



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HONG KONG AWARE OF TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, GOVERNOR SAYS .....	1
HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT EXPERIENCE .....	1
SENSIBLE LAW SHOULD HAVE COMMUNITY INPUT, A.G. SAYS .....	4
URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES GAIN WORLD PRESTIGE .....	5
MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR DECEMBER 1981 .....	7
ABERDEEN TO AP LEI CHAU FERRY SERVICE FARES .....	10
EMPLOYERS REMINDED TO CHECK VR CARDS .....	10
SHA TIN MARKET STALLS LEASED .....	11
ACCIDENT FREE AWARDS FOR NTSD DRIVERS .....	11
LIFE GUARDS WANTED FOR GAZETTED BEACHES .....	12
EXHIBITION OF 'PERFORMING ARTS' BOOKS .....	12
DISTRICT BOARD ESSAY COMPETITION FOR TSUEN WAN STUDENTS .....	13
SALT WATER MAINS WORK .....	13

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1982

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HONG KONG AWARE OF TRANSPORT  
AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, GOVERNOR SAYS  
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HONG KONG WAS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF ITS TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC DEFICIENCIES BUT THE SITUATION SHOULD IMPROVE DRAMATICALLY IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD A GATHERING OF TRANSPORT EXPERTS THIS MORNING.

IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE DECLARING OPEN THE CONFERENCE ON +TRANSPORT INTO THE 80'S+, BEING HELD HERE BY THE UK DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND THE UK INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC WAS UNTIL RECENTLY +STILL RATHER BETTER+ IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER BIG CITIES, BUT TRAFFIC HAS TEMPORARILY OUTSTRIPPED CONSTRUCTION.

+WE CAN NOW ONLY CLAIM TO BE A LITTLE WORSE,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG, MEANWHILE, LOOKED FORWARD TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DISTINGUISHED GATHERING OF EXPERTS FOR ADVICE WHICH WAS FREE, SIR MURRAY TOLD THEM.

HONG KONG TRANSPORT POLICY DIFFERED FROM THAT OF MOST WESTERN ECONOMIES IN TWO WAYS, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

+FIRST, FOR REASONS OF SPACE AND PASSENGER VOLUME, WE MUST ENCOURAGE THE USE OF PUBLIC RATHER THAN PRIVATE TRANSPORT- AND SECOND, IN LINE WITH OUR ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY, PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND, THOUGH UNDER A DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL, IS EXPECTED TO OPERATE PROFITABLY WITHOUT SUBSIDY.

+THIS IT DOES, EVEN WITH FARES WHICH ARE GENERALLY ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THOSE IN LONDON,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG WAS HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE EXCITING CONFERENCE. HE WELCOMED THE VISITORS AND WISHED THEM A PLEASANT AND INTERESTING STAY HERE, AND THE CONFERENCE SUCCESS.

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HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT EXPERIENCE  
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HONG KONG'S TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEMS ARE AT LEAST POTENTIALLY MORE ACUTE THAN OTHER LARGE CITIES BECAUSE OUR POPULATION IS MORE CONCENTRATED AND DENSE AND BECAUSE THE INTERLAND IS LIMITED BOTH IN EXTENT AND IN TERRAIN, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT TOLD A CONFERENCE OF TRANSPORT EXPERTS TODAY.

IN A PAPER ON HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT EXPERIENCE PRESENTED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE +TRANSPORT INTO THE 80S+ CONFERENCE AT THE REGENT HOTEL, MR SCOTT SAID FROM STUDIES COMMISSIONED TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM, THERE EMERGED THREE OBJECTIVES, +ALL EASY TO SET OUT, BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT IN PRACTICE:

/\* EXPANSION OF .....

- \* EXPANSION OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, INCLUDING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES=
- \* EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, PARTICULARLY OFF-ROAD PUBLIC TRANSPORT= AND
- \* RESTRAINTS ON THE MORE INEFFICIENT USERS OF ROAD SPACE, PARTICULARLY PRIVATE VEHICLES AND TAXIS AND ALSO, POSSIBLY, THE MORE INEFFICIENT GOODS VEHICLES.

+IN GENERAL, THE FIRST AIM IS APPLAUDED UNTIL ITS COST RUNS INTO COMPETITION WITH OTHER DESIRED PROGRAMMES OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. THE SECOND IS ACCLAIMED UNTIL THE COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT REQUIRE HIGHER FARES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT. THE THIRD IS BITTERLY RESISTED BY EXISTING CAR OWNERS, POTENTIAL CAR OWNERS AND BY THOSE WHO USE TAXIS IN PREFERENCE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR PRIVATE CARS,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

HE OUTLINED THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT WERE TAKING PLACE:

#### THE ROAD PROGRAMME

SOME \$1 200 MILLION WILL HAVE BEEN SPENT THIS FINANCIAL YEAR ON ROADS AND OTHER HIGHWAY PROJECTS, IN ADDITION TO \$2 000 MILLION BEING SPENT ON THE MTR AND \$800 MILLION ON KCR MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION. EVEN SO, BECAUSE OF RAPID GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND HIGHER PRIORITIES FOR SUCH PROGRAMMES AS HOUSING AND NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME HAS BEEN FALLING BEHIND THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE IN THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY.

IN THE AREA OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, THE COMPUTERISED AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN WEST KOWLOON IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE INCREASED THE ROAD CAPACITY THERE BY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT AND PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXTEND THE SYSTEM TO THE REST OF KOWLOON AND TO HONG KONG ISLAND. THERE IS ALSO A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A SEGREGATED ROAD NETWORK LINKED TO A SOPHISTICATED CONTROL CENTRE.

STUDIES ARE IN HAND TO INTRODUCE A SERIES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEMES INCLUDING BUS-ONLY LANES. SUCH A SCHEME HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THE MID-LEVELS AND A REVISED ONE IS BEING PROPOSED FOR THE NORTH-EASTERN CORRIDOR OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

THE INTEGRATED NETWORK OF THE MTR AND THE KCR COULD BE CATERING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THREE MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY, OFF-ROAD, BY THE LATE 1980S. WHEN COMPLETED, ON PRESENT PLANS BY 1986, THE NETWORK WILL HAVE OVER 70 KILOMETRES OF LINE, WITH TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES AT THE MAIN STATIONS AND LINKING ALL THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED AREAS IN HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON, THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL TOWN OF TSUEN WAN/KWAI CHUNG AND THE THREE NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TAI PO AND FANLING IN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

/IN THE .....

IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, THERE ARE PLANS TO PROVIDE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WITH A NEW AND MODERN TRAMWAY OR LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, TOGETHER WITH A LINK TO THE NEARBY SMALLER NEW TOWN OF YUEN LONG. THE OPERATOR WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN BUSES BEFORE THE SYSTEM IS INSTALLED AND THE BUSES WILL ASSUME A COMPLEMENTARY ROLE AFTER IT OPENS.

THE FERRIES, WHICH CARRY SOME HALF A MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY, WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

AS REGARDS FRANCHISED BUSES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, WITH INCREASING POPULATION AND GROWING INCOMES, THE PREDICTION IS THAT BY THE LATE 1980S AND EARLY 1990S, EVEN IF THE NEW OFF-ROAD MODES ARE CARRYING OVER THREE MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY, THEY WILL PROBABLY STILL NEED TO TRANSPORT AT LEAST THE FIVE MILLION PASSENGERS (FRANCHISED BUSES ABOUT 3.35 MILLION, PLB'S 1.5 MILLION) THEY CARRY TODAY.

+SO IT WILL STILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT NOT ONLY ARE SUFFICIENT VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO MEET THE TASK, BUT ALSO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO MOVE QUICKLY ENOUGH ON THE ROADS TO DO THEIR JOB WITH REASONABLE EFFICIENCY. THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING ROAD CONGESTION, THEREFORE, REMAINS THE MOST URGENT PROBLEM FOR OUR TRANSPORT PLANNERS,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

#### RESTRAINTS

THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN HONG KONG, AT MORE THAN 300 000 VEHICLES OR 285 PER KILOMETRES OF ROAD, IS MORE THAN ANY OTHER TERRITORY IN THE WORLD INCLUDING EVEN MONACO AT ABOUT 200 VEHICLES PER KILOMETRE. IN RECENT YEARS, TOTAL VEHICLES NUMBERS HAVE BEEN INCREASING BY ABOUT 12 PER CENT A YEAR AND PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS BY OVER 14 PER CENT.

+ALREADY, DESPITE ALL EFFORTS AT MANAGEMENT, PARTS OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE VITAL CROSS-HARBOUR LINK, FACE VERY SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION FOR A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE DAY,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

IF VEHICLE NUMBERS AND VEHICLE USAGE CONTINUE TO RISE AT ANYTHING NEAR THE CURRENT RATE, THE SITUATION WILL INEVITABLY WORSEN - AND IN SOME AREAS MAY APPROACH PERIODIC TOTAL CONGESTION.

THE PROBLEM WAS DEEPLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY WHICH ESTIMATED THAT WITH NO FURTHER RESTRAINTS, THERE WOULD BE 400 000 PRIVATE CARS IN HONG KONG BY 1991, BUT ASSUMING A VERY CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN LICENCE FEES AND OTHER MEASURES, THIS FIGURE COULD BE KEPT DOWN TO SOME 280 000 CARS.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF MORE RAPID GROWTH IN INCOMES IN RECENT YEARS THAN THAT ASSUMED IN THE STUDY, THE NUMBERS OF PRIVATE CARS ARE ALREADY ABOVE THE UNRESTRAINED GROWTH LINE AND THE NUMBER OF TAXIS LICENSED AND THE NUMBERS OF GOODS VEHICLES ARE HIGHER THAN WERE ASSUMED, WHILE THE ACTUAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME HAS NOT FOLLOWED THE ASSUMPTIONS.

/WHILE THERE .....

WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TECHNICAL MEASURES EXIST TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, WHETHER BY PRICING MECHANISMS OR BY CONTROLS OR BY A COMBINATION OF THE TWO, +THE REAL PROBLEMS LIE IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEED TO ACT NOW, TO TAKE MEASURES WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCONVENIENCE ONE SECTION OF THE POPULATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MOBILITY OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND FOR THE CONTINUING EFFICIENT WORKING OF THE ECONOMY.

+THE SUCCESS STORY THAT IS HONG KONG WILL MAKE IT PARADOXICALLY MORE DIFFICULT, BECAUSE THE ADAPTABILITY AND SURVIVORSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMUNITY HAVE SO OFTEN MADE GREAT PROBLEMS SEEM SMALL, AND DRASTIC MEASURES UNNECESSARY.+ MR SCOTT SAID.

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SENSIBLE LAW SHOULD HAVE COMMUNITY INPUT, A.G. SAYS  
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SENSIBLE LAW SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF LAWYERS, BUT SHOULD ALSO HAVE AN INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY ITSELF, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

+LAW SHOULD NOT BE A MYSTERY. IT IS THE FRAME WHICH HOLDS UP SOCIETY IN WHICH WE LIVE.

+THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE WHEN CONSTRUCTING OR REPAIRING THAT FRAME FOR DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE, COMMON SENSE AND ABILITY OF MEN AND WOMEN OF AFFAIRS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, WAS SPEAKING AT A COCKTAIL PARTY GIVEN THIS AFTERNOON FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE VOLUNTARILY GIVING THEIR SERVICES TO THE VARIOUS SPHERES OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID HE WISHED ALSO TO RECORD PUBLICLY HIS APPRECIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS OF ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION WAS SET UP WITH TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES, HE POINTED OUT.

+FIRST, WE WANTED TO OBTAIN PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS. THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO OBTAIN THE HELP OF THOSE WITH DETAILED EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIELD BEING STUDIED.

+SECOND, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE VIEWS AND FEELING OF OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN SOLUTIONS WERE PROPOSED,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS FELT THAT THE BEST WAY OF TACKLING LAW REFORM SUBJECTS IS TO HAVE THE PROBLEMS RESEARCHED ORIGINALLY BY A SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ITSELF, BUT WITH OTHER MEMBERS EITHER SPECIALISTS IN THE SUBJECT OR REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERESTED GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY.

/ALL SUB-COMMITTEE .....

ALL SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE SPECIALISTS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID. AT THE SAME TIME MR GRIFFITHS ANNOUNCED THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE NINTH TOPIC, CONCERNING INSURANCE.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR PETER WILLOUGHBY OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, WITH MR JUSTICE BARKER AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ARE: MISS OPHELIA CHEUNG OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MR M.N. SOMERVILLE OF JARDINE INSURANCE UNDERWRITING, MR ANDREW HICKS OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, MR GRAHAM CHENG OF TASHING PETROLEUM, MR BARRY WILCOX OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, MISS JACKIE ASHCROFT OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, MR HENRY LITTON Q.C., MR YAO KANG OF SWIRE INSURANCE LTD, MR CLARENCE CHENG FROM JOHNSON STOKES AND MASTER, AND MR THOMAS T.C. CHAN FROM K.H. WONG AND CO.

THE OTHER EIGHT SUB-COMMITTEES ARE DEALING WITH: CONTEMPT OF COURT, POLICE CONFESSION, COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS, HOMOSEXUALITY, ARBITRATION, BILLS OF EXCHANGE, CIVIL EVIDENCE AND CONTRIBUTION.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE COMMISSION WAS SEEKING, AT THE END OF THE ROAD, WORKABLE SOLUTIONS AND PRACTICAL ANSWERS - NOT THE ADOPTION OF ARCANE LEGAL THEORIES.

HE THANKED THE COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND ADDED: +I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS MARVELLOUS CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT BY ALL OF YOU HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OBTAINING A FAIR AND SATISFACTORY FRAMEWORK OF LAWS TO GOVERN OUR SOCIETY IN HONG KONG, WHICH IS THE AIM OF OUR LAW REFORM COMMISSION.+

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#### URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES GAIN WORLD PRESTIGE

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BARELY 20 YEARS AFTER THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE WAS LAUNCHED, IT HAS INCREASED BY 30 TIMES ITS NUMBERS OF REGISTERED BORROWERS AND BOOKS BORROWED.

IT HAS ALSO GAINED INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE BY HAVING ITS MAIN LIBRARY AT THE CITY HALL DESIGNATED A UNITED NATIONS DEPOSITORY LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ROLE AS A MAJOR METROPOLITAN LIBRARY.

BUT IT IS NOT RESTING ON ITS LAURELS. ITS FUTURE PLANS INCLUDE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES TO INTRODUCE NEW SERVICES AND EXPAND EXISTING FACILITIES.

MR ALEX NG, CHIEF LIBRARIAN, SAID THAT THE COUNCIL EXPECTS TO OPEN THE ARTS LIBRARY IN 1983/84 IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURAL COMPLEX.

THIS 930-SQUARE-METRE REFERENCE LIBRARY WILL HAVE A BASIC STOCK OF ABOUT 50 000 BOOKS IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, 5 000 MUSICAL SCORES, 3 000 GRAMOPHONE RECORDS AND CASSETTES, 500 AUDIO-VISUAL PACKS, 200 REELS OF MICROFILMS AND 100 VIDEO-CASSETTES.

+THE COLLECTION WILL GIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS. THIS MOVE IS ALSO A NATURAL EXTENSION OF OUR SUCCESS WITH THE FIRST MUSIC LISTENING LIBRARIES IN THE CITY HALL, YAU MA TEI AND KWUN TONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES,+ SAID MR NG.

TWO OTHER MAJOR GOALS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE ARE THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC DATA-PROCESSING SYSTEMS IN 1983/84 AND THE BUILDING OF ONE DISTRICT LIBRARY FOR EVERY 200 000 RESIDENTS IN THE URBAN AREA.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IS ALSO INVOLVED IN A WIDE RANGE OF LIBRARY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES EACH YEAR. THESE INCLUDE THE CHINESE LITERARY WEEK, URBAN COUNCIL ARTS AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING IN CHINESE AND CREATIVE WRITING FOR CHILDREN, CHILDREN'S BOOK EXHIBITION, CHILDREN'S DRAMA COMPETITION, CAREER TALKS AND EXHIBITION, INTEREST GROUPS AND SUBJECT TALKS AND EXHIBITIONS.

ABOUT 1 150 000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR.

MR NG ALSO REVEALED THAT THE NEXT PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE OPENED AT TELFORD GARDENS IN KOWLOON BAY IN MID-1982, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STATIC LIBRARIES OPERATED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL TO 13.

THE COUNCIL ALSO OPERATES TWO MOBILE LIBRARIES ON THE HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON SERVING AREAS OF POCKETS OF POPULATION WHERE THERE ARE NO PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.

+THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO BUILD SMALL STATIC LIBRARIES OF BETWEEN 100 TO 150 SQUARE METRES TO SUPPORT DISTRICT LIBRARIES IN DENSELY-POPULATED AREAS. AND IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT A NEW DISTRICT LIBRARY WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEW ABERDEEN MARKET COMPLEX IN 1982/83 AND ANOTHER ONE IN THE NEW TO KWA WAN MARKET COMPLEX IN 1983/84,+ MR NG ADDED.

MR NG BELIEVES THAT MODERN LIBRARIES +MUST NOT BE JUST DEPOSITORIES OF KNOWLEDGE+.

+ASIDE FROM PROVIDING FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH AND MEETING PEOPLE'S CULTURAL NEEDS, THEY MUST ALSO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES TO HELP FOSTER INTEREST AND ABILITY IN FIELDS HITHERTO UNKNOWN TO READERS,+ HE SAID.

AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES IS THE BLOCK LOAN OF BOOKS MADE TO INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DISABLED TO HELP MARK 1981 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS.

+AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO HELP THE HANDICAPPED GAIN CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES THROUGH ACTIVE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND SERVING OTHERS. LAST SUMMER, 14 STUDENTS FROM THE CANOSSIAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF TOOK PART IN THE COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY LIBRARY SERVICE SCHEME. TOGETHER WITH STUDENTS FROM THE SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE AND HONG KONG WAH YAN COLLEGE, THEY WORKED IN FOUR LIBRARIES AND FOUND THE EXPERIENCE BOTH PROFITABLE AND ENJOYABLE. CERTIFICATES OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE WERE AWARDED TO THEM FOR THEIR SATISFACTORY SERVICE IN THE LIBRARIES,+ MR NG SAID.

THE TOTAL LIBRARY COLLECTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES NOW INCLUDES 1 070 000 VOLUMES OF BOOKS, 2 300 NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, 3 700 REELS OF MICROFILMS, 680 VIDEO-CASSETTES, 1 500 SETS OF SLIDES AND 11 400 GRAMPHONE RECORDS AND CASSETTES. THE LIBRARY COLLECTION IS EXPANDING.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ON HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ARE STOCKED AT THE CITY HALL REFERENCE LIBRARY TO FACILITATE THE PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY WHILE WORKS ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL SUBJECTS ARE KEPT AT THE YAU MA TEI REFERENCE LIBRARY.

THE CITY HALL LIBRARY, THE FIRST OF THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WAS FIRST OPENED IN MARCH 1962. LIBRARY USAGE HAS SINCE INCREASED FROM 150 000 BOOKS BORROWED FOR HOME-READING IN 1962 TO 4 300 000 LAST YEAR, AND THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BORROWERS FROM 30 000 TO 920 000 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

MORE THAN SIX MILLION BOOKS WERE ALSO READ WITHIN THE LIBRARY PREMISES LAST YEAR.

MR NG SAID THE USAGE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IS HEAVY AND COMPARES VERY FAVOURABLY WITH OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES.

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MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND  
FOR DECEMBER 1981  
\* \* \* \*

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED STATISTICS FROM THE MONTHLY SURVEY FOR DECEMBER 1981, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED ON AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979, AS WELL AS A PANEL OF THE 43 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, BUT SHOULD GIVE USEFUL INDICATIONS OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT RUN.

/ACCORDING TO .....

ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT REMAINED STABLE IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS, WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES BUT DROPPED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND ALSO TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR MANUFACTURING ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY MAINLY TO OFFICE STAFF IN A NUMBER OF FACTORIES. PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ALSO INCREASED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES SECTORS FOR THE SAME REASON. THE INCREASE WAS PARTICULARLY SUBSTANTIAL IN BANKS AND HOTELS.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS HELD BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED IN DECEMBER 1981 DECREASED SLIGHTLY AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. FEWER ORDERS WERE RECEIVED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, WHEREAS MORE ORDERS WERE RECEIVED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, PER CAPITA EARNINGS AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLE.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1981 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7221914).

#### A. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICE	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED			PER CAPITA EARNINGS			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DEC. 1981 (HK\$)
	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)						
	OCT. 1981	NOV. 1981	DEC. 1981	OCT. 1981	NOV. 1981	DEC. 1981	
MANUFACTURING	-1	-1	-1	*	-2	14	2 169
FOOD AND DRINKS	-1	-3	*	-8	-4	8	2 752
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	1	-1	*	*	1	14	1 967
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	-5	*	*	-3	-4	15	2 126
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	-1	-4	6	-5	26	2 116
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	1	-1	-1	-2	*	9	1 861

/ELECTRIAL AND .....

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	9	1 905
OTHERS	1	-1	*	3	-2	15	3 020
CONSTRUCTION	-1	1	*	1	4	4	3 092
SERVICES	1	1	*	2	-2	25	4 137
BANKS	1	1	1	*	*	57	4 685
HOTELS	*	*	*	*	*	65	3 294
PUBLIC UTILITIES	2	1	*	3	-5	9	3 632
OTHERS	1	*	*	1	-2	10	5 241

B. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)</u>			<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR DEC. 1981</u>
	<u>OCT. 1981</u>	<u>NOV. 1981</u>	<u>DEC. 1981</u>	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	2	-2	-2	4.7
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	-4	*	2.2
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3	*	3	3.3
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-3	3	-3	3.2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	-2	*	4.7
OTHERS	*	-3	*	3.6
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	*	*	-2	4.0

\* CHANGE OF LESS THAN 0.5%

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1982

- 10 -

ABERDEEN TO AP LEI CHAU FERRY SERVICE FARES

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FERRY FARES BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU WILL BE RAISED FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE ADULT FARE WILL BE INCREASED FROM 40 CENTS TO 50 CENTS AND FROM 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS FOR CHILDREN.

IN ADDITION, STUDENT MONTHLY TICKETS WILL BE RAISED FROM \$12 TO \$15 WHILE 'FACTORY-GIRL' MONTHLY TICKETS WILL GO UP FROM \$24 TO \$30 FROM MARCH 1.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN FREIGHT CHARGES.

+THE FARE INCREASE IS DUE TO A RISE IN OPERATIONAL COSTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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EMPLOYERS REMINDED TO CHECK VR CARDS

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EMPLOYERS WISHING TO EMPLOY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST CHECK THE LATTER'S REFUGEE CARDS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE.

AND THOSE ALREADY EMPLOYING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THE REFUGEE CARDS EVERY PAY DAY TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR EMPLOYABLE STATUS HAS NOT CHANGED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1981, A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE IS LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE ONLY IF HIS REFUGEE CARD DOES NOT PROHIBIT HIM FROM TAKING EMPLOYMENT.

THE WORDS +EMPLOYMENT NOT PERMITTED+ WOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ON BOTH SIDES OF A REFUGEE CARD IF THE HOLDER IS PROHIBITED FROM TAKING EMPLOYMENT, HE SAID.

REFUGEE CARDS ARE ISSUED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AS A TEMPORARY DOCUMENT OF PROOF OF IDENTITY, PENDING THE REFUGEE'S PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT CAMP PASSES, ISSUED BY THE VARIOUS CAMPS, CANNOT BE REGARDED AS REFUGEE CARDS.

EMPLOYERS SHOULD THEREFORE INSIST ON SEEING THE REFUGEE CARDS BEFORE DECIDING ON WHETHER OR NOT TO EMPLOY A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO CHECK THE REFUGEE CARD EVERY PAY DAY TO MAKE SURE THEIR VIETNAMESE REFUGEE EMPLOYEES REMAIN LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO EMPLOYS A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE WHO IS NOT PERMITTED TO WORK RISKS A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

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SHA TIN MARKET STALLS LEASED

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ALL ELEVEN MINI-STALLS AND MARKET STALLS AT SHA TIN MARKET WERE LEASED AT ABOVE THE UPSET PRICE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY (MONDAY).

THE AUCTION, ORGANISED BY THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICE OF SHA TIN, WAS HELD AT THE LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL AT LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN.

MOST OF THE STALLS FETCHED UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH PRICES, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE TOP PRICE FOR SEVEN MINI-STALLS SELLING WET GOODS WAS \$5 350 AND THE LOWEST WAS \$1 760. THE UPSET PRICE WAS \$750.

BIDDERS OFFERED \$5 500 AND \$5 200 TO RENT TWO STALLS SELLING FISH, COMPARED WITH THE UPSET RENTAL OF \$2 000.

THE TRADESMAN'S STALL AND THE NEWSPAPER STALL, WERE LEASED FOR A MONTHLY RENTAL OF \$2 200 AND \$5 150 RESPECTIVELY, AGAINST THE UPSET PRICES OF \$720 AND \$3 000.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS CAN START OPERATING THEIR BUSINESS ON MARCH 1 FOR A CONTRACT PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ACCIDENT FREE AWARDS FOR NTSD DRIVERS

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THIRTY-SEVEN DRIVERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE AWARDED ACCIDENT FREE CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR CAREFUL DRIVING DURING THE LAST THREE TO FIVE YEARS.

THIRTY-THREE OF THEM WERE COMMENDED FOR DRIVING REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES, STREET WASHING VEHICLES, MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPERS AND OTHER VEHICLES WITHOUT CAUSING TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS WHILE THE OTHER FOUR WERE FOR THREE YEARS.

THEY RECEIVED THEIR AWARDS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, IN A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY AT THE KOWLOON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

PRESENTING THE CERTIFICATES, MR SWEETMAN COMMENDED THE DRIVERS FOR THEIR ACCIDENT FREE RECORDS DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

MR SWEETMAN ALSO EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE DRIVERS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR GOOD DRIVING PRACTICE.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1982

- 12 -

LIFE GUARDS WANTED FOR GAZETTED BEACHES

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARE RECRUITING LIFE GUARDS FOR DUTY AT GAZETTED BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS HANDLING THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE POSTS WERE OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST PRIMARY 6 EDUCATION AND HOLD A BRONZE MEDALLION CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL LIFE GUARD SOCIETY AND A VALID FIRST AID CERTIFICATE.

THE STARTING SALARY FOR THE POST IS \$2 040 A MONTH.

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE POST MAY APPROACH ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONES 3-666615, 3-695525 AND 5-270515.

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EXHIBITION OF 'PERFORMING ARTS' BOOKS

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AN EXHIBITION OF BOOKS ON 'PERFORMING ARTS' WILL BE HELD IN THE YUEN LONG PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO 27.

THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO MARK THE SECOND YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

IT WILL FEATURE ABOUT 300 VOLUMES OF BOOKS ON MUSIC, OPERA, THEATRE, CINEMA, BALLET AND DANCE.

MANY AUTHORITATIVE WORKS SUCH AS THE HARVARD DICTIONARY OF MUSIC, THE NEW GROVE DICTIONARY OF MUSIC, KOBBE'S COMPLETE OPERA BOOK, MCGRAW-HILL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DRAMA WILL BE INCLUDED.

CATALOGUES OF THE BOOKS EXHIBITED WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY DURING THE EXHIBITION.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1982

- 13 -

DISTRICT BOARD ESSAY COMPETITION FOR TSUEN WAN STUDENTS  
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SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TSUEN WAN ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN AN ESSAY COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE COMPETITION, WHICH AIMS TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL STUDENTS, HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AND INFORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO JUNIOR (FORM 1 - FORM 4) AND SENIOR (FORM 5 - FORM 7) SECTIONS.

THE TOPIC CHOSEN FOR THE JUNIORS IS +THE IMPORTANCE OF DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS+, WHILE FOR THE SENIORS THE TOPIC IS +THE MEANING OF SETTING UP DISTRICT BOARDS AND PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION OF THEM+.

ENTRIES OF NOT MORE THAN 2 000 WORDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AT CHUNG ON STREET, TSUEN WAN, BEFORE FEBRUARY 27.

THE FIRST THREE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES OF \$400, \$300 AND \$200.

THE ASSOCIATION IS ALSO ORGANISING A DEBATE FOR FORM 3 AND FORM 4 STUDENTS WHO HAVE TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE BY NOT LATER THAN THIS FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

PRELIMINARIES WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 6, MARCH 13 AND MARCH 20 AT THE COTTON SPINNERS ASSOCIATION PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KWAI SHING CIRCUIT.

THE FINALS WILL BE HELD AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL ON MARCH 27.

THERE ARE FOUR TOPICS FOR DEBATE.

THE FIRST FOUR WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED BOOK TOKENS TO THE VALUE OF \$1 000, \$800, \$600 AND \$400.

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SALT WATER MAINS WORK  
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN THE KOWLOON EAST DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 24 HOURS FROM 8 AM ON THURSDAY TO 8 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 18-19) TO FACILITATE MAINS WORK AT JORDAN VALLEY NEAR SHAM WAN SHAN PUMPING HOUSE.

AREAS AFFECTED WILL BE KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, NGAU TAU KOK, JORDAN VALLEY, NGAU CHI WAN, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON BAY AND PING SHEK IN KOWLOON EAST.

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY  
OF THE TRANSPORT CONFERENCE ON "TRANSPORT INTO THE 80s"  
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1982

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hong Kong is honoured to have been chosen by the UK-Department of Transport and the UK-Institute of Civil Engineers for this exciting conference and I am delighted to be invited to open it.

First of all I welcome the visiting participants and wish them a pleasant and interesting stay here.

Modern Hong Kong has grown to its present stature inspite of great difficulties largely arising out of a massive influx of population. These difficulties have left scars still to be seen, for instance the squatters and the overcrowding. But problems are being tackled, often dramatically, and the visible combination of the challenge of the problems and the economic and social response to them makes Hong Kong a fascinating and impressive place for most visitors.

You are transport experts. Well our public transport system includes buses, trains, trams, ferries, a wide range of smaller vehicles and even a funicular tram and a cable car. 7.5m passenger journeys are made each day. The modes range from the sleekly modern to the interestingly antique. I am afraid that if you have come expecting rickshaws and sedan chairs you will be disappointed, but many of the old stone paths built centuries ago for traditional foot-borne transport still exist, though now maintained for hikers, and I hope you will see junks under sail in the harbour.

In Hong Kong we have the usual combination of most big cities of high urban density and huge daily passenger loads. Our case is complicated by division of the conurbation by both harbour and mountains.

/The problems .....

These problems have been compounded by the rapid construction of new towns outside the old urban area which require massive expansion and extension of our transport systems. At the same time equally rapid growth in wealth has resulted in the number of private cars nearly doubling in 5 years. While desirable enough in itself, as you can imagine this has caught out the adequacy of our road system whose development has in any case been delayed.

While comparatively recently Hong Kong's transport and traffic in comparison to most other big cities was still rather better, traffic has temporarily outstripped construction and we can now only claim to be little worse. You will hear what is being done, and the situation should improve dramatically over the next 4 years. Meanwhile we are acutely conscious of our deficiencies and look forward to taking advantage of such a distinguished gathering of experts for advice which is free.

Hong Kong is of course a very large market for imported goods and expertise. Much of the development of our transport systems has been carried out by consultants, project managements and contractors from overseas enterprises both great and small, many of whom are represented at this Conference. We are glad to see old friends, and to welcome new ones.

In two ways, our transport policy differs from most Western economies: first, for reasons of space and passenger volume, we must encourage the use of public rather than private transport; and second, in line with our economic philosophy, public transport is in the hands of private enterprise and, though under a degree of Government control, is expected to operate profitably without subsidy. This it does, even with fares which are generally only one-third of those in London.

I must beware of starting to speak of the economic and social policies on which Hong Kong has thrived - I could go on for hours, and I know you wish to get down to discussing the finer points of modern transport systems. I will therefore conclude by saying how much I hope your Conference will be a success, and that delegates will look back on their stay in Hong Kong with interest and pleasure and a sense of having been truly welcome.

I have great pleasure in declaring open the Conference on "Transport into the 80s".