



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1988

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GOVERNOR SEES PROGRESS AT POWER STATION AND LRT

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WHEN THE CASTLE PEAK 'B' STATION BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL IN EARLY 1990, IT WOULD, TOGETHER WITH THE 'A' STATION, MAKE THE CASTLE PEAK STATION COMPLEX THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE TWO STATIONS WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 4,350 MEGAWATTS TO MEET DEMAND GROWTH OF THE EARLY 1990'S," SIR DAVID SAID.

SPEAKING AFTER A VISIT TO THE CASTLE PEAK 'B' STATION CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THE GOVERNOR SAID THIS STATION WOULD GENERATE CAPACITY OF MORE THAN 2,700 MEGAWATTS, WHEREAS THE ADJACENT 'A' STATION CURRENTLY GENERATES A CAPACITY OF 1,650 MEGAWATTS.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SITE, THE GOVERNOR WAS MET BY THE CHAIRMAN OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER, LORD KADOORIE; THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, SIR SIDNEY GORDON; THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR W.F. STONES; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF EXXON ENERGY LIMITED AND CASTLE PEAK POWER COMPANY, MR M.J. CLANCY.

DURING A TOUR OF THE NEWLY COMPLETED TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAW A WIDE RANGE OF EXHIBITS COVERING THE HISTORY OF ELECTRICITY AND ITS USAGES.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE CENTRE WAS OPEN TO VISITORS INCLUDING GROUPS FROM SCHOOLS AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS TOLD THAT COAL WAS THE MAIN FUEL FOR THE BOILERS BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER, ON AN EQUIVALENT HEAT BASIS, THAN OIL. THE PROGRESSIVE SWITCH TO COAL HAD ENABLED THE COMPANY TO REDUCE THE COST OF ELECTRICITY BY 4.4 CENTS SINCE 1983.

SIR DAVID TALKED TO THE OPERATIONAL STAFF IN THE MAIN CONTROL ROOM. HE WAS ALSO SHOWN A SHORT DEMONSTRATION ON THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE REAL TIME SIMULATORS USED FOR THE TRAINING OF OPERATIONAL STAFF.

ON HIS VISIT TO THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT OFFICE IN TUEN MUN THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED ON THE EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF THE NEW \$1 BILLION PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT WHEN FULLY COMPLETED IN THE MID-1990'S, THE LRT WOULD BE CAPABLE OF MOVING 70,000 PEOPLE AN HOUR, SUFFICIENT TO MEET PROJECTED DEMAND WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

/THE GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF A RAIL LINK BETWEEN NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE METROPOLITAN AREA WAS BEING EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KCRC, MR GERRY FORSGATE, SIR DAVID TRAVELLED ON THE LIGHT RAIL FROM THE DEPOT TO SIU HONG VIA PUI TO ROAD.

LATER HE DESCRIBED THE SHORT TRIP AS "COOL AND COMFORTABLE". SIR DAVID ALSO SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE CONVENIENCE OF THE LRT'S OPEN FARE SYSTEM WHERE THERE ARE NO TURNSTILES, GATES OR BARRIERS AT THE STOPS.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE ON LRT SERVICES ON JUNE 30, THE KCRC HAD AGREED TO IMPLEMENT A TOTALLY INTEGRATED FARE SYSTEM IN WHICH BOTH MONTHLY TICKET HOLDERS AND SINGLE-TRIP PASSENGERS WOULD BE ENTITLED TO FREE TRANSFERS BETWEEN THE LRT AND FEEDER BUSES.

DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES WERE BEING WORKED OUT AND THE CORPORATION WOULD MEET THE MONITORING GROUP AGAIN TO DISCUSS THEM.

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INCREASE IN PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
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FIGURES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS IN THE URBAN AREA (HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON) DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WERE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON.

MR GLEESON SAID THE NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE INCREASED BY 7.4 PER CENT AND 32.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987.

HE ADDED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE FLATS WERE IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS.

IN ALL, 32,552 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATION IN THESE AGREEMENTS WAS \$34.22 BILLION. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 28 PER CENT OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 (\$26.731 BILLION) AND OF 23.6 PER CENT OVER THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 (\$27.696 BILLION).

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DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, 40,645 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, THE MAJORITY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, COMPARED WITH 46,828 AND 47,608 RESPECTIVELY DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987, SHOWING DECREASES OF 13.2 PER CENT AND 14.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATION IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS INCREASED BY 7.5 PER CENT FROM \$28.999 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 BUT DECREASED BY 5.3 PER CENT FROM \$32.919 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 TO \$31.186 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 2,393 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, COMPARED WITH 3,125 AND 4,682 IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987 RESPECTIVELY.

THERE WERE 337 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS A DECLINE OF 18.8 PER CENT AND 39.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY ON THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATION IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT FROM \$6.843 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987, BUT DECREASED BY 15.3 PER CENT FROM \$11.072 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 TO \$9.375 BILLION.

TWENTY-NINE BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 44,242 OTHER MORTGAGES WERE REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, COMPARED WITH 21 AND 51,513 RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 AND 30 AND 48,759 RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 DROPPED BY 19.8 PER CENT FROM \$0.353 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 AND BY 31.3 PER CENT FROM \$0.412 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 TO \$0.283 BILLION.

THE AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES, HOWEVER, ROSE BY 46.5 PER CENT FROM \$23.424 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 AND BY 40 PER CENT FROM \$24.504 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 TO \$34.311 BILLION.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, WERE UP BY 5.1 PER CENT FROM \$11.737 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 BUT DOWN BY 2.9 PER CENT FROM \$12.699 BILLION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 TO \$12.333 BILLION.

SEARCHES IN THE LAND OFFICE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REACHED A RECORD OF 796,323, UP BY 11.9 PER CENT AND 5.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987.

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OF THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES, SIX HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT. IT IS INTENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE OVER THE REMAINING TWO REGISTRIES -- TAI PO AND NORTH -- LATER THIS YEAR.

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, THE SIX NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT REGISTERED A TOTAL OF 97,147 INSTRUMENTS.

THESE INCLUDED 19,421 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, 23,348 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS, 1,775 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS, 15 BUILDING MORTGAGES, 28,834 OTHER MORTGAGES AND 13,472 MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, RE-ASSIGNMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSIDERATIONS WERE \$12.575 BILLION, \$11.638 BILLION, \$2.309 BILLION, \$0.514 BILLION, \$9.599 BILLION AND \$4.065 BILLION, RESPECTIVELY.

SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF YEAR OF 1988 INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- * THE SALE BY CASH TENDER ON JANUARY 18 OF A 2.45-HECTARE SITE (JUNK BAY TOWN LOT NO. 10) AT AREA 30/33, JUNK BAY TO SEBASTO INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$255,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP (PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION) SCHEME.
- * ON JANUARY 28, A MAJOR LAND EXCHANGE INVOLVING THE SHELL OIL COMPANY, THE CHEUNG KONG GROUP, HONGKONG ELECTRIC AND HONG KONG UNITED DOCKYARDS WAS COMPLETED. AS A RESULT, 15.5 HECTARES AT AP LEI CHAU AND 8.84 HECTARES AT KWUN TONG WILL BE REDEVELOPED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND SHELL OIL'S DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE FACILITIES AT KWUN TONG WILL BE RELOCATED TO TSING YI. THE TOTAL PREMIUM INVOLVED AMOUNTED TO \$1.5 BILLION.
- * THE SALE BY CASH TENDER ON APRIL 20 OF A 31.5-HECTARE SITE (KWAI CHUNG LOT NO. 7) AT LAI CHI KOK TO HIT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$4,390,000,000 FOR A CONTAINER TERMINAL.
- * THE SALE BY LETTER A/B TENDER ON MAY 26 OF A 1.522-HECTARE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 64) AT AREA 6, TAI PO TO RAINFORCE LIMITED, MERECHAL LIMITED AND ZINDEMAR INVESTMENTS CORPORATION AT A PREMIUM OF \$47,997,250 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) DEVELOPMENT WITH A BUS TERMINUS/SUBWAY SYSTEM AND COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.
- * THE GRANT ON MAY 26 OF A 1,910-SQUARE METRE SITE (KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 10739) IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO RADIER LIMITED BY WAY OF EXCHANGE AT A PREMIUM OF \$35,500,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

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- * THE SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MAY 30 OF A 4,498-SQUARE METRE SITE (CHAI WAN INLAND LOT NO. 103) AT THE JUNCTION OF FUNG YIP STREET AND SHEUNG ON STREET, HONG KONG TO WHOLYWING LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$173,000,000 FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY ROSE BY NINE PER CENT FROM 939,120 IN JUNE 1987 TO 1,023,635 IN DECEMBER 1987 AND AGAIN BY 4.1 PER CENT TO 1,065,978 IN JUNE 1988.

ALL OF THESE FIGURES REFLECTED A CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN A RELATIVELY FIRM PROPERTY MARKET, MR GLEESON SAID.

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TAC ADVISES AGAINST TOLL RISE FOR CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) AT ITS SECOND MEETING TO CONSIDER THE CONSULTANCY STUDY REPORT ON THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TODAY (THURSDAY) ADVISED THAT CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLLS SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED.

IN MAKING THE RECOMMENDATION, MEMBERS CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

1. WHETHER THERE ARE ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION;

MEMBERS HAVE EXAMINED THE CAPACITY OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY SERVICES AT PEAK HOURS (8 AM - 8 PM) AND FOUND THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SPARE CAPACITY OF 8,500 CAR SPACES ON DIFFERENT ROUTES OF HYF SERVICES, IT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO CATER TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT NEEDED TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL. HOWEVER, TRAFFIC NEWS BULLETINS AND OTHER METHODS WOULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE MOTORISTS TO USE CROSS HARBOUR FERRIES AND MAKE THE MOST OF SUCH SPARE CAPACITIES.

2. THE TOLL MEASURE PACKAGE WAS PROPOSED FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REASONS AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SEEKING REVENUE. HENCE IF THERE WERE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WHICH COULD EASE THE SITUATION, TOLL INCREASE MEASURES SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED, ESPECIALLY WHERE THERE WAS INADEQUATE CAPACITY ON ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORT DURING PEAK HOURS.

/3. DIFFERENTIAL TOLL:

3. DIFFERENTIAL TOLL;

OWING TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, IT IS NOT EASY TO IMPOSE A DIFFERENTIAL TOLL SYSTEM IN THE WAY THAT THE TAC WOULD REGARD AS FAIR AND EFFICIENT.

4. THE PROPOSED TOLL MEASURE PACKAGE WAS INTENDED ONLY FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT NINE MONTHS, FROM OCTOBER 1988. THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WOULD BE COMPLETED IN MID TO LATE 1989 AND MEMBERS CONSIDERED IT UNDESIRABLE THAT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND THE TUNNEL COMPANY SHOULD HAVE TO ADJUST THEMSELVES TO COMPLICATED TOLL MEASURES FOR A COMPARATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE A DETAILED BRIEFING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PACKAGE TO TRY TO SEPARATE TUNNEL AND NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC TO REDUCE THE CONGESTION CAUSED IN THE DISTRICTS SURROUNDING THE TUNNEL ENTRANCES.

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO SEEK TO INTRODUCE MORE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL BUSES INTO SERVICE, ALTHOUGH THE RELIEF THAT THIS COULD BRING SHOULD NOT BE OVER-ESTIMATED.

OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION INCLUDED REDUCING CONFLICTING AND MERGING TRAFFIC AT TUNNEL APPROACHES WHICH CAUSED DELAYS, AND PUBLICISING TUNNEL AND FERRY TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THROUGH BROADCASTING.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE URGENT ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THESE MEASURES.

THE TAC ACCEPTED THAT THE STUDY REPORT ON CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC AND ITS PROJECTION THAT AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT OF TUNNEL TRAFFIC WOULD CAUSE AN INCREASE OF 50 PER CENT IN QUEUE LENGTH.

THEREFORE WAITING TIME WOULD BE PROLONGED AND THERE WOULD BE SOME ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL TRAFFIC SITUATION AT WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI AREAS.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PACKAGE COULD NOT ACTUALLY REDUCE THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC USING THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL OR INCREASE THE TUNNEL THROUGHPUT, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE URGED TO SWITCH TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

IT MUST BE RECOGNISED THAT SIGNIFICANT RELIEF OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION COULD NOT BE BROUGHT ABOUT UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND MOTORISTS WOULD HAVE TO BE PATIENT.

THE TAC RECOGNISED THAT IN NOT INTRODUCING A TOLL INCREASE IT WOULD CREATE A VERY STRONG SUPPRESSED TRAFFIC DEMAND WHICH WOULD BE RELEASED WHEN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WAS OPENED.

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IT ALSO RECOGNISED THE FACT THAT THE EXISTING CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE MAIN ROUTE TAKEN BY A GREAT MAJORITY OF MOTORISTS TO CROSS THE HARBOUR.

IT THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT WHEN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WAS IN OPERATION, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD FURTHER REVIEW THE ENTIRE CROSS HARBOUR TRAFFIC SITUATION FOR LONG-TERM PURPOSES.

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CONNAUGHT ROAD PROJECT IN TOP GEAR
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THE EXTENSIVE \$530 MILLION ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE HEART OF CENTRAL IS GOING SMOOTHLY AND WORKING TO SCHEDULE.

AT A PRESS BRIEFING ON THE UPGRADING AND DUALLING OF CONNAUGHT ROAD SCHEME TODAY (THURSDAY), MR GARSON BELL, PROJECT ENGINEER, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, SAID THE WHOLE PROJECT WAS WELL IN HAND AND ON SCHEDULE.

THE SCHEME WAS CONCEIVED TO RELIEVE CENTRAL FROM TRAFFIC CONGESTION BY SEPARATING THROUGH TRAFFIC FROM TURNING TRAFFIC AND PROVIDING DUAL TWO-LANE FREE FLOW FACILITY ALONG CONNAUGHT ROAD BETWEEN HARCOURT ROAD AND HILL ROAD.

THE SCHEME IS COVERED BY FOUR MAJOR CONTRACTS.

THE FIRST CONTRACT OF \$197 MILLION INVOLVES THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, BUILDING OF PEDDER STREET UNDERPASS, LAMBETH WALK FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM AND POTTINGER STREET FOOTBRIDGE. WORKS STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE SECOND \$187 MILLION CONTRACT COVERS THE BUILDING OF RUMSEY STREET FLYOVER AND FOOTBRIDGES AT MORRISON STREET AND TUNG HING LANE. CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN DECEMBER, 1986.

THE THIRD \$79 MILLION CONTRACT COVERS THE DUALLING OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH DES VOEUX ROAD WEST AND HILL ROAD AND FOOTBRIDGES AT EASTERN STREET, WESTERN STREET AND WATER STREET. WORKS COMMENCED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

THE LAST CONTRACT WILL COST \$25 MILLION. WORKS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WALKWAY EASTERN EXTENSION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN 1990.

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THE FIRST THREE CONTRACTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1989 AND THE FOURTH ONE IN 1991.

MR BELL SAID: "PARTS OF THE STRUCTURES REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A FREE-FLOW EAST-WEST THROUGH ROUTE FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN CENTRAL AND SHEUNG WAN ARE NOW CLEARLY VISIBLE."

"TRAVELLING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION THESE STRUCTURES ARE THE HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, THE PEDDER STREET UNDERPASS AND THE RUMSEY STREET FLYOVER," HE ADDED.

THE HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF HARCOURT ROAD AND COTTON TREE DRIVE. TWO LANES OF THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF THE NEW FLYOVER AND THE SLIP ROAD TO COTTON TREE DRIVE WERE OPENED TO TRAFFIC ON MAY 8.

DEMOLITION OF THE OLD HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER, WHICH COMPRISED TWO LANES WESTBOUND, IS NEARLY COMPLETED AND WORK ON THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF THE NEW FLYOVER IS UNDER WAY. UPON COMPLETION, IT WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE WESTBOUND SECTION.

THE NEW 260-METRE-LONG HARCOURT ROAD FLYOVER WILL COMPRISE THREE WESTBOUND LANES, TWO EASTBOUND LANES AND A GRADE SEPARATED SLIP ROAD ONTO COTTON TREE DRIVE.

THE PEDDER STREET UNDERPASS, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND PEDDER STREET, WILL BE 280 METRES LONG AND COMPRISE TWO WESTBOUND AND TWO EASTBOUND LANES SEPARATED BY A CENTRAL WALL.

AT PRESENT, THE UNDERPASS DIAPHRAGM WALLS ARE NEARLY COMPLETED AND SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE CONCRETE ROOF SLAB HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE ROOF SLAB, THE GROUND BENEATH IT WILL BE EXCAVATED TO FORM A 'TUNNEL' AND WHEN THE CORRECT DEPTH HAS BEEN REACHED THE UNDERPASS CONCRETE FLOOR SLAB WILL BE CONSTRUCTED.

THE RUMSEY STREET FLYOVER WILL EXTEND FROM WEST OF GILMAN STREET TO EAST OF SUTHERLAND STREET.

IT WILL BE 980 METRES LONG WITH TWO WESTBOUND AND TWO EASTBOUND LANES.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND FLOW WERE ALSO PROVIDED FOR WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAMBETH WALK FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM AND THE POTTINGER STREET FOOTBRIDGE WHICH WERE OPENED RESPECTIVELY IN MARCH AND MAY THIS YEAR.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL 1988

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 10 PER CENT AND 40 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1988 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1988 WITH APRIL 1987, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT AND 40 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT. DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, BOTH THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF BILATERAL TRADE IN ANY SINGLE MONTH, AS THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL MONTHS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATIONS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR APRIL 1988 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN APRIL 1988 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+34 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+21 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+15 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+12 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+11 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT); AND FOOTWEAR (+2 PER CENT).

/NEVERTHELESS, DECREASES

NEVERTHELESS, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-32 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-11 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (-8 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (-7 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN APRIL 1988 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987.

THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+7 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+6 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+5 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+5 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+5 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+4 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+4 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+3 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR APRIL 1988 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN APRIL 1988 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987.

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN VEGETABLES; TEA AND COFFEE; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS; AND FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT.

THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; AND PASSENGER MOTOR CARS. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 27 PER CENT IN APRIL 1988 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987.

THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; SILK FABRICS; PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; AND BASE METALS OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR RAW COTTON; MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND WOVEN COTTON FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN APRIL 1988 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 34 PER CENT IN APRIL 1988 OVER APRIL 1987.

THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN TEXTILE MACHINERY.

/IMPORT PRICES

IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN APRIL 1988 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987, RANGING FROM 3 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 6 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR APRIL 1988 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN APRIL 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987, RANGING FROM 39 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 120 PER CENT FOR FUELS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN APRIL 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1987.

THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 13 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE APRIL 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND JULY 14 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING APRIL 1988 WITH APRIL 1987			COMPARING JAN-APR 1988 WITH JAN-APR 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-4	4	-7	5	5	*
TEXTILE FABRICS	-4	4	-8	4	5	-1
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-9	3	-11	-9	5	-13
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-1	6	-6	3	6	-3
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-29	3	-32	-27	5	-30

/ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	34	*	34	37	-1	38
FOOTWEAR	7	5	2	10	5	5
METAL MANUFACTURES	20	7	12	26	6	19
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	17	5	11	43	8	33
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	26	5	21	31	3	27
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	7	3	4	-4	4	-8
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	16	*	15	11	1	10
ALL COMMODITIES	10	3	7	13	3	10

NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES TAKEN TO MORE DECIMAL PLACES THAN THOSE IN THE PUBLICATION "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS". THEY MAY THEREFORE DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES TO BE COMPUTED DIRECTLY FROM THE FIGURES TO BE PUBLISHED.

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APRIL 1988 WITH APRIL 1987			COMPARING JAN-APR 1988 WITH JAN-APR 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	26	4	22	19	3	15
CONSUMER GOODS	27	3	24	30	3	27
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	34	5	27	27	6	20
FUELS	-10	-1	-9	*	3	-3
CAPITAL GOODS	42	6	34	34	7	25
ALL COMMODITIES	31	4	26	28	5	22

/TABLE 3:

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APRIL 1988 WITH APRIL 1987			COMPARING JAN-APR 1988 WITH JAN-APR 1987		
	VALUE	UNIT	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT	VOLUME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	53	1	52	39	1	38
CONSUMER GOODS	41	2	39	43	2	41
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	47	5	40	48	5	41
FUELS	91	-13	120	25	-3	29
CAPITAL GOODS	45	3	41	44	3	41
ALL COMMODITIES	45	3	40	45	3	40

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INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME FOR PUBLISHING CHINESE TEXTBOOKS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ADOPTION OF AN INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME TO ENSURE GOOD QUALITY CHINESE TEXTBOOKS IN PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PREVOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS BY SEPTEMBER 1991.

THIS IS THE SECOND INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME OFFERED BY THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE (CTC) WHICH WAS APPOINTED IN MAY 1986 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR SZETO WAH.

THE FIRST SCHEME OFFERED FINANCIAL AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLISHERS FOR PUBLISHING CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR SELECTED GENERAL SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. IT STARTED IN MAY LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE CTC'S CONSULTATION WITH THE HONG KONG PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS COUNCIL SHOWED THAT THE MAJORITY OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS STRONGLY INTENDED TO ADOPT CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS.

/"HOWEVER, NO

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"HOWEVER, NO CHINESE TEXTBOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE BECAUSE THE SMALL ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN THESE SUBJECTS MAKES THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH BOOKS NOT COMMERCIALY VIABLE.

"THE CTC THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT AN INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FIRST PHASE SHOULD BE ADOPTED TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF GOOD QUALITY CHINESE TEXTBOOKS IN PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS BY SEPTEMBER 1991," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE SCHEME WILL START IN JULY THIS YEAR. THE ESTIMATED COST IS \$3,600,000.

"AN AWARD OF \$225,000 WILL BE MADE FOR EACH SET OF BOOKS IN EACH SUBJECT PRODUCED AND ACCEPTED FOR USE, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$450,000 FOR EACH SUBJECT.

"IF MORE THAN TWO SETS OF BOOKS ARE ACCEPTED FOR USE IN A GIVEN SUBJECT, THEN THE \$450,000 WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN THE PUBLISHERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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RATEPAYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS SHOULD BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES FOR RATES PAYABLE FOR THE QUARTER JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1988.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE SHOULD APPLY FORTHWITH FOR A COPY AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD,) KOWLOON.

RATES ARE DEMANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATING ORDINANCE.

/NON-RECEIPT OF

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NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES BE PAID BY 12 NOON ON JULY 30 THIS YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"AND UNLESS SO PAID THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE RATING ORDINANCE."

A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE) WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING "PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY AUTOPAY" IS SHOWN IN THE DEMAND NOTE IN WHICH CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON JULY 30 THIS YEAR.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATEPAYERS ARE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE AMOUNT PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DATE IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE "TOTAL AMOUNT DUE" BOX.

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 30 OF THE ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, UNDER SECTIONS 30(1A) AND (2A) NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES (UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT).

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID RATEPAYERS SHOULD PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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LOCAL PUBLICATIONS OF VERY HIGH STANDARD

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THE 20 WINNING ENTRIES OF THE "URBAN COUNCIL BIENNIAL AWARDS FOR THE BEST PRODUCED BOOKS IN HONG KONG 1986-1987" HAVE A VERY HIGH STANDARD IN THE INTEGRITY OF DESIGN, LAYOUT, ILLUSTRATIONS, COLOUR REPRODUCTION, PRINTING, DECORATION, PAPER AND BINDING, ACCORDING TO THE JUDGES FOR THE AWARDS.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES AND CERTIFICATES, URBAN COUNCILLOR MISS FOK PUI-YEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT "TO SELECT 10 BEST PRODUCED BOOKS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE RESPECTIVELY OUT OF SOME 12 000 REGISTERED BOOKS IS NO EASY JOB AT ALL."

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL INTRODUCED THE AWARD SCHEME WITH THE OBJECTIVES TO RECOGNISE THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LOCAL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRIES, TO ENCOURAGE AN EVEN HIGHER STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE IN BOOK PRODUCTION, AND TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN GOOD QUALITY BOOKS."

THE TITLES OF THE WINNING ENGLISH BOOKS ARE "BELLE CUISINE", "CHINA (THE LONG MARCH)", "CLASSIC CHINESE FURNITURE", "5,000 YEARS OF CHINESE COSTUMES", "GLASS: ART NOUVEAU TO ART DECO", "THE POPULATION ATLAS OF CHINA", "THE TOP END OF DOWN UNDER", "TREASURES OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY", "THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT COLOUR BOOKS" AND "THE YELLOW RIVER, A 5,000 YEARS JOURNEY THROUGH CHINA".

THE 10 WINNING CHINESE BOOKS ARE "XI'AN CHINA'S ANCIENT CAPITAL FOR A THOUSAND YEARS", "CHINESE PATTERNS THROUGH THE AGES", "THE CHINESE RICE BOOK", "THE ILLUSTRATED 500 LO HAN VOLUME ONE", "ANTARCTIC FANTASY", "CHILDREN'S DRAWING", "BUDDHIST ART OF THE TIBETAN PLATEAU", "THE FOUR WELL-KNOWN MOUNTAINS", "YELLOW RIVER -- THE CHINESE HEARTLAND FROM THE AIR" AND "CHINESE GOLD FISH".

THE COUNCILLOR SAID, "THE BOOK 'CHINESE PORCELAIN, THE S.C. KO TIANMINLOU COLLECTION' PUBLISHED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IS CONSIDERED BY THE JUDGES AS A PUBLICATION OF REFINED QUALITY WHICH SHOULD BE PRESENTED WITH AN AWARD."

BUT SINCE THE COUNCIL WAS THE ORGANISER OF THE SCHEME, IT WAS PROPOSED, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THAT AN ADDITIONAL AWARD SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLISHER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

THE 21 BOOKS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE CITY HALL PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UNTIL JULY 20.

TO SHOW THE WORLD HONG KONG'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRIES, THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE EXQUISITE BOOKS, TOGETHER WITH SOME COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS, TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE WORLD-RENOWNED FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR IN OCTOBER.

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UC'S \$65.1 MILLION KOWLOON CITY COMPLEX

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S \$65.1 MILLION KOWLOON CITY MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR PETER C.K. CHAN, WILL UNVEIL A PLAQUE TO MARK ITS OPENING, WHILE THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, WILL PERFORM RIBBON-DRESSING FOR THE LION PRIOR TO A LION DANCE. EYE-DOTTING WILL BE PERFORMED BY KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN MR WONG SIK-KONG.

APART FROM A MODERN MARKET, THE COMPLEX PROVIDES A LIBRARY, A MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR GAMES HALL, A DANCE ROOM, A TABLE TENNIS AREA, THREE AIR-CONDITIONED SQUASH COURTS AND A COOKED-FOOD CENTRE.

THE KOWLOON CITY COMPLEX IS LOCATED AT 100 NGA TSUN WAI ROAD, BETWEEN HAU WONG ROAD AND NGA TSIN LONG ROAD.

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CURTAIN RAISER FOR TUEN MUN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

* * * * *

MORE THAN 1,000 GIRL GUIDES AND BROWNIES WILL PROVIDE A ROUSING CURTAIN-RAISER TO THE 1988 TUEN MUN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WHEN THEY STAGE AN OUTDOOR CHALLENGE DAY AT THE TUEN MUN TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND ON SATURDAY (JULY 9).

AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 16, THE GIRL GUIDES WILL PERFORM A FOLK DANCE, WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC JOINING IN, AND BROWNIES WILL SING AND DANCE.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL FORM TEAMS FOR A KITE DESIGN COMPETITION IN WHICH THEY WILL DISPLAY THEIR CREATIVITY AND TALENT.

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE FREE TO CHOOSE ANY MATERIAL AND COLOUR TO DESIGN THE KITES ON-THE-SPOT, AND THEN FLY THEM. A PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL FOLLOW.

THE GIRL GUIDES OUTDOOR CHALLENGE DAY WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM, AND ADMISSION TO THE VENUE IS FREE.

A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IS SCHEDULED FOR 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

/OFFICIATING AT

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OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR TO KAM-CHOW; DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR STEPHEN LAM; DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER, MR LEUNG CHIN-TONG; SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MR TAM CHUN-KIT; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN TIN-SANG.

TO COMPLEMENT PUBLICITY FOR THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, A DECORATED OPEN-TOP DOUBLE DECKER BUS WILL TOUR VARIOUS HOUSING ESTATES TO HELP GET THE THEME SONG AND THE "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY" MESSAGE ACROSS TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

PRESENTED BY THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, DISTRICT PROGRAMME COMPRISES 430 ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY 43 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS. FUNDING OF \$280,000 HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

ACTIVITIES ARE DIVIDED INTO SIX CATEGORIES: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL AND SPORTS ITEMS, CAMPING, AND COMPETITIONS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME IS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAY WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING THEIR POTENTIAL AND TO WIDEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

THE PROGRAMME WILL CLOSE WITH A FREE VARIETY SHOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 9 (FRIDAY) IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL. MUSIC, DANCE AND SPORTS PERFORMANCES WILL BE GIVEN BY LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENTERTAIN RESIDENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1988 TUEN MUN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 9) AT THE TUEN MUN TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND. YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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/19

NEED FOR YOUTH POLICY SUPPORTED
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A YOUTH POLICY FOR HONG KONG.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE "REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY" BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MEMBERS OF SWAC SAID THAT THE YOUTH POLICY SHOULD ENCOMPASS A SET OF PRINCIPLES AS GUIDELINES, ALLOWING FOR FLEXIBILITY IN APPLICATION.

THEY ADDED THAT NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT'S, BUT ALSO THE COMMUNITY'S, COMMITMENT TOWARDS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE EMPHASISED.

IN RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ADVISORY BODY TO HELP REVIEW THE POLICY, THEY SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A BODY SHOULD INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

THEY FURTHER INDICATED THAT SWAC WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY BODY WHEN FORMED.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY REPORT
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KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY.

MR NG SHUI-LAI, A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH POLICY, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT AND TO HEAR MEMBERS' VIEWS.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO CONSIDER SETTING UP AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO JOINTLY ORGANISE AN EYE-CARING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY WITH THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

THE ISSUE OF THE KUNG LOK ROAD HALF-WAY HOUSE PROJECT, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE IN MAY, WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT TOMORROW'S MEETING AS AGREED AT THE FULL BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 20.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINNING AT 2 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET.

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TAI PO DB VISITS SHAM WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE

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SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD, LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE SHAM WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE IN SAI KUNG NORTH.

STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ALSO JOINED THE PARTY.

THE BOARD MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT SHAM WAN WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST FISH CULTURE ZONES IN TAI PO AND ALSO A MAJOR MARICULTURE ZONE IN THE TERRITORY, HAVING AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON MARINE FISH SUPPLY.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE ZONE'S 500 FISHING POPULATION DURING THE TYPHOON SEASON, THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE OBTAINED \$350,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FOR BUILDING A TWO-STOREY SHELTER WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 90 SQUARE METRES.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS INITIATED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TO FAMILIARISE MEMBERS WITH THE OPERATIONS OF FISH CULTURE ZONES.

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DB BRIEFED ON REVISED EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE ON CLEARANCE

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH, AT A SPECIAL MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY), BRIEFED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON A REVISED EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO SQUATTER COMMERCIAL OPERATORS, AND A NEW ALLOWANCE FOR INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS, AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE WORK FOR THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT.

MR NG TOLD THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY (JULY 6), APPROVED, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, A REVISION OF THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE, ON CLEARANCE, FOR SHOPS, SCHOOLS, WORKSHOPS, GODOWNS AND ORNAMENTAL FISH BREEDING UNDERTAKINGS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

THE TOTAL ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1988-89 ARISING FROM THE NEW RATE IS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE ORDER OF \$23 MILLION. AFFECTED CLEARREES WILL BE INFORMED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED A REVISION OF THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE ON RESUMPTION FOR BUILDING LOTS UNDER THE OLD SCHEDULE IN URBAN AREAS.

/IN ADDITION,

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IN ADDITION, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVED A NEW EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS OWNING SUCH LOTS IN NEW KOWLOON UPON RESUMPTION.

AFFECTED OWNERS WILL BE INFORMED INDIVIDUALLY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE THEY WILL RECEIVE.

MR NG WILL MEET THE COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AFFECTED BY THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL CLEARANCE AT 8 PM THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING IN THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

HE WILL ALSO BRIEF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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SPEEDPOST IN INDIA EXTENDED

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THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 11, 1988, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO INDIA, WHICH IS AT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO 20 CITIES, WILL BE EXTENDED TO 17 OTHER CITIES.

THEY ARE: AGRA, BHOPAL, BHUBANESHWAR, CHANDIGARH, CUTTACK, GWALIOR, MADURAI, MANGALORE, PATNA, RAIPUR, SALEM, SHILLONG, SRINAGAR, TIRUCHIRAPALLI, TIRUPATI, TRIVANDRUM AND VIJAYAWADA.

THE 37 CITIES IN INDIA TO WHICH THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL THEN BE AVAILABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

AGARTALA	DELHI	PATNA
AGRA	GUWAHATI	PUNE
AHMEDABAD	GWALIOR	RAIPUR
BANGALORE	HYDERABAD	SALEM
BHOPAL	IMPHAL	SHILLONG
BHUBANESHWAR	INDORE	SILCHAR
BOMBAY	JAIPUR	SRINAGAR
CALCUTTA	KANPUR	TIRUCHIRAPALLI
CHANDIGARH	MADRAS	TIRUPATI
COCHIN	MADURAI	TRIVANDRUM
COIMBATORE	MANGALORE	VADODARA
CUTTACK	NAGPUR	VIJAYAWADA
		VISAKHAPATNAM

THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS AND A FREE PICK-UP SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8683868.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON MA TAU WAI ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A SHORT SECTION OF THE TWO EXISTING SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC LANES ON MA TAU WAI ROAD IMMEDIATELY TO THE SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOK YUEN STREET IN HUNG HOM WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY BETWEEN 8 PM AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO NEXT MONDAY (JULY 11).

THIS MEASURE WILL HELP THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS AT MA TAU WAI ROAD SOUTH OF HOK YUEN STREET.

SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ON MA TAU WAI ROAD HEADING FOR WUHU STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA A SHORT SECTION OF THE OUTER LANE ON EXISTING NORTHBOUND MA TAU WAI ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOK YUEN STREET.

AS CONGESTION IS EXPECTED DURING THE WORK PERIOD, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IF POSSIBLE.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TSING YI BRIDGE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 12.30 AM TO 2.30 AM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) IN ORDER TO INSPECT THE STRUCTURE OF THE BRIDGE.

THE BRIDGE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED FROM 6.30 AM TO 7.30 AM AND FROM 3 PM TO 4 PM ON THE SAME DAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE BRIDGE WILL BE RE-OPENED TO GENERAL TRAFFIC AT A FIVE-MINUTE INTERVAL AND IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1988

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN WAN CHAI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TAK YAN STREET BETWEEN WAN CHAI ROAD AND OI KWAN ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10).

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS FOR ELECTRIC CABLE WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WAN CHAI ROAD HEADING FOR OI KWAN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WOOD ROAD AND WING CHEUNG STREET.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN TO KWA WAN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY LOK SHAN ROAD, TO KWA WAN ROAD, MA TAU KOK ROAD, KOWLOON CITY ROAD, SUNG WONG TOI ROAD AND THE SEAFRONT.

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