



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1984

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT
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A NUMBER OF FACILITIES ARE BEING ARRANGED FOR THE INFORMATION MEDIA TO COVER THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, WHO ARE DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG FROM CHINA ON DECEMBER 20.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL NEED SPECIAL ACCREDITATION TO COVER ALL PUBLIC FUNCTIONS. PRESS LAPEL BADGES WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS TO ALL ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR ACCREDITATION AT EACH POSITION HAVE BEEN BOXED FOR COLLECTION. EDITORS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORMS AND RETURN THEM TO THE DUTY OFFICER, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, BY 12 NOON, DECEMBER 17, AT THE LATEST.

EDITORS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT NOMINATIONS DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN THAT LAPEL BADGES WILL BE ISSUED TO EVERY REPRESENTATIVE. UNLIMITED SPACE AND SEATS CANNOT ALWAYS BE MADE AVAILABLE. EVERY EFFORT, HOWEVER, WILL BE MADE TO MEET REQUESTS FROM THE INFORMATION MEDIA TO ASSIST THEM IN COVERING PARTICULAR EVENTS.

BECAUSE OF CROWD CONTROL AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS TO COVER ALL OF MRS THATCHER'S AND SIR GEOFFREY'S PUBLIC FUNCTIONS. WHERE PRESS POSITIONS CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE AT ALL, POOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

12.20 PM - ARRIVAL AT KAI TAK

THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER PARTY ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON AN RAF VC 10 AT 12.20 PM ON DECEMBER 20. A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE ARRIVAL HALL +FINGER+. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING HER ARRIVAL SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 11.30 AM. THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM PROOF OF IDENTITY.

1 PM TO 2.10 PM - LUNCH WITH UMELCO

THERE WILL BE FIXED POSITIONS AT THE PEDDER STREET ENTRANCE OF SWIRE HOUSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN TO COVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

/2.45 PM TO

2.45 PM TO 3.45 PM - VISIT TO AP LEI CHAU

THERE WILL BE FOUR FIXED PRESS POSITIONS AT VARIOUS VANTAGE POINTS TO COVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE AP LEI CHAU HOUSING ESTATE.

- POSITION A : THE PRIME MINISTER WILL FIRST GO TO THE WATERFRONT PROMENADE NEXT TO LEI FOOK HOUSE IN AP LEI CHAU ESTATE WHERE SHE WILL BE BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ABERDEEN. THE PRESS POSITION WILL BE ON THE PROMENADE, GIVING A GOOD VIEW OF THE ESTATE'S WATERFRONT AREA WITH ABERDEEN'S DWELLING BOATS IN THE BACKGROUND.
- POSITION B : AFTER THE BRIEFING, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL WALK ALONG THE WATERFRONT AREA TO THE HO YAN KINDERGARTEN IN A NEIGHBOURING BLOCK. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM POSITION A SHOULD PROCEED TO THE KINDERGARTEN VIA A DIFFERENT ROUTE THROUGH THE ESTATE BLOCKS AND ENTER THE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH A SEPARATE ENTRANCE.
- POSITION C : AFTER VISITING THE KINDERGARTEN, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL WALK PAST A PLAYGROUND AND PROCEED TO THE ESTATE'S COMMUNITY HALL. THE PRESS POSITION WILL BE INSIDE THE PLAYGROUND. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN WISHING TO COVER THIS PART OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME WILL HAVE TO BE IN POSITION IN ADVANCE. BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT SCHEDULE, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM POSITION B WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO POSITION C TO COVER THE WALK.
- POSITION D : INSIDE THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND WATCH VARIOUS HANDICRAFT CLASSES IN PROGRESS. SHE WILL ALSO HAVE TEA WITH MEMBERS OF THE AP LEI CHAU YIN NGAI SOCIETY. THE PRESS POSITION WILL BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE COMMUNITY HALL. AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ENTERED THE HALL, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM POSITION C AND B WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE HALL VIA A SEPARATE ENTRANCE.

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE AP LEI CHAU VISIT. TWO COACHES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK FOR AP LEI CHAU AT 1.30 PM SHARP.

5 PM TO 6 PM - RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

THE RECEPTION IS FOR ABOUT 500 PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE, ONLY TELEVISION CAMERAMEN AND TECHNICIANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO FILM THE RECEPTION INSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THIS WILL BE DONE FROM A FIXED POSITION AND WILL BE LIMITED TO A FEW MINUTES.

POOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS FOR THE PRINT MEDIA.

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6.30 PM - EXCO MEETING

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT 6.30 PM. THERE WILL BE FIXED POSITIONS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF HER ARRIVAL.

7 PM - ADDRESS TO EXCO AND LEGCO

THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE.

ADMISSION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER TO COVER THE ADDRESS WILL BE BY LAPEL BADGE HOLDERS ONLY AND REQUESTS FOR THESE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE. BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS, ONLY ONE REPORTER FROM EACH NEWS ORGANISATION WILL BE ADMITTED. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE CHAMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY AND OF THE ORGANISATION WHICH THEY REPRESENT.

THE WHOLE ADDRESS WILL BE TELEVISED +LIVE+ BY RTHK. OTHER TELEVISION CREWS MAY FILM THE ADDRESS FROM THE TV BOOTHS BEHIND THE CHAMBER. RTHK WILL MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FEEDS FOR OTHER TELEVISION STATIONS.

ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE SEATED BY 6.50 PM. THERE WILL BE A THREE-MINUTE PHOTO-CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ARRIVED AND BEFORE SHE BEGINS HER ADDRESS. ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST LEAVE THE CHAMBER BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER STARTS HER ADDRESS.

ALL RECORDINGS SHOULD BE DONE INSIDE THE BOOTHS AND NO MICROPHONES OR HAND-HELD RECORDERS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE DIAS. RADIO BROADCASTERS AND COMMENTATORS WILL OPERATE FROM THE RADIO BOOTHS BEHIND THE CHAMBER.

A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE ADDRESS, TOGETHER WITH A CHINESE TRANSLATION, WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

8.30 AM - PRESS CONFERENCE, LEGCO CHAMBER

THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

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LIKE THE ADDRESS TO THE JOINT EXCO AND LEGCO MEETING, ADMISSION INTO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE BY LAPEL BADGE HOLDERS ONLY. AGAIN, ONLY ONE REPORTER FROM EACH NEWS ORGANISATION WILL BE ADMITTED. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE CHAMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY AND OF THE ORGANISATION WHICH THEY REPRESENT.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE TELEVISED +LIVE+ BY RTHK. OTHER CAMERA CREWS CAN EITHER FILM FROM FIXED POSITIONS INSIDE THE CHAMBER OR FROM THE BOOTHS. ADDITIONAL FEEDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE FOR TV AND RADIO STATIONS BY RTHK.

TV CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT. ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE SEATED BY 8.20 AM. THERE WILL BE A THREE-MINUTE PHOTO-CALL AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ARRIVED AND BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE BEGINS. PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST LEAVE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY.

ALL RECORDINGS SHOULD BE DONE INSIDE THE BOOTHS AND NO MICROPHONES OR HAND-HELD RECORDERS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE DIAS. RADIO BROADCASTERS AND COMMENTATORS WILL OPERATE FROM THE RADIO BOOTHS BEHIND THE CHAMBER.

A FULL TRANSCRIPT, TOGETHER WITH A CHINESE TRANSLATION, WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

10 AM - DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE. A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTURE HALL +FINGER+. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING HER DEPARTURE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 9.10 AM. THEY MUST BRING WITH THEM PROOF OF IDENTITY.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE'S PROGRAMME

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE WILL HAVE THE SAME PROGRAMME AS THE PRIME MINISTER EXCEPT THAT AT 2.45 PM ON DECEMBER 20, HE WILL BE ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER IS VISITING AP LEI CHAU. THERE WILL BE FIXED PRESS POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

ON DECEMBER 21, SIR GEOFFREY WILL GO ON A HARBOUR CRUISE AND BE BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE HARBOUR AREA. BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS ON THE BOAT, A POOL PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE ISSUED BY GIS.

AT 8.50 PM IN THE SAME EVENING, SIR GEOFFREY WILL DEPART HONG KONG FOR THE UK ON FLIGHT BR 381.

/THERE WILL

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THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY AT THE DEPARTURE HALL +FINGER+ TO COVER HIS DEPARTURE. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM NOT LATER THAN 8 PM. THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM PROOF OF IDENTITY.

LADY HOWE'S PROGRAMME

AT 3 PM ON DECEMBER 20, LADY HOWE WILL OPEN THE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION AT BLOCK F, 1ST FLOOR, VICTORIA BARRACKS. THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE FUNCTION. THOSE COVERING THE FUNCTION SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE ASSOCIATION'S PREMISES AT 2.30 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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ACCORD REACHED ON WHAMPOA DOCK PROJECT
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE HONG KONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY ON THE TERMS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE COMPANY TO COMPREHENSIVELY REDEVELOP ITS HUNG HOM DOCKYARD.

THE 19-HECTARE AREA WILL BE REDEVELOPED IN PHASES OVER SEVERAL YEARS TO PROVIDE UP TO 11 224 FLATS AT AN AVERAGE FLAT SIZE OF 63 SQUARE METRES, AND 157 000 SQUARE METRES OF SHOPS AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION SPACE.

AS PART OF THE +PACKAGE+, AND IN PHASE WITH THE PROVISION OF THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACCOMMODATION, THE DOCK COMPANY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FACILITIES, A MARKET, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS AND INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES TO CATER FOR THE ANTICIPATED POPULATION OF 45 000.

THE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE INTERSPERSED WITH OVER SIX HECTARES OF OPEN SPACE, MORE THAN HALF OF WHICH WILL BE AT GROUND LEVEL AND THE REMAINDER AT PODIUM LEVEL.

+A PREMIUM OF \$390 MILLION HAS BEEN AGREED, AND IN ADDITION THE DOCK COMPANY WILL BE ENTRUSTED WITH, AND WILL FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR ROADWORKS AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS OUTSIDE THE REDEVELOPMENT AREA AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$250 MILLION,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE EXISTING GODOWN ACCOMMODATION TO THE EAST OF THE SITE WILL REMAIN, BUT THE AGREED TERMS DO NOT ALLOW FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE REDEVELOPMENT AREA.

+THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST LARGE PRIVATELY OWNED SITE WITHIN THE URBAN AREA CAPABLE OF COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT ON THIS SCALE, AND DEMONSTRATES A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE ON THE PART OF HONG KONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY.+

THE PREMIUM WAS PAID, AND FORMAL DOCUMENTATION COMPLETED TODAY.

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CONTINUED FINANCIAL ROLE SEEN FOR HK

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THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG PROVIDED THE INGREDIENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE STATUS OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS BLYE SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1984 FINANCIAL WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE ECONOMICS SOCIETY AT HK UNIVERSITY, MR BLYE SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN WOULD HAVE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO USE HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE, FOR AT THE END OF THE DAY, IF THAT COMMUNITY WAS NOT PREPARED TO DO SO, HONG KONG WOULD CEASE TO FLOURISH.

THE CONDITIONS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT INCLUDED:

- * THE MAINTENANCE OF A FINANCIAL SYSTEM GEARED TO FREE MARKET ECONOMIC POLICIES,
- * AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT THE FREE OPERATION OF FINANCIAL BUSINESSES AND THE FREE FLOW OF CAPITAL INTO AND OUT OF HONG KONG,
- * A FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY WITH AN EFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
- * A WELL-KNOWN AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED SYSTEM OF LAW BUTTRESSED BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WHICH INSPIRES INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE.

+THE DRAFT AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THESE INGREDIENTS. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS STATUS AS THE CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AVIATION AND FOR THE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL AND CORRESPONDENCE TO BE MAINTAINED.

+THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE TERRITORY WILL MAINTAIN ITS UNRIVALLED NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD - PHYSICAL AND ELECTRONIC - WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+SO THE GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997,+ MR BLYE SAID.

HE ALSO TOLD THE STUDENTS AT THE WORKSHOP THAT THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG WOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE LIKE THEM, BECAUSE ONE OTHER ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT WAS A WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-MOTIVATED WORKFORCE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

COMMENTING ON THE DESCRIPTION OF HONG KONG AS THE THIRD LARGEST FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD, MR BLYE SAID HE WOULD NOT CHALLENGE THE RATING SINCE HE WAS CYNICAL ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT STATISTICS COULD BE USED TO 'PROVE' OR 'DISPROVE' ALMOST ANYTHING. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT HONG KONG WAS CERTAINLY CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE FIRST DIVISION OF THE WORLD LEAGUE.

IN THE PAST DECADE, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN HONG KONG HAS OUTGROWN THE REST OF THE ECONOMY AND BY THE EARLY EIGHTIES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT HAD GROWN FROM 15 PER CENT IN 1970 TO AROUND 23 PER CENT, COMPARED TO 21 PER CENT BY THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

IN THE EARLY 1970'S, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT FOR ABOUT 2.5 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE. THERE WERE THEN 73 LICENSED BANKS, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF SO-CALLED FINANCE COMPANIES WAS ON THE INCREASE. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE SOME 167 000 PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR (6.6 PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT). A TOTAL OF 485 INSTITUTIONS ARE PERMITTED BY LAW TO TAKE DEPOSITS, COMPRISING 139 LICENSED BANKS WHICH OPERATE OVER 1 400 BRANCHES, 33 LICENSED, AND 313 REGISTERED DTCS.

+THESE 485 INSTITUTIONS NOW HAVE TOTAL HONG KONG BALANCE SHEETS OF ABOUT HK\$1 000 BILLION, NET OF CONTRA POSITIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES. TOGETHER THEY EMPLOY NEARLY 60 000 PERSONS AND CONTRIBUTE TO ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT OF THE GDP,+ MR BLYE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, MR BLYE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WAS TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT, AS FAR AS IT COULD, FOR DEVELOPMENT, RATHER THAN TO DIRECT THAT DEVELOPMENT IN ANY PARTICULAR WAY.

IT COULD BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENCE AS REGARDS THE FINANCIAL SECTOR WAS MORE NOTICEABLE, BECAUSE IT HAD A MACRO RESPONSIBILITY IN MONETARY POLICY AND A MICRO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS.

MR BLYE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT IT WAS NOT REGULATION FOR THE SAKE OF REGULATION, ADDING THAT OUR SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION AND REGULATION WAS EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE AND COMPARED WITH THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

INDEED OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES HAD LEARNT FROM HONG KONG, HE SAID, +AND AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE ALWAYS LEARNING LESSONS.+

+ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH BANKS AND DTCS OPERATE HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTRODUCED.

+THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE THE BUSINESS OF SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MARKETS IS CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVING AROUND THE WORLD TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE IN THE LAST DECADE MOVED AT A STAGGERING PACE.

+GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE AND WE HAVE EVERY INTENTION TO KEEP PACE WITH THESE ADVANCES IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PARTICULAR NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

DECISION SOON ON BAPTIST COLLEGE DIPLOMA, GOVERNOR SAYS

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A DECISION WOULD BE REACHED SOON ON THE SUBJECT OF RECOGNITION OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE HONOURS DIPLOMA FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS CONSCIOUS OF, AND UNDERSTOOD, THE CONCERN ON THE SUBJECT AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSING IT.

+THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WILL BE CONSULTED ON THIS SUBJECT SOON. A DECISION ON THE STANDING OF THE DIPLOMA SHOULD BE REACHED BEFORE LONG,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE COLLEGE'S FONG SHU CHUEN LIBRARY THIS AFTERNOON, SIR EDWARD SAID ALSO THAT EDUCATION WAS AN ISSUE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

WITHOUT A WELL-EDUCATED WORKING POPULATION POSSESSING THE NECESSARY INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, HONG KONG WOULD NOT MAINTAIN ITS PLACE IN THIS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD, HE SAID.

IT MUST ALSO MAINTAIN THE GREAT ADVANTAGE IT ENJOYED OF BILINGUALISM IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCES THROUGH EDUCATION IS SOMETHING TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED AND WILL REMAIN SO IN THE FUTURE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

WELCOMING THE COLLEGE'S AIM OF ENCOURAGING +SELF-LEARNING+, AND +LIFE-LEARNING+, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THEY WERE WORTHY OBJECTIVES. +WE ARE LIVING IN A FAST CHANGING WORLD. IF THERE IS NOT A CONSTANT EFFORT BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, AND INDEED BEYOND FORMAL EDUCATION, TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF MODERN KNOWLEDGE, STUDENTS IN OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WILL LAG BEHIND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE REST OF THE WORLD.

+THOSE WHO GO THROUGH THE PORTALS OF HIGHER EDUCATION MUST THEREFORE BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO LEARN AND IMPROVE FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES,+ HE SAID.

A GOOD LIBRARY, HE SAID, WAS AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, AND HE WAS GLAD THAT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH A LIBRARY THROUGH SOME VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ONE FROM THE FONG SHU FOOK TONG FOUNDATION, AFTER WHOSE FOUNDER THE LIBRARY WAS NAMED, HE SAID.

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RESULTS OF TEXTILES ISSUES WITH U.S. ANNOUNCED
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE TWO ISSUES REFERRED TO THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY IN GENEVA FOR ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 12 TO 14.

THE FIRST ISSUE CONCERNED FOUR UNITED STATES +CALLS+ MADE ON HONG KONG DURING 1984. +CALLS+ ARE REQUESTS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING PARTICULAR PRODUCTS UNDER RESTRAINT IN A PARTICULAR YEAR, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CRITERIA SET OUT IN THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT BEING MET.

AFTER HEARING PRESENTATIONS BY BOTH THE U.S. AND HONG KONG, THE TSB RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. RESCIND THE RESTRICTIONS ESTABLISHED ON CATEGORIES 637 (MAN-MADE FIBRE PLAYSUITS), 650 (MAN-MADE FIBRE DRESSING GOWNS) AND 651 (MAN-MADE FIBRE PYJAMAS).

AS REGARDS CATEGORY 652 (MAN-MADE FIBRE UNDER-WEAR), THE TSB FOUND THAT THERE WAS A CASE OF REAL RISK OF MARKET DISRUPTION, AND THE RESTRAINT WILL THEREFORE REMAIN IN FORCE, AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF 1984.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR. HAMISH MACLEOD, WHO LED THE HONG KONG DELEGATION IN GENEVA, CONSIDERED THE OUTCOME A +CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS+ FOR HONG KONG.

+THESE CASES HAVE A WIDER SIGNIFICANCE THAN JUST RELATING TO THE PRODUCTS AFFECTED; THESE UNAMBIGUOUS RULINGS HELP TO REINFORCE THE DISCIPLINES WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO GOVERN THE USE OF THE CALL MECHANISM TO INTRODUCE NEW RESTRAINTS.

+SOME OF THESE CALLS HAVE BEEN QUITE UNJUSTIFIABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ONE OF THESE CATEGORIES, THE U.S. HAD 97 PER CENT OF THE MARKET. TO SEEK RESTRAINT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IS SIMPLY NOT REASONABLE,+ HE SAID.

THE OTHER ISSUE CONSIDERED BY THE TSB CONCERNED THREE SWEATER SHIPMENTS FROM HONG KONG TO THE U.S. WHICH WERE DENIED ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE NEW U.S. IMPORT REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 3 WHICH ESTABLISHED NEW CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ORIGIN.

THE ESSENCE OF THE HONG KONG CASE WAS THAT THE U.S. HAD FRUSTRATED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT BY DENYING ENTRY TO PROPERLY LICENSED SHIPMENTS WHICH IN EARLIER YEARS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ENTRY AS HONG KONG ORIGIN SWEATERS. HONG KONG THEREFORE ASKED THE TSB TO RECOMMEND A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

/THE OUTCOME

THE OUTCOME OF THE TSB DELIBERATIONS, AFTER HEARING PRESENTATIONS BY BOTH PARTIES AND A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

* THE TSB NOTED THAT THE REGULATIONS WERE INTERIM ONES WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THEM BEING POSSIBLE, AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE U.S. WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

* THE TSB WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULATIONS HAD UPSET THE BALANCE OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE HONG KONG-U.S. BILATERAL AGREEMENT, THUS AFFECTING ITS ECONOMIC CONTENT AND CREATING UNCERTAINTY.

* THE TSB RECOMMENDED THAT HONG KONG AND THE U.S. SHOULD HOLD CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH A VIEW TO RESTORING THE BALANCE OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT, AND THAT IN THE MEANTIME, THE PARTIES SHOULD CO-OPERATE TO AVOID DISRUPTION TO THE ORDERLY AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE.

THE RESULTS ARE TO BE REPORTED BY BOTH PARTIES TO THE TSB BY FEBRUARY 20, 1985.

COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME, MR MACLEOD SAID: +THE RESULT IS EXCELLENT AND CONTAINS ALL THAT WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR. IT CONFIRMS THAT OUR VIEW OF THESE INTERIM REGULATIONS AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WAS CORRECT.

+THE TSB CONCLUSION ALSO REFERS TO THE NEED, NOT ONLY TO CHANGE THE REGULATIONS, BUT ALSO TO FIND A WAY OF AVOIDING CONTINUED DISRUPTION IN THE MEANTIME.

+I SHALL NOW BE CONSULTING THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD IN HONG KONG ON THE NEXT STEP, BUT CLEARLY WE SHALL BE CONTACTING THE U.S. VERY SOON ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION.+

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PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL GAZETTED
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A BILL ENABLING THE SETTING UP OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL NEXT YEAR TO COVER AREAS NOT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD ALLOW SOME WORKING EXPERIENCE TO BE GAINED BEFORE THE FULL COUNCIL COMES INTO BEING IN 1986, WHEN IT WOULD INCLUDE DIRECTLY ELECTED CONSTITUENCY-BASED MEMBERS.

/DESCRIBING THE

DESCRIBING THE BILL AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID THE FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON THE PLANNING, INAUGURATION AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE FORMATION OF THE FULL COUNCIL.

+IT WILL ALSO ADVISE ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, HYGIENE, AND RECREATION AND CULTURE IN NON-URBAN AREAS.

+THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE 24 MEMBERS -- 12 TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, THREE FROM THE HEUNG YEE KUK NAMELY ITS CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND NINE MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ELECTED AMONG MEMBERS OF THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE ELECTION OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL NEXT YEAR, SHORTLY AFTER THE DB ELECTIONS, SO THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE FULLY CONSTITUTED BY MAY 1.

+THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, + MR HSU ADDED.

EXTRA RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THE PROVISION OF STAFF FOR THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT, OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, ALLOWANCES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES REQUIRED DURING THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL ARE ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$9 MILLION.

THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984 WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 19) FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING.

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QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE FIGURES RELEASED

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SHOWED A SLIGHT DETERIORATION IN THE QUARTER AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 WAS 3.8 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.4 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER MAY - JULY 1984.

THE INCREASE OF 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT - THAT IS, IT IS GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR - BUT ONLY marginally, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1983 WAS 4.1 PER CENT.

/THE NUMBER

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 1984 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 99 900, AS COMPARED WITH 90 200 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JULY 1984 AND 104 600 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 WAS ONE PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 0.9 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE RATE FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983 WAS 1.6 PER CENT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS 26 500 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 1984, WHICH COMPARES WITH 23 200 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JULY 1984 BUT WAS MUCH LOWER THAN THE 40 900 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE DECREASES IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE AND IN THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS OVER THE YEAR WERE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIED FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN THE FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY, HE SAID.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1984 WAS 4.1 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS ONE PER CENT. HOWEVER, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WOULD BE LOWER AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 WAS 4.1 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 53 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN THE HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1984 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE LATER THIS MONTH.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING REVISED
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS REVISED THE INCOME LIMITS FOR PEOPLE APPLYING FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING AND AT THE SAME TIME REMOVED ALTOGETHER THE SPACE LIMIT CRITERION.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), AN AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT ANNUALLY.

+FOLLOWING THE LATEST REVIEW THE AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED ON THE UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE AND PRIVATE SECTOR RENT LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING NEW INCOME LIMITS WHICH TOOK RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1:

<u>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</u>	<u>HOUSEHOLD INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT</u>
1 PERSON	\$2 700 PER MONTH
2 PERSONS	\$4 000 PER MONTH
3 PERSONS	\$4 500 PER MONTH
4 PERSONS	\$4 800 PER MONTH
5 PERSONS	\$5 200 PER MONTH
6 PERSONS	\$5 600 PER MONTH
7 PERSONS	\$6 000 PER MONTH
8 PERSONS	\$6 400 PER MONTH
9 PERSONS	\$6 800 PER MONTH
10 PERSONS	\$7 000 PER MONTH

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT OVER 88 PER CENT OF THE APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST HAVE A FAMILY SIZE OF 2 TO 5 PERSONS.

COMMENTING ON THOSE APPLICATIONS CANCELLED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1 BECAUSE OF OVER-INCOME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THEY WILL BE REVIEWED AND REINSTATED IF THEY NOW QUALIFY UNDER THE NEW LIMITS.

+AS FOR THOSE APPLICATIONS CANCELLED FOR THE SAME REASON BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, THEY CAN BE REGISTERED ON A RESERVE WAITING LIST 12 MONTHS AFTER CANCELLATION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS.

/+THIS AVOIDS

+THIS AVOIDS THE NEED FOR FAMILIES CONCERNED TO SUBMIT FRESH APPLICATIONS IN CASES WHERE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE GENUINELY CHANGED MAKING THEM ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSING AGAIN.

+APPLICATIONS PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED FOR OVER-SPACE CAN ALSO REGISTER ON THE RESERVE WAITING LIST 12 MONTHS AFTER CANCELLATION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS.+

REFERRING TO THE REMOVAL OF THE SPACE LIMIT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS MADE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE ALLOCATION STANDARD HAD BEEN GRADUALLY RAISED OVER THE YEARS.

HE SAID THE CURRENT SPACE STANDARD WAS EQUIVALENT TO 4.8 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON OF LIVING AREA AND ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST OCCUPIED ACCOMMODATION EXCEEDING THIS SPACE STANDARD. THEREFORE, IT WAS CONSIDERED NOT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT HOME VISITS TO VERIFY THE SPACE THEY OCCUPIED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THOSE WHO OWN DOMESTIC PROPERTY WOULD STILL BE DEBARRED FROM REGISTERING ON THE WAITING LIST.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR NEW HOUSING PROJECT

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PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON TSING YI ISLAND IS TO GET A BOOST AS BUILDING TENDERS ARE INVITED TODAY FOR A SIXTH ESTATE THERE.

THREE 35-STOREY TRIDENT III BLOCKS AND ONE 21-STOREY SLAB BLOCK WILL BE BUILT UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT, CHEUNG ON ESTATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SAID THESE MODERN BLOCKS WOULD HOUSE 14 800 PEOPLE IN 3 426 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS BY 1988.

+WORK WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SCHOOLS, A FOUR-STOREY CAR PARK WITH A LANDSCAPED PODIUM AND TWO FOOTBRIDGES.

+CHEUNG ON ESTATE, TO BE DEVELOPED IN TWO PHASES, WILL PROVIDE HOMES FOR ALTOGETHER 32 000 PEOPLE WHEN FULLY COMPLETED BY LATE 1988.+

ALSO INVITED TODAY ARE PILING TENDERS FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF LONG PING ESTATE IN YUEN LONG.

/+WORK WILL

+WORK WILL COVER PILING TO FOUNDATIONS FOR TWO 22-STOREY SLAB BLOCKS, TWO SCHOOLS, A CAR PARK AND ELEVATED WALKWAYS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE TWO DOMESTIC BLOCKS WOULD HAVE A TOTAL OF 1 976 UNITS FOR MORE THAN 6 000 PEOPLE ON COMPLETION BY 1987.

+LONG PING ESTATE IS BEING DEVELOPED IN THREE PHASES AND WILL HOUSE ALTOGETHER 35 000 PEOPLE BY 1987.+

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NEW YEAR'S DAY START FOR YOUTH YEAR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (IYY) TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM ON JANUARY 1.

ABOUT 8 000 YOUNGSTERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ATTENDING THE 90-MINUTE PROGRAMME AND ENJOYING PERFORMANCES BY MORE THAN 2 000 YOUTHS FROM 40 ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), MRS SELINA CHOW, CHAIRPERSON OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (CCCIYY) SAID, +A SERIES OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO HIGHLIGHT THE IYY THEME OF 'PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'.+

DISCLOSING THE DETAILS OF THE OPENING EVENT, MR LO KING-MAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE SAID, +THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY, FOCUSING ON PARTICIPATION, ONE OF THE THEMES OF IYY WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY SCHOOL CHOIRS, THE MUSIC OFFICE COMBINED YOUTH BAND, THE HONG KONG SCHOOL DANCE TEAM, AND A FLIP-TORCH DISPLAY, AEROBICS AND A MASS DANCE.+

POPULAR YOUNG ARTISTES - MISS RUTH CHEN, MR MICHAEL KWAN, MISS ANNABELLE LOUIE AND MR TERENCE TSOI - WILL DEDICATE THEIR SONGS TO THE YOUTH YEAR.

TICKETS FOR THE OPENING WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH ALL DISTRICT OFFICES FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 17), ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

MRS CHOW SAID ALSO FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH, A TWO-PART YOUTH CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN MARCH AND AUGUST NEXT YEAR, WHERE YOUTH WORKERS AND YOUNGSTERS THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THE EXISTING YOUTH PROBLEMS, POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE PLANNING.

/THIS WOULD

THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A CIVIC DAY LATER IN THE YEAR TO EDUCATE YOUNGSTERS ON THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

THESE EVENTS WERE AIMED AT CONVEYING THE SECOND ELEMENT IN THE IYY THEME - DEVELOPMENT.

TO HIGHLIGHT THE THIRD ELEMENT OF THE THEME - PEACE, A +PEACE RALLY+ INVOLVING YOUNGSTERS WOULD BE STAGED AT THE END OF THE YEAR TO MARK THE OFFICIAL CLOSE OF IYY.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS ABOUT \$1.5 MILLION, OF WHICH \$750 000 WAS CONTRIBUTED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND \$300 000 WAS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP FROM PRIVATE BODIES FOR THE REST, AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH YEAR, SOME 300 EVENTS ARE BEING ORGANISED BY ABOUT 40 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE BODIES.

+WE HOPE THAT MORE PEOPLE AND MORE ORGANISATIONS WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND COME UP WITH CREATIVE IDEAS TO PROMOTE THE YOUTH YEAR,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

+THE CCCIYY IS ONLY A CO-ORDINATING BODY,+ SHE SAID.

+THE PRINCIPAL IMPETUS OF THE IYY SHOULD COME FROM YOUTH-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS, CIVIC BODIES, COMMERCIAL SET-UPS AND PUBLIC-SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS.+

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CUSTOMS OFFICERS COMMENDED FOR SEIZURE OF ARMS AND DRUGS

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, TODAY (FRIDAY) AWARDED HIS COMMENDATION TO PROBATIONARY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN CHING-YUEN, COMMANDER OF CUSTOMS LAUNCH NO. 6.

THE LAUNCH INTERCEPTED A TRAWLER OFF CHEUNG CHAU ON NOVEMBER 26 DURING A ROUTINE STOP-AND-SEARCH OPERATION, SEIZING A LARGE QUANTITY OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

MR GREWAL ALSO PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATION TO SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICER, MR CHAN CHUNG-LING, FOR THE PART HE PLAYED IN THE SEIZURE.

BOTH OFFICERS WERE PRAISED FOR THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE, LEADERSHIP AND FINE JUDGEMENT.

/THE DEPUTY

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THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MR KEITH BROADBRIDGE, AWARDED HIS COMMENDATION TO SENIOR INSPECTOR, MR WONG SHIU-MING, FOR THE LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY HE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION.

SEVEN OTHER CUSTOMS OFFICERS ON BOARD THE LAUNCH - SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS HO WAI-MING AND CHAN MING-KIN AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS YEUNG LAM, LUI YUN-KIN, YUE LAP-FAI, YEUNG YUK-KEI AND WONG KAM-FAI - WERE ALL AWARDED COMMENDATIONS BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR J.C. PRISK.

SIXTEEN HANDGUNS WITH THREE SILENCERS AND MORE THAN 1 400 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION PLUS 120 KILOGRAMMES OF HEROIN BASE VALUED AT \$36 MILLION WERE SEIZED. SEVEN CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD THE TRAWLER WERE ARRESTED.

IN ADDITION, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR J.C. PRISK, ALSO AWARDED HIS COMMENDATION TO SENIOR INSPECTOR, MR CHAN CHUN-WAI, FOR THE SEIZURE OF TWO REVOLVERS WITH SEVEN ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND THE ARREST OF TWO PERSONS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT ON NOVEMBER 28.

AT ANOTHER EVENT TODAY AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE'S SENIOR OFFICERS' MESS, THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MR KEITH BROADBRIDGE, IN APPRECIATION OF HIS SERVICE.

MR BROADBRIDGE WILL LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT ON TRANSFER TO THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, ON DECEMBER 17 AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

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THE COST OF FILTH
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AN URBAN COUNCILLOR TODAY (FRIDAY) PROPOSED A WAY IN WHICH RATES COULD BE KEPT DOWN DESPITE THE UC'S IMPENDING \$180 MILLION BUDGET DEFICIT.

IN HIS ADDRESS AT A LIONS CLUB LUNCHEON ENTITLED '+THE COST OF FILTH+', MR HOWARD YOUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE UC'S CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED THAT BOTH THE UC AND THE RATEPAYER COULD SAVE MONEY IF PEOPLE STOPPED LITTERING.

+WHAT IF I COULD PROVE TO YOU THAT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE LITTERS, HE IS TAKING MONEY OUT OF YOUR POCKET?+ MR YOUNG ASKED THE AUDIENCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UC BEATSWEEPERS CLEANED EACH METRE OF PAVEMENT THREE TIMES A DAY, AND THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF THIS OPERATION WAS ABOUT \$130 MILLION.

/+WHAT THE

+WHAT THE BEATSWEEPERS SWEEP IS PURE AND UNADULTERATED LITTER,+ HE SAID.

+YOU ARE, THEREFORE, SUBSIDISING THE LITTERBUG,+ HE SAID, +AND IF THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANGRY, IT SHOULD.+

MR YOUNG POINTED THAT THE UC COULD SAVE AS MUCH AS \$87 MILLION ANNUALLY IF THE FREQUENCY OF BEATSWEEEPING IN ANY GIVEN PATCH OF URBAN STREET OR PAVEMENT WERE REDUCED FROM THE CURRENT AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES A DAY TO ONCE A DAY.

+IF PEOPLE LITTERED LESS, THE STREETS WOULD BE CLEANER= IF THE STREETS WERE CLEANER, WE COULD SWEEP THEM LESS OFTEN= IF WE SWEEPED THEM LESS OFTEN, WE WOULD ALL SAVE MONEY.+

HE ADDED THAT POTENTIAL LITTERBUGS MUST ALSO BE MADE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY, TOO, WERE PAYING DIRECTLY FOR THEIR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.

+OF COURSE, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THIS CONSCIOUSNESS TO SINK IN,+ MR YOUNG CAUTIONED, +BUT THE PROCESS CAN BE ACCELERATED IF WE KEEP POUNDING HOME THE MESSAGE.+

TO ALLAY FEARS THAT THE REDUCTION OF WORK-LOAD MIGHT LEAD TO LAY-OFFS, MR YOUNG SAID THAT STAFF REDUCTION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH ATTRITION RATHER THAN DISMISSAL.

+ABOUT 200 OF OUR 6 000 BEATSWEEPERS RETIRE EACH YEAR,+ HE SAID. +AND IF THE STREETS ARE CLEANER WE SIMPLY WILL NOT REPLACE THEM.+

+AS A RESULT NO ONE WILL SUFFER.+

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SCHOOLS' VITAL ROLE IN CIVIC EDUCATION STRESSED

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THE SCHOOL WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT UNIT IN THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY OR SOCIAL OR CIVIC EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE IN SHA TIN.

ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION PROMOTED IN HONG KONG SCHOOLS WAS TO HELP PUPILS UNDERSTAND THEIR COMMUNITY AND TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH PROBLEMS AND ISSUES WITHIN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR COMMUNITY.

/+IT IS

+IT IS ONLY THROUGH GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF LOCAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES THAT PUPILS CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT A COMMUNITY MEANS AND HOW BEST TO HELP BETTER THEIR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THIS EDUCATION PROCESS LAY WITHIN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM THROUGH A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS TAUGHT AND THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

IT ALSO LAY ON HOW THE SCHOOL WAS MANAGED AND HOW THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS COOPERATED TO MAKE THE SCHOOL PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE PROMOTION OF A COMMUNITY SPIRIT COULD BEST BE ACHIEVED IN A NEW COMMUNITY SUCH AS SHA TIN, WHERE NEW ESTATES WERE BUILT AND PEOPLE MOVED IN FROM ALL OVER HONG KONG.

+THE FACT THAT THEY ARE STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER IS A GREAT ADVANTAGE. IT GIVES THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER AND TO HELPING EACH OTHER TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO MANAGE MANY LOCAL AFFAIRS,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

HE SAID MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN COMMUNITY LIFE IN THE NEW TOWNS, AND URGED ALL SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER HELPING IN THIS PROCESS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE.

THE SUCCESS OF A COMMUNITY DEPENDED UPON THE EFFORTS PUT INTO IT BY ALL ITS MEMBERS.

+SCHOOLS PLAY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS IN THIS PROCESS AND THIS IS WHERE CIVIC EDUCATION IS ACHIEVED, NOT THROUGH A SEPARATE SUBJECT BUT THROUGH THE ACTUAL PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE COMMUNITY,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HE PRAISED THE KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE IN SHA TIN FOR PROMOTING SOCIAL AND CIVIC EDUCATION.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE EITHER THE CHINESE WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON DECEMBER 22, OR CHRISTMAS DAY SHOULD BE APPOINTED AS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HE SAID ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$8 500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

/HOLIDAY PAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1984

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HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS, SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING THE PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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BILLS CLARIFY RESPONSIBILITY

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PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY ARE THREE BILLS WHICH SEEK TO CLARIFY THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS THE RESPONSIBLE BODY FOR ENSURING THAT BUILDINGS HAVE ADEQUATE MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM BUILDINGS, PRESCRIBED IN A CODE OF PRACTICE ADMINISTERED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY, ALSO APPEAR IN THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE.

TO REDUCE THIS OVERLAP OF LEGAL AUTHORITY AND TO CLEARLY DEFINE THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, AMENDMENTS TO THE THREE ORDINANCES ARE NOW PROPOSED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR LICENCES UNDER THE RELEVANT ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

+FURTHERMORE, PUBLIC SAFETY WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THESE AMENDMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

ANY COMMENT SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING TO UMELCO AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, CENTRAL OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1984

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MORE HELP URGED FROM VOLUNTARY GROUPS

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KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ROLE IN PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY OF A COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE, MR MAK SAID: +THIS ROLE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO A COMMUNITY LIKE KWUN TONG AS A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS POPULATION COME FROM THE WORKING CLASS.

+WHILE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WORK VERY HARD THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS ARE USUALLY CONGESTED, AND FAMILY PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNGER MEMBERS, MUST BE WELL LOOKED AFTER TO HELP BUILD A STABLE AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

MR MAK URGED LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO RESIDENTS, AS THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO ABOUT 870 000 BY 1988.

+DUE TO THE HEAVY PRESSURE OF LIVING, IT IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT PEOPLE IN THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN POLITICS, THEREFORE, SOCIAL WORKERS HAVE TO ASSUME ANOTHER IMPORTANT ROLE, THAT IS, TO AROUSE INTEREST AMONG THE 'MAN IN THE STREET' IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+THROUGH THEIR DAILY CONTACT WITH RESIDENTS, SOCIAL WORKERS CAN EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE.+

MR MAK SAID SUCH A PROCESS WOULD TAKE TIME AND THE FIELD WORKERS HAD TO BE WELL EQUIPPED WITH THE SPIRIT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

+TO PREPARE FOR THESE POLITICAL CHANGES, I CAN SEE THAT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS CAN OFFER MUCH ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATING THE PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR CIVIC DUTIES AND RIGHTS IN THE GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT IN OUR FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THE COMING YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

MR MAK ALSO PRAISED THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICE FOR ITS GOOD WORK IN PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY BUILDING DURING THE CENTRE'S 30-YEAR HISTORY.

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BANQUET, FUN FOR 1 000 ELDERLY FOLKS
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ABOUT 1 000 SENIOR RESIDENTS OF SAI KUNG WILL ATTEND A WHOLE-DAY FUNCTION ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 16) TO MARK THE CLOSING OF THE THREE-WEEK FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT.

A GROUP OF SENIOR CITIZENS WILL ENTERTAIN THE AUDIENCE WITH TAI CHI DEMONSTRATIONS AND LION DANCE PERFORMANCES. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN EXHIBITION OF CALLIGRAPHY AND CHINESE PAINTING BY THE ELDERLY.

AN ORTHOPAEDIC EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE STAGED TO EDUCATE THE ELDERLY ON SIMPLE AND PROPER MEDICAL CARE.

AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY, PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO SIX ELDEST PERSONS FROM SAI KUNG, HANG HAU AND RENNIE'S MILL.

THE ELDERLY WILL ALSO BE TREATED TO A BANQUET AND A VARIETY SHOW.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT, AND IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN HO, A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR WONG KWOK-YEE, AND THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON OFFICE), MR KWOK KA-CHI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

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SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT
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DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR TONY EASON, WILL BE MAKING THE OPENING ADDRESS AT A SEMINAR ON TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS, WILL BE THE DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER FOR TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN, DR EDWARD PRYOR, THE GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, DR Y.L. CHOI, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR B. TANG.

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CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

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DETAILS OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVE LIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AND SPECIAL TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 17) AT 3 PM IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CNTA HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, KOWLOON.

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PLAN TO IMPROVE CHECKPOINT TRAFFIC

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPROVE THE WHOLE STRETCH OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO HELP RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE PRESENT MAN KAM TO CHECKPOINT.

THIS WILL INVOLVE CONSTRUCTING 30 BUS BAYS, 15 OF WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED WITH LOADING AND UNLOADING BAYS, AND A TOTAL OF SEVEN KILOMETRES OF FOOTPATHS ALONG THE EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY.

IMPROVEMENTS TO TWO BENDS AT MA MEI HA AND WO HANG, AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A BOX CULVERT NEAR SHEK CHUNG AU WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.

THE PROPOSED WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE. NORMAL TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED DURING WORK.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

RELATED PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG AND THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, OLD DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING, TAI PO MARKET, NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WORK SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY FEBRUARY 12, 1985.

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TSING YI BRIDGE CEREMONY

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE TSING YI BRIDGE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AT 10 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE EASTERN APPROACH, KWAI CHUNG END, OF THE BRIDGE.

SPONSORED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, THE FUNCTION IS PART OF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL DECEMBER 23.

THE CELEBRATION PROGRAMME INCLUDES A TSING YI HISTORIAL EXHIBITION, A PHOTO COMPETITION, A VARIETY SHOW, CHINESE OPERA AND FILM SHOWS.

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PARTY FOR THE HANDICAPPED

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE AND KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE WILL JOINTLY HOLD A CHRISTMAS PARTY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) FOR THEIR 300 HANDICAPPED TRAINEES AND RESIDENTS.

THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MISS CHAN JOY-YIN, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR.

THE DAY'S PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A MAGIC SHOW, SINGING AND PERFORMANCES BY THE TRAINEES AND YOUTH GROUPS, A LUCKY DRAW AND DINNER RECEPTION.

ROUND TABLE NO. 3 (VICTORIA) HAS CONTRIBUTED \$12 000 TOWARDS THE DINNER.

THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE PROVIDES SERVICES FOR THE SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE, AND THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVES AS A RESIDENTIAL CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN UNDER 16.

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ACTIVE WIND-UP TO FESTIVAL

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A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS TO WIND-UP THE ANNUAL NORTH DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 15) MORNING, TWO CONCERTS WILL BE STAGED AT THE SHA TSUI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SHA TAU KOK AND THE LING YING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TAI KWU LING.

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IN THE AFTERNOON, THERE WILL BE AN EXHIBITION SOCCER MATCH BETWEEN TUNG SING AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S SOCCER STAR TEAM AT 3.30 PM IN THE FANLING PLAYGROUND.

IN THE EVENING AT 7 PM, A ROLLER-SKATE DISCO SHOW WILL BE HELD IN THE FANLING PLAYGROUND, WHILE THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA WILL PERFORM AT NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL AT 7.30 PM.

ON THE CLOSING DAY OF THE FESTIVAL ON DECEMBER 16 THERE WILL BE A CHINESE FOLK SONG SEMINAR AND DEMONSTRATION AT 10.30 AM IN NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND A POP SONG CONCERT IN THE EVENING AT THE FANLING PLAYGROUND WILL CONCLUDE THE FESTIVAL.

THE FINAL WILL START AT 7.30 PM FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL ARTISTES, DANCES AND DRAMAS.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

ADMISSION TO THESE PROGRAMMES, EXCEPT THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA, IS FREE. TICKETS FOR THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA ARE ON SALE AT NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL.

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SAI KUNG GETS SPORTS BOOST

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THE NEW OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (RSS) IN SAI KUNG WAS OPENED THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING, MR WILLIAMSON SAID THAT LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND RESIDENTS HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT'S PROMOTIONAL WORK IN RECREATION AND SPORT IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE NEW OFFICE WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, ABOUT 3 000 PEOPLE HAD TAKEN PART IN SOME 70 RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING EVENTS ORGANISED BY SAI KUNG OFFICE.

THE OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, IS OPEN FROM 8.30 AM TO 5.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM ON SATURDAYS. PUBLIC ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 3-2814149.

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POST OFFICE 99
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A NEW POST OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT SHOP NO.8 ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE, SUN CHUI ESTATE, SHA TIN, AT 9 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 17).

IT WILL PROVIDE THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES, EXCEPT THE ACCEPTANCE OF INSURED LETTERS. THIS WILL BE THE FIFTH POST OFFICE PROVIDED IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG TO 99.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW POST OFFICE, UNREGISTERED +FIRST DAY+ COVERS TENDERED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AND BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER. THE COVERS WILL BE IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSONS PRESENTING THEM.

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BRINGING NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER
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THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION IN NORTH DISTRICT WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE RESIDENTS OF YUK PO COURT, A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ESTATE, WITH THE HELP OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE ASSOCIATION IS AIMED AT PROMOTING A SENSE OF NEIGHBOURLINESS AND ORGANISING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 5 000 RESIDENTS IN THE BLOCK OF BUILDINGS.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR NG, THE POLICE COMMANDER OF SHEUNG SHUI DIVISION, MR NG HON-KWAN AND THE HOUSING MANAGER OF THE CHOI YUEN ESTATE, MR LEE KA-HIM, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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TRAFFIC PLAN FOR TSUEN WAN WALK
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PUT INTO OPERATION ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 16) FOR THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT WALK ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 7.30 AM AND 11 AM, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, MAXICABS AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT:

/* SAM TUNG

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- * SAM TUNG UK ROAD.
- * SHING MUN ROAD BETWEEN SAM TUNG UK ROAD AND THE SHING MUN RESERVOIR.
- * LO WAI ROAD BETWEEN SAM TUNG UK ROAD AND CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME ON SUNDAY, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC:

- * THE KERBSIDE LANE OF WO YI HOP ROAD SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY, BETWEEN CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD AND WO YI HOP ROAD SPORTS GROUND.
- * THE KERBSIDE LANE OF CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY, BETWEEN WO YI HOP ROAD AND LO WAI ROAD.

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CENTRAL WATER MAINS WORK
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT AND SHEUNG WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS BETWEEN MONDAY (DECEMBER 17) AND TUESDAY FOR MAINS WORK.

IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, SUPPLY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON MONDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY 5-29C WYNDHAM STREET, 10-54 WELLINGTON STREET, WO ON LANE, WING WAH LANE, LAN KWAI FONG, 13-41 AND 20-56 D'AGUILAR STREET AND WAI TAK LANE.

IN SHEUNG WAN, SUPPLY WILL BE STOPPED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY SHING WONG STREET, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, LADDER STREET AND CIRCULAR PATHWAY, INCLUDING 270-276 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND 1-2 TSUI ON LANE.

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