



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1985

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BASIC ECONOMY DOING VERY WELL - SIR EDWARD
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE BASIC ECONOMY OF HONG KONG WAS DOING VERY WELL AND MANY COUNTRIES WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE THE ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT HONG KONG COULD EXPECT.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

ASKED IF HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMY FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID: +I THINK EVERYBODY HAS NOTICED THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAS NOT BEEN AS HIGH, BUT I DIDN'T FIND THAT SURPRISING.

+LAST YEAR WAS A VERY REMARKABLE YEAR. I CERTAINLY BELIEVE, AND I THINK THIS WILL BE SHOWN, THAT THE BASIC ECONOMY IS DOING VERY WELL AND INDEED THERE ARE MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD WHICH WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THE KIND OF ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT HONG KONG CAN STILL EXPECT.+

ASKED WHETHER HONG KONG WAS HEADING TOWARDS A BALANCED BUDGET, BY THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SAID: +WE ARE CERTAINLY HEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF A BALANCED BUDGET.

+EXACTLY WHEN IT WOULD BE ACHIEVED, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO SUGGEST. I AM SURE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL BE A BETTER SOURCE ON THAT THAN I AM.

+BUT I THINK THERE HAS BEEN A VERY ENCOURAGING MOVEMENT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS FROM A LARGE DEFICIT TOWARDS A BALANCE.+

ASKED WHETHER HONG KONG WOULD HAVE A LOCAL CHINESE GOVERNOR BEFORE 1997, SIR EDWARD SAID: +I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT IN THE SENSE THAT THE ONE THING THAT ONE GOVERNOR DOES IS NEVER TRY TO SELECT HIS SUCCESSOR.+

ASKED WHEN HE WAS LIKELY TO LEAVE HONG KONG, HE SAID HE HAD NO PLANS TO LEAVE.

+I HAVE BEEN HERE NOW THREE YEARS OR MORE AND I EXPECT TO BE HERE FOR SOME YEARS YET. AS FAR AS I KNOW, NOBODY IS THINKING ABOUT MY DEPARTURE.+

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED THE MATURITY OF THE ELECTORATE BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY HAVING INDIRECT ELECTIONS AT THIS STAGE, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF THE MATURITY OF THE ELECTORATE.

/+I THINK

+I THINK WE HAVE MOVED ALREADY VERY QUICKLY IN HONG KONG FROM A SITUATION IN WHICH THE ONLY ELECTIONS WERE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+WE'VE NOW MOVED TO DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND DOUBLED THE NUMBERS; WE HAVE SET UP A NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL AND WE HAVE MOVED TOWARDS THESE INDIRECT ELECTIONS AS A FIRST STEP IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THAT ALL CAME OUT OF THE GREEN PAPER AND THE CONSULTATION ON THE GREEN PAPER. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WHO REALLY BELIEVED THAT WE COULD HAVE MOVED TO DIRECT ELECTIONS IN THESE ELECTIONS COMING UP.

+WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE 1987 REVIEW, IS SOMETHING ON WHICH WE SHALL BE LISTENING VERY CAREFULLY TO THE VIEWS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE SOME DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THAT SUBJECT.

+BUT WE SHALL HAVE TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE THINK AND HOW THEIR IDEAS DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.+

ASKED IF HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS STOOD AT THE MOMENT REGARDING THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS, SIR EDWARD SAID: +GIVEN THE PACE WITH WHICH THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE MADE, I THINK THAT WE HAVE DONE VERY WELL AND I HAVE BEEN VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING FORWARD.

+I THINK IT WILL BE A VERY INTERESTING ELECTION. IT WILL GIVE YOU ALL A LOT TO WRITE ABOUT.+

ASKED HOW HONG KONG WOULD BE MOVING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION BEFORE 1997, HE SAID: +THE AGREEMENT LAYS DOWN, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG UP TO 1997 AND THEY HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY INTEND TO CARRY OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

+IN THE SECOND PART OF THE WORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THERE IS A PROVISION THAT THERE SHOULD THEN BE DISCUSSION OF THE TRANSITION. BUT WE HAVE NOT GOT TO THAT STAGE YET.+

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS LARGELY AT THIS STAGE FOR THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE TO DECIDE RATHER THAN FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON.

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ANY VIEWS ON IT, HE SAID, +WHETHER I HAVE VIEWS AND WHETHER I EXPRESS THEM ARE OFTEN TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.+

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TALKING ABOUT HIS VISIT TODAY, SIR EDWARD SAID HE WAS CATCHING UP ON THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

+I HAVE HAD A GOOD AFTERNOON BEING BRIEFED ON THE WORK THEY ARE DOING, WHAT OTHER THINGS THEY WANT TO DO, AND LOOKING AT A LITTLE OF THEIR WORK ON THE GROUND.

+I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DO ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE WORK WHICH THEY DO,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR VISITS CHILDREN'S CENTRE
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE IN WONG TAI SIN.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE SERVICES OF THE CENTRE, WHICH PROVIDES TEMPORARY CARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF EIGHT.

SIR EDWARD TOURED THE VARIOUS WARDS IN THE CENTRE WHICH ARE FOR BABIES, NEWCOMERS, TODDLERS, DISABLED CHILDREN AND NURSERY CHILDREN. HE EVEN STOPPED TO CHAT WITH SOME OF THE CHILDREN IN THE PLAYGROUND.

THE CENTRE PROVIDES SHELTER TO THOSE FOUND ABANDONED OR WANDERING, ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN, OR THOSE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.

EARLIER SIR EDWARD VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

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LADY TRAILL TOURS SOCIAL SERVICE FACILITIES
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THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, SIR ALAN TRAILL, HAD A BUSY DAY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MEETING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHILE LADY TRAILL VISITED WELFARE INSTITUTIONS TO LOOK AT VARIOUS SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

LADY TRAILL FIRST WENT TO THE LADY MACLEHOSE POKFULAM PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED (PHAB) CENTRE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS EVELYN DOE. SHE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHAB ASSOCIATION, MR LI KWAN-HUNG.

FOLLOWING A BRIEFING OF THE ASSOCIATION, LADY TRAILL TOURED THE CAMP AND THE SPECIALLY-DESIGNED FACILITIES FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES OF THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ABLE-BODIED.

THE CAMP, WHICH ACCOMMODATES 150 CAMPERS A DAY, INCLUDES A DORMITORY, A SWIMMING POOL, A BASKETBALL COURT, ARCHERY RANGE AND AN AUDIO-VISUAL ROOM.

THE NEXT STOP FOR LADY TRAILL WAS THE POKFULAM RIDING SCHOOL. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1979, ITS FACILITIES HAD BEEN USED BY THE ABLE-BODIED AND BY THE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION. RIDING INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALSO GIVEN TO A WIDE RANGE OF DISABLED CHILDREN SELECTED FROM VARIOUS REHABILITATION CENTRES AND HOSPITALS.

FROM THE RIDING SCHOOL, LADY TRAILL PROCEEDED TO THE PO LEUNG KUK AND WAS MET BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR RONNIE WONG, AND TOURED THE TAI PING SHAN LION'S CLUB SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND THE PUI NANG HOSTEL WITHIN THE KUK'S CAMPUS.

THE WORKSHOP WAS SET UP TO TRAIN MODERATE-GRADE HANDICAPPED ADULTS IN ESTABLISHING WORK HABITS WHILE THE HOSTEL OFFERED RESIDENTIAL CARE AND SOCIAL TRAINING FOR MODERATE GRADE RETARDED FEMALES AGED OVER 16.

LADY TRAILL SAW TRAINEES RECEIVING TRAINING ON SELF CARE AND SOCIAL SKILLS AND WORKERS ENGAGED IN SIMPLE ASSEMBLING WORK.

LADY TRAILL THEN ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JULY
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THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW IN JULY 1985, BY \$1 877 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT OVER JULY 1984, TO REACH \$8 915 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, HOWEVER, FELL OVER THE SAME PERIOD BY \$1 519 MILLION, OR 12 PER CENT, TO \$11 576 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$358 MILLION, OR TWO PER CENT, TO \$20 491 MILLION.

MEANWHILE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FELL BY \$945 MILLION, OR FIVE PER CENT, TO \$18 862 MILLION. IN CONSEQUENCE, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO NINE PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JULY 1985, COMPARED WITH TWO PER CENT IN JULY 1984.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1985 WAS \$133 541 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$71 984 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$61 557 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1984, THE VALUES OF TOTAL EXPORTS AND OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 11 PER CENT AND 39 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY FIVE PER CENT.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY FIVE PER CENT TO \$131 634 MILLION. A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO 1.4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF FOUR PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CONTINUED DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1985 AND THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING MOST OF 1984 AND IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. RE-EXPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUED TO EXPAND.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JULY 1985:

/MERCHANDISE:

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$11 576 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 8 915 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$20 491 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$18 862 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 1 629 MILLION (IN SURPLUS)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	MAY-JULY 1985	MAY-JULY 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	33 349	37 172	- 3 823	-10.3
RE-EXPORTS	26 584	20 458	+ 6 126	+29.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	59 933	57 630	+ 2 303	+ 4.0
IMPORTS	57 836	58 048	- 212	- 0.4
TRADE BALANCE	+ 2 097	- 418	+ 2 515	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	JULY 1985	JULY 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11 576 (56.5%)	13 095 (65.0%)	- 1 519	-11.6
RE-EXPORTS	8 915	7 038	+ 1 877	+26.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	20 491	20 133	+ 358	+ 1.8
IMPORTS	18 862	19 807	- 945	- 4.8
TRADE BALANCE	+ 1 629	+ 326	+ 1 303	

/LAST MONTH

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	JULY 1985	JUNE 1985	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11 576 (56.5%)	10 956 (56.8%)	+ 620	+ 5.7
RE-EXPORTS	8 915	8 341	+ 574	+ 6.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	20 491	19 297	+ 1 194	+ 6.2
IMPORTS	18 862	19 758	- 896	- 4.5
TRADE BALANCE	+ 1 629	- 461	+ 2 090	

<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN-JULY 1985	JAN-JULY 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	71 984 (53.9%)	75 735 (63.1%)	- 3 751	- 5.0
RE-EXPORTS	61 557	44 270	+17 287	+39.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	133 541	120 005	+13 536	+11.3
IMPORTS	131 634	125 361	+ 6 273	+ 5.0
TRADE BALANCE	+ 1 907	- 5 356	+ 7 263	

<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	AUG 1984 TO JULY 1985	AUG 1983 TO JULY 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	134 185	127 127	+ 7 058	+ 5.6
RE-EXPORTS	100 792	71 872	+28 920	+40.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	234 977	198 999	+35 978	+18.1
IMPORTS	229 644	209 545	+20 099	+ 9.6
TRADE BALANCE	+ 5 333	- 10 546	+15 879	

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TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE TO GO AHEAD
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THE NEXT STAGE OF THE TIN SHUI WAI LAND CLEARANCE WILL GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED TOMORROW (THURSDAY), IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT ANY DELAY IN THE CLEARANCE WOULD HAVE A FLOW-ON EFFECT WHICH WOULD DELAY THE WHOLE TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN PROJECT.

THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN THE NEW TOWN IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1990 AND WILL ACCOMMODATE 35 000 PEOPLE.

THE CLEARANCE TOMORROW WILL AFFECT 60 PEOPLE IN 19 FAMILIES OCCUPYING 12 HECTARES. THE LAND IS NEEDED FOR SITE INVESTIGATION WHICH CANNOT BE CONDUCTED WHILE THE AREA IS OCCUPIED.

OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS FURTHER PLOTS OF LAND IN THE AREA WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED AT THE RATE OF ABOUT ONCE A MONTH. THERE WILL BE FURTHER CLEARANCES EXTENDING WELL INTO 1986.

THE GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING THE 19 FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE LATEST OPERATION ALMOST \$3 MILLION IN COMPENSATION. OF THIS SUM ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION IS FOR THE 18 FISHPONDS OPERATED BY 12 PEOPLE. THE REST IS COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, POULTRY AND PIGGERIES.

LAST AUGUST A SIMILAR CLEARANCE WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA AT CHIU KAR YUEN AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE 140 FAMILIES INVOLVED. AT THAT TIME MOST OF THE FAMILIES WERE PAID EITHER \$1.82 OR \$1.96 PER SQUARE FOOT AS COMPENSATION FOR THEIR FISHPONDS.

THE 19 FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE LATEST CLEARANCE HAVE BEEN OFFERED THE SAME RATES OF COMPENSATION WHERE THEIR FISHPONDS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE AT CHIU KAR YUEN.

HOWEVER, SOME OF THEM HAVE ASKED FOR A RATE OF \$2.5 A SQUARE FOOT.

BESIDES ASKING FOR EXTRA COMPENSATION SOME VILLAGERS HAVE ASKED THAT CLEARANCE BE DELAYED TO ALLOW FISH FRY IN THE PONDS TO MATURE AND TO BE HARVESTED. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THAT THE SUM OFFERED CONTAINED AN ELEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOSS OF EXISTING FISH STOCKS.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION FOR ROADS, BRIDGES AND STREET LIGHTING IN THE AREA. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT COMPENSATION FOR SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE WAS NEVER PAID AS THESE WERE CONSIDERED COMMON FIXTURES.

ANOTHER REQUEST BY THE VILLAGERS, TO BE RESITED AS A GROUP ON GOVERNMENT LAND, COULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED, HE SAID.

/EVEN IF

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EVEN IF LAND WAS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A RESITE (WHICH IT IS NOT), TO ALLOW A FURTHER PROLIFERATION OF TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND WOULD CREATE AN UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CLEARANCES.

IN FACT, OF THE 19 FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TOMORROW'S OPERATION, 12, TOTALLING 39 PEOPLE, HAVE ACCEPTED OFFERS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

OF THE REMAINING FAMILIES, FOUR, COMPRISING 13 PEOPLE, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND THREE FAMILIES OF EIGHT PEOPLE HAVE TURNED DOWN PUBLIC HOUSING OFFERS.

TIN SHUI WAI WILL BE ONE OF THE THIRD GENERATION NEW TOWNS TO BE BUILT UNDER THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

IN THE NEXT DECADE IT WILL HOUSE 146 500 PEOPLE WITH 79 000 LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

HOWEVER, IF THE PROJECT IS TO BE COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE ALL PROPOSED CLEARANCES MUST GO AHEAD AS PLANNED OR THE REHOUSING OF MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COULD BE DELAYED.

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BRIEFING ON REGULATORY PROCEDURES

SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR PIERS JACOBS, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR NORMAN LATHAM, WILL GIVE A BRIEFING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 PM AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, TO EXPLAIN THE REGULATORY PROCEDURES RELATING TO AIR SERVICES.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AIR SERVICES), MR PETER LOK.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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WORK ON MA ON SHAN HOUSING ESTATE TO START
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CONSTRUCTION IS TO START SOON ON ANOTHER RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT IN MA ON SHAN FOLLOWING THE RECENT ACCEPTANCE OF A BUILDING TENDER BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE.

WORKS ARE FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF YIU ON ESTATE, THE SECOND PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE BUDDING NEW TOWN AFTER HANG ON ESTATE WHICH IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

UNDER THE TENDER VALUED AT \$147.9 MILLION, THREE 35-STOREY TRIDENT BLOCKS WILL BE BUILT TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 2 200 MODERN FLATS FOR 10 000 PEOPLE.

ALSO TO BE BUILT ARE A SEVEN-STOREY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A STAFF QUARTERS, PLUS ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE AND EXTERNAL WORKS.

WORKS WILL TAKE 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

BEING DEVELOPED IN TWO PHASES, YIU ON ESTATE WILL HAVE ALTOGETHER 4 706 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS IN SEVEN RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS TO HOUSE SOME 21 400 PEOPLE WHEN FULLY COMPLETED BY 1988.

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TRADE DEPARTMENT'S SUB-OFFICE MOVING
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MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE HONG KONG SUB-OFFICE OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL BE MOVING FROM ROOM 101, ASIAN HOUSE, WAN CHAI, TO HARBOUR BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG, ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON (AUGUST 31).

THE NEW OFFICE IN CENTRAL WILL BE OPENED FOR BUSINESS NEXT MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 2). MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM THAT DAY, APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN; CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN FORM A (GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES); TEXTILE LICENCES; AND NON-TEXTILE LICENCES SHOULD BE MADE AT THE NEW OFFICE.

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SAFETY AWARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
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A SAFETY AWARD SCHEME SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WILL BE HELD FROM SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE +CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME+ TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY OF THE SCHEME, MR POON TO-CHUEN, SAID THE AIM WAS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AMONG WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

MR POON, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, SAID THE SCHEME WAS OPEN TO ALL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS IN THE INDUSTRY. IT WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES - A SAFETY SITE AWARD, A SAFETY WORKER AWARD AND SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTEST.

THERE WILL BE THREE WINNING PRIZES EACH FOR THE SAFETY WORKER AWARD AND THE SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTEST. WINNERS WILL BE GIVEN GOLD PLAQUES WHILE WINNERS OF THE SAFETY SITE AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED WITH ROAST PIGS.

THE SCHEME IS ORGANISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY SEVERAL COMMERCIAL FIRMS.

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES WILL BE SEPTEMBER 30 AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DIVISIONAL OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION AND THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8523555 OR 5-8523556; BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-724414; AND THE WORKERS' UNIONS' LIAISON OFFICE, TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-942616 OR 3-968732.

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COMPOSTING PLANT PROVES USEFUL IN PILOT SCHEME
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S COMPOSTING PLANT AT NGAU TAM MEI IN YUEN LONG IS PROVIDING A COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF DISPOSING OF ANIMAL WASTE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION), DR DANIEL LAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PRESENTING A PAPER ON THE RECYCLING OF ORGANIC WASTES AT AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AT CHINESE UNIVERSITY, DR LAU SAID THAT THE PLANT HAD BEEN OPERATING UNDER A PILOT SCHEME AND COVERED ABOUT 200 PIG AND POULTRY FARMS IN THE PAT HEUNG AREA.

/UP TO

UP TO 15 TONNES OF RAW WASTE WERE PRODUCED DAILY BY ABOUT 8 000 PIGS AND 273 000 CHICKENS ON THESE FARMS, HE SAID, AND THE MANURE COMPOST PRODUCED AT THE PLANT HAD PROVED USEFUL AS A HIGH-QUALITY SOIL CONDITIONER FOR MARKET GARDENING, TREE PLANTING AND FOR LANDSCAPING PURPOSES.

MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE FARMERS WHO USED THE MANURE COMPOST HAD REPORTED THAT THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF HARVESTED CROPS, DR LAU SAID.

+RESULTS OF SOIL TESTS FURTHER SHOWED THAT THE COMPOST SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED SOIL ACIDITY AND INCREASED SOIL ORGANIC MATTER, TOTAL NITROGEN AND EXCHANGEABLE POTASSIUM,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, NO SPECIAL CROP PEST OR DISEASE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN FOUND WITH THE APPLICATION OF MANURE COMPOST TO A FIELD.

DR LAU SAID THE PILOT PLANT HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT A SIMPLE AND RAPID COMPOSTING OPERATION COULD CONVERT RAW ANIMAL MANURE INTO STABILISED COMPOST IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS WITHOUT THE NEED OF THERMAL DRYING OR THE ADDITION OF FOREIGN BLENDING MATERIAL.

+THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS OF A CONSISTENTLY HIGH QUALITY, RELATIVELY RICH IN NITROGEN, POTASSIUM AND PHOSPHORUS. THE HEAVY METAL CONTENT IS LOW AND WELL WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS FOR USE AS A SOIL CONDITIONER,+ HE SAID.

UNLIKE COMPOST DERIVED FROM MUNICIPAL REFUSE AND SEWAGE SLUDGE, MANURE COMPOST IS FREE OF BROKEN GLASS, PLASTIC CONTAINERS AND OTHER EXTRANEIOUS MATERIALS.

+TAKING ACCOUNT OF ITS VERY ATTRACTIVE COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND THE MARKET POTENTIALS FOR THE FINISHED PRODUCT, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT COMPOSTING PROVIDES A PRACTICAL OPTION FOR UTILISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL WASTE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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PRESSURE KEPT UP ON PESTS
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AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT PEST CONTROL STAFF INSPECTED MORE THAN 121 680 HOUSES AND 15 280 BUILDING SITES AND OPEN SPACES DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JULY THIS YEAR.

AS A RESULT, 3 305 BREEDING PLACES WERE FOUND AND ACTION TAKEN TO ERADICATE THESE SOURCES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

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DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 358 COMPLAINTS OF MOSQUITO BREEDING PLACES WERE RECEIVED RESULTING IN THE ISSUE OF 245 SUMMONSES AND 127 WARNING LETTERS AGAINST THE OFFENDERS.

MEANWHILE, DISTRICT PEST CONTROL STAFF POISONED SOME 11 240 RODENTS AND TRAPPED 8 000 RODENTS BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY.

MORE THAN 900 COMPLAINTS OF RODENT INFESTATION WERE ALSO RECEIVED.

AND IN A BID TO ELIMINATE RODENTS, 230 BLOCK DISINFESTATIONS AND 251 HOLE-BAITING TREATMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT.

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PLAYGROUNDS REOPEN AFTER RENOVATION
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A NUMBER OF PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF ANNUAL RENOVATION AND RETURNING WORKS THERE.

THESE INCLUDE THE HO MAN TIN EAST SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND AND THE PERTH STREET SPORTS GROUND WHICH WILL BE REOPENED ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE TAI HANG TUNG RECREATION GROUND ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND THE MORSE PARK ON SEPTEMBER 17.

THE HENNESSY ROAD PLAYGROUND IN WAN CHAI WHICH WAS EARLIER ALIENATED TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE HAS RECENTLY BEEN REOPENED FOR PUBLIC USE.

MEANWHILE, THE URBAN COUNCIL ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE SAU NGA ROAD PLAYGROUND WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO FACILITATE REPAIR WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT THERE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WORK WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1985

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FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM FOR BUSY WAN CHAI JUNCTIONS
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WORK IS TO START ON A COVERED FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM THAT WILL SPAN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND QUEENSWAY, AND ACROSS ARSENAL STREET AND HENNESSY ROAD.

THE WORK INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COVERED TRAM ISLAND ON QUEENSWAY AND THE REPROVISIONING AND LANDSCAPING OF MONMOUTH PARK AT QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

THE FOOTBRIDGE WILL PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS ELEVATED ACCESS LINKING THE BUSY QUEENSWAY-QUEEN'S ROAD EAST JUNCTION AND THE HENNESSY ROAD-ARSENAL STREET JUNCTION.

BESIDE ENHANCING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, IT WILL ALSO ALLOW UNINTERRUPTED TRAFFIC FLOW ALONG THESE HEAVILY-USED ROUTES.

THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED THE \$7.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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ROAD CLOSURE PERIOD EXTENDED
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THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CARPENTER ROAD BETWEEN SOUTH WALL ROAD AND TAK KU LING ROAD, IMPLEMENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS ARISING FROM WATER MAINS BURST, WILL CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE SOUTH WALL ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD AND TAK KU LING ROAD.

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KOWLOON CITY WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE KOWLOON CITY AREA WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 30) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY LAI CHI YUEN, HO KAR YUEN, HAU WONG TEMPLE NEW VILLAGE, MEI TUNG ESTATE, DUMBARTON ROAD, NOS 1-54 GRAMPAN ROAD, NOS 51A-208 NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, SAU CHUK YUEN ROAD, COLLEGE ROAD, KOWLOON CHAI SWIMMING POOL AND INVERNESS ROAD INCLUDING BLOCKS 1 TO 12 LOK FU ESTATE.

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