



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVT GETTING ON TOP OF SQUATTER PROBLEM	1
GOVERNOR VISITS EASTERN DISTRICT	2
AG LEAVES ON PROMOTION TOUR	4
ONE-WAY TOLL FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL TO START NEXT MONDAY	5
OFFICERS UNDERGOING SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING	6
MDAC REVIEWS RENAL FACILITIES	6
APPLICATIONS FOR NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES CLOSED	8
TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW	9
TALKS ON COMMODITY CODE COMPLETED	9
SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL BEGINS	10
YAU TSIM DISTRICT FESTIVAL CLOSES TODAY	11
HOT-LINE ON BN(O) PASSPORT	11
FACTORIES FINED FOR EMPLOYMENT BREACHES	12
LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR FANLING DEVELOPMENT	12
MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SHEUNG WAN	13
TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE FOR DB	14
DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED USE OF NEW TERMINUS	14
'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SCHEME ON DB AGENDA	15
FREE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COURSE IN MONG KOK	15
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND APPLICATIONS	16
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	16
WATER CUTS IN TUEN MUN & MONG KOK	17
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD	17

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 1 -

GOVT GETTING ON TOP OF SQUATTER PROBLEM

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THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW GETTING ON TOP OF THE PROBLEM OF SQUATTER AREAS AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH IN A FEW YEARS' TIME, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE END OF A VISIT TO EASTERN DISTRICT, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE PEOPLE OUT OF THE SQUATTER AREAS INTO NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

HE ADDED THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE MODERN BUILDINGS, FROM THE MIDDLE CLASS HOUSING LIKE TAI KOO SHING, ITS SHOPPING PLAZA AND THE ENORMOUS IMPROVEMENT IN TRANSPORT IN EASTERN DISTRICT.

HE SAID : "I CAME BY THE MTR. THAT'S A VERY EFFICIENT AND VERY QUICK WAY OF TRAVELLING. THAT TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT MEANS THAT THIS AREA IS GOING TO DEVELOP VERY RAPIDLY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS A RESIDENTIAL AREA."

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE HARD WORK OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD IN CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITH THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH STARTED YESTERDAY.

"THAT, I AM SURE, IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CREATE THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY WHICH YOU GET BOTH AT THE DISTRICT BOARD LEVEL AND IN THINGS LIKE THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WHICH I HAVE ALSO BEEN VISITING THIS AFTERNOON," HE NOTED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE INTO THE BOMB INCIDENT IN TAI KOO SHING, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD BE MORE SATISFACTORY IF THE POLICE HAD DISCOVERED WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE.

"IT WAS AN HORRENDOUS THING TO DO TO SET OFF A BOMB IN AN AREA WHERE INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE WALKING AROUND WITH CHILDREN. THE LAST OF THE PEOPLE INJURED, ONE CHILD, HAS ONLY NOW JUST COME OUT OF HOSPITAL."

NOTING THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD NOT MANAGED TO FIND THE CULPRIT, SIR DAVID SAID THE POLICE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF A CRANK.

"I ONLY HOPE THAT THAT CRANK WOULD NOT TRY TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN," HE NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT THE POLICE HAD INVESTIGATED A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, BUT THEY HAD NOT MANAGED TO PIN THE BLAME FOR THIS ON ANYBODY IN A WAY WHICH HAD ALLOWED THEM TO PUT FORWARD CHARGES.

/IN REPLY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 2 -

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD BE WAITING FOR THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE TAKING DECISIONS ON THE WHOLE OF THIS QUESTION OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND INDEED MONTHS, BECAUSE THE WHITE PAPER DOESN'T COME OUT TILL THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY.

"BUT THE NEXT STAGE IS, WE SHALL BE LISTENING WITH GREAT INTEREST TO WHAT IS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR VISITS EASTERN DISTRICT

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MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT WOULD PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING FOR ABOUT 120,000 PEOPLE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WERE TOLD DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE DISTRICT TODAY (MONDAY).

THESE INCLUDED THE CLEARANCE OF SQUATTER VILLAGES AT SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS TO MAKE WAY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES, THE RECLAMATION OF THE EXISTING ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PUBLIC HOUSING AT SIU SAI WAN.

THE GOVERNOR LEARNT THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BENEFIT MORE PEOPLE AND IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THOSE RESIDING IN LESS FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DISTRICT VISIT SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON HAD TRAVELLED BY MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TO THE DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON TOOK THE TRAIN FROM ADMIRALTY STATION TO TAI KOO STATION WHERE THEY WERE MET BY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG.

FROM TAI KOO STATION, THEY WALKED THROUGH THE CITYPLAZA BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE KORNHILL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BY CAR.

WHILE TAKING A PANORAMIC VIEW OF KORNHILL FROM THE ROOFTOP OF THE KORNHILL RECREATION CLUB, SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND HANG LUNG REAL ESTATE AGENCIES LTD. ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSING PROJECT.

/HE WAS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 3 -

HE WAS TOLD THAT KORNHILL HAD A TOTAL OF 42 RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS OF MEDIUM-SIZED FLATS WHICH ACCOMMODATED MORE THAN 35,000 PEOPLE.

EASTERN DISTRICT HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 500,000 OF WHICH 65 PER-CENT LIVE IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON THEN PROCEEDED TO FA YUEN VILLAGE IN SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS (WEST) SQUATTER AREA WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR LAU PO-CHI, WHO BRIEFED THEM ON THE SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS INCLUDED INSTALLATION OF SOME 100 STREET LIGHTS, EIGHT REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND FOUR TOILETS. FOOTPATHS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS WERE ALSO IMPROVED TO ACHIEVE A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE VILLAGERS.

THE GOVERNOR LEARNT THAT FA YUEN VILLAGE IS ONE OF THE 13 SQUATTER VILLAGES IN SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS AND HAS A TOTAL POPULATION OF 2,200.

THE VILLAGE IS SCHEDULED FOR CLEARANCE IN OCTOBER 1988 UNDER THE SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS (WEST) CLEARANCE PHASE I PROGRAMME WHICH WILL BE CO-ORDINATED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND MONITORED BY A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

CLEARANCE OF ALL THE SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILL VILLAGES WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1990 TO PROVIDE LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING FOR 36,000 PEOPLE.

SIR DAVID ALSO MET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FA YUEN VILLAGE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE, MR YUEN KAM-CHUNG, WHO EXPLAINED THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS EFFORTS IN FOSTERING A SENSE OF NEIGHBOURLINESS AMONG THE VILLAGERS.

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED A HOUSEHOLD OPPOSITE TO THE MAC OFFICE.

THE PARTY NEXT PROCEEDED TO ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER WHERE SOME 250 FISHING VESSELS AND 114 DWELLING BOATS ARE MOORED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG, ON THE NEW TYPHOON SHELTER PROJECT AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROPER SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE NEW TYPHOON SHELTER, ALDRICH BAY WOULD BE RECLAIMED TO FORM 17 HECTARES OF LAND TO ACCOMMODATE SOME 40,000 PEOPLE IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

SIR DAVID THEN BOARDED A FISH PACKING BOAT WHERE THE OPERATOR, MR YEUNG YUNG, SHOWED THE PARTY HOW FISH WERE PACKED FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN.

/THE GOVERNOR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 4 -

THE GOVERNOR LATER CALLED ON THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE IN YUE WAN ESTATE.

THE CENTRE PROVIDES A VARIETY OF SERVICES SUCH AS HOME-HELP, COUNSELLING, FOOD AND LAUNDRY SERVICES TO ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON WATCHED SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE TOOK PART IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE, AND WERE PRESENTED TWO HAND-MADE CUSHIONS AS SOUVENIR.

BEFORE CONCLUDING THE VISIT, SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON ATTENDED A TEA RECEPTION AT YUE WAN COMMUNITY HALL WHERE THEY MET EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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AG LEAVES ON PROMOTION TOUR

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, WILL BE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TALK ABOUT HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM.

HIS EIGHT-DAY VISIT WILL TAKE HIM TO NEW YORK, BOSTON, LONDON AND PARIS FOR MEETINGS WITH LEGAL EXPERTS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR FINANCIAL AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

MR THOMAS WAS ASKED BY THE GOVERNOR TO STEP IN AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE FORMER JUSTICE OF APPEAL, MR SIMON LI, WHO WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO GO ON THE VISIT, AND WHO HAD WITHDRAWN FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

WHILE IN NEW YORK, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL BE ADDRESSING THE CONSULAR LAW SOCIETY WHOSE MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF MEMBERS OF THE BAR INVOLVED WITH MATTERS RELATING TO CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC LAW, LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAW AND THE CONFLICTS OF LAW, OR WHO REPRESENT FOREIGN CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

HIS ENGAGEMENTS IN BOSTON WILL INCLUDE SPEAKING TO THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL EAST ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMME AND THE BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION. IN PARIS, MR THOMAS WILL MEET SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE ROTHSCHILDS BANK.

HIS SPEECHES WILL FOCUS ON HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS FUTURE.

MR THOMAS WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 25. DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE CROWN SOLICITOR, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, WILL BE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 5 -

ONE-WAY TOLL FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL TO START NEXT MONDAY

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FROM THE EARLY MORNING OF NEXT MONDAY (NOVEMBER 23), NO TOLL WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL KOWLOON-BOUND VEHICLES USING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BUT THOSE TRAVELLING TO SHA TIN VIA THE TUNNEL WILL HAVE TO PAY A TOLL OF \$6.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (MONDAY), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ONE-WAY NO TOLL EXPERIMENT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST FOUR WEEKS, FROM 3 AM NEXT MONDAY TO 3 AM ON DECEMBER 21.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED LAST MONTH TO CARRY OUT THE EXPERIMENT TO ASSESS WHETHER TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE TUNNEL CAN BE IMPROVED.

UNDER THE SCHEME, SOME OF THE TOLL BOOTHS ON THE SOUTHBOUND TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED AND TRAFFIC WILL BE CHANNELLED TO THE TUNNEL PORTAL.

"THIS WILL REDUCE THE PRESENT MERGING PROBLEM IN THE TUNNEL PLAZA, THEREBY ENSURING SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW INTO THE TUNNEL. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW ADVISORY SIGNS PUT UP IN THE PLAZA AREA AS WELL AS ON THE TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED MOTORISTS TO DRIVE WITH CARE ESPECIALLY WHEN ENTERING THE TOLL BOOTHS WHICH WILL NOT BE REMOVED DURING THE EXPERIMENT.

A GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE, THE CONSULTANT STUDYING OPTIONS TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAS BEEN SET UP TO MONITOR THE TRAFFIC SITUATION ON THE ROAD NETWORK AFFECTED BY THE EXPERIMENT.

"IF SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION OCCURS, THE EXPERIMENT WILL BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE NOTIFIED THROUGH THE MEDIA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSULTANT WILL EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXPERIMENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 6 -

OFFICERS UNDERGOING SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

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THIRTY-THREE OFFICERS FROM FOUR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL FROM TODAY (MONDAY) UNDERGO AN INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE.

FOUR U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICERS ARE IN HONG KONG TO CONDUCT THE TWO-WEEK TRAINING COURSE WHICH WILL COVER ALL STANDARD PROCEDURES IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

THOSE UNDERGOING TRAINING INCLUDE FIVE OFFICERS FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, FIVE FROM THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, SIX FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND 17 FROM THE MARINE POLICE. THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHINA, WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN SEARCH AND RESCUE, ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING.

THE TRAINING COURSE, WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, IS THE SECOND SUCH COURSE CONDUCTED IN HONG KONG. THE FIRST WAS HELD IN 1985 AND A TOTAL OF 24 OFFICERS FROM FOUR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THREE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED.

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MDAC REVIEWS RENAL FACILITIES

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THE CONTINUOUS AMBULATORY PERITONEAL DIALYSIS (CAPD) PROGRAMME SHOULD BE EXPANDED AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TREATMENT FOR END-STAGE RENAL FAILURE PATIENTS TO COMPLEMENT THE CONVENTIONAL HAEMODIALYSIS TREATMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE ON CAPD GAINED OVER THE YEARS BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

THIS WAS THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MDAC) AT A MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) WHEN IT REVIEWED THE TREATMENT FACILITIES AND POLICY FOR END-STAGE RENAL FAILURE.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE PROVISION OF HAEMODIALYSIS TREATMENT WAS CONSTRAINED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE RATE AT WHICH NEW MACHINES COULD BE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED.

SINCE NEW MACHINES WERE ALSO TIED TO THE COMPLETION OF NEW HOSPITAL OR CLINIC PROJECTS, THE MEMBERS FELT THAT ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES IN THE FORM OF CAPD WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RENAL PATIENTS.

THE MEETING WAS INFORMED THAT CAPD WAS MORE FLEXIBLE IN ITS APPLICATION AND REQUIRED LESS IN CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS, AND THAT CAPD PATIENTS WERE ALSO LESS DEPENDENT ON INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES.

/HOWEVER, MEMBERS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 7 -

HOWEVER, MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE LIMITATIONS TO ITS USE AND NOT ALL PATIENTS COULD BE PUT ON THIS FORM OF TREATMENT; HENCE THEY AGREED THAT CAPD WAS A USEFUL COMPLEMENT TO HAEMODIALYSIS FACILITIES BUT COULD NOT REPLACE THE LATTER ENTIRELY.

ON DEMAND FOR THE DIALYSIS PROGRAMME, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 45 NEW PATIENTS PER MILLION POPULATION WILL NEED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAMME EACH YEAR.

THE CURRENT RATE OF INTAKE IS ABOUT 35 NEW PATIENTS PER MILLION POPULATION PER YEAR.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE TARGET OF PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE ESTIMATED NEW PATIENTS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT 40 NEW PATIENTS PER MILLION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED INTO THE DIALYSIS PROGRAMME IN 1988, RISING TO 45 PER MILLION IN 1989.

THE MDAC NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF END-STAGE RENAL FAILURE PATIENTS FOR WHOM PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE WILL INCREASE FROM ABOUT 550 AT PRESENT TO ABOUT 2,400 IN 1996.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OF THE 2,400 PATIENTS, ABOUT 900 WILL RECEIVE HAEMODIALYSIS TREATMENT AND 1,500 WILL TAKE UP CAPD. THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST WILL BE OVER \$193 MILLION, AS COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT EXPENDITURE OF \$62 MILLION.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 90 HAEMODIALYSIS MACHINES AND ANOTHER 138 WILL BE PROVIDED BY 1995.

DURING THE MEETING, MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE BEST FORM OF TREATMENT FOR END-STAGE RENAL PATIENTS IS KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION.

SINCE THE FIRST TRANSPLANT IN 1969, ONLY ABOUT 210 OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

THE MEETING URGED THAT MORE PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON KIDNEY DONATION.

HOWEVER, MEMBERS WERE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE TRANSPLANTS WERE PERFORMED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND THAT THE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 WERE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING WITH 28 TRANSPLANTS CARRIED OUT.

TURNING TO MANPOWER REQUIREMENT FOR THE RENAL SERVICE, THE MEETING ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF THE SHIFT OF EMPHASIS TO CAPD TREATMENT IN FUTURE AND THE EXPANSION IN THIS SERVICE, THE STAFF PLANNING RATIO FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES FOR THE RENAL UNITS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL RENAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

FOR DOCTORS, THE PLANNING RATIO IS ONE DOCTOR TO 30 RENAL PATIENTS RECEIVING LONG-TERM REPLACEMENT THERAPY.

/FOR HOSPITAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 8 -

FOR HOSPITAL NURSES, THE RATIO IS ONE REGISTERED NURSE TO TWO BEDS FOR PERITONEAL/RENAL DIALYSIS.

IN THE SATELLITE DIALYSIS CENTRES WITH SIX MACHINES EACH, THE PLANNING RATIO WILL BE ONE NURSING OFFICER II AND 10 REGISTERED NURSES.

FOR THE CAPD PROGRAMME, THE MEETING AGREED THAT A STAFF RATIO OF ONE REGISTERED NURSE TO 15 CAPD PATIENTS BE RECOMMENDED.

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APPLICATIONS FOR NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES CLOSED

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A TOTAL OF 40 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR OPERATING THE 18 NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES IN THE TERRITORY WHEN THE INVITATION CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 6, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS," HE SAID.

AMONG THE 18 NEW ROUTES, THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER ARE THOSE SERVING SHA TIN AND WONG TAI SIN. THESE INCLUDE THOSE WHICH WILL OPERATE BETWEEN JULIMOUNT GARDEN AND SHA TIN KCR STATION, VILLA DE JARDIN/GREENWOOD GARDEN AND SHA TIN KCR STATION, CHUK YUEN NORTH ESTATE AND WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION, AND A CIRCULAR ROUTE FROM LOK FU TO TUNG TAU.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT A SELECTION BOARD COMPRISING NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS FROM THE TRANSPORT AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL MEET AND SELECT THE APPLICANTS ON THE BASIS OF THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA LAID DOWN BY THE BOARD.

"THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE EXPERIENCE OF THE APPLICANT IN TRANSPORT SERVICE, FINANCIAL RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT RIGHT OVER THE VEHICLES, MAINTENANCE RECORD OF THE VEHICLES AS WELL AS THE QUALITY OF HIS VEHICLES TO BE DEPLOYED INCLUDING THE AVAILABILITY OF AIR-CONDITIONING," HE EXPLAINED.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 9 -

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS AN APPLICATION BY THE STAR FERRY COMPANY FOR FARE INCREASES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE STAR FERRY'S 1988-1992 FORWARD PLAN.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS A REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN THE TRANSPORT HIERARCHY.

IN ADDITION, TAC WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY.

THE MEETING, TO BE HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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TALKS ON COMMODITY CODE COMPLETED
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CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON THE INTRODUCTION BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE HARMONIZED COMMODITY CODE.

HONG KONG AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES MET OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE TERRITORY FOR A FIFTH ROUND OF TALKS. PREVIOUS ROUNDS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND GENEVA.

THE HARMONIZED COMMODITY CODE IS A STANDARDISED SYSTEM OF PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION WHICH THE MAJOR TRADING NATIONS HAVE AGREED TO ADOPT AS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FROM 1988.

"THIS HAS BEEN A COMPLEX SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS DEALING WITH A HIGHLY-TECHNICAL SUBJECT," THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID.

"HONG KONG HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY FOR TRADERS TO ADJUST TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

"BOTH SIDES ARE NOW CONFIDENT THAT THE CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION PRACTICES ON THE ADOPTION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM BY THE UNITED STATES, ON JANUARY 1, 1988, CAN BE CARRIED THROUGH SMOOTHLY."

/EARLIER THIS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 10 -

EARLIER THIS YEAR, HONG KONG CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE TARIFF IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGE AND AGREED ON AN OVERALL TARIFF-NEUTRAL ADJUSTMENT.

THE SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS JUST COMPLETED HAS DEALT WITH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW SYSTEM FOR CATEGORISING TEXTILES AND CLOTHING UNDER THE HK/U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

THE ALLOCATION OF TEXTILES QUOTA WILL PROCEED AS NORMAL ABOUT MID-DECEMBER.

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL BEGINS

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ABOUT 7,000 RESIDENTS ENJOYED THEMSELVES TONIGHT (MONDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY/VARIETY SHOW OF THE 1987 SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS LYDIA DUNN, SAID THAT THE "DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION" THEME OF THE FESTIVAL IN FACT COINCIDED WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY AND FOLLOWED THE PACE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY.

"DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN GENERALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC AND HAS MADE NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS," MISS DUNN REMARKED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS, AREA COMMITTEES AND CONCERNED LOCAL ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN ABLE TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF RESIDENTS OF RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS EFFECTIVELY, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD FORMULATE POLICIES ACCORDING TO THE WISH OF THE PUBLIC.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WAS THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER 60 PROGRAMMES TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS VENUES DURING THE FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL DECEMBER 20.

PROGRAMME PAMPHLETS FOR THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 39 TONKIN STREET, AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 11 -

YAU TSIM DISTRICT FESTIVAL CLOSES TODAY

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ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS WHO HAD HELPED ORGANISE THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI FESTIVAL RECEIVED SOUVENIRS THIS (MONDAY) EVENING AT A RECEPTION TO MARK THE CLOSE OF THE TWO-MONTH EVENT.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL LEUNG, HE ALSO PRESENTED PRIZES TO WINNERS OF VARIOUS EVENTS HELD DURING THE FESTIVAL.

SPEAKING TO SOME 500 GUESTS AT THE RECEPTION, CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR YIP WAH, SAID MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE AND 25 ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN LAUNCHING THE FIRST DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

THEY INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AREA COMMITTEES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, COMMERCIAL FIRMS, THE URBAN COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND RESIDENTS.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT, MR YIP NOTED THAT 66 EVENTS HAD BEEN PRODUCED SINCE THE FESTIVAL STARTED IN SEPTEMBER.

"A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANISED FOR DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS TO PROMOTE DISTRICT IDENTITY AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS," HE SAID.

THE FESTIVAL WHICH CONCLUDED TODAY COST MORE THAN \$700,000, OF WHICH \$300,000 WAS FROM DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND THE REST FROM SPONSORS.

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HOT-LINE ON BN(O) PASSPORT

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A PUBLIC HOT-LINE TO DEAL WITH ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THE NUMBER IS 3-665665.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS HOT-LINE, AS MENTIONED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11, IS TO ASSIST ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES WITH HIS BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT OR WHO WISHES TO MAKE ENQUIRIES ABOUT IT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES CAN DO SO DURING OFFICE HOURS, FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

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/12

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 12 -

FACTORIES FINED FOR EMPLOYMENT BREACHES

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THE PROPRIETORS OF TWO GARMENT FACTORIES AND A STATIONERY MANUFACTURING COMPANY WERE EACH FINED \$5,000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE RECENTLY FOR EMPLOYING FEMALE WORKERS TO WORK ON THEIR REST DAYS.

THE FINE IMPOSED WAS THE MAXIMUM PENALTY PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE REGULATIONS, ALL FEMALE WORKERS SHOULD BE GIVEN ONE REST DAY A WEEK AND THAT WORK ON REST DAY WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

"IF THE REST DAY IS NOT THE SAME FOR EVERY WOMEN EMPLOYED IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING, SUCH REST DAY SHOULD BE SPECIFIED CLEARLY IN THE REGISTER," HE SAID.

"THE REST DAY SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED UNLESS A PROPRIETOR HAS NOTIFIED THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON A SPECIFIED FORM OF HIS INTENTION TO MAKE SUCH CHANGE 48 HOURS BEFORE IT IS TO COME INTO EFFECT.

"SUCH CHANGE SHOULD ALSO NOT BE MADE MORE THAN ONCE IN EVERY MONTH EXCEPT WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR."

THE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE -- 5-8152200 -- TO REPORT ANY BREACHES OF THE REGULATIONS.

ALL COMPLAINTS WILL BE HANDLE IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND THE NAMES AND IDENTITY OF THE COMPLAINANTS WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION.

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LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR FANLING DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME MORE THAN 60 PRIVATE LOTS IN SHEUNG SHUI AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FANLING NEW TOWN.

THE RESUMPTION WILL AFFECT 61 PRIVATE LOTS IN AREA 3 IN SHEUNG SHUI NEAR SHEUNG SHUI TSUEN WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 76,878.9 SQUARE METRES.

/THE RESUMED

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 13 -

THE RESUMED LAND WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD, A FLOODWATER STORAGE RESERVOIR WITH A PUMPING STATION, AND FORMATION OF A VILLAGE EXPANSION AREA PROVIDING ABOUT 120 SMALL HOUSE SITES TOGETHER WITH OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES.

THE PROJECT WILL START IN FEBRUARY, ON THE EXPIRY OF THE THREE MONTHS' PERIOD FROM THE POSTING OF THE RESUMPTION NOTICE ON THE SITE.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SHEUNG WAN

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A PARK AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ARE TO BE BUILT AT SHEUNG WAN TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

OCCUPYING 3,320 SQUARE METRES AT CAINE LANE, THE PARK WILL HAVE A FOUNTAIN, SEVEN PAVILIONS, LANDSCAPED GARDENS, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS, ELEVATED WALKWAYS AND TOILETS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN 12 MONTHS.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WILL BE LOCATED AT KWONG HON TERRACE, ABERDEEN STREET.

OTHER FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED COMPRISE A SITTING-OUT AREA, A ROCK GARDEN, PLANTERS, ARBOURS, TWO CHESS TABLES AND CONCRETE BENCHES.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AN OPEN SPACE OF 547 SQUARE METRES AT GEORGE'S LANE.

WORK ON THIS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY AND TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECTS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 27.

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/14

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 14 -

TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE FOR DB
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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS AND OF THE CLEARANCE SCHEDULE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CLEARANCE) OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR B. J. BRESNIHAN, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON REHOUSING RULES AND EX-GRATIA PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 4/F, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED USE OF NEW TERMINUS
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MEMBERS OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 18) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED USE OF A NEW TERMINUS TO BE OPENED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE TERMINUS, LOCATED BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION AND LUNG SUM AVENUE, IS INTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE A TAXI STAND AND EIGHT GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES OPERATING BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND TONG KUNG LENG, PING KONG, LIN MA HANG, HANG TAU, HO SHEUNG HEUNG AND SHA TAU KOK.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE KCR SERVICES AT FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI STATIONS AS WELL AS THE INTRODUCTION OF A TAXI RESTRICTED ZONE OUTSIDE THE SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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/15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 15 -

"MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME ON DB AGENDA
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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE WILL STUDY MEANS OF PUBLICISING THE BOARD'S "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME AT A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 18).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON THE "STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO IN THE 1990'S" PROJECT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR KWONG FUK BRIDGE AND A REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION WORKING GROUP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD. IT WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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FREE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COURSE IN MONG KOK
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A FREE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COURSE WILL BE HELD IN MONG KOK TO HELP OFFICE-BEARERS OF BUILDING OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE FOURTH YEAR, THE COURSE FORMS PART OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN.

THE COURSE COVERS OPERATION AND FINANCIAL CONTROL OF AN OWNERS' CORPORATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF BUILDINGS, GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES.

IT WILL BE HELD OVER FOUR EVENINGS STARTING FROM NOVEMBER 30 IN ARGYLE CENTRE, 648 NATHAN ROAD.

LECTURES WILL BE GIVEN BY PROFESSIONALS IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ICAC. THESE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY VISITS TO PRIVATE BUILDINGS SO THAT PARTICIPANTS MAY GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THOSE WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND TAI KOK TSUI BRANCH OFFICE, 85 IVY STREET. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-933433.

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/16

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 16 -

COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A JOINT SCHOOL MUSIC NIGHT, A PICNIC FOR WAN CHAI EAST RESIDENTS, CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED, CHRISTMAS FUN FAIR FOR CHILDREN AND A SPRING LANTERN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. THE MEETING WILL START AT 4 PM.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 66 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 386.762 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 375.656 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 64.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987

- 17 -

WATER CUTS IN TUEN MUN, MONG KOK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TUEN MUN AND MONG KOK WILL BE TURNED OFF ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 19) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION IN TUEN MUN WILL BE FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE AT SHEK PAI TAU ROAD, TSING CHUNG STREET, TSING LUN STREET, TAI HING ESTATE, TAI HING INDOOR GAMES HALL, YAN OI TONG SWIMMING POOL, TANG SIU KIN SPORTS GROUND, CHING CHUNG KOON, CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL, CHING CHUNG SIN YUEN, SIU HONG COURT, KEI LUN WAI, TSI TIN TSUEN, SIU HANG TSUEN AND PO TONG HA TSUEN.

THE SUSPENSION IN MONG KOK WILL AFFECT THE PREMISES AT 71-79 AND 70-82B, WATERLOO ROAD AND YAU MOON STREET FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM ON THURSDAY.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD

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FROM 0.01 AM TO 6 AM ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 19 TO 21), THE FAST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND FO TAN NULLAH WILL BE CLOSED TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD ON NOVEMBER 23 AND 24 THE SLOW LANE OF TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN HO TUNG LAU AND FO TAN NULLAH WILL ALSO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

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