DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR RETURNS

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THE FACT THAT NO DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN, SAID THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, ON HIS ARRIVAL IN THE TERRITORY THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SIR EDWARD WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, AND THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS SIR EDWARD SAID:

+WE HAVE HAD, AS USUAL, ANOTHER TWO BUSY AND USEFUL DAYS. YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT THIS TIME WE DIDN'T ANNOUNCE THE DATES OF THE NEXT SEPTEMBER ROUND. BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN THAT. WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, AIMING TO COMPLETE OUR WORK BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

+THE TWO WORKING GROUPS ARE VERY BUSY AND HARD AT IT AND SO WE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD MAINTAIN A BIT OF FLEXIBILITY THIS TIME AND NOT FIX THE EXACT DATES STRAIGHT AWAY. BUT THERE IS REALLY NOTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT, IT IS JUST MAINTAINING A BIT OF FLEXIBILITY SO THAT WE CAN DECIDE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK IN THE WORKING GROUPS ETCETERA. AND, IN THE MEANWHILE, OF COURSE, WE SHALL BE MAKING ANOTHER VISIT TO LONDON WITH OUR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES. WE SHALL BE LEAVING FAIRLY EARLY IN THE WEEK, I EXPECT, AND WE WILL BE BACK BY THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND. I THINK THAT IS ABOUT ALL I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS EVENING.+

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EXPORT PRICES RISE

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PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS, AND TOTAL EXPORTS ALL ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 16 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH PRICES FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983.

MEANWHILE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS ALSO ROSE BY 16 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) REMAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN THE FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR, A CENSUS AND STATISTICS SPOKESMAN REVEALED TODAY.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 25 PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 34 PER CENT, SO THAT A 28 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT, HE SAID.

/A COMPARISON .....

A COMPARISON OF FIGURES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE THIS YEAR WITH THOSE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1983 SHOWED THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 15 PER CENT AND THOSE OF IMPORTS BY 17 PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, ON AVERAGE, INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT AND 29 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT A 24 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, A 17 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM SIX PER CENT FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS AS WELL AS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS TO 22 PER CENT FOR CLOTHING.

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+74 PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+43 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (+34 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+28 PER CENT), RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+26 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (+22 PER CENT), CLOTHING AND METAL MANUFACTURES (BOTH +20 PER CENT). HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN EXPORT VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-25 PER CENT).

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, RANGING FROM 10 PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 20 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD, BOVINE ANIMALS, VEGETABLES, SUGAR, CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR, LIVE POULTRY AS WELL AS WHEAT AND FLOUR. HOWEVER, INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TEA AND COFFEE, MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS AND SWINE.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES BEING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CLOTHING, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS, HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AND PASSENGER MOTOR CARS. HOWEVER, A SLIGHT DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR WATCHES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST OF THE RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE.

/BIG INCREASES .....

BIG INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN MAN-MADE FIBRES, YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS, SILK FABRICS, LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS, SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRIC FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE, COTTON YARN AND THREAD, IRON AND STEEL, RAW COTTON, PAPER AND PAPER BOARD, WOVEN COTTON FABRICS, WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR, WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK, AS WELL AS CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS.

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND BUILDING MATERIALS, EXCEPT GLASS, DROPPED SLIGHTLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY ONE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, THE MORE REMARKABLE ONES BEING OFFICE MACHINES AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY.

AS SHOWN IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, RANGING FROM THREE PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 49 PER CENT FOR BOTH CAPITAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+ WHICH WILL BE ON SALE LATER THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$2 EACH.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RELEVANT TABLES:

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUN. 1984 WITH JAN.-JUN. 1983 OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING	+47%	+22%	+20%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+47%	+20%	+22%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+50%	+17%	+28%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+32%	+14%	+16%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	+43%	+14%	+26%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+84%	+ 6%	+74%
FOOTWEAR	+58%	+18%	+34%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+40%	+16%	+20%

/METAL ORES .....

METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-18%	+10%	-25%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+13%	+ 6%	+ 7%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	+36%	+20%	+14%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+61%	+13%	+43%
ALL COMMODITIES	+45%	+16%	+25%

TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUN. 1984 WITH JAN.-JUN. 1983 OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+14%	+17%	- 2%
CONSUMER GOODS	+31%	+15%	+14%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+52%	+20%	+27%
FUELS	+10%	+10%	- 1%
CAPITAL GOODS	+48%	+12%	+32%
ALL COMMODITIES	+39%	+16%	+19%

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUN. 1984 WITH JAN.-JUN. 1983 OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+22%	+18%	+ 3%
CONSUMER GOODS	+37%	+14%	+21%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+79%	+20%	+49%
FUELS	+50%	+17%	+28%
CAPITAL GOODS	+67%	+12%	+49%
ALL COMMODITIES	+55%	+16%	+34%

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BOARD TO DISCUSS RENTS

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE RECENT RENT INCREASES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AT THE MEETING AN APPLICATION BY THE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS ASSOCIATION FOR A GRANT TO MEET PART OF THE DECORATION EXPENSES FOR THE ORGANISATION'S NEW PREMISES WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR ENDORSEMENT.

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INTELPOST SERVICES GROW

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THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC POST (INTELPOST) NETWORK FROM HONG KONG WILL BE EXTENDED TO ARGENTINA AND PORTUGAL ON SEPTEMBER 10.

FROM THAT DAY, INTELPOST ITEMS POSTED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE DELIVERED THE SAME DAY IN BUENOS AIRES, LISBON, PORTO, FUNCHAL AND PONTA DELGADA. ITEMS FOR OTHER PARTS OF ARGENTINA AND PORTUGAL WILL BE DELIVERED THE NEXT WORKING DAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID: +INTELPOST IS SIMPLICITY ITSELF AND IS IDEAL FOR SENDING URGENTLY-NEEDED LETTERS, REPORTS, CHARTS, DRAWING QUOTATIONS OR CONTRACTS NOT ONLY TO ARGENTINA AND PORTUGAL BUT TO 12 OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE USA.

+THE DOCUMENTS -- WHICH ARE HANDLED WITH CARE AND CONFIDENTIALITY -- ARE SCANNED, CONVERTED INTO HIGH-SPEED ELECTRONIC IMPULSES AND TRANSMITTED DIRECT TO THE RECEIVING STATION IN THE DISTANT COUNTRY.+

HE SAID INTELPOST COMBINED THE TRANSMISSION SPEED OF TELEX WITH THE REPRODUCTIVE QUALITY OF A PHOTOCOPIER. DOCUMENTS WERE FAITHFULLY REPRODUCED IN BLACK AND WHITE AND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE IN A MATTER OF HOURS.

IN ARGENTINA AND PORTUGAL, THE COPY SENT FROM HONG KONG WILL BE SEALED AND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE BY SPECIAL MESSENGER OR NORMAL POST OFFICE SERVICES, DEPENDING ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SENDER. ALTERNATIVELY, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR COLLECTION FROM A POST OFFICE.

/CHARGES FOR .....

CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE TO ARGENTINA AND PORTUGAL WILL BE:

	ARGENTINA	PORTUGAL
FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER	$60	$65
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME	$35	$30

INTELPOST SERVICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE USA, FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA, BELGIUM, MACAU AND QATAR. THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC POST IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLIC ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICES, AND IS GROWING RAPIDLY.

+INTELPOST IS IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAIL SERVICES IN HONG KONG IN VIEW OF THE TERRITORY'S IMPORTANCE AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD, AND IN ADDITION TO BEING A VERY IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CITY IN THE FAR EAST,+ ADDED THE POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN.

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE MAY POST THEIR DOCUMENTS AT EITHER THE GENERAL POST OFFICE OR THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, 10 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI. IF THEY ALREADY HAVE A FACSIMILE MACHINE IN THEIR OFFICES, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO TRANSMIT THEIR ITEMS DIRECT TO THE POST OFFICE INTELPOST TERMINAL IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTELPOST REPRESENTATIVE ON 5-2671148.

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GOVERNOR TO TAKE AUXILIARY POLICE JUBILEE SALUTE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE SILVER JUBILEE PARADE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, WONG CHUK HANG, ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 7) EVENING.

HE WILL ALSO CONVEY A MESSAGE FROM PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, HONORARY COMMANDANT GENERAL OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE.

THE CEREMONY INCLUDES THE PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASP TO THE COLONIAL SPECIAL CONSTABULARY MEDAL TO 12 OFFICERS.

/THE ACTING .....

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING, THE COMMANDANT (AUXILIARY), MR NYLON TS'O AND SENIOR AUXILIARY OFFICERS WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

ON PARADE WILL BE SEVEN CONTINGENTS FROM VARIOUS AUXILIARY FORMATIONS, WHILE THE AUXILIARY POLICE PIPE BAND AND THE SILVER BANDS OF THE REGULAR FORCE WILL PLAY MUSIC.

WHILE 1984 CELEBRATES THE SILVER JUBILEE OF AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1959, THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG'S VOLUNTARY POLICING GOES BACK TO 1914 WHEN A POLICE RESERVE WAS FORMED TO REPLACE THE REGULAR OFFICERS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR I.

WITHIN A FEW MONTHS 352 MEN, BOTH CHINESE AND RESIDENT EXPATRIATES, WERE SWORN IN AND, BY 1916, THE FORCE GREW TO A STRENGTH OF 575.

IN 1925, IT WAS MOBILISED AGAIN TO DEAL WITH A LOCAL SEAMEN'S STRIKE AND TO STOP THE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

IN THE IMMEDIATE PRE-WAR YEARS, MORE AND MORE MEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE JOINED THE POLICE RESERVE, WHICH REACHED A STRENGTH OF 1 000 BY 1941. AT THIS TIME A SECOND AUXILIARY FORCE -- THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY -- WAS ESTABLISHED.

BOTH FORCES PERFORMED WITH GREAT BRAVERY AND DEDICATION DURING THE JAPANESE INVASION.

IN 1959, THE TWO FORCES WERE AMALGAMATED AND BECAME THE HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE.

AT PRESENT, THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HAS AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 5 435, WITH ITS MEMBERS SERVING IN 30 FORMATIONS, INCLUDING LAND DIVISIONS, EMERGENCY UNITS, SPECIAL DUTY COMPANIES, MARINE DIVISIONS, COMMUNICATIONS UNITS, A TRAFFIC FORMATION AND A HEADQUARTERS UNIT.

THE AUXILIARY FORCE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REGULAR FORCE. ITS MEMBERS WORK ALONGSIDE THEIR FULL-TIME COUNTERPARTS, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN DAY-TO-DAY CONSTABULARY DUTIES AND INTERNAL SECURITY SUPPORT DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

BOTH FORCES WERE AWARDED THE TITLE ''ROYAL'' FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND DEDICATION DURING THE 1967 CONFRONTATION.

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NEW RESERVOIR AT JORDAN VALLEY

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A $3.7 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD A SALT WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR AT JORDAN VALLEY, KWUN TONG, TO REPLACE AN EXISTING RESERVOIR IN THE AREA WHICH HAS TO MAKE WAY FOR A CONTROLLED TIP.

THE NEW RESERVOIR, WITH A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 7 500 CUBIC METRES, WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF REINFORCED CONCRETE.

IT WILL PROVIDE PART OF THE FLUSHING WATER SYSTEM FOR NGAU TAU KOK AND KOWLOON BAY AREAS. THE SALT WATER WILL BE DRAWN BY THE SHUM WAN SHAN SALT WATER PUMPING STATION.

THE CONTRACT, AWARDED TO YICK HING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, ALSO INCLUDES THE LAYING OF 330 METRES OF SALT WATER MAINS FROM THE PUMPING STATION TO THE SERVICE RESERVOIR.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH AND TAKE ABOUT 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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ANTI-DRUG DRIVE OFF TO A 'BUS START'

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THIS YEAR'S ANTI-DRUG DRIVE WENT ON THE ROADS TODAY WITH THE LAUNCHING OF SEVEN COLOURFULLY PAINTED KMB BUSES WHICH WILL CARRY THE MESSAGE TO PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

SETTING OFF THE PROMOTION EFFORT AT THE MEI FOO SUN CHUEN TERMINUS WERE MR GORDON MORTIMER, COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, AND MR KARL STUMPF, CHAIRMAN OF THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE, ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

THEY ALSO SAT AS THE FIRST PASSENGERS ON A BUS, WHICH LIKE THE OTHER BUSES, CARRIES A DESIGN DEPICTING A SUNNY SKY WITH BIRDS FLYING OVER A FLOWERY BACKGROUND AND BEARS THE EIGHT-CHARACTER CHINESE INSCRIPTION: +HEALTH COMES FIRST, DON'T TAKE DRUGS+.

A +HIGH VISIBILITY AND HARD-SELL APPROACH WILL BE ADOPTED DURING THIS YEAR'S ANTI-NARCOTICS DRIVE TO GENERATE MAXIMUM PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DRUG DANGER THROUGH CONCENTRATED USE OF THE MASS MEDIA,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID.

+AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR ON-GOING PREVENTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME, THE CAMPAIGN WILL STRESS THE HARD FACTS OF WHAT DRUGS ABUSE ACTUALLY DOES TO THE HUMAN BODY AND HOW IT DESTROYS HEALTH. THE DESIGN AND MESSAGES ON THE BUS PANELS TIE IN VERY WELL WITH THE HEALTH EMPHASIS AS AGAINST THE EVILS OF DRUG ABUSE,+ HE SAID.

/THE MEDIA .....

THE MEDIA COMPONENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL INCLUDE RADIO AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST, MTR AND KCR ADVERTISING POSTERS, LEAFLETS, AND OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL WHICH WILL BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+THE CAMPAIGN WILL ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES' MOBILE STREET THEATRE PERFORMANCES,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN THANKED KMB FOR PROVIDING THE SEVEN BUSES TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PUBLICITY DRIVE.

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BOARD TO MEET

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 7) AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN KWONG FUK ROAD.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN THE DISTRICT AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES.

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STUDENTS URGED TO USE DENTAL SERVICE

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ALL PRIMARY 1 TO 4 SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE.

THE SERVICE, STARTED IN 1980 BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AIMS TO PROVIDE ROUTINE DENTAL TREATMENT AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF GENERAL EDUCATION, AND URGED HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE SCHEME AND ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO TAKE PART.

+IN ORDER TO JOIN THE SCHEME, PARENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THE NECESSARY APPLICATION FORMS, CONSENT FORMS AND MEDICAL HISTORY RECORD FORMS AND RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO RETURN THE COMPLETED FORMS TO THE PRINCIPAL OF THE TANG SHIU KIN DENTAL THERAPISTS TRAINING SCHOOL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29.

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TOLO HARBOUR SWIM

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THE 17TH CROSS-TOLO HARBOUR SWIMMING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT TAI PO ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 9).

COMPETITORS WILL START THE SWIM AT 10.30 AM FROM SHA LAN BEACH TO THE TAI MEI TUK WATER SPORTS CENTRE.

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RAIN-GAUGES SERVE MANY FUNCTIONS

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HONG KONG HAS THE DENSEST NETWORK OF RAIN-GAUGES IN THE WORLD, REFLECTING THE IMPORTANCE OF RAINFALL DATA TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENGINEERING DESIGN.

OF THE 178 RAIN-GAUGES INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, MORE THAN 60 ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE URBAN AREAS, SAID A SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR LAM CHIU-YING.

THE NETWORK INCLUDES 53 AUTOMATIC RAIN-GAUGES, WHICH FEED DATA VIA TELEPHONE LINES TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY COMPUTER EVERY FIVE MINUTES. SOME OF THE INSTRUMENTS ARE MANAGED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE TO MONITOR STEEP SLOPES AND HILLSIDES WHERE HEAVY RAINS COULD CAUSE LANDSLIPS.

WITHIN THE NEXT 10 MONTHS, 12 AUTOMATIC RAIN-GAUGES WILL BE INSTALLED IN REMOTE PLACES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS.

+RAINFALL DATA COLLECTED THROUGH THE NETWORK HAVE VARIOUS APPLICATIONS,+ SAID MR LAM WHO HEADS THE OBSERVATORY'S RESEARCH AND RECORDS DIVISION.

RAINFALL MEASUREMENTS ARE USED AS THE BASIS FOR ISSUING FLOOD AND LANDSLIP WARNINGS SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY TAKE PRECAUTIONS IN ADVANCE.

DATA ON RAINFALL INTENSITY ARE USED BY ENGINEERS TO CALCULATE THE ACCUMULATION OF WATER IN DRAINAGE DESIGN.

+THE OBSERVATORY IS OFTEN APPROACHED FOR COMMENTS ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS, INCLUDING URBAN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN THE NORTH-WEST BASIN OF THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

DRAINAGE DESIGN, HE STRESSED, IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THIS BASIN, THE LARGEST IN HONG KONG, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 700 000 PEOPLE.

/+RAINFALL DATA .....

+RAINFALL DATA ALSO ASSIST IN THE SITING AND DESIGNING OF RESERVOIRS AND CATCHMENT AREAS, AS WELL AS IN WATER QUALITY CONTROL STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

+BOOKS LIKE 'PROBABLE MAXIMUM RAINFALL IN HONG KONG' AND 'A DESIGN RAINSTORM PROFILE FOR HONG KONG' PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, HAVE PROVED VERY USEFUL TO LOCAL CONSULTANCY AND ENGINEERING FIRMS,+ MR LAM SAID.

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND CRIMINAL CASES ALSO MAKE USE OF RAINFALL RECORDS.

+DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS, CERTIFIED DOCUMENTS OF PAST RAINFALL DATA ARE GIVEN AS COURT EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE CASES,+ HE SAID.

SUCH CERTIFIED DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO USED IN SETTLING DISPUTES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THESE DISPUTES, INVOLVING BUILDING CONTRACTORS, HOUSING AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT WORKS DEPARTMENTS, ARISE FROM WET WEATHER, CAUSING DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION WORK.

+IN CASE A CONSIGNMENT BY SEA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED THROUGH NEGLIGENCE DURING RAINY DAYS, INSURANCE FIRMS ALSO APPROACH US FOR RAINFALL RECORDS FOR VERIFICATION.

+THE OBSERVATORY HANDLES AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 300 REQUESTS FOR CERTIFIED RAINFALL DOCUMENTS,+ MR LAM SAID.

TO MEET SHIPPING, AVIATION, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC NEEDS, RAINFALL MEASUREMENTS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER WEATHER DATA, ARE AVAILABLE IN WEATHER BULLETINS AND FORECASTS.

IT IS STILL NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE RELIABLE LONG-TERM RAINFALL FORECASTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

+RAINFALL FORECASTING BEYOND A MONTH OR SO CAN ONLY BE DONE BY USING STATISTICAL AND EMPIRICAL METHODS.

+THE REASON IS THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT NO SATISFACTORY ANALYTICAL METHOD TO ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RAINFALL AND VARIOUS PHYSICAL PHENOMENA IN SUCH A TIME SCALE.

+EVEN IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES, LONG-TERM RAINFALL FORECASTING BASED ON PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES AND USING SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS IS STILL IN ITS EMBRYONIC STAGE,+ MR LAM SAID.

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STUDY TOUR FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

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FIVE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE NEXT WEEK TO STUDY IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, NETHERLANDS AND WEST GERMANY.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FIVE OFFICERS -- MRS PEGGY DEE, MR LI YAT-MING, MR CHUI CHE-YAU, MRS LANDIS TSE AND MR CHOW KWOK-CHEUN, WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF CONTROL POINTS, IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

AT A BRIEFING SESSION FOR THE FIVE OFFICERS TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, SAID HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OFFICERS OF HIS DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND ALSO LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

MR CARTER SAID HE HOPED THE TRIP WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE OFFICERS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS OF OVERSEAS VISITORS THEY MEET IN THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK.

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BEACH CARNIVAL AT TUEN MUN

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TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND A VARIETY SHOW AS PART OF THE 1984 BEACH CARNIVAL ON OLD CAFETERIA BEACH THIS SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 8).

THE TWO-HOUR PROGRAMME, WHICH IS PART OF THE CLEAN TUEN MUN CAMPAIGN WILL START FROM 2.30 PM AND FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY TELEVISION ARTISTS, SINGING AND A BREAKDANCE DEMONSTRATION.

THE CARNIVAL WILL CONVEY THE MESSAGE +KEEP TUEN MUN CLEAN+. ABOUT 1 000 RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TOWN ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

PRIOR TO THE CARNIVAL, A BEACH-CLEANING EXERCISE WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY ABOUT 60 SCHOOL CHILDREN.

SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, THE CARNIVAL IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE CLEAN TUEN MUN CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE.

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