



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK ECONOMY IS STRONG: GOVERNOR	1
GOVERNOR'S INTERVIEW TIMES ON TV AND RADIO	2
CHIEF SECRETARY INSPECTS URBCO FACILITIES	2
FEBRUARY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES	4
RECORD JANUARY-TO-APRIL RAINFALL WAS 3.5 TIMES NORMAL	8
TEXTILES ACCORD WITH SWEDEN INITIALLED	10
FEWER PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST BUS DRIVERS	11
RESULTS OF LATEST TAXI TENDERS	12
LAND LOTS FOR HOUSES TO BE OFFERED	12
FIGHTERS AGAINST COUNTERFEITING PRAISED	13
BIG PARTY FOR SHA TIN ELDERLY TOMORROW	14
TENNIS COURSES FOR CHILDREN	15
TRAFFIC LANE CLOSED IN HO MAN TIN	15

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983

- 1 -

HK ECONOMY IS STRONG: GOVERNOR
* * * *

THERE IS AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED LATER ON IN THE EXCHANGE RATE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER HIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO MACAU TODAY, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT FLUCTUATIONS ARE A PART OF THE OPEN ECONOMY.

+MY ADVICE TO PEOPLE IS ONCE AGAIN DON'T BE UNDULY GLOOMY,+ HE SAID.

ON HIS VISIT TO MACAU, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS NOT A DAY FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

+IT WAS A DAY IN WHICH I WENT TO SEE MACAU, WHICH I HAVEN'T SEEN FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS, TO SEE ITS DEVELOPMENT AND TO TALK TO THE MACAU GOVERNOR ON HOW HE IS TACKLING THE PROBLEMS THERE.

+ALTHOUGH THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM IS VERY DIFFERENT IN MANY WAYS, THE NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN MACAU IS MUCH THE SAME AS SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG. THE DIRECT AND PRACTICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU IS ALSO VERY CLOSE,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE HAD EARLIER PAID AN INFORMAL VISIT TO MACAU AT THE INVITATION OF THE MACAU GOVERNOR VASCO DE ALMEIDA E COSTA.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG; THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO; THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE AIDE-DE-CAMP, MR PAUL CROFT.

ARRIVING IN MACAU AT ABOUT 10.45 AM, THE GUESTS OF HONOUR WERE MET AT THE MACAU FERRY PIER BY THE MACAU GOVERNOR, AND MRS ALMEIDA E COSTA AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS.

THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO SANTA SANCHA PALACE WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION IN MACAU AND THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

AFTER LUNCH AT THE PALACE, THE VISITORS PROCEEDED TO THE GUIA HILL LIGHT HOUSE WHERE THEY HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CITY.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF PLACES OF INTEREST INCLUDING TAIPA AND COLOANE ISLANDS.

AFTER THE TOUR, THE GUESTS RETURNED TO SANTA SANCHA PALACE FOR TEA, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR HONG KONG.

THEY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AT ABOUT 6.30 PM.

----- 0 -----

/2

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983

- 2 -

GOVERNOR'S INTERVIEW TIMES ON TV AND RADIO
* * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL BE GIVING A TELEVISION INTERVIEW TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO MARK HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE.

THE PROGRAMME, PRODUCED BY RTHK, WILL BE BROADCAST AS FOLLOWS:

TELEVISION:

ENGLISH CHANNELS PEARL AND ATV 2 -- AT 7.30 PM

CHINESE CHANNELS JADE AND ATV 1 -- AT 8 PM

RADIO:

ENGLISH -- RTHK CHANNEL 3 AND COMMERCIAL RADIO
-- AT 7.30 PM

(TO BE REPEATED ON RTHK 3 AT 11.10 PM)

CHINESE -- RTHK CHANNEL 1 AND COMMERCIAL RADIO
CHANNEL 1 -- AT 8 PM

(TO BE REPEATED ON RTHK 1 AND 2 AT 11.10 PM)

THE INTERVIEWER WILL BE MR JIM BIDDULPH, FORMER DIPLOMATIC AND FAR EAST CORRESPONDENT OF THE BBC.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHIEF SECRETARY INSPECTS URBCO FACILITIES
* * * *

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE MOVES TO CLEAN AND BEAUTIFY HONG KONG, AND A KEEN SUPPORTER OF SPORTS AND THE ARTS, TODAY VISITED SEVERAL FACILITIES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL TO SEE WORK GOING ON IN THOSE TWO AREAS AS CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SIR PHILIP'S TOUR TOOK HIM TO THE NEWLY-COMPLETED HONG KONG COLISEUM WHICH WAS BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL TO MANAGE, AND OTHER PARTS OF KOWLOON WHERE HE ALSO SAW VARIOUS OTHER FACILITIES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION AND ALSO FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TREES AND PLANTS USED IN BEAUTIFYING THE CITY AREAS. A THIRD STOP WHICH HE MADE WAS AT THE DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM.

/THE CHIEF

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR BRIAN WILSON, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI.

AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM SIR PHILIP WAS MET BY MR DARWIN CHEN, DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES, MR K.C. LO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (SPORTS AND STADIA) AND MR PANG CHUNG, THE MANAGER.

SIR PHILIP DESCRIBED THE \$140 MILLION COLISEUM AS A +GIGANTIC STRUCTURE+ AND SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN ITS OPERATIONAL ASPECTS, INCLUDING ANY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN ITS OPERATION AND THE BOOKINGS AS WELL. IN DISCUSSING THE USE OF THE COLISEUM, HE WAS INTERESTED IN WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY TRADE FAIRS OR FUNCTIONS OF A SIMILAR NATURE AND WAS INFORMED THAT A WORLD TRAVEL EXPO WOULD BE HELD THERE IN SEPTEMBER.

IN THE ARENA, SIR PHILIP SAW SOME MODELS OF URBAN COUNCIL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION RECREATION CENTRE. THE MODELS HAD BEEN ON DISPLAY FOR THE COLISEUM'S OPEN DAY AND SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD THAT SOME 30 000 PEOPLE HAD VISITED THE COLISEUM OVER THE TWO DAYS IT WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

BEFORE DEPARTING HE ALSO SAW THE OPERATION OF THE RETRACTABLE SEATS IN THE ARENA AND INSPECTED THE SPECIAL BLACK FIREPROOF VELVET BACKDROP BEING INSTALLED IN READINESS FOR THE PERFORMANCES BY THE ROYAL BALLET NEXT MONTH.

THE BACKDROP WHICH STRETCHES SOME 18 METRES FROM FLOOR TO CEILING AND THE ELECTRICAL WINCH TO HOIST IT, WERE PURCHASED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AT A COST OF \$400 000 AS PART OF THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO ENABLE THE COLISEUM TO BE USED FOR A WIDER VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS.

OUTSIDE, SIR PHILIP STOPPED FOR A BRIEF LOOK AT THE PIAZZA AND NOTICED THAT IT WAS BEING USED BY QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, MANY ELDERLY AMONG THEM, AND ALSO SAW THE RAILWAY LINES AND SOME OLD ROLLING STOCK BELOW THE COLISEUM PODIUM.

EARLIER, SIR PHILIP WENT TO THE HO MAN TIN HIGH LEVEL SERVICE RESERVOIR FROM WHERE HE HAD A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE VARIOUS FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE NEARBY AREAS, INCLUDING THE KO SHAN ROAD PARK AND KO SHAN THEATRE, AND THE HO MAN TIN NURSERY.

THE NURSERY IS BY FAR THE COUNCIL'S LARGEST NURSERY, PRODUCING SOME 200 000 SHRUBS AND 10 000 TREES IN ABOUT 200 SPECIES ANNUALLY. BUILT AT A COST OF \$1.4 MILLION, IT COVERS AN AREA OF 1.8 HECTARES AND IS LOCATED ON TOP OF A REFUSE TIP.

THE POTENTIAL FOR HIGH PRODUCTIVITY IN THIS NURSERY IS VERY GOOD AND MECHANISATION FOR SOME TASKS, SUCH AS SOIL MIXING AND WATERING, CAN BE GRADUALLY INTRODUCED IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE FLAT AREA.

/LATER THIS

LATER THIS YEAR, THE NURSERY WILL ALSO BE EQUIPPED WITH A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM CAPABLE OF CONSERVING WATER AND ACCELERATING PLANT GROWTH.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY STARTED OFF HIS AFTERNOON PROGRAMME WITH A VISIT TO THE DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED AND SHOWN AROUND BY THE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES, MR ERIC PEAKE.

HE WAS TOLD THAT TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF BURYING THE DEAD IS GRADUALLY GIVING WAY TO CREMATIONS UNDER ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF LAND.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, THE RATIO OF CREMATIONS TO BURIALS IN 1982-83 STOOD AT 60:40 COMPARED WITH 57:43 IN 1981-82 AND THE URBAN COUNCIL HOPES TO ACHIEVE A TARGET OF 65 CREMATIONS TO 35 BURIALS BY 1985.

THE DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM, SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD, IS ONE OF THE TWO CREMATORIA OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE URBAN AREAS. IT PROVIDES SOME 4 600 NICHES AND IS ALREADY FULLY OCCUPIED. HOWEVER, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 1 980 NICHES EARLY NEXT YEAR, TWO ADDITIONAL CREMATORS BY 1985 AND AN EIGHT-STORY COLUMBARIUM WITH 36 000 NICHES BY 1986.

----- 0 -----

FEBRUARY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES * * * *

THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN FEBRUARY 1983 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 233 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

AT 125, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1983 DECREASED BY 12 POINTS OR NINE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1983, BUT INCREASED BY 15 POINTS OR 14 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1983, AT 98, WAS 12 POINTS OR 11 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR JANUARY 1983, BUT IT WAS FIVE POINTS OR FIVE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR FEBRUARY 1982.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1983, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 28 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. WHILE THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY TWO PER CENT, THEIR SALES BY VOLUME DECREASED BY THREE PER CENT. THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE OTHER MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES DECLINED.

/RETAIL SALES

RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHOWED THE LARGEST REDUCTION OF 20 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, AND CONSUMER DURABLES WITH DECREASES OF 16 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS, OR DECREASES OF 14 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS.

RETAIL SALES OF FUELS, CONSUMER GOODS AND DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED BY 12 PER CENT EACH IN VALUE TERMS AND THEIR CORRESPONDING DECREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 14 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DECREASES IN RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY 1983 WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1983 WERE LARGELY DUE TO TRADING DAY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MONTHS. MANY RETAIL OUTLETS WERE CLOSED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD IN FEBRUARY 1983, COMBINING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WITH STATUTORY ANNUAL LEAVE.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1982, SUPERMARKETS HAD THE LARGEST INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES OF 100 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 87 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. THIS INCREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO CONSUMER PURCHASES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS AND DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 59 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS; THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 49 PER CENT AND 43 PER CENT. THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO SHOWED INCREASES OF 39 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 27 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONSUMER DURABLES DROPPED BY 53 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS; THEY ALSO SHOWED DECREASES OF 62 PER CENT AND 17 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY FIVE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS BUT FELL BY EIGHT PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

TABLES 1 AND 2 PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1983 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 1983 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND OF RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS.

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF THE FEBRUARY RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1982 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO.: 3-7216024.

/TABLE 1:

TABLE 1: VALUE INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	JANUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1983 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1983		FEBRUARY 1983 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1982*	
	(REVISED FIGURES)	(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	POINTS	%	POINTS	%
TOTAL RETAIL SALES (HK\$ MILLION)	4 656	4 233				
RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEXES:						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	137	125	-12	-9	15	14
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	151	154	3	2	43	39
FUELS	162	142	-20	-12	7	5
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	177	148	-29	-16	55	59
CONSUMER GOODS	130	115	-15	-12	10	10
CONSUMER DURABLES	115	100	-15	-13	-18	-15
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
MOTOR VEHICLES	64	51	-13	-20	-58	-53
DEPARTMENT STORES	162	143	-19	-12	51	55
SUPER- MARKETS	193	250	57	30	125	100

* FINAL REVISED FIGURES

TABLE 2:

TABLE 2: VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	JANUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1983 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1983		FEBRUARY 1983 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1982*	
	(REVISED FIGURES)	(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	POINTS	%	POINTS	%
RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES:						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	110	98	-12	-11	5	5
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	116	112	-4	-3	24	27
FUELS	118	102	-16	-14	-9	-8
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	138	118	-20	-14	39	49
CONSUMER GOODS	105	91	-14	-13	SAME	SAME
CONSUMER DURABLES	100	87	-13	-13	-18	-17
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
MOTOR VEHICLES	46	36	-10	-22	-58	-62
DEPARTMENT STORES	131	113	-18	-14	34	43
SUPER- MARKETS	146	187	41	28	87	87

* FINAL REVISED FIGURES

RECORD JANUARY-TO-APRIL RAINFALL WAS 3.5 TIMES NORMAL

RAINFALL FROM JANUARY TO APRIL THIS YEAR — TOTALLING 916.4 MM — WAS THREE-AND-A-HALF TIMES NORMAL AND AN ALL-TIME RECORD FOR THE SIMILAR PERIOD, IT IS REPORTED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

IN ITS MONTHLY REPORT, THE OBSERVATORY SAID APRIL WAS THE FOURTH MONTH THIS YEAR WITH ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL— THE 171.1 MM RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH WAS 23 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LESS SUNSHINE, APRIL WAS ALSO WARMER THAN USUAL.

THE WEATHER ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS WAS FINE APART FROM SOME LIGHT RAIN. IT TURNED CLOUDY WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN ON APRIL 3 AS WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE EAST AND BECAME STRONG AT TIMES IN SOME PLACES.

IT REMAINED CLOUDY WITH RAIN ON APRIL 4.

EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED AGAIN ON APRIL 5 AND THERE WERE WIDESPREAD THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON.

HAILSTONES, SOME REPORTED TO HAVE DIAMETERS OF ABOUT 25 MM, WERE OBSERVED BETWEEN 3.30 PM AND 6 PM IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG INCLUDING YUEN LONG, TAI MO SHAN, SHEUNG SHUI, TAI PO, SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS WELL AS WAN CHAI, HAPPY VALLEY AND CLOUD VIEW ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

SEVERAL SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN THE WET WEATHER.

WINDS BECAME STRONG OFF-SHORE AND IN EXPOSED PLACES AROUND MIDNIGHT BUT MODERATED THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THERE WERE MORE THUNDERSTORMS IN THE MORNING AND SOME MIST PATCHES IN THE EVENING OF APRIL 6.

THUNDERY SHOWERS OCCURRED IN THE MORNING ON APRIL 7 AND THERE WERE ALSO SOME MIST PATCHES AND COASTAL FOG. HAIL WAS AGAIN OBSERVED IN THUNDERSTORMS DURING THE NIGHT AT CONNAUGHT ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND. THIS WAS THE SEVENTH DAY THIS YEAR ON WHICH HAIL WAS REPORTED IN HONG KONG.

FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY RAIN ON APRIL 8 RESULTED IN MORE THAN 200 REPORTS OF FLOODING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG.

ABOUT 500 HECTARES OF FARMLAND AND OVER 50 HECTARES OF FISH PONDS IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE INUNDATED.

IN THE URBAN AREA, FLOODING WAS MOST SERIOUS AT SAI TAU TSUEN IN KOWLOON CITY WHERE FLOOD WATER WAS REPORTED TO BE ABOUT 1.5 M DEEP.

AN 11-STOREY BUILDING AT CONDUIT ROAD WAS THREATENED BY POSSIBLE LANDSLIP AND ABOUT 60 FAMILIES HAD TO BE EVACUATED. HOWEVER THUNDERY SHOWERS BECAME LESS FREQUENT AND FOG DEVELOPED OFF-SHORE DURING THE NIGHT.

FROM APRIL 9 TO THE MORNING OF APRIL 16, THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY, WARM AND HUMID WITH MIST PATCHES. THERE WAS DRIZZLE FROM TIME TO TIME AND COASTAL FOG OCCURRED IN THE MORNING OF APRIL 9, 11, 12 AND 16.

FOG DISSIPATED AROUND MIDDAY ON APRIL 16 AS A COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG, BRINGING NORTHERLY WINDS AND WIDESPREAD THUNDERSTORMS. EARLIER IN THE MORNING, A CHINESE RIVER FERRY, QIADU NO. 2, WITH 65 PASSENGERS ON BOARD SANK NEAR GUANGZHOU, RESULTING IN 10 PEOPLE KILLED AND ANOTHER ONE MISSING.

AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE COLD FRONT, TEMPERATURES IN HONG KONG DROPPED TO BELOW 18 DEGREES CELSIUS, A FALL OF MORE THAN 8 DEGREES CELSIUS COMPARED WITH THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE ON THE PREVIOUS DAY.

THUNDERSTORMS PERSISTED UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 17. FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, IT WAS CLOUDY WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN. WINDS STRENGTHENED FROM THE EAST DURING THE EVENING BUT MODERATED THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

MIST OR FOG OCCURRED EVERY DAY BETWEEN APRIL 18 AND 28. TRACES OF RAIN WERE ALSO REPORTED FROM TIME TO TIME. IT WAS SUNNY AND HOT DURING THE DAY FROM APRIL 25 ONWARDS. TEMPERATURES ROSE TO 30.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ON APRIL 28, WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IN THE MONTH.

THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY ON APRIL 29 AS A COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON, BRINGING WITH IT SOME LIGHT SHOWERS. ON APRIL 30, WINDS STRENGTHENED FROM THE EAST IN OFF-SHORE AREAS AND THE WEATHER WAS OVERCAST WITH PERIODS OF RAIN.

DURING THE MONTH, FIVE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON APRIL 5, 6, 7, 8, 16 AND 17 WHILE A HEAVY RAIN WARNING AND A LANDSLIP WARNING WERE ISSUED ON APRIL 8.

THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 TO 5.

THERE WERE NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>WEATHER SYSTEM</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING</u>
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	APR 6 4.15 AM	APR 6 10.10 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	APR 30 3.15 AM	APR 30 1.00 PM

/THE MONTH'S

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	96.0 HOURS	=	24.2 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	171.1 MM	=	31.7 MM ABOVE NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	84 PER CENT	=	8 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	85 PER CENT	=	2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	25.5 DEGREES CELSIUS	=	0.5 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	23.2 DEGREES CELSIUS	=	1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	21.5 DEGREES CELSIUS	=	1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	20.3 DEGREES CELSIUS	=	1.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	91.8 MM	=	26.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 30.4 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON APRIL 28

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 16.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON APRIL 1

----- 0 -----

TEXTILES ACCORD WITH SWEDEN INITIALLED
* * * *

A FOUR-YEAR TEXTILES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SWEDEN WAS INITIALLED IN STOCKHOLM TODAY (MAY 19) AT THE END OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, WHICH BEGAN ON MAY 16.

THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY MR JUSTIN YUE, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, IS RETURNING FROM STOCKHOLM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

+THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL THE DELEGATION HAS REPORTED TO THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD+, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID.

----- 0 -----

FEWER PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST BUS DRIVERS
* * * *

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT HAS BEEN RECEIVING FEWER PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST BUS DRIVERS.

IN ITS LATEST QUARTERLY REPORT, THE COMPLAINTS UNIT RECORDED THAT THERE WERE 70 COMPLAINTS AGAINST STAFF OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND 31 COMPLAINTS AGAINST KMB IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 78 AND 39 RESPECTIVELY IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

TWELVE OF THE 70 COMPLAINTS AGAINST CMB STAFF WERE ANONYMOUS AND COULD NOT BE PURSUED.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES REMAINED HIGH, AMOUNTING TO SOME 48 PER CENT (OR 552 OUT OF THE TOTAL 1 151) DIRECT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE UNIT, COMPARED WITH 593 (OR 45 PER CENT) OF THE TOTAL 1 331 COMPLAINTS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

IN PRESENTING HIS REPORT, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMPLAINTS UNIT, MR JAMES KWAN, NOTED THAT BOTH CMB AND KMB HAD INCREASED THEIR FLEET SIZE SIGNIFICANTLY AND THE ADDITIONAL BUSES HAD IMPROVED THE LEVEL OF SERVICE IN TERMS OF FREQUENCY AND PASSENGER CAPACITY, AND CONSEQUENTLY REDUCED OVERCROWDING ON BUSES.

+BUS PASSENGERS ARE NOW MORE WILLING TO AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES BECAUSE THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR COMPLAINTS WILL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED,+ MR KWAN SAID.

A COMPLAINT WHICH WAS RAISED FROM TIME TO TIME CONCERNS THE IMPROPER DISPLAY OF ROUTE NUMBERS AND DESTINATION SIGNS. THIS OFTEN LED TO INCONVENIENCE AND SOMETIMES SQUABBLES BETWEEN PASSENGERS AND BUS DRIVERS.

+THE COMPLAINTS UNIT WILL INVESTIGATE THESE COMPLAINTS IF THE PASSENGER CAN PROVIDE THE REGISTRATION OR FLEET NUMBER OF THE BUS, ITS ROUTE NUMBER AND DESTINATION, AND THE DAY AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT,+ MR KWAN SAID.

MR KWAN, WHO WAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT SINCE ITS WAS SET UP IN AUGUST 1980, WAS SUCCEEDED BY MR STEPHEN PANG FROM MAY 1.

RESULTS OF LATEST TAXI TENDERS

* * *

RESULTS OF THE LATEST TAXI LICENCE TENDERS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID.

ALTHOUGH 301 URBAN TAXI LICENCES HAD BEEN PUT UP, A TOTAL OF 853 TENDERS SEEKING 894 LICENCES WERE RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON APRIL 15, 1983.

THE HIGHEST BID ACCEPTED WAS \$176 000 AND THE LOWEST \$156 000.

THIS GAVE AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$160 758.15 FOR THE 301 URBAN TAXI LICENCES REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 11.95 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS TAXI TENDERS.

AS FOR THE 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 308 TENDERS WERE LODGED FOR 413 LICENCES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS RANGED FROM A HIGH OF \$68 300 TO A LOW OF \$45 098, GIVING AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$47 948.82.

THIS REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF 29.97 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS EXERCISE.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS FOR THESE TAXI LICENCES, AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LAND LOTS FOR HOUSES TO BE OFFERED

* * * * *

A LIMITED NUMBER OF LOTS UPON WHICH PURCHASERS MAY ERECT THEIR OWN ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED HOUSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTIONS BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT DURING THE COMING MONTHS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER (SHA TIN), MR ROGER NISSIM SAID THAT THE FIRST LOT, STTL 214, WOULD BE AUCTIONED ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 25) AT THE CITY HALL.

LEASE CONDITIONS FOR EACH LOT, WHICH WILL HAVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 900 SQUARE METRES, WILL RESTRICT USE TO A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THREE YEARS.

+THE LOTS ARE SITUATED ON THE WELL WOODED FOOTHILLS OF TSO SHAN OFF SUI WO ROAD, SHA TIN AND ENJOY POSSIBLY THE BEST VIEWS OF SHA TIN LOOKING TO THE EAST OVER SHA TIN RACECOURSE TOWARDS TOLO HARBOUR AND TO THE SOUTH ACROSS THE NEW TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK,+ MR NISSIM SAID.

+THE MAJORITY WILL BE RESTRICTED TO TWO-STOREY HEIGHT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL LOTS WILL PERMIT THREE-STOREY CONSTRUCTION TO ACHIEVE BETTER VIEWS. EACH LOT WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO CAR SPACES AND SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE REQUIRED TO ROOF AREAS AND BOUNDARY WALLS.+

WITH AN ULTIMATE POPULATION OF ABOUT 750 000, SHA TIN WILL CONTAIN A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, MANY OF WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE TOWN PARK UNDER CONSTRUCTION ALONG THE SHING MUN RIVER CHANNEL, THE CULTURAL COMPLEX WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE AND THE WIDELY ACCLAIMED JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

THE NEWLY ELECTRIFIED KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY RUNS NEARBY WITH A STATION TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR AT FO TAN TO PROVIDE A FAST AND EFFICIENT SERVICE TO KOWLOON WHERE HONG KONG-BOUND PASSENGERS CAN CHANGE TO A MTR TRAIN AT KOWLOON TONG STATION AND HEAD FOR THE ISLAND.

MR NISSIM POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE LIKELY TO BE THE LAST LOTS IN SHA TIN SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT BY INDIVIDUALS FOR SOME TIME TO COME, ALTHOUGH FURTHER LAND WOULD BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO PROVIDE A RANGE OF FLATS AND HOUSES WITH MANY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS CONTAINING THEIR OWN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. LAND FOR OTHER FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO BE SOLD.

CONDITIONS OF SALE ARE AVAILABLE AT EITHER THE LANDS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, SECOND FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, TEL. 0-617111 EXTENSION 254.

----- 0 -----

FIGHTERS AGAINST COUNTERFEITING PRAISED

* * * * *

THE OWNER OF A WELL-KNOWN FASHIONWARE BRAND NAME TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED A BANNER AND A SHIELD TO THE TRADE CONTROLS INVESTIGATION BRANCH (TCIB) OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, IN APPRECIATION OF ITS SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST COUNTERFEIT GOODS INFRINGING THE COMPANY'S TRADE MARK.

AT A CEREMONY AT TCIB HEADQUARTERS AT HENNESSY CENTRE, WAN CHAI, MR JOHN HOWARD, HEAD OF THE BRANCH, RECEIVED THE SOUVENIRS FROM MR RALPH NAKASH, PRESIDENT OF JORDACHE INTERNATIONAL (HK) LTD.

THANKING MR NAKASH ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR HOWARD SAID THAT IN RECENT MONTHS NINE SEIZURES WITH A MARKET VALUE OF ABOUT \$656 800 INVOLVING THE COMPANY'S TRADE MARK WERE EFFECTED.

+FOUR OF THESE CASES RESULTED IN PROSECUTIONS, AND TOTAL FINES OF \$12 750 WERE IMPOSED. THE REMAINING FIVE CASES ARE PENDING PROSECUTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.+

MR HOWARD SAID THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR BRANCH OFFICERS CARRIED OUT 235 OPERATIONS AGAINST COUNTERFEIT FASHIONWARE AND SEIZED \$6.6 MILLION OF GOODS. OF THE 156 CASES BROUGHT TO COURT, FINES AMOUNTING TO \$1.2 MILLION WERE IMPOSED, AND ABOUT \$750 000 WORTH OF SEIZED GOODS WERE CONFISCATED. ONE DEFENDANT WAS SENTENCED TO A SUSPENDED TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.

/UP TO

UP TO APRIL THIS YEAR, INVESTIGATING OFFICERS SEIZED \$2.2 MILLION OF MERCHANDISE IN 72 OPERATIONS AGAINST FAKE FASHION GOODS. AS A RESULT 59 CASES WERE PROSECUTED, FINES AMOUNTING TO \$310 550 WERE IMPOSED, AND \$206 090 WORTH OF GOODS WERE CONFISCATED.

MR HOWARD CALLED FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM BRAND NAME OWNERS, STRESSING THAT THE BRANCH WILL KEEP UP ITS EFFORTS TO ERADICATE COUNTERFEITING TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AND HONG KONG'S TRADING IMAGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BIG PARTY FOR SHA TIN ELDERLY TOMORROW

* * * *

ABOUT 3 000 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SHA TIN WILL BE TREATED TO A GRAND CHINESE DINNER PARTY TOMORROW (FRIDAY), IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE NEW TOWN.

DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THE BANQUET WILL BE HELD IN THREE RESTAURANTS — THE ALICE PALACE IN WO CHE ESTATE, HAMBURG CITY IN SHA KOK ESTATE AND MEI SHING IN MEI LAM ESTATE.

MRS JANE AKERS-JONES, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE RESTAURANTS.

THE BANQUET IS BEING MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH RAISED \$140 000 FOR THE DINNER.

OTHER EVENTS BEING PLANNED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SHA TIN INCLUDE TALKS AND EXHIBITIONS ON FOOD NUTRITION, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, MEDICAL CHECK-UPS, EXERCISE CLASSES, OPERA SHOWS AND A TRAINING SCHEME FOR VOLUNTARY WORKERS TO SERVE THE EDLERLY.

THERE ARE SOME 12 000 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SHA TIN, WITH ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF THEM LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE COMMITTEE, HEADED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, WAS FORMED FIVE MONTHS AGO WITH \$20 000 FROM DONATIONS LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR'S FAR EAST AND SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES FUND. THE AIM IS TO FOSTER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN AND CONCERN ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR THE ELDERLY ARE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE FOUR LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RURAL COMMITTEE, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, DISTRICT OFFICE, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

+IN ORDER TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS SPECIAL SEGMENT OF POPULATION IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE COMMITTEE'S CO-ORDINATING WORK,+ SAID MR JOHN TSANG, ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS).

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983

- 15 -

TENNIS COURSES FOR CHILDREN

* * * *

CHILDREN BETWEEN EIGHT AND 14 YEARS OF AGE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

A 'LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS' COURSE, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 11 TO JUNE 26.

THERE WILL BE FOUR CLASSES ON EACH DAY STARTING AT 9 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM AND 4 PM. IN EACH OF OF THE TWO-HOUR SESSIONS, THERE WILL BE 12 LEARNERS.

THE PROGRAMME FEE FOR THE COMPLETE COURSE IS \$20.

ENROLMENT IS ON FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RSS HEADQUARTERS AND ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES, THE HONG KONG TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 5-458511, 5-741546 OR 0-6051212.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC LANE CLOSED IN HO MAN TIN

* * *

A SHORT SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC LANE OF SHEK KU STREET NEAR SHEUNG SHING STREET IN HO MAN TIN HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BECAUSE OF A WATER MAIN BURST.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL JUNE 8, THE REMAINING SOUTHBOUND LANE IN SHEK KU STREET BETWEEN KING TAK STREET AND SHEUNG SHING STREET WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

VEHICLES FROM PERTH STREET, WESTBOUND, HEADING FOR SHEUNG SHING STREET, EASTBOUND, WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, SHEUNG HING STREET AND FAT KWONG STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -