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CLARITY AND DETAIL ESSENTIAL TO CONFIDENCE -- SIR JOHN

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THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE NEEDS CLARITY AND DETAIL TO GIVE CONFIDENCE LOCALLY AND ABROAD, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY), IN AN ADDRESS AT THE CABLE AND WIRELESS DINNER.

THE BEST METHOD OF ENSURING HONG KONG'S FUTURE SUCCESS, SIR JOHN SAID, IS THROUGH A BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN WHICH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TERRITORY'S CONTINUING PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, BASED ON A SUBSTANTIAL AUTONOMY, WOULD BE FORMALLY RECORDED.

+WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE CLARITY AND THE DETAIL WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO GIVE CONFIDENCE TO ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE AGREEMENT, IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE.

+IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, THEN I AM SURE THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG AS A WHOLE AND HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WILL SHARE THE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE AND DETERMINATION TO INVEST IN IT,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE FORECAST THAT IN 10 YEARS' TIME, HONG KONG'S PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT +COULD WITH A BIT OF LUCK BE OF THE SAME ORDER AS THAT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM+.

+THIS WOULD BE REMARKABLE, GIVEN THAT OUR FINE HARBOUR IS OUR ONLY NATURAL RESOURCE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AS BEING +IN GREAT FORM+ AT PRESENT, WITH A REAL-TERM INCREASE OF 30 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

BUT HE POINTED TO TWO PROBLEM AREAS:

* INVESTMENT IS NOT AS PRONOUNCED AS WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED, THOUGH HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC NOW AS THE RESULT OF RECENT SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

* HONG KONG'S INFLATION RATE IS STILL HIGH THOUGH IT IS NOW FALLING FAST SO THAT HE SEES HIS EARLIER FORECAST OF A SEVEN PER CENT LEVEL BY THE END OF THE YEAR AS BEING ACHIEVABLE.

SIR JOHN EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS RELIANCE ON MARKET FORCES AND THE IMPERATIVES OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND ENTERPRISE.

/THE GOVERNMENT .....

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS LOW TAXATION APPROACH, ITS +VERY CONSIDERABLE AND GROWING+ HARD CURRENCY RESERVES AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A STABLE CURRENCY, ITS FLEXIBILITY TO HANDLE UNFORESEEABLE SITUATIONS AS THEY ARISE, AND ITS SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AND CARE FOR THE DISADVANTAGED, SIR JOHN SAID.

BEARING IN MIND THAT TRADE REPRESENTS 163 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GDP, SIR JOHN STRESSED IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL POLICIES SHOULD REMAIN CONSERVATIVE, NOT LEAST WITH REGARD TO BORROWING AND BUDGETARY DEFICITS.

+HAVING ABSORBED THE DROP IN LAND SALES REVENUE, IT IS MY AIM TO RETURN TO BALANCED BUDGETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -- BUT BY A PROCESS OF PLANNED ADJUSTMENT RATHER THAN SAVAGE SPENDING CUTS. WE ARE WELL ON THE WAY,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT CABLE AND WIRELESS HAD MADE MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN THIS REGION, SIR JOHN SAID, +NO ONE CAN FAIL TO SHUDDER AT THE PACE AT WHICH THE COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION INDUSTRY IS MOVING AT PRESENT.

+WHAT YOU AND YOUR REVITALISED COMPANY HAVE SO FAR ACHIEVED IS REMARKABLE -- AND THANK GOODNESS WITHOUT ASKING ME FOR MONEY.+

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'FUTURE OF HONG KONG' TO BE RAISED IN LEGCO

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AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON T.S. LO, WILL RAISE THE MATTER OF +THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG+, IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW.

HE WILL BE ONE OF THE THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS EXPECTED TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT. THE OTHERS ARE THE HON LYDIA DUNN AND THE HON PAULINE NG.

A REPLY WILL BE MADE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS.

TOMORROW'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING WILL ALSO DEAL WITH 11 BILLS. FIVE OF THEM ARE DUE FOR COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READINGS AFTER RESUMPTION OF DEBATE, AND THE REST ARE TO BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME.

THERE WILL ALSO BE 11 QUESTIONS BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF MATTERS, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERIES INDUSTRY AND MARICULTURE, FILMING ON LOCATION IN THE STREETS OF HONG KONG, THE SUICIDE RATE AMONG ELDERLY PEOPLE, THE LOCAL STOCK OF OIL AND COAL +IN VIEW OF THE GULF CRISIS+, AND THE SIZE OF ON-STREET METERED PARKING SPACES.

/DUE FOR .....

DUE FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS ARE :

* DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, TO ASCERTAIN THE VALUE OF DUTIABLE GOODS;

* DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, REDUCING THE MINIMUM REQUIRED STRENGTH OF WHISKY AND RUM FROM 43 PER CENT TO 42 PER CENT OF ETHYL ALCOHOL BY VOLUME;

* INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, TO INCREASE THE STANDARD RATE OF TAX FROM 15 PER CENT TO 17 PER CENT AND THE RATE OF PROFITS TAX PAYABLE BY CORPORATIONS FROM 16 1/2 PER CENT TO 18 1/2 PER CENT;

* EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, WHICH AMENDS THE EXISTING ORDINANCE IN SEVERAL ASPECTS, MAINLY WITH REGARD TO THE ADMISSIBILITY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS OF EVIDENCE IN RECORDS;

* THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS BILL 1984, WHICH IS TO ESTABLISH AND INCORPORATE THE ACADEMY; AND

* FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, MAKING AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT THE NEW LEGISLATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED LATER THIS YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS ARE DUE FOR THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READINGS:

* STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984;

* MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984;

* IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984 ;

* BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984;

* EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1984

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH THE MONETARY SECTOR FELL IN APRIL 1984, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY.

BY CONTRAST, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. PART OF THIS SWITCH REFLECTED A REPORTED INCREASE IN POPULARITY OF FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS DURING THE MONTH, AS HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES, ON WHICH INTEREST PAID ON THESE SWAP DEPOSITS WAS BASED, FIRMED.

/THE MONTH .....

THE MONTH ALSO COVERED A PERIOD OF SOME ANXIETY IN LOCAL FINANCIAL MARKETS WHICH, COUPLED WITH THE GLOBAL STRENGTH OF THE US DOLLAR, ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SWITCH.

REFLECTING THIS CHANGE, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS FELL. FOR THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ONLY THE BROADEST DEFINITION, M3, SHOWED SOME INCREASE.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG CONTINUED TO RISE SHARPLY BUT OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG CONTRACTED SLIGHTLY IN APRIL.

(A STATISTICAL TABLE IS BEING ISSUED BY FACSIMILE AND BOXED FOR COLLECTION. THE TABLE SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR APRIL 1984 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS.)

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY 1.5 PER CENT FOLLOWING A DECREASE OF 0.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 4.1 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 26.7 PER CENT. FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO RISE SHARPLY BY 5.4 PER CENT AFTER A RISE OF 5.0 PER CENT IN MARCH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, THE INCREASE WAS 9.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 37.7 PER CENT.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS FELL. THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, HK$M1, FELL BY 1.7 PER CENT AGAINST A RISE OF 4.6 PER CENT IN MARCH. THE BROADER DEFINITIONS, HK$M2 AND HK$M3, FELL BY 3.4 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING DECREASES IN MARCH WERE 0.5 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, HK$M1 FELL BY 5.6 PER CENT BUT HK$M2 AND HK$M3 ROSE BY 1.5 PER CENT AND 1.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 18.6 PER CENT, 25.6 PER CENT AND 24.4 PER CENT.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL M1 FELL BY 0.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH A GROWTH OF 3.9 PER CENT IN MARCH. TOTAL M2 WAS UNCHANGED AFTER RISING BY 2.4 PER CENT IN MARCH. TOTAL M3 GREW BY 1.4 PER CENT AFTER A RISE OF 1.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL, TOTAL M1 FELL BY 5.0 PER CENT BUT TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 ROSE BY 4.0 PER CENT AND 5.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 20.7 PER CENT, 27.6 PER CENT AND 29.9 PER CENT.

/LOANS AND .....

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES GREW BY 0.5 PER CENT FOLLOWING A RISE OF 1.2 PER CENT IN MARCH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL THE INCREASE WAS 2.1 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS 14.4 PER CENT. FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE GREW, BY A SHARP 4.0 PER CENT IN APRIL, REFLECTING THE STRONG GROWTH IN THE EXPORT SECTOR. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL THE INCREASE WAS 7.0 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS 15.3 PER CENT. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG FELL BY 0.2 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN MARCH. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO APRIL THE INCREASE WAS 0.9 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 7.9 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

REFLECTING THE SWITCH TO FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS DURING THE MONTH, THE NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF THE MONETARY SECTOR ROSE TO $8.9 BILLION AT THE END OF APRIL FROM $4.9 BILLION AT THE END OF MARCH. BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES HAD NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF $6.7 BILLION AND $2.2 BILLION RESPECTIVELY. STATISTICS COLLECTED (ON THE BASIS OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS) BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOWED AN INCREASE IN NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF $3.6 BILLION TO $9.9 BILLION IN APRIL. THE SECTOR'S FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY POSITION SHOWS NET ASSETS OF $31.9 BILLION.

LIQUIDITY RATIOS

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS ROSE TO 51.9 PER CENT FROM 49.3 PER CENT IN MARCH. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 24 OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE TO 53.6 PER CENT FROM 52.5 PER CENT IN MARCH.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS REPORTING MONETARY STATISTICS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN APRIL WITH 134 LICENSED BANKS, 30 LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND 317 REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PEKING

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MR T.S. LO, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR WERE THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INTERPRETER, MR Y.P. CHENG.

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PUBLICITY IMPORTANT TO LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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PUBLICITY WAS IMPORTANT TO THE MORALE OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR JORDAN WILL RETIRE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AFTER A 45-YEAR CAREER IN THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG CUSTOMS SERVICES.

ADDRESSING THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB, MR JORDAN SAID MUCH OF THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT SUCCESS ACHIEVED WHEN HE WAS SERVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN HIS PAST SEVEN YEARS IN HONG KONG, HAD IN PART RESULTED FROM THE EXCELLENT ON-GOING COVERAGE GIVEN BY THE MEDIA.

+I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS PUBLICLY MY THANKS FOR ALL THE ASSISTANCE I AND MY OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED IN THIS RESPECT,+ MR JORDAN SAID.

RECALLING THE DAYS WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG OFFICER IN THE BRITISH CUSTOMS SERVICE, HE SAID THAT CONTRARY TO THE ATTITUDE AND DOCTRINE OF SOME OF HIS MENTORS AND SUPERIORS, HE HAD SOUGHT, RATHER THAN AVOIDED, PUBLICITY FOR THE EFFORTS OF HIS MEN.

+PUBLICITY IS A SPLENDID BOOST TO MORALE AND MORALE MUST BE HIGH IF LAW-ENFORCEMENT MEN ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL,+ HE ADDED.

MR JORDAN SAID WHILE SERVING IN THE EAST END AND OTHER LESS SALUBRIOUS PART OF LONDON AS A YOUNG OFFICER, HE FIRST CAME TO KNOW SOME OF THE SLEAZIEST ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE COMPANY OF YOUNG CRIME REPORTERS WITH WHOM HE HAD DEVELOPED CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS BASED ON MUTUAL PROFESSIONAL INTEREST AND RESPECT.

/+IT WAS .....

+IT WAS ON SUCH OCCASIONS AND OFTEN IN SUCH PLACES THAT I LEARNED AT AN EARLY STAGE IN MY CAREER THAT WHILE THE PRESS ARE LOOKING FOR HELP WITH THEIR STORIES, THEY EQUALLY HAVE MUCH TO OFFER TO HELP THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

+A NAME, SOME PIECE OF INFORMATION DROPPED TO A GOOD TRUST-WORTHY REPORTER LEADS TO HIS GIVING YOU ANOTHER NAME, ANOTHER LEAD AND THERE IS A LITTLE MORE PROGRESS DOWN THE PATH TO MAKING A SUCCESSFUL CASE,+ MR JORDAN SAID.

ON SMUGGLING, HE SAID THAT OVER THE MANY YEARS THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING NEW IN METHODS USED.

+FASHIONS AND TRENDS CHANGE NOT INFREQUENTLY, SOMETIMES IN AN ENDEAVOUR TO CONFUSE LAW-ENFORCEMENT BUT ONE RARELY, IF EVER, SEES AN ENTIRELY NEW APPROACH, A NEW METHOD USED,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS AN INCREASING TENDENCY TO BUILD CONTRABAND INTO EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS AIR COMPRESSORS, FOR WHICH THE SMUGGLERS WILL FIND NO USE ONCE IT HAS FULFILLED ITS PURPOSES AS A VEHICLE FOR SMUGGLING.

+TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BY CUSTOMS SERVICES, HOWEVER, HAVE VASTLY IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS. I AM QUITE SURE THAT AIDED BY THE MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AND USED TODAY THE SO-CALLED 'HIT RATE' IS MUCH HIGHER NOW THAN IT EVER WAS,+ HE SAID.

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U.S. RESCINDS +CALL+ ON CATEGORY 433

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RESCINDED THE EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALL ON CATEGORY 433 - WOOL SUIT-TYPE COATS FOR MEN AND BOYS - FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS THEREFORE RESUMED ISSUING EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS FOR THIS CATEGORY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THE CONSULTATIONS, WHICH STARTED YESTERDAY, ALSO COVERED EXPORT AUTHORISATION CALLS ON CATEGORY 651 - MAN-MADE FIBRE PYJAMAS AND OTHER NIGHTWEAR - AND PART OF CATEGORY 369 - COTTON WIPING CLOTH. HOWEVER, NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THESE TWO CATEGORIES AND THE UNITED STATES REQUESTED THAT HONG KONG LIMITS ITS EXPORTS IN EACH CATEGORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE UNITED STATES-HONG KONG BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS FOR THESE TWO CATEGORIES HAD REACHED THE LEVEL PROVIDED UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS WOULD THEREFORE REMAIN SUSPENDED. UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, 1984 EXPORTS IN CATEGORY 651 ARE LIMITED TO 261 130 DOZEN WHILE 1984 EXPORTS IN THE RELEVANT PART OF CATEGORY 369 ARE LIMITED TO 1 167 659 LB.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CONSULTATIONS HAD ALSO INCLUDED THE UNITED STATES ACTION ON RECLASSIFICATION OF GARMENT PARTS. NO AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT THIS STAGE ON THE ISSUE, BUT THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED THAT MEANWHILE LICENCES ISSUED AGAINST (A) EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS APPLIED FOR ON OR BEFORE MARCH 20, 1984; AND (B) EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS APPLIED FOR AFTER MARCH 20 ON THE BASIS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS DATED MARCH 20 OR EARLIER WOULD BE HONOURED AND GOODS COVERED BY SUCH LICENCES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES UNDER EXISTING CATEGORISATION ARRANGEMENTS EVEN AFTER JULY 1.

SPECIAL WAIVER ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE DEVISED TO ENABLE THIS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD ALSO BEEN REACHED THAT CERTAIN +GENUINE+ PARTS, SUCH AS COLLARS, CUFFS, SLEEVES, WAIST BANDS AND BELT LOOPS FOR JEANS, WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM THE NEW U.S. CLASSIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS. DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVISED FOR THESE +GENUINE+ PARTS TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE U.S. RECLASSIFICATION.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES MADE AN EXPORT AUTHORISATION (EA) CALL ON PART OF CATEGORY 659 (MMF SWIMSUITS) AT 3 PM TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL CALLS BY THE UNITED STATES ON HONG KONG IN 1984 TO TEN.

PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUSPENDED THE ISSUE OF FURTHER EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS FOR THIS CATEGORY AS FROM 3 PM TODAY.

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

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SYMPATHY FOR BURNS VICTIM

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY EXPRESSED THE FULLEST SYMPATHY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TO A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO WAS BADLY BURNT ON THE FACE IN AN INCIDENT LAST DECEMBER.

+A FULL DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY HAS BEEN HELD INTO THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT, ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAM ON DUTY IN THE AREA INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH, AND LEGAL ADVICE TAKEN,+ HE SAID.

+ABOUT 5.25 PM ON DECEMBER 12, A LORRY CARRYING GDT MEMBERS PARKED ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TEAM MEMBERS MOVED AROUND THE CORNER AND DOWN FAT TSEUNG STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF SHUN NING ROAD.

/+IN A .....

+IN A PERIOD OF ABOUT 15 MINUTES, WITH POLICE SUPPORT, THEY ARRESTED THREE ILLEGAL HAWKERS, SEIZED THEIR HAWKER BARROWS AND OTHER PARAPHERNALIA, AND TOOK THE MEN AND THEIR EQUIPMENT BACK TO THE LORRY PREPARATORY TO THEIR BEING TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION AND CHARGED.

+WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING IT WAS NOTICED THAT AT THE FAR END OF FAT TSEUNG STREET, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD, A CROWD HAD GATHERED AND A POLICEMAN WAS PRESENT.

+SOME MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WENT TO INVESTIGATE, AND IT WAS FOUND THAT A CHILD HAD BEEN BADLY BURNT WHEN AN ILLEGAL HAWKER SELLING FRIED BEAN CURD HAD OVERTURNED HIS BARROW.

+THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT HAPPENED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BUSY CASTLE PEAK ROAD SOME DISTANCE FROM WHERE THE GDT MEMBERS HAD MADE THEIR ARRESTS.

+AT NO STAGE DID MEMBERS OF THE TEAM NOTICE THIS BEAN-CURD HAWKER, OR MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO APPROACH HIM. THE TEAM'S ACTIVITIES WERE CONFINED TO THE OTHER END OF THE STREET, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY HAD BEEN COMPLETED SOME TIME AGO, BEFORE LAST WEEK'S COURT CASE IN WHICH THE HAWKER WAS SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS' JAIL AFTER HAVING ADMITTED A CHARGE OF WOUNDING CAUSING GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

NEW WORKSHOP AND HOSPITAL EXTENSION AT STANLEY PRISON

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A NEWLY-BUILT WORKSHOP COMPLEX AND HOSPITAL EXTENSION INSIDE THE MAXIMUM SECURITY STANLEY PRISON WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, ON FRIDAY (JUNE 1) AT 3 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH MAY BE PHOTOGRAPHED.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, A TOUR WILL BE CONDUCTED ROUND THE NEW WORKSHOP COMPLEX AND THE HOSPITAL EXTENSION.

NO PHOTOGRAPHING OF FACILITIES INSIDE THE PRISON WILL BE ALLOWED. PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ISSUED BY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

/ON THE .....

ON THE SAME DAY, THE COMMISSIONER WILL ALSO PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO SIX PRISONERS OF STANLEY PRISON, WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN EXAMINATIONS WITH EXCELLENT MARKINGS. AGAIN, NO PHOTOGRAPHING WILL BE ALLOWED.

TRANSPORT TO TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO STANLEY PRISON WILL LEAVE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI ON FRIDAY AT 1.45 PM SHARP.

MEDIA ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO COVER THE EVENT SHOULD TELEPHONE THE NAME AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBER OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT ON 5-757195, EXTENSION 24 OR 25, DURING OFFICE HOURS, BUT NOT LATER THAN 5 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 31).

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VARIETY SHOW TO HELP FIGHT CRIME

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A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE STAGED IN NORTH DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ON SUNDAY (JUNE 3) IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND NARCOTICS.

IT WILL FEATURE SONG AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL ENTERTAINERS, AND WILL START AT 7.30 PM AT THE FANLING PLAYGROUND.

ABOUT $200 000 WILL BE SPENT ON THE EVENT, WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR G.L. MORTIMER, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR SIMON LUN, WILL ATTEND THE FUNCTION.

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FROM JUNK TO ART AND CRAFT

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THE KINDERGARTEN SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE SIX WORKSHOPS ON THE USE OF JUNK MATERIALS FOR ART AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES IN KINDERGARTEN TEACHING NEXT MONTH.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TEAM ON WAYS OF USING SOME COMMON JUNK MATERIALS AIMING AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY AND ARTISTIC APPRECIATION. SOME CHILDREN'S WORK WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY.

/THE HALF-DAY .....

THE HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 20 TO 22, IN THE YAUMATI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 41 TUNG KOON STREET, YAUMATI, KOWLOON.

FIVE OF THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AND ONE IN ENGLISH.

OWING TO LIMITED SPACE AND MATERIALS, ONLY 30 PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EACH WORKSHOP.

ONE TEACHER MAY BE NOMINATED FROM EACH KINDERGARTEN AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR, KINDERGARTEN SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 5/F, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 4.

ENQUIRIES ON THE WORKSHOPS MAY BE MADE BY CALLING TEL: 5-8392485/87 OR 5-8392489.

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COMMUNITY WORKERS GET AWARDS

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TWELVE WORKERS, STUDENTS, HOUSEWIVES AND RETIRED RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES THEY HAVE RENDERED TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

THEY ARE WINNERS OF THE 1983/84 SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES AWARD SCHEME, ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

OVER 60 NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD WERE RECEIVED FROM SCHOOLS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE SCHEME WAS STARTED IN 1982/83 - FOR STUDENTS ONLY - AND WAS EXTENDED THIS YEAR TO INCLUDE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR K.C. KWONG, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS AT A CEREMONY AT 4 PM TOMORROW IN THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL.

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PROTECTED MONKEYS SENT TO CHINA

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TEN MONKEYS, PROTECTED UNDER THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES), LEFT BY TRAIN FOR CHINA TODAY.

THEY WILL BE KEPT IN THE GUANGZHOU ZOO.

BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINA ARE SIGNATORIES TO THE CITES UNDER WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED WILD BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

THE MONKEYS CAME INTO THE POSSESSION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK.

THE TRANSFER OF THE ANIMALS FOLLOWED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THIS IS THE SECOND GROUP OF LIVE ANIMALS SENT TO CHINA.

THE FIRST ONE, CONSISTING OF A BROWN BEAR, SIX MONKEYS, THREE CAIMANS, ONE CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE, ONE PYTHON AND FOUR RADIATED TORTOISES, WAS SENT TO GUANGZHOU IN JANUARY.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO IMPORT ANIMALS, ANIMAL PRODUCTS, OR PLANTS OF PROTECTED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES INTO HONG KONG WITHOUT AUTHORISATION.

HE SAID THAT 58 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED LAST YEAR FOR THE OFFENCE.

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FILTRATION PLANT FOR SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX

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A FILTRATION PLANT IS BEING INSTALLED AT THE TUEN MUN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

A $1.68 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE JOB HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO EASTMAN ENGINEERS AND TRADERS COMPANY LIMITED.

WORK ON INSTALLING THE PLANT HAS JUST STARTED AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE SUMMER OF 1986, WHEN THE COMPLEX IS READY.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE ONE MAIN POOL, TWO PADDLING POOLS, AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WITH SPECTATOR STAND, FOUR SQUASH COURTS, A TOILET BLOCK WITH PROVISION FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND A RESTAURANT.

THE COMPLEX IS BEING BUILT ON A 3.5-HECTARE SITE NEAR THE TEMPORARY HOVERFERRY PIER.

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REST GARDEN FOR YAU TONG

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A REST GARDEN IS TO BE BUILT AT YAU TONG ON A 2 500-SQUARE-METRE SITE OPPOSITE THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL CLUB HOUSE AT KO CHIU ROAD.

A $534 672 CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO TAI KONG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE LANDSCAPED AREAS, A CHINESE PAVILION, ARBOURS, BENCHES, FLOWER BEDS, RETAINING WALLS AND STEPPED TERRACES, AS WELL AS A STOREROOM.

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER.

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NUISANCE BIKE-FOR-HIRE STALLS CLEARED

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PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO NORMAL ON CENTRE STREET IN SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE, FOLLOWING THE RECENT CLEARANCE OF BICYCLES-FOR-HIRE STALLS FROM THE AREA.

THE CLEARANCE WAS ALSO AIMED AT IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+THE LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH STALLS AND BICYCLE RIDERS, WHO WERE MAINLY YOUNG PEOPLE, HAD BEEN A HAZARD AND NUISANCE TO RESIDENTS AND MOTORISTS FOR QUITE SOME TIME,+ HE SAID.

SIMILAR ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON ADJACENT STREETS TO PREVENT THE BICYCLES-FOR-HIRE STALLS FROM RE-APPEARING.

AUTHORISED BICYCLES-FOR-HIRE OPERATORS IN SHA TIN CYCLE PARK, WHICH IS RUN BY THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION IN TIN SUM VALLEY, ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE CLEARANCE, HE SAID.

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URBAN CLEARWAY AT PIER ROAD

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 1), PIER ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH GILMAN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO MOTOR VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION.

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