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PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING HIGHEST EVER

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS IN THE YEARS TO COME, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING DURING A VISIT TO MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE NEW TOWNS, HE SAID THAT WORK WOULD START THIS YEAR ON $3.4 BILLION WORTH OF NEW PROJECTS.

+THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR ON THESE NEW PROJECTS AND ON THOSE ALREADY UNDERWAY WOULD COME TO $7.6 BILLION,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+AS WORK ON SOME OF THESE PROJECTS WILL CONTINUE FOR YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF FINANCIALLY TO THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY WELL INTO THE 1990S.+

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SPENDING MORE THIS FINANCIAL YEAR THAN IT HAD EVER SPENT BEFORE ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

+THEREFORE, THERE IS NO CUT-BACK IN THE PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE THIS FINANCIAL YEAR ALTHOUGH THERE IS A REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING,+ HE SAID.

+YET, THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE MORE THAN DOUBLES THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE IN 1980/81 OF $3.2 BILLION.+

OF THE $7.6 BILLION SET ASIDE FOR PUBLIC WORKS THIS YEAR, MORE THAN HALF WILL BE USED FOR THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS AND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING OTHER THAN THOSE BUILT BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

+LAST YEAR A TOTAL OF ABOUT $3.0 BILLION WAS SPENT FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT THIS YEAR THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND ABOUT $3.8 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 20 PER CENT,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR EACH OF THE NEW TOWNS FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

* SHA TIN	$927 MILLION
* TAI PO AND FANLING	$853 MILLION
* TUEN MUN	$727 MILLION
* TSUEN WAN	$849 MILLION
* JUNK BAY	$235 MILLION
* RURAL DEVELOPMENT	$210 MILLION

/+WHILE THE .....

+WHILE THE MAIN THRUST CONTINUES TO BE IN THE DIRECTION OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR HOUSING, INCREASED EMPHASIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PLACED ON PRODUCING COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE GROWING POPULATION IN THESE NEW TOWNS,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

THESE WILL INCLUDE $250 MILLION TO BE SPENT THIS YEAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSING YI, $200.3 MILLION FOR STAGE II OF THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS AND THE TSUEN WAN BAY RECLAMATION AND $279.7 MILLION FOR THE SHA TIN TO WO HOP SHEK SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AND $55 MILLION ON A CULTURAL COMPLEX IN TUEN MUN.

IN SHA TIN, $149.7 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND POLYCLINIC AND $120.3 MILLION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAGE II OF THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

OUTSIDE NEW TOWNS, THE GOVERNMENT THIS YEAR IS TO SPEND $1.9 BILLION ON ENGINEERING PROJECTS, $1.1 BILLION ON BUILDING WORKS AND $660 MILLION ON WATER SUPPLIES PROJECTS.

AMONG THE MAJOR PROJECTS TO BE STARTED THIS YEAR ARE:

* EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL ($712 MILLION),

* TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE AND APPROACHES ($250 MILLION),

* STAGE III OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO CHAI WAN ($220 MILLION),

* FUTURE INCREASE OF WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA -- STAGE II PHASE II ($190 MILLION),

* TUEN MUN WATER SUPPLY STAGE II PHASE 2 ($145 MILLION),

* IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE BETWEEN FAN KAM ROAD AND LOK MA CHAU ($168 MILLION),

* A MAGISTRACY BUILDING IN SHA TIN ($60 MILLION),

* TUEN MUN TOWN PARK ($40 MILLION).

AS TO THE FUTURE, MR MCDONALD SAID, HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE WITH EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN NEW TOWNS WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY HOUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN THE TERRITORY.

/HE ADDED, ...

HE ADDED, +THE AIM OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS TO PROVIDE BALANCED COMMUNITIES IN THESE NEW TOWNS WITH THE FULL RANGE OF MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, EMPLOYMENT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND TO THIS END IT WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN ASSESSING AND PLANNING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES WHO WILL INHABIT THESE NEW TOWNS.+

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR BRYAN O'RORKE, MR MCDONALD TODAY FIRST VISITED TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THERE, HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER (TUEN MUN), MR S.K. KWEI, ON MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE 1 600-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1987 AT A COST OF $900 MILLION, THE 1 470-SEAT MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1985 AT $125 MILLION, THE TOWN PARK AND THE CIVIC AND CULTURAL CENTRE.

MR MCDONALD SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE SO KWUN WAT MARINA, A PRIVATE PROJECT, ON WHICH THE DEVELOPER IS TO INVEST $1 BILLION OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS -- A DEMONSTRATION OF CONFIDENCE NOT ONLY IN THE FUTURE OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN BUT ALSO HONG KONG.

HE LATER PROCEEDED TO TSUEN WAN WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER (TSUEN WAN), MR T.S. NG, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

AMONG THE PROJECTS INSPECTED WERE THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS STAGE II WHICH WILL LINK WITH TUEN MUN ROAD AT CHAI WAN KOK, PROVIDING A MUCH NEEDED THROUGH ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC TO TUEN MUN AND THE NORTH WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES- THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER INCORPORATING TWO FURTHER LEVELS, ONE FOR SHOPPING ARCADE AND PUBLIC PROMENADE AND THE OTHER FOR A RESTAURANT, AND THE TRANSPORT COMPLEX WITH 15 DEPARTURE PLATFORMS FOR BUSES EACH ACCOMMODATING THREE BUSES, SET-DOWN AND PICK-UP POINTS FOR PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS, MAXI-CAB STANDS AND A FIVE-STOREY CAR PARK FOR ABOUT 1 000 CARS.

THE FERRY PIER AND THE TRANSPORT COMPLEX WILL BE LINKED BY AN ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN DECK WITH COVERED ROUTES TO THE EMBARKATION POINTS FOR BUSES AND PRIVATE CARS.

THE FERRY PIER AND PHASE I OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLEX WILL BE READY IN AUGUST WHILE THE REMAINING WORK ON THE TRANSPORT COMPLEX IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY NEXT YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT ROLE IN PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT
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ALTHOUGH PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT IS AN OWNER'S AFFAIR, ITS PROFOUND INFLUENCE UPON THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AND THIRD PARTIES WARRANTS GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION, THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF YAU MA TEI, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+SOMETIMES MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS BECAME TOO COMPLICATED FOR PRIVATE MANAGEMENT BODY TO HANDLE EFFECTIVELY AND THIS IS WHERE OFFICIAL INTERVENTION SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED,+ HE ADDED.

LAST YEAR, FOR INSTANCE, A TOTAL OF 30 937 CASES ON BUILDING MATTERS HAD BEEN HANDLED BY THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

IT BECOMES QUITE CLEAR THAT THE TASKS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN THE HONG KONG SITUATION IS OFTEN BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE OWNERS ACTING ON THEIR OWN AND SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IS CALLED FOR,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG WAS SPEAKING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN MANAGING PRIVATE BUILDING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

+MANY MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WERE ERECTED WITHOUT ANY MODERN PLANNING CONCEPTS OR STANDARDISED GOVERNMENT CONTROL ON MANAGEMENT,+ HE SAID.

+THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH LAND VALUES VIRTUALLY PRECLUDED ANY CONSIDERATION FOR ADEQUATE AMENITIES OR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION.+

HE RECALLED THAT IN 1960 A WORKING PARTY WAS SET UP AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING (OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1970 TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS TO TAKE CARE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT MATTERS.

+SO FAR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE OLDER DOWNTOWN AREAS IS DISAPPOINTING,+ HE SAID.

+PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT BODIES, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, ARE NOT ALWAYS EFFECTIVE; WHILST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THOUGH EQUIPPED WITH AUTHORITY TO ENSURE RUDIMENTARY BUILDING MANAGEMENT STANDARDS, ADOPT DIFFERENT PRIORITIES ON LAW AND LEASE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES.

+THE TREND BECOMES OBVIOUS. BUILDINGS ARE DETERIORATING INTO PERMANENT SLUMS AND THREATENING THEIR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT. MORE AND MORE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS SURFACED BUT LEFT UNCATERED.+

MR WONG LISTED A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR AN INCREASING NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO STEP IN FOR MORE EFFECTIVE AND SPEEDY IMPROVEMENTS:

/* THE OLDER .....

* THE OLDER URBAN AREAS BEGAN TO DEGENERATE, THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT DIRECTLY THREATENED, POSING RISKS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS;

* MANY SITES WERE ALREADY DEVELOPED TO THE MAXIMUM POTENTIAL AND THE BUILDINGS WERE USUALLY IN MULTI-OWNERSHIP, MAKING THE PROCESS OF REPLACING SMALL OLD BUILDINGS WITH BIGGER NEW ONES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND ECONOMICALLY UNATTRACTIVE;

* GOOD BUILDING MANAGEMENT WOULD RESULT IN INCREASE IN VALUE OF THE OLDER URBAN AREAS AND ATTRACT MAJOR BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYMENT;

* IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE WERE ADEQUATELY HOUSED AND THAT THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT CREATED SUITABLE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT; AND

* THERE WOULD BE LESS BREACHES OF THE LEASE CONDITIONS AND ORDINANCES RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND LESS ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

+BEARING IN MIND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE QUALITY OF BUILDINGS AND THE QUALITY OF URBAN LIVING, GOVERNMENT HAS A KEEN INTEREST IN SEEING BUILDINGS WELL MANAGED,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO YAU MA TEI, HE SAID THERE WERE 194 OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND 159 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, SERVING 12 790 RESIDENTIAL UNITS OR 37 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL.

+THIS INDICATES THAT THERE IS STILL A MAJORITY OF LIVING QUARTERS NOT SERVED BY ANY OF THE RECOGNISED BUILDING MANAGEMENT BODIES,+ HE SAID.

A PILOT SCHEME, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WAS THEREFORE INTRODUCED LAST DECEMBER TO FIND OUT THE REASONS FOR AND SOLUTIONS TO THE LACK OF INCENTIVES ON THE PARTS OF THE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

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COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT TO WEAR SEAT BELTS SOON

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LEGISLATION REQUIRING COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS IN THE FRONT SEATS OF PRIVATE CARS IS EXPECTED TO BE PASSED THIS YEAR AND IS ONE OF A SERIES OF REQUIREMENTS BEING INTRODUCED TO REDUCE CASUALTIES ON THE ROADS.

MR MIKE CLANCY, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, TOLD A MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB TODAY THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO FIT REFLECTING NUMBER PLATES WAS THE FIRST OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND WOULD REDUCE ACCIDENTS IN THE DARK, PARTICULARLY THOSE BETWEEN MOVING AND PARKED OR BROKEN DOWN VEHICLES.

/COMPULSORY WEARING .....

COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS WOULD LIKELY APPLY ONLY TO PRIVATE CARS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, SOME FOUR-FIFTHS OF WHICH ARE ALREADY REQUIRED TO BE FITTED WITH THE SAFETY DEVICE. TAXIS AND LIGHT BUSES MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED IN FUTURE TO FIT SEAT BELTS AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF NEW VEHICLES.

MR CLANCY NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE STILL DOUBTED THE NECESSITY OF SEAT BELTS. IF THE LEGISLATION IS PASSED, INTENSIVE PUBLICITY WILL BE LAUNCHED TO PUBLICISE THE ADVANTAGES AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT SPEEDS BELOW 35 MPH, A CAR OCCUPANT IS SIX TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IF HE IS NOT WEARING A SEAT BELT AND EVEN THOUGH AVERAGE SPEEDS MAY BE LOW, THE COMBINED VELOCITY IN A HEAD ON CRASH WOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED.

+OTHER PEOPLE FEAR BEING TRAPPED IN THEIR CAR BY A SEAT BELT SHOULD THE CAR CATCH FIRE OR BE PLUNGED INTO WATER. HOWEVER, IN 1981 ONLY 15 OF THE 25 500 VEHICLES INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG CAUGHT FIRE, AND THOSE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VEHICLES PLUNGING INTO WATER WERE EVEN RARER.

+MOREOVER, IN SUCH ACCIDENTS A SEAT BELT IS LIKELY TO PREVENT INJURIES TO THE HEAD. THUS THE DRIVER IS MORE LIKELY TO AVOID BEING DAZED OR BECOMING UNCONSCIOUS, AND WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO RESPOND TO ANY EMERGENCY, SUCH AS FIRE BREAKING OUT,+ MR CLANCY SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS TO ALLOW CHILDREN TO TRAVEL IN THE FRONT SEAT PROVIDED THEY ARE WEARING A SEAT BELT OR ARE IN A CHILD SAFETY SEAT WHICH IS PROPERLY ANCHORED.

THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS USUALLY SAFER FOR A CHILD TO BE RESTRAINED IN THE FRONT SEAT RATHER THAN UNRESTRAINED IN THE REAR, HE SAID.

ANOTHER MAJOR PIECE OF ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATION IS THE REVISED ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS.

IT WILL INTRODUCE A NEW SET OF IMPROVED TRAFFIC SIGNS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ENDORSED IN UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS. MOTORISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 1 MM OF TREAD OVER 3/4 OF THE WIDTH OF THEIR TYRES INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT SUBJECTIVE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE TYRES WHICH WOULD NOT CAUSE DANGER TO PERSONS. THEY WILL ALSO BE OBLIGED TO USE THEIR DIPPED HEADLIGHTS IN CONDITIONS OF POOR VISIBILITY, SUCH AS IN HEAVY DOWNPOURS OF RAIN. +THIS IS A GOOD PRACTICE TO ADOPT NOW, BUT IN 1984 IT WILL BE OBLIGATORY, AND THUS ALL MOTORISTS SHOULD FIND IT EASIER TO SEE AND BE SEEN,+ MR CLANCY SAID.

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REPORT OF 1980 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS JUST PUBLISHED A REPORT ON THE 1980 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH WAS THE FIRST ECONOMIC SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE TRANSPORT SECTOR.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE WERE 26 156 REPORTING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN 1980, ENGAGING A TOTAL OF 110 784 PERSONS, OF WHOM 83 927 WERE EMPLOYEES AND THE REST WERE WORKING PROPRIETORS, WORKING PARTNERS OR UNPAID FAMILY WORKERS.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED $22 246 MILLION IN TOTAL BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND PAID OUT $3 069 MILLION IN LABOUR COST AND $16 961 MILLION IN OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES.

THE GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS INCURRED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS (WHICH EQUALLED ACQUISITIONS OF FIXED ASSETS LESS RE-SALES OF FIXED ASSETS) WERE WORTH $5 377 MILLION, WHILE THEIR TOTAL VALUE ADDED (COMPRISING LABOUR COST, INTEREST PAYMENTS AND GROSS SURPLUS) AMOUNTED TO $6 691 MILLION.

AMONG THE VARIOUS TRANSPORT GROUPS, +LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT BY TRUCK+, WITH 10 275 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 20 085 PERSONS, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND PERSONS ENGAGED.

IT WAS FOLLOWED BY +URBAN TAXIS+ WHICH HAD 6 849 ESTABLISHMENTS AND 16 646 PERSONS.

+TRAMWAYS, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND PUBLIC BUSES+, WITH ONLY SIX ESTABLISHMENTS BUT ENGAGING 15 742 PERSONS, RANKED THIRD IN TERMS OF PERSONS ENGAGED.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT GROUPS WERE +AIR TRANSPORT+ (WITH 7 512 PERSONS), +TRAVEL AGENTS AND AIRLINE TICKET AGENTS+ (WITH 7 485 PERSONS), +SHIP AGENTS AND MANAGERS+ (WITH 7 077 PERSONS) AND +SHIPOWNERS OF SEA-GOING VESSELS AND CONTAINER TERMINALS+ (WITH 6 004 PERSONS).

+PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES+ HAD THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES IN RELATION TO ALL PERSONS ENGAGED.

OF THE 4 606 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THIS GROUP, ONLY 196 PERSONS OR FOUR PER CENT WERE EMPLOYEES, THE REST BEING WORKING PROPRIETORS, WORKING PARTNERS OR UNPAID FAMILY WORKERS.

WHILE THE WHOLE TRANSPORT SECTOR PAID AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF $37 000 IN SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS PER EMPLOYEE, +BROKERS IN SHIP PURCHASING/SELLING OR SHIP CHARTERING+ AND +AIR TRANSPORT+ HAD THE HIGHEST AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY PACKAGES — $88 000 AND $80 000 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE LOWEST .....

THE LOWEST PACKAGE PER EMPLOYEE WAS FOUND IN +SCHOOL HIRED CAR SERVICE+, AT $13 000 A YEAR.

+TRAVEL AGENTS AND AIRLINE TICKET AGENTS+ ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST SHARE OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, AT $3 948 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, FOLLOWED BY +OPERATORS OF SEA-GOING VESSELS+ ($3 207 MILLION), +AIR TRANSPORT+ ($3 036 MILLION), AND +AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING SERVICES+ ($2 456 MILLION).

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE AT $18 PER COPY.

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STAFF OF CNTA BID FAREWELL TO MR BARNES

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MORE THAN 170 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION BADE FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR GRAHAM BARNES, AT A DINNER TONIGHT.

DURING A BRIEF CEREMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SPOKE HIGHLY OF MR BARNES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CNTA, AND WISHED HIM EVERY SUCCESS IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES.

DURING THE RECEPTION, MR CHEUNG HEI, AN OFFICE ATTENDANT WHO HAS SERVED THE DEPARTMENT FOR 43 YEARS UNDER THREE DIFFERENT NAMES - SECRETARIAT FOR CHINESE AFFAIRS, HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND NOW CNTA - PRESENTED A SOUVENIR ALBUM TO MR BARNES ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR BARNES BECAME DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS IN SEPTEMBER 1980. HIS POST WAS RETITLED REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON FOLLOWING THE MERGER OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN DECEMBER 1981.

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BAN ON TV CIGARETTE ADS EXTENDED

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THE GOVERNMENT BAN ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISING ON TELEVISION WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR A FURTHER THREE-YEAR PERIOD.

THE BAN, FROM 4.30 PM TO 6.30 PM DAILY, IS TO ENSURE THAT THE EXPOSURE OF YOUNG CHILDREN TO CIGARETTE ADVERTISING IS LIMITED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED RECENTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING HOME TO THE PUBLIC THE HEALTH DANGERS INHERENT IN CIGARETTE SMOKING. THESE INCLUDE THE SCREENING OF A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING AT THE END OF ALL CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS ON TELEVISION, SINCE JANUARY 1.

+THE NEED FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE BAN WILL BE REVIEWED IN TWO YEARS TIME, WHEN IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE WARNING NOTICES AND OTHER ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES TO BE MADE,+ HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION REVIEW REPORT
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THE REPORT OF THE PANEL OF VISITORS CONDUCTING THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS FRIDAY (MAY 6).

MR KENNETH TOPLEY, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER; AND MR PAUL LEUNG, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER; WILL MEET THE PRESS AT 4 PM ON THAT DAY TO OUTLINE THE MAJOR ISSUES CONTAINED IN THE REPORT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE THEATRE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR D. JORDAN
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, WILL MEET THE MEDIA IN THE GIS THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3.30 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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CONCERTS TO CELEBRATE BRAHMS 150TH ANNIVERSARY
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TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT GERMAN COMPOSER JOHANNES BRAHMS, THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL PRESENT TWO COMPACT-DISC HI-FI CONCERTS AND A CHAMBER CONCERT ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND MONDAY FEATURING SOME OF HIS COMPOSITIONS.

THE COMPACT-DISC HI-FI CONCERTS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY TO BE HELD AT 8 PM AT THE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR CHAN HO-CHOI, A WELL-KNOWN PRESENTER OF +HI-FI MUSIC+ AND MUSIC CRITIC IN HONG KONG.

THE FIRST EVENING WILL FEATURE A NUMBER OF SHORT WORKS AND HUNGARIAN DANCES BY BRAHMS WHILE THE FOLLOWING EVENING WILL FEATURE SOME OF HIS MAJOR ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL WORKS.

/THE CHAMBER .....

THE CHAMBER CONCERT ON MONDAY, ALSO AT 8 PM, AT THE RECITAL HALL OF HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE WILL INCLUDE THE STRING QUARTET IN A MINOR (OP. 51, NO. 2), TWO SONGS FOR VOICE, VIOLA AND PIANO (OP. 91), SONATA IN E FLAT MAJOR FOR CLARINET AND PIANO, (OP. 120, NO. 2), HUNGARIAN DANCES (NOS. 6, 8, 21), TRIO FOR PIANO, VIOLIN AND HORN IN E FLAT MAJOR (OP. 40), AND THE LIEBESLIEDER WALTZES (OP. 52. NOS. 1 TO 9).

TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENT, MISS JULIA HSIAO, MESSRS JOE KIRTLEY AND GABRIEL KWOK, AND THE CECILIAN SINGERS WILL BE INVITED AS GUEST PERFORMERS. MISS HSIAO AND MR KIRTLEY ARE, RESPECTIVELY, THE ASSOCIATE CONCERT-MASTER AND ASSOCIATE PRINCIPLE HORN OF THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WHILE MR KWOK IS A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL PIANIST.

THE CECILIAN SINGERS, CONSISTING OF 25 MEMBERS, IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED CHOIR WITH A WIDE RANGE OF REPERTOIRE AND IS AT PRESENT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR NICHOLAS ROUTLEY, SENIOR LECTURER AT THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THIS CHAMBER CONCERT IS THAT EXCEPT FOR THE TWO GUEST PERFORMANCES, ALL THE PERFORMERS ARE MUSIC STUDENTS FROM POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, AND LINGNAN COLLEGE.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MUSIC FACULTY STAFF AND THE HARD WORK OF THE STUDENTS, THE CONCERT IS EXPECTED TO BE AN INSPIRING ONE WITH SATISFACTORY STANDARDS ATTAINED. MOREOVER, THE CONCERT WILL ALSO PROVE TO BE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MUSICIANS TO SHARE THEIR MUSICAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE GUEST PERFORMERS.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO START ON FRIDAY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH ITS 1983-84 $1.3 MILLION INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN WITH A COMPLETELY RE-PROGRAMMED SOUND-ON-SLIDE SHOW AND AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION IN THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL ON FRIDAY (MAY 6) AFTERNOON.

THE 15-MINUTE SHOW, NOW KNOWN AS +SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA II+, AND THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR KENNETH TOPLEY, AT 3 PM.

THE SHOW AND EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING DAY BETWEEN 11.30 AM AND 7 PM UNTIL MAY 15.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT PUT UP BY SEVEN PRIVATE COMPANIES.

/IN ADDITION, ...

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A STATIC DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARTS AND DIAGRAMS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, TWO +QUESTION-AND-ANSWER+ MACHINES AND A GAME STALL ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE A STAND TO PUBLICISE RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION FROM VISITORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT NOTED THAT +SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA+ WAS FIRST LAUNCHED AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC EARLY LAST YEAR AS A MAJOR PART OF ITS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN, AND SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN RE-STAGED IN THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF WONG CHUK HANG, TSUEN WAN, WONG TAI SIN AND TUEN MUN.

ENCOURAGED BY ITS SUCCESS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS RE-PROGRAMMED THE SHOW WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY WORKERS.

WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS AND DISSOLVES, THE SHOW IS PROJECTED ONTO A MULTI-SCREEN FROM 18 PROJECTORS CONTROLLED BY COMPUTERISED PROGRAMMES.

BY UTILISING MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND MORE THAN 1 300 SLIDES, THE SHOW PROVIDES AN ENTERTAINING AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

URGING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND EMPLOYERS TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES TO SEE THE SHOW, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +SAFETY, BE IT AT WORK, AT HOME OR AT PLAY, IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS. IT IS HOPED THAT ALL WHO SEE IT WILL ASK THEIR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO COME AND JOIN IN THE MOVEMENT FOR MAKING SAFETY A WAY OF LIFE.+

HE ADDED THAT GROUP VISITS OF 20 OR MORE PEOPLE ARE WELCOME AND THIS CAN BE ARRANGED BY CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICITY UNIT ON 5-7907020.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 6).

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SEMINAR ON SAI KUNG DEVELOPMENT
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A SEMINAR ON SAI KUNG DEVELOPMENT AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (MAY 6) EVENING FOR THE DISTRICT'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

AT THE SEMINAR, SIX GUEST SPEAKERS WILL TALK ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN JUNK BAY AND SAI KUNG, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN CHOI WAN AND PING SHEK AREAS, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SPEAKERS ARE THE PROJECT MANAGER (JUNK BAY) OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR NORMAN TUCKER; THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (WONG TAI SIN), MR STEPHEN FISHER; THE SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MISS ZINA WONG; THE SENIOR ENGINEER OF HIGHWAYS OFFICE, MR JOHN DODWELL; AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION) OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR DANIEL LAU; AND THE REGIONAL RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER OF RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, MR TAM PAK-HANG.

EACH SPEAKER WILL TALK FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

THE SEMINAR IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD TO LET ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS KNOW MORE ABOUT THE EXISTING FACILITIES AND SERVICES, AS WELL AS THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SAI KUNG AND JUNK BAY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, MR ALAN BLUM, WILL CHAIR THE SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN THE CHENG CHEK CHEE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HIRAM'S HIGHWAY STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 6) IN THE CHENG CHEK CHEE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HIRAM'S HIGHWAY. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 6.15 PM FOR SAI KUNG.

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HI FI CONCERT

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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, A HI-FI CONCERT AT THE WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE SIK SIK YUEN +FUNG MING HALL+ ON MAY 14, AT 3 PM.

THE HI-FI CONCERT, WITH MR CHAN HO-CHOI AS THE COMPERE, WILL FEATURE THE COMPACT DISC DIGITAL AUDIO SYSTEM. SIMILAR CONCERTS HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY IN OTHER DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG AND ARE WARMLY WELCOMED BY MUSIC LOVERS AND HI-FI ENTHUSIASTS.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT WILL INCLUDE MOVIE THEME SONGS LIKE +CHARIOTS OF FIRE+, POPULAR MUSIC SUCH AS +BLUE EYES+ BY ELTON JOHN AND OTHER LIGHT CLASSICAL PIECES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID THIS IS A HI-FI CONCERT THAT NO MUSIC LOVERS AND HI-FI ENTHUSIASTS SHOULD MISS.

FREE ADMISSION COUPONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT MUSIC OFFICE, KWUN TONG MUSIC CENTRE (YAN HAU MANSION, 100 TING FU STREET, 3RD FLOOR, NGAU TAU KOK, KOWLOON) AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE (SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON). FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE TELEPHONE 3-7561328.

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CENTRAL-MEI FOO FERRY SERVICE TO TERMINATE

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FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND MEI FOO WILL BE TERMINATED FROM SATURDAY (MAY 7) DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SERVICE IS INCURRING LOSSES TO THE PRIVATE FERRY COMPANY WHICH TOOK OVER THE ROUTE FROM THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

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