCTIONS IN INTEREST RATES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES- AND SECOND, THE HIGH DEGREE OF LIQUIDITY IN THE LOCAL MONEY MARKET IN MAY AND EVEN MORE SO IN JUNE DEPRESSED MONEY MARKET RATES AND RESULTED IN STRONG COMMERCIAL PRESSURE ON THE BANKS TO LOWER THEIR INTEREST RATES.

LABOUR SECTOR

THE REPORT CONFIRMS THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN THE +1980-81 BUDGET SPEECH: ECONOMIC BACKGROUND+ AND THE +FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1980+ THAT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF LABOUR AS A RESULT OF IMMIGRATION, A CLOSER BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR AND THE SUPPLY OF IT WAS STARTING TO DEVELOP IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1979.

IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE INCREASED DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1980 AND WAGES, AT LEAST IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHERE THE DEPRESSING EFFECT OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WAS PROBABLY MORE SERIOUS THAN IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, DECLINED IN REAL TERMS ALTHOUGH IN MONEY TERMS THEY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. ALSO DESPITE THE PERSISTENTLY STRONG DEMAND FOR LABOUR IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE RATE OF INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES HAD BEEN SLOWING DOWN, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE A LARGE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WERE ATTRACTED INTO THIS INDUSTRY.

PRODUCTION

ON PRODUCTION, THE REPORT GIVES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN RELATION TO THE PROPERTY MARKET. IT POINTS OUT THAT WITH THE CONTINUATION OF STRONG DEMAND FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT BY BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND THE FACT THAT THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN OPERATING AT ITS CAPACITY LIMITS, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF SUITABLE LABOUR, THE GROWTH RATE OF OUTPUT OF THIS SECTOR IS DETERMINED LARGELY BY THE RATE OF EXPANSION OF THE INDUSTRY'S CAPACITY. THE REPORT ADDS THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONSTRAINT ON THE SUPPLY OF SKILLED LABOUR IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY UNDUE SHORTAGE OF UNSKILLED LABOUR.

THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT EITHER BECAUSE DEMAND WAS BEING CURTAILED OR POSTPONED, OR BECAUSE SUPPLY HAD BEEN CATCHING UP WITH DEMAND= OVERHEATING WHICH CHARACTERISED THE PROPERTY MARKET GENERALLY AND RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN PARTICULAR IN 1979, HAD EASED CONSIDERABLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 WITH THE RESALE PRICES FOR SOME RESIDENTIAL UNITS 10 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT BELOW THEIR PEAKS AT END OF 1979.

HOWEVER, THE REPORT ALSO INDICATES THAT THE PRICES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY HAVE CONTINUED TO INCREASE FAIRLY RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF GENERALLY KEEN DEMAND INCLUDING SOME SPECULATIVE DEMAND FOR THE FORMER AND A PERSISTENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN RESPECT OF TYPES AND LOCATIONS FOR THE LATTER.

AS FOR RENTALS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION, WHICH WERE UNDER RENT CONTROL EXCEPT IN RESPECT OF NEW LETTINGS, THEY HAD RECORDED QUITE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980.

PRICES

THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT ALTHOUGH THE VARIOUS PRICE INDEXES, INCLUDING THE UNIT VALUE INDEXES OF IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES WERE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979, THE RATES OF INCREASE HAVE BEEN SLOWING DOWN. WITH THE PREVIOUS EXCESS DEMAND ON DOMESTIC RESOURCES BEING SATISFIED TO A LARGER EXTENT, DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION BECAME MUCH LESS IMPORTANT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO, AND IMPORTED INFLATION HAS BEEN DAMPENED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE STRENGTHENING OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1979 AND THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1980.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY TAKE TIME FOR THESE FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENTS TO WORK THROUGH TO RETAIL PRICES, THERE IS A REAL PROSPECT OF INFLATION SLOWING DOWN IN COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE REPORT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE RATE OF INCREASE IN WORLD PRICES WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO BE RAPID AND OVER THE WEAKENING OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN MORE RECENT MONTHS- BOTH IMPLY THAT THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES INSOFAR AS THE EXTERNAL UNDERLYING FACTORS ARE CONCERNED.

COMMENTS

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FACT THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, THE ECONOMY IS CONTINUING ON THE EXPORT-LED GROWTH PATH ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR IS ENCOURAGING, ESPECIALLY WHEN VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND THAT THE ECONOMIES OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS APPEARED TO BE MOVING INTO A RECESSION.

IN LINE WITH A CLOSER BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE SUPPLY OF THEM, THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION WILL EASE FURTHER IN THE COMING MONTHS BUT PROSPECTS AS REGARDS IMPORTED INFLATION REMAIN LESS PROMISING.

IN GENERAL, THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980 REMAINED GOOD, ALTHOUGH IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS CAN BE SUSTAINED AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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CHILDREN OF NEW TOWNS WANT TO DEVELOP SENSE OF BELONGING * * * * *

CHILDREN WILL BE GROWING UP IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NEW TOWNS WHO KNOW NO OTHER PLACE AND WHO WANT TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF BELONGING, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST MEETING, MR SWEETMAN SAID BECAUSE OF THIS THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT WOULD HELP TO BRING ABOUT THIS SENSE OF BELONGING- AND IN THE GREEN PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO BRING ABOUT A VERY REAL MEASURE OF DECENTRALISATION- NOT ONLY OF OUR POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION BUT TO GIVE THE PEOPLE GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND TO INSIST THAT LOCAL PROBLEMS WERE DEALT WITH LOCALLY BY THOSE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE VARIOUS TASKS WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD TO PERFORM.

/MR SWEETMAN

MR SWEETMAN SAID THE BUILDING OF FOUR NEW TOWNS IN THE NORTHWEST REGION AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT DEPENDED ON MANY FACTORS. WATER WAS NO LONGER A SERIOUS CONSTRAINT BUT A GREAT DEAL OF SOFT FILL WAS REQUIRED BEFORE ANY LAND WAS FIT FOR DEVELOPMENT - AND THERE WERE ALREADY MANY DEMANDS FOR SUCH FILL.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD APPOINTED CONSULTANTS TO SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE AREAS TO PROVIDE THE EARTH REQUIRED AND IT WAS HOPED THAT IN MANY CASES THE BORROW AREAS COULD ALSO BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS THOSE FLAT AREAS WHICH HAD BEEN FILLED UP.

THE NEXT REQUIREMENT, SAID MR SWEETMAN, WAS CAPITAL TO CARRY OUT THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ON WHICH TO SPEND THE CAPITAL FUNDS.

+MOREOVER, WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL MORE RESEARCH AND COMPARISON OF ONE AREA WITH ANOTHER, WE CANNOT REACH A SENSIBLE LONG-TERM DECISION ON HOW AND WHERE AND AT WHAT PACE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD PROCEED,+ HE ADDED.

MR SWEETMAN SAID WE HAD ALSO TO LOOK AT THE MARKETABILITY OF THE REAL ESTATE PRODUCED IN THE NEW TOWNS.

+IN THEORY, THERE IS SUCH A DESPERATE HOUSING SHORTAGE THAT ONE MAY BE TEMPTED TO CONCLUDE THAT ANYTHING WILL SELL ANYWAY.

+HOWEVER, THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE CASE,+ HE SAID, +BECAUSE WE MUST PROCEED WITH BALANCED DEVELOPMENT, WITH COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BEING DEVELOPED TO EMPLOY THE LOCAL POPULATION AND WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO MAKE A NEW TOWN MORE ATTRACTIVE AND THUS TEMPT PEOPLE TO MOVE TO A NEW LIFE IN A FRESH ENVIRONMENT.+

HE SAID ACHIEVING THE RIGHT BALANCE IN THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND WE COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PUT MOST OF OUR EFFORT INTO BUILDING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES. +IF WE DO, THERE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT JOBS TO EMPLOY THE PEOPLE AND INSUFFICIENT SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE A FULL EDUCATIONAL RANGE IN THE VICINITY.+

EVEN IF WE HAD A FULL RANGE OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT IN A NEW TOWN, MR SWEETMAN SAID, WE WOULD STILL HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR A LOT OF COMMUTING TO AND FROM THE URBAN AREA AND CONVENIENT TRANSPORT BETWEEN THE BRANCHES AND HEADQUARTERS OF VARIOUS ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

+I VERY STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE KEY TO OUR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS IS TO PROVIDE A REGULAR, RAPID, RELIABLE AND COMFORTABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM BECAUSE IT IS ONLY THAT WHICH IS GOING TO TEMPT CAR OWNERS OUT OF THEIR CARS AND OTHERS OUT TO THE NEW TOWNS.+

MR SWEETMAN SAID THERE WERE GOING TO BE VERY LARGE MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION IN THE NEXT 10 OR 20 YEARS INTO THE NEW TOWNS, NOT ONLY IN THE NORTHWEST REGION BUT IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG.

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+A MOST IMPORTANT TASK OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENTS THAT WORK WITH IT IS TO ENSURE THESE NEW TOWNS ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY BETTER PLACES THAN THE URBAN AREA.

+IF WE FAIL IN THIS TASK, THEN THE MOVE TO THE NEW TOWNS WILL BE A RELUCTANT ONE AND WILL HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR SOCIETY TOWARDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE,+ MR SWEETMAN SAID.

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MINIATURE +KEYING+ DESPATCHED TO BRITAIN

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AN ACCURATE SCALE MODEL OF THE JUNK +KEYING+ WILL BE SENT TO BRITAIN TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND EXHIBITED DURING THE HONG KONG IN LONDON FESTIVAL. IT WILL BE DISPLAYED EVENTUALLY IN LONDON UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE EXHIBITION, ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER THAMES, WILL PRESENT DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ORIGINAL +KEYING+, ITS VOYAGE FROM HONG KONG TO ENGLAND AND THE AIMS BEHIND SUCH AN ARDUOUS TRIP.

THE 1:50 SCALE MODEL, BELONGING TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY, WAS BUILT BY ZAKOSKE SCALE MODELS LIMITED, ONE OF THE VERY FEW PROFESSIONAL MODEL BUILDERS IN THE WORLD.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTING THIS MODEL, THE COMPANY CARRIED OUT DETAILED RESEARCH INTO THE ORIGINAL JUNK TO ENSURE THAT IT WOULD ACCURATELY PORTRAY THE JUNK IN EVERY RESPECT.

THE SPECIAL PACKING REQUIRED FOR THE MODEL WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MODEL'S BUILDER WHO IS A SPECIALIST IN THIS FIELD.

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REFRESHER COURSE FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO IMPROVE THEIR SPOKEN ENGLISH AT A REFRESHER COURSE RUN BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL AT THE REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE COURSE, WHICH WILL BE OF 90 HOURS DURATION, WILL BE HELD ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 18.

THERE WILL BE A MORNING SESSION FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM AND, IF PARTICIPANTS PREFER, AN AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM.

/+THE MAIN

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+THE MAIN AIMS OF THE COURSE ARE TO IMPROVE THE TEACHERS' FLUENCY AND CONFIDENCE IN USING SPOKEN ENGLISH, TO MAKE THEM A MORE ACCURATE MODEL OF ENGLISH FOR THEIR PUPILS, AND TO INTRODUCE THEM TO A RANGE OF COMMUNICATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE PARTICIPANTS' SPOKEN PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE REFRESHER COURSE TO ENROL FOR ONE TERM OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS IN THE ENGLISH CLASSES AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 25 TEACHERS ON EACH COURSE AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO TEACHERS WHO ARE ALSO ENGLISH SUBJECT PANEL CHAIRMEN.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL, 253-261 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

REPLY SLIPS SHOULD BE RETURNED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11 TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR, ENGLISH, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 5TH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 5-774001 EXT. 30.

A SIMILAR REFRESHER COURSE WILL BE RUN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY MANPOWER REPORT PUBLISHED

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TO REMAIN VIABLE AND COMPETITIVE, THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY MUST INVEST NOT ONLY IN THE LATEST MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO IN MANPOWER TRAINING WITH THE AIM OF INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF CRAFTSMEN, TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN A REPORT ON THE FIFTH MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE INDUSTRY CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD LAST OCTOBER.

COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE NOW ON SALE AT \$18 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE REPORT CONTAINS DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, A FORECAST OF THE FUTURE DEMANDS OF STAFF AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

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PLB ARRANGEMENTS IN KWAI CHUNG

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A NUMBER OF ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CLOSED WHILE TWO WILL BE RE-OPENED TO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 22).

THE ROADS TO BE CLOSED ARE WAI KEK STREET BETWEEN SHEK LEI STREET AND SHEK PAI STREET, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUNG CHI STREET, AND TAI PAK TIN STREET BETWEEN LEI MUK ROAD AND THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE FORMER SHEK YAM TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

PLB'S WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER OR OPERATE ON THESE ROADS UNLESS THEY HAVE WRITTEN AUTHORISATION BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

IN ADDITION, THE SECTION OF WAI KEK STREET BETWEEN TAI LOONG STREET AND SHEK LEI STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED A PLB RESTRICTED ZONE AND PLB'S ON SOUTHBOUND JOURNEYS ON KWAI FUK ROAD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TURN LEFT INTO SHING FUK STREET.

THE TWO ROADS ON WHICH PROHIBITIONS ARE TO BE LIFTED ARE THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAYS OF SHING FUK STREET AND KWAI SHING CIRCUIT BETWEEN SHING FUK STREET AND TAI WO HAU ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AT THESE PLACES TO GUIDE PLB DRIVERS.

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