



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1985

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'BOAT BRIDES' LEAVE FOR CHINA

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THIRTEEN 'BOAT BRIDES', ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR OF THEIR HUSBANDS AND NINE CHILDREN, LEFT FOR ZHUHAI, CHINA, THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THEY BOARDED THE JETCAT AT TAI KOK TSUI PIER SHORTLY AFTER 11 AM.

FOLLOWING THEIR VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECURITY BRANCH SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, AS PROMISED, ASK THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TO GIVE PRIORITY IN GRANTING ONE-WAY PERMITS FOR THEM TO RETURN TO HONG KONG.

MEANWHILE, THE 14TH 'BOAT BRIDE', WHO IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREGNANCY, HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL AFTER THE BIRTH OF HER BABY.

THE FAMILIES OF FOUR 'BOAT BRIDES' HAVE SO FAR APPLIED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE 14 FAMILIES TO GIVE ASSISTANCE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

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U.S. WANTS ISSUE OF E.A.'S TO STOP

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A CALL TO STOP THE ISSUE OF FURTHER EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS (EA'S) IN RESPECT OF WOOL SHIRTS AND BLOUSES, NOT KNIT UNDER CATEGORY 440.

THIS IS THE SECOND CALL MADE BY THE U.S. ON HONG KONG THIS YEAR.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S.-HONG KONG BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUSPENDED THE ISSUE OF FURTHER EA'S IN THIS CATEGORY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. AUTHORITIES.

A TOTAL OF 12 661 DOZEN EA'S HAD BEEN ISSUED IN 1985 AT THE TIME OF THE CALL, AND 88 DOZEN EA APPLICATIONS ARE OUTSTANDING AS A RESULT OF THE CALL.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO APPROVE AND ISSUE EXPORT LICENCES FOR THIS CATEGORY AGAINST VALID EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS APPROVED PRIOR TO THE SUSPENSION.

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ONE LEGCO NOMINATION RECEIVED

ONE NOMINATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH WAS RECEIVED TODAY (THURSDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER RECEIVED SINCE THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS TO TEN.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE WHOSE NOMINATION FORM WAS RECEIVED TODAY:

<u>FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CONTACT TEL. NO.</u>
COMMERCIAL II	HO SAI-CHU	M	48	MERCHANT	5-712393

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

<u>ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY (NO. OF SEATS IN BRACKETS)</u>	<u>NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED</u>
1. URBAN COUNCIL (1)	
2. PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL (1)	
DISTRICT BOARDS:	
3. HK ISLAND (EAST) (1)	1
4. HK ISLAND (WEST) (1)	
5. KWUN TONG (1)	
6. WONG TAI SIN (1)	
7. KOWLOON CITY (1)	
8. SHAM SHUI PO (1)	
9. SOUTH KOWLOON (1)	
10. NEW TERRITORIES (EAST) (1)	
11. NEW TERRITORIES (WEST) (1)	
12. NEW TERRITORIES (SOUTH) (1)	
SUB-TOTAL	1

/FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY

1.	COMMERCIAL I (1)	1
	COMMERCIAL II (1)	1
2.	INDUSTRIAL I (1)	1
	INDUSTRIAL II (1)	
3.	FINANCIAL (1)	
4.	LABOUR (2)	1
5.	SOCIAL SERVICES (1)	1
6.	MEDICAL (1)	
7.	TEACHING (1)	3
8.	LEGAL (1)	1
9.	ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYING AND PLANNING (1)	
	SUB-TOTAL	9

TOTAL: 10

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**MONEY CHANGERS REMINDED OF THE LAW
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MONEY CHANGERS ARE REMINDED TODAY THAT THEY FACE PROSECUTION IF THEY COMMIT ANY OFFENCE UNDER THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) ORDINANCE.

+THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAS REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST MONEY CHANGERS. THE COMPLAINTS CONCERN FAILURE OF MONEY CHANGERS IN GIVING DETAILS OF THE TRANSACTIONS REQUIRED, AND IN SOME CASES, THE NOTE AS REQUIRED UNDER THE ORDINANCE, + A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

HE DREW THE ATTENTION OF ALL MONEY CHANGERS TO THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND WARNED THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WAS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE CARRYING SANCTIONS OF FINES AND IMPRISONMENT.

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UNDER THE ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, ALL MONEY CHANGERS IN HONG KONG ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE THEIR CUSTOMERS A NOTE WHICH SETS OUT CLEARLY THE DETAILS OF THE TRANSACTION INCLUDING THAT OF ANY CHARGE OR COMMISSION, AND TO OBTAIN THEIR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TERMS BEFORE ENTERING INTO THE EXCHANGE TRANSACTION.

IF A MONEY CHANGER FAILED TO DO SO, THE CUSTOMER MAY RESCIND THE TRANSACTION WITHIN THREE DAYS.

SUCH A FAILURE WOULD ALSO BE AN OFFENCE WHICH IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF \$2 000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE AND A FINE OF \$5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS FOR A SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE.

THE NOTE TO BE SIGNED BY THE CUSTOMER SHOULD CONTAIN A PROMINENT STATEMENT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, EXPLAINING THAT THE CUSTOMER HAD READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE DETAILS OF THE TRANSACTION SET OUT IN IT.

IF A MONEY CHANGER MAINTAINED A BOARD OR SCREEN TO DISPLAY THE CURRENT RATES OF EXCHANGE, HE WAS ALSO REQUIRED TO DISPLAY CLEARLY THE NATURE AND AMOUNT OR THE METHOD OF CALCULATION OF THE CHARGE OR COMMISSION.

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FIRST PROVISIONAL RC MEETING IN OWN CHAMBER * * * *

AT THE FIRST MEETING TO BE HELD AT ITS OWN CHAMBER TOMORROW, THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES, INCLUDING THE PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH A DISTRICT COMMITTEE IN EACH OF THE NINE DISTRICTS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, AND PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE FEES FOR THE USE OF ITS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND THE SIZE OF NEWSPAPER HAWKER PITCH IN THE REGION.

THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT THE NINE DISTRICT COMMITTEES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AND HOLD THEIR FIRST MEETINGS IN OCTOBER. EACH COMMITTEE WILL COMPRISE SEVEN MEMBERS, FOUR OF THEM MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WITH THE REST MADE UP OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LEADING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

AT PRESENT, THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE ARM - THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - MANAGES TWO INDOOR GAMES HALLS, 22 TENNIS COURTS, 23 SQUASH COURTS, AND SIX SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES. THE ADMISSION FEES AND HIRE CHARGES FOR THESE FACILITIES WERE INTRODUCED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR. THEY HAVE NOW FALLEN BELOW THE CORRESPONDING CHARGES IN THE URBAN AREAS, WHICH WERE LAST REVISED ON JUNE 1, 1984 FOR INDOOR GAMES HALLS AND ON JUNE 1, 1985 FOR OTHER VENUES. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE REVISION SHOULD SET FEE AND HIRE CHARGES AT LEVELS COMPARABLE WITH SIMILAR FACILITIES IN THE URBAN AREAS.

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THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO DELIBERATE AND ADVISE ON THE APPROPRIATE UPSET PRICES TO BE SET FOR THE RESTRICTED AUCTION OF MARKET STALLS AND SHOP UNITS IN THE NEW KWU TUNG MARKET. IT IS INTENDED TO HOUSE 92 RESITEES FROM KWU TUNG.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL WEIGH THE PROS AND CONS OF ADOPTING A NEW OFFICIAL LOGO FOR THE FULL REGIONAL COUNCIL. THE PRESENT LOGO WAS INHERITED FROM THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WAS AMALGAMATED INTO THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE AND PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MARCH.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WHICH WILL BE HELD AT ITS COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 9.)

WAY SOUGHT TO DISPOSE OF TOXIC WASTES
* * * * *

A PROJECT IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO DEVELOP A TECHNIQUE FOR DISPOSING OF THE TOXIC, HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT WASTES BEING PRODUCED IN INCREASING QUANTITIES BY HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SAID TODAY.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE A STUDY OF HOW SOME OF THE TOXIC, HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT WASTES MAY BE DISPOSED OF TOGETHER WITH HOUSEHOLD, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

LATER PHASES WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES IN THE LABORATORY AND IN A CONTROLLED TIP, TO TEST THE TECHNIQUES OF +CO-DISPOSAL+ OF THE DIFFERENT WASTES UNDER LOCAL CONDITIONS, WHICH DIFFER FROM THOSE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN TERMS OF WASTE COMPOSITION, CLIMATE AND OTHER FACTORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THE PROJECT

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THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY BINNIE AND PARTNERS (HONG KONG) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM HARWELL LABORATORY ACTING AS SUB-CONSULTANT.

THE EXPERIMENTAL METHODS WERE DEVELOPED BY HARWELL LABORATORY, WHICH, WITH BINNIE AND PARTNERS, HAVE ALSO JOINTLY DEVELOPED A COMPUTERISED MODEL OF A WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CURRENTLY BEING USED TO PLAN WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR THE TERRITORY OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NEW EDITION OF ECONOMIC TREND REPORT OUT
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THE 1985 EDITION OF THE HONG KONG SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS 1974-1984, PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, IS NOW ON SALE.

IT BRINGS TOGETHER THE MAIN STATISTICAL SERIES THAT ARE DESCRIPTIVE OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG OVER THE PAST DECADE. DATA ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS ARE PRESENTED IN A DIGESTED FORM, INCLUDING POPULATION TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE; SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND CRIMES.

STATISTICAL CHARTS ARE SHOWN TO DEPICT THE PAST TRENDS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS SECTORS, MOVEMENTS OF MONETARY AND FINANCIAL VARIABLES, THE CHANGING PROFILE OF LABOUR MARKET AND OTHER DYNAMIC FEATURES OF HONG KONG.

ANALYTICAL FIGURES SUCH AS RATES, INDEXES AND RATIOS ARE PRESENTED WHERE APPROPRIATE.

THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG, AT \$30 PER COPY.

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HKCEE RESULTS OUT TOMORROW
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THE RESULTS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, 1985 WILL BE ISSUED TO SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE CANDIDATES TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

INDIVIDUAL RESULT NOTICES FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY SCHOOLS AT THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON. SCHOOL CANDIDATES SHOULD SEEK INFORMATION FROM THEIR OWN SCHOOLS FOR THE COLLECTION OF THEIR RESULT NOTICES.

RESULT NOTICES FOR PRIVATE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN POSTED AND SHOULD REACH CANDIDATES ON AUGUST 9 OR 10. CANDIDATES WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR RESULTS BY MONDAY, AUGUST 12 MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR ON TELEPHONE 3-7230011.

RESULT NOTICES OF CANDIDATES PRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN POSTED TO THE HOME ADDRESSES OF THE CANDIDATES:

- ELEMENTI EVENING COLLEGE
- HIN FAI COLLEGE
- THE IDEAL COLLEGE
- CHI YUN ENGLISH EVENING COLLEGE
- KOWLOON CHAMBER COLLEGE
- SAN MARINO EVENING SCHOOL
- SAN MARINO SECONDARY SCHOOL
- SOMERVILLE ENGLISH EVENING COLLEGE

CANDIDATES FROM THESE SCHOOLS MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE AS IN THE CASE OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR RESULTS BY AUGUST 12.

A TOTAL OF 168 335 CANDIDATES ENTERED FOR THE EXAMINATION THIS YEAR, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 170 825 LAST YEAR. ALTOGETHER 37 SUBJECTS WERE EXAMINED.

THE PERCENTAGE OF AWARDS OF GRADE E OR ABOVE FOR THOSE CANDIDATES SITTING THE MAJOR SUBJECTS WAS 62.71 (AS COMPARED WITH 62.04 IN 1984).

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COMPENSATION CLAIM TURNED DOWN

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGAIN EXPLAINED TO A GROUP OF FORMER TAI HANG SAI COTTAGE AREA RESIDENTS THAT THEIR CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION WAS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED.

IN A REPLY TO THE PETITION BY THE RESIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR PANG YUK-LING, SAID THEIR CLAIM HAD BEEN RE-CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY BUT COULD NOT FIND ANY GROUNDS TO SUPPORT IT.

THE FORMER TAI HANG SAI COTTAGE AREA WAS DEVELOPED IN 1952 BY THE HONG KONG SETTLERS HOUSING CORPORATION LTD. AT THE TIME, THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK WITH THE CORPORATION THAT IF THE HOUSES WERE CLEARED BY THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF 10 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THEIR ERECTION, THE HOUSES WOULD BE RE-PROVISIONED ELSEWHERE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN 1959, PART OF THE COTTAGE AREA WAS CLEARED TO MAKE WAY FOR REDEVELOPMENT BY THE CORPORATION. SINCE THE COTTAGES AFFECTED WERE DEMOLISHED WITHIN 10 YEARS FROM 1952, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CORPORATION TO REHOUSE THE AFFECTED OCCUPANTS IN THE CORPORATION'S HOUSING SCHEME.

IN 1974, THE REMAINING PART OF THE COTTAGE AREA WAS CLEARED. SINCE IT WAS A LONG TIME AFTER THE EXPIRY OF 10 YEARS FROM 1952, GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKING WITH THE CORPORATION IN 1952 DID NOT APPLY AND THE AGREEMENT IN 1959 HAD NO RELEVANCE TO THIS CLEARANCE.

PERSONS AFFECTED IN THIS SECOND CLEARANCE WERE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PREVAILING POLICY FOR CLEARANCE OF COTTAGE AREAS.

ALL RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR REHOUSING WERE ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS AND THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION WERE SO PAID.

THE REPLY LETTER REITERATED THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE CORPORATION ALLOCATED ITS HOUSING UNITS TO THE RESIDENTS INVOLVED IN THE SECOND CLEARANCE WAS A MATTER FOR THE CORPORATION TO DECIDE.

+IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND AS SUCH, APPLICANTS WHO WERE NOT ALLOCATED UNITS BY THE CORPORATION HAVE NO CLAIM AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT,+ THE REPLY SAID.

SINCE OCTOBER 1973 THIS GROUP OF RESIDENTS HAS PETITIONED VARIOUS AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, THE GOVERNOR, THE UMELCO OFFICE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE ICAC AND THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT. BUT NO ONE CAN ASSIST THEM BECAUSE THEIR CLAIM IS GROUNDLESS.

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ISLANDS DB MEMBERS GO ON AIR

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RESIDENTS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS TO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS IN THE COMING WEEKS WITHOUT HAVING TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT - THEY SIMPLY HAVE TO PICK UP THE PHONE AT HOME.

STARTING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND ON FOUR CONSECUTIVE FRIDAYS, MEMBERS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A PHONE-IN PROGRAMME TO ANSWER QUERIES AND DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING THE DISTRICT.

THE HOUR-LONG PROGRAMME, ORGANISED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO 1 (CHINESE CHANNEL) FROM 9 TO 10 PM EVERY FRIDAY. TOPICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST, RANGING FROM SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, WILL BE DISCUSSED EACH WEEK.

CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG, SAID THAT THROUGH THE BROADCASTING MEDIUM, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE SOMEWHAT SCATTERED POPULATION OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT QUICKER AND MORE DIRECTLY.

+THE PROGRAMME WILL BE USEFUL IN REACHING RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE REMOTER PARTS OF THE DISTRICT,+ HE OBSERVED.

+ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT COVER EVERYTHING AND SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS DURING THE HOUR-LONG PROGRAMME, WE WILL CERTAINLY TRY OUR BEST TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS AND, AS AND WHEN NECESSARY, TO ENSURE THAT FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ARE PROMPTLY TAKEN.

+WE HOPE THAT THE PROGRAMME WILL HELP BRING HOME THE MESSAGE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO THE ISLANDERS,+ HE ADDED.

MR LAM URGED RESIDENTS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE PROGRAMME BY CALLING 3-384711 OR TUNING IN TO RADIO 1 (MW783KHZ) OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG DURING THE BROADCAST.

THE TOPICS AND DATES OF THE PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES ARE:
ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL (AUGUST 9), TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION (AUGUST 16), ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS (AUGUST 23), CULTURE AND RECREATION (AUGUST 30) AND SOCIAL SERVICES (SEPTEMBER 6).

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DB TO BE BRIEFED ON BUILDING PROBLEMS
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YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK BY THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM IN TACKLING PROBLEMS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A REPORT OUTLINING MAJOR PROBLEMS OF 39 BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AND THE FORMATION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE TO CO-ORDINATE AND CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, 490-492 NATHAN ROAD.

REDEVELOPMENT OF URBAN WELFARE CENTRE WELCOMED
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MUCH OF THE PRESENT EXPANSION OF WELFARE SERVICES ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE NEW HOUSING ESTATES PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SPACE FOR NEW SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S PORTLAND STREET CENTRE, SHE SAID: +IN OLDER BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS LIKE MONG KOK IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND SUITABLE SITES FOR WELFARE PROJECTS AND THAT IS WHY THE PORTLAND STREET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS SO WELCOMED.+

ON COMPLETION IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS' TIME, THE NEW BUILDING WILL HOUSE THE EXISTING PORTLAND STREET DAY CRECHE AND DAY NURSERY AND THE MA TAU CHUNG RESIDENTIAL CRECHE, WITH IMPROVED FACILITIES AND INCREASED CAPACITIES.

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THE DAY CRECHE WILL BE EXPANDED FROM THE EXISTING 42 PLACES TO 80 PLACES, THE DAY NURSERY FROM 120 PLACES TO 150, AND THE RESIDENTIAL CRECHE FROM 90 TO 120 PLACES.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE NEW BUILDING WILL ALSO ACCOMMODATE REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

THESE SERVICES, TO BE PROVIDED BY ANOTHER SUBVENTED AGENCY NOMINATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE, A RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE AND AN EARLY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE, ALL OF WHICH ARE NEEDED FOR THE TRAINING AND CARE OF DISABLED CHILDREN.

MRS CHAN ALSO EXPRESSED HER APPRECIATION THAT THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WAS MEETING THE CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE NEW BUILDING, ESTIMATED AT \$15 MILLION.

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TRANSPORT POLICY REVIEW UNDERWAY * * * *

A MAJOR POLICY REVIEW IS UNDERWAY CONCERNING THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, THE RELATED ISSUES OF COMPETITION, THE COORDINATION OF FARES AND THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR PETER LEEDS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG'S LUNCH, MR LEEDS SAID THAT CLOSER INTEGRATION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES COULD AVOID WASTEFUL COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT MODES AS WELL AS RATIONALISE THE FARE STRUCTURES OF DIFFERENT OPERATORS.

BENEFITS OF THIS MEASURE COULD BEST BE ILLUSTRATED BY THE FUTURE TRANSPORT SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION IN THE TUEN MUN-YUEN LONG AREA WHERE THE LIGHT RAIL WILL BE THE CORE AND THE LOCAL BUS SERVICES WILL SUPPLEMENT AND FEED INTO THE MAIN SYSTEM WITH AN INTEGRATED FARE SYSTEM FOR ALL THE SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA.

AT PRESENT, HONG KONG'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS, EXCEPT FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SINGLE OPERATOR SERVICES SUCH AS FERRY SERVICES TO OUTLYING ISLANDS, WERE ALL IN A SITUATION OF COMPETITION, EVEN THOUGH COMPETITION WAS NOT ENTIRELY FREE AS SOME OPERATORS WERE SUBJECT TO FAIRLY TIGHT GOVERNMENT CONTROLS ON ROUTING, FREQUENCY AND FARES.

MR LEEDS SAID THAT COMPETITION DID HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN IMPROVING THE STANDARDS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER FURTHER RELAXED CONTROLS WOULD BRING AN EVEN BETTER SERVICE.

/+IT IS

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+IT IS ALSO DEBATABLE WHETHER THE LEVEL OF COMPETITION WE ALREADY HAVE IS ALTOGETHER BENEFICIAL,+ HE ADDED.

MR LEEDS POINTED OUT THAT COMPLETE DEREGULATION AND ABSOLUTELY FREE COMPETITION IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM MIGHT NOT BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS OF TRANSPORT USERS IN HONG KONG. THIS WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT FACILITIES, SUCH AS ROADS AND RAILWAYS, WOULD BE PUT TO THE BEST USE.

HE SAID AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF LICENCES FOR LIGHT BUSES AND TAXIS, LESS PROTECTION AGAINST EXCESSIVE FARES AND A RELUCTANCE BY OPERATORS TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN AREAS OF LOW PROFITABILITY ARE SOME OF THE ILL CONSEQUENCES OF RELAXING REGULATION TOO MUCH.

MOREOVER, HE POINTED OUT, HONG KONG LACKED THE ONE ELEMENT NECESSARY FOR GENUINE FREE COMPETITION BETWEEN TRANSPORT MODES, WHICH WAS A SUPPLY OF ROAD CAPACITY IN THE URBAN AREA WHICH COULD BE INCREASED IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND.

THERE WAS A NEED THEREFORE TO REGULATE THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC TO FIT THE SUPPLY OF ROAD CAPACITY, TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND FOR THE COMMUNITY TO INVEST THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT IN ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT MODES LIKE THE RAILWAYS TO GIVE RELIEF TO THE ROAD SYSTEM.

TURNING TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES, MR LEEDS NOTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE CO-ORDINATION. WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT OPERATORS, A UNIFIED FARE STRUCTURE WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND WE NOW HAD A SITUATION WHERE FARES ON BUSES AND FERRIES WERE DETERMINED BY SCALES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, FARES ON RAILWAYS SET BY THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND FARES ON MINOR SERVICES, SUCH AS LIGHT BUSES, LARGELY DECIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OWNER OR DRIVER.

+IT IS THE DISPARITY OF FARES WHICH HIGHLIGHTS PROBLEMS FACED WHEN THERE IS SOME COMPETITION,+ MR LEEDS POINTED OUT.

MR LEEDS ALSO STRESSED THAT COSTS, BOTH CAPITAL AND OPERATING, WERE A MAJOR DETERMINANT IN THE LEVEL OF FARES AND THAT THE COSTS OF PROVIDING DIFFERENT TRANSPORT SERVICES INEVITABLY VARIED WIDELY.

WHILE THERE WAS PLENTY OF FREE PUBLIC ADVICE ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE OR WHAT SHOULD NOT BE DONE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, RARELY DID THE ADVICE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF COST, HE NOTED.

MR LEEDS BELIEVED THAT THE CHOICE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO STAY ROUGHLY AS WE ARE, OR TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF REGULATION AND ALLOW MORE FREE-FOR-ALL COMPETITION OR TO MOVE TOWARDS CLOSER INTEGRATION BETWEEN VARIOUS TRANSPORT MODES.

+WHATEVER CHOICE IS MADE IN THE END IT IS THE PUBLIC WHO PAY AND ON THE BASIS THAT HE WHO PAYS THE PIPER CALLS THE TUNE THE PUBLIC WILL NOT IGNORE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING ITS VIEWS KNOWN ON TRANSPORT ISSUES WHICH COULD AFFECT A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1985

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NEW HOVERFERRY SERVICE TO BE LAUNCHED
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THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY IS TO LAUNCH A NEW HOVERFERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND NORTH POINT TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SERVICE, TO BE OPERATED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 5.50 PM DAILY, WILL BE ON A FREQUENCY OF 10 TO 15 MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS AND 20 TO 30 MINUTES DURING OFF PEAK PERIODS.

A FARE OF \$3 WILL BE CHARGED, WITH NO CONCESSION FOR CHILDREN OR STUDENT TRAVEL CARD HOLDERS.

ALSO FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), HYF'S HOVERFERRY SERVICE FROM TSUEN WAN TO NORTH POINT VIA CENTRAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY TRUNCATED BY CANCELLING THE SECTION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND NORTH POINT.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON PACKAGING REGULATIONS
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NEW REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE PROPER LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS WILL BE EXPLAINED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE HYGIENE ADVISER, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DR R.A. PERRY. STAFF OFFICER (FOODS), MR LOUIS LEE KAM-SHING, AND CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR, MR EDMUND YUNG KUN-YAU, OF THE BRANCH WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SITES STUDIED

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MEMBERS OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TODAY (THURSDAY) INSPECTED CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD TO FIND OUT POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS ALONG THE ROAD WHICH WILL FORM PART OF ROUTE 5, THE HIGHWAY THAT WILL LINK TSUEN WAN WITH SHA TIN.

THE FIELD VISIT, ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WAS TO PROVIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS TYPES OF CROSSINGS TO BE PROVIDED ALONG THE BUSY ROUTE.

OFFICIALS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WERE ON HAND TO BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CROSSINGS THAT COULD BE CONSTRUCTED.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANGUS MIU, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING SAFE ROAD CROSSINGS ALONG THE SECTION OF THE ROAD NEAR CHEUNG SHAN ESTATE AND SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE.

+PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS AND CHILDREN IN NEARBY ESTATES AND SCHOOLS IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WHEN PLANNING LOCATIONS FOR THE CROSSINGS,+ HE SAID.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOUSING ESTATES AND VILLAGERS WHO ARE DAILY USERS OF THE ROAD WERE ASKED FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROVISION OF ROAD CROSSINGS.

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MOSQUITO BREEDING LEADS TO FINES

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC OF THE NEED TO ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS DURING THE CURRENT HOT AND HUMID SEASON.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID 13 PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST OFFENDERS LAST MONTH RESULTING IN TOTAL FINES OF MORE THAN \$12 000. AMONG THE CASES, THE HIGHEST FINE WAS \$1 500.

ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO ALLOW THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10 000, THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

/DURING THE

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DURING THE SAME MONTH, PEST CONTROL STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT 3 710 INSPECTIONS OF BUILDING SITES AND OPEN SPACES AND ALSO VISITED 30 275 HOUSES TO DETECT POTENTIAL MOSQUITO BREEDING PLACES. AS A RESULT, SOME 800 BREEDING GROUNDS WERE IDENTIFIED AND DEALT WITH.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 87 COMPLAINTS RELATING TO MOSQUITO NUISANCE AND ISSUED 59 SUMMONSES TO OFFENDERS.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SHOW ON THE MOVE
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FACTORY WORKERS AND RESIDENTS OF CHAI WAN WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN SOME SAFETY MEASURES AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WHILE ENJOYING A FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10).

FEATURING POPULAR SINGERS, MR PENG KIN-SON AND MISS PRISCILLA CHAN, THE HOUR-LONG SHOW WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM AT THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THIS WILL BE THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF RADIO PROGRAMMES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, +MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK+, TO BE BROADCAST LIVE BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG RADIO 1, ON SATURDAYS.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND RTHK, THE 30-EPIISODE SERIES FORMS PART OF THIS YEAR'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE PROGRAMME IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID.

APART FROM LIVE BROADCAST OF OUTDOOR SHOWS IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL AREAS, THE SERIES INCLUDES A SAFETY QUIZ FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, VISITS TO FACTORIES, A SAFETY SLOGAN CONTEST AND A SAFETY QUIZ INVOLVING HOME AUDIENCE.

+THE PROGRAMME IS SPECIALLY DEVISED TO ENABLE PARTICIPATING WORKERS AND HOME AUDIENCE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON THE PROPER WORKING PROCEDURES AND THE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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THE RADIO SERIES WILL CONCLUDE WITH A SAFETY GALA NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI LATER THIS YEAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHOW AT THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHAI WAN ROAD, ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10) STARTING AT 3 PM.

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THREE PARKING SITES UP FOR RENT
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES OF THREE PARKING SITES.

TWO SITES ARE AT FUNG SHING STREET IN DIAMOND HILL OF 7 900 SQUARE METRES AND LOK WAH STREET IN TSZ WAN SHAN WITH AN AREA OF 6 750 SQUARE METRES.

BOTH SITES ARE FOR USE AS FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREAS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY FOR THE TWO SITES IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE THIRD SITE OF 2 576 SQUARE METRES, AT THE JUNCTION OF SAI CHING STREET AND SAI YU STREET IN YUEN LONG, IS FOR VEHICLES INCLUDING CONTAINER LORRIES, AND FOR OPEN STORAGE USE.

TENANCY IS FOR SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS FOR THE THREE SITES IS NOON ON AUGUST 23.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND PLANS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION, AT:

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

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

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG, FOR THE YUEN LONG SITE.

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