DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1979

CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1979 1

BILL ON RAISING WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS GAZETTED 2

HK OFFICIALS TO MEET IN LONDON 3

YUEN LONG EXHIBITION PROVES POPU.AR 4

HANDICAPPED HAILED AS MILESTONE 5

TWO BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS 6

PHOTOGRAPH FOR ID RE-REGISTRATION 7

HOW TO EVALUATE FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS 7

PART OF PALM STREET TO BE REBUILT 8

1979 EEC GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES 8

+GOOD CITIZEN AWARD+ PRESENTATION CEREMONY 9

Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1979

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1979.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED DURING DECEMBER 1978 AND JANUARY THIS YEAR, GATHERED MAINLY FROM MANUFACTURERS THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WHOLE OF 1979 ABOUT MARKET DEMAND, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, MATERIAL PRICES, CAPACITY UTILISATION AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERED 524 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 100 OR MORE PEOPLE IN 10 MAJOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND 57 LARGEST CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE SURVEY WAS ONE OF A SERIES OF ENQUIRIES DESIGNED TO OBTAIN INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC PROSPECTS IN HONG KONG.

+RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WERE ONE OF THE MANY SOURCES OF INFORMATION THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE) USED IN DRAWING UP HIS ECONOMIC FORECASTS IN THE BUDGET SPEECH,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+AS THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF THE ECONOMY IS SUCH THAT RESPONDENTS IN THE SURVEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PREDICT ACCURATELY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE YEAR TO COME,+ HE SAID, +RESULTS OF THE SURVEY SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION.+

HE ADDED THAT IN THE SURVEY ON ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1978, FOR EXAMPLE, THE VIEWS GIVEN BY RESPONDENTS, COMPARED WITH THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY THAT YEAR, TURNED OUT TO BE SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE.

AS FAR AS PROSPECTS FOR 1979 ARE CONCERNED, MANUFACTURERS EXPECTED AN OVERALL GROWTH RATE (COMPARED WITH 1978) OF SIX PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, IN BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS DEMAND FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES THEY PRODUCE.

THEY THOUGHT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S EXPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LESS THAN SIX PER CENT BUT THAT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD BE HIGHER THAN THIS FIGURE.

MANUFACTURERS ALSO EXPECTED THAT PERFORMANCE IN THE ELECTRONICS, PLASTICS, FOOD PRODUCTS AND WATCHES INDUSTRIES IN 1979 WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER THAN THAT IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, THE TWO LARGEST INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THEY EXPECTED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT BY SIX PER CENT IN 1979 OVER THE LEVEL LAST YEAR.

THEY FELT THAT THE LABOUR MARKET WOULD REMAIN TIGHT IN 1979. IN FACT, 44 PER CENT OF THE MANUFACTURERS ENUMERATED CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT ADDITIONAL WORKERS THIS YEAR WHILE ANOTHER 48 PER CENT FELT THAT RECRUITMENT WOULD BE JUST AS DIFFICULT AS IN 1978.

/CONSISTENT .....

CONSISTENT WITH THIS VIEW, THEY EXPECTED WAGE RATES IN 1979 TO AVERAGE NINE PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1978. THE SAME PERCENTAGE INCREASE WAS ENVISAGED FOR THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES. BUT THEY EXPECTED EXPORT PRICES OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO INCREASE LESS, BY SEVEN PER CENT.

PRODUCTION WAS EXPECTED TO RUN AT 89 PER CENT AGAINST THE TOTAL CAPACITY DURING 1979, COMPARED WITH AN 87 PER CENT CAPACITY UTILISATION ATTAINED IN 1978. AT THE TIME OF SURVEY, MANUFACTURERS RECKONED THAT THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY, IN RESPECT OF BOTH MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND FACTORY AREAS, WOULD EXPAND BY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT THIS YEAR.

CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EXPECTED PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS WOULD, IN 1979, AVERAGE 12 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1978. THEY ALSO EXPECTED WAGE RATES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TO SHOW SIMILAR INCREASES.

MACHINE CAPACITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED WOULD PROBABLY EXPAND BY EIGHT PER CENT AND THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE BY 10 PER CENT THIS YEAR.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS TO RESPONDENTS IN THE SURVEY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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BILL ON RAISING WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS GAZETTED

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THE WAGE CEILING ON NON-MANUAL WORKERS COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WILL BE RAISED IF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1979, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), PROPOSES TO RAISE THE PRESENT CEILING UNDER THE ORDINANCE FROM $2,000 TO $3,500 A MONTH.

HOWEVER, FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAY, THE BILL PROPOSES TO REGARD THE MONTHLY WAGES OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS AS LIMITED TO $3,000 OR THE ACTUAL WAGES, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +SINCE WAGES HAVE RISEN, MAINLY BECAUSE OF COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS, A NUMBER OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS PREVIOUSLY ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND BENEFITS OF THE ORDINANCE HAVE NOW BECOME EXCLUDED FROM ITS COVERAGE.

+ACCORDING TO A REVIEW OF THE WAGE CEILING, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE INCREASE IN WAGES BETWEEN JULY 1973 AND JUNE 1978 WAS ABOUT 54 PER CENT.

/+THEREFORE, ...

+THEREFORE, BASED ON THIS PERCENTAGE, THE EXISTING WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL WORKERS SHOULD BE RAISED TO PROVIDE COVERAGE AGAIN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EITHER BECOME 'DISENFRANCHISED' DUE TO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN WAGES OVER THIS PERIOD OR WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF PERIODIC WAGE ADJUSTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE LAST INCREASE IN THE WAGE CEILING UNDER THE ORDINANCE WAS IN APRIL 1974 WHEN IT WAS RAISED FROM $1,500 TO $2,000 PER MONTH.

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HK OFFICIALS TO MEET IN LONDON

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. DAVID JORDAN LEFT FOR LONDON TODAY (FRIDAY) TO HOLD HIS ANNUAL LIAISON MEETING WITH HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVES OVERSEAS.

THE TWO-DAY MEETING WILL COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WHICH FALL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES. ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE HONG KONG OFFICIALS FROM THE LONDON, BRUSSELS, GENEVA AND WASHINGTON OFFICES.

ALSO ATTENDING WILL BE HONG KONG'S DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS WHO WENT TO EUROPE LAST MONTH TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND SWEDISH OFFICIALS ON HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILES.

WHILE IN LONDON, MR. JORDAN WILL MEET THE BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, MR. JOHN SMITH AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

DURING THE WEEK-LONG VISIT, MR. JORDAN WILL ALSO ADDRESS A JOINT MEETING OF THE ANGLO-HONG KONG AND TEXTILES PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. HE WILL ALSO HAVE TALKS WITH THE BRITISH TEXTILE CONFEDERATION AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT.

FROM LONDON HE WILL TRAVEL TO GENEVA TO CALL ON THE HONG KONG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE THERE, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD).

FROM GENEVA MR. JORDAN WILL GO TO BRUSSELS WHERE HE WILL MEET THE EEC VICE-PRESIDENT, MR. WILHELM HAFEKAMP AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, SIR ROY DENMAN, BOTH OF WHOM VISITED HONG KONG LAST OCTOBER.

MR. JORDAN WILL VISIT WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER TALKS BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 26.

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YUEN LONG EXHIBITION PROVES POPULAR

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL HAS BEEN A BIG HIT WITH LOCAL PEOPLE.

SINCE ITS OPENING ON MONDAY (MARCH 5) THE EXHIBITION -- ENTITLED +YUEN LONG: THE SPIRIT OF PROGRESS+ -- HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 3,000 VISITORS DAILY FROM YUEN LONG ITSELF AND OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IT HAS PROVED TO BE MOST POPULAR WITH LOCAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAVE TURNED OUT IN FORCE TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO THE TOWN WHICH HAS GROWN IN POST-WAR YEARS FROM A TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING CENTRE TO A THRIVING MINI-METROPOLIS.

PRODUCED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND DESIGNED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, THE EXHIBITION IS A PICTORIAL EASSY ON THE DISTRICT'S PAST, ITS GROWTH AND ITS PLANS FOR THE NEXT DECADE.

IT HAS 20 LARGE PHOTOGRAPHIC MURALS ON EACH AND EVERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF YUEN LONG MOUNTED ON A 18-FOOT-HIGH PAGODA-LIKE STRUCTURE AND LIT BY SPOTLIGHTS.

FITTED INTO THE STRUCTURE IS A SCALE MODEL OF THE FUTURE TOWN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SPEND $726 MILLION TO DEVELOP AS ONE OF THE SIX NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ONE VISITORS, 40-YEAR-OLD CHAN SIU-WAH, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) : +THIS IS THE BEST EXHIBITION I HAVE EVER BEEN TO IN MY SIX YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN YUEN LONG.

+IT IS VERY INFORMATIVE. VIEWING THE EXHIBITS IS JUST AS ENLIGHTENING AS READING A 50-PAGE BOOK ABOUT THE DISTRICT. AND THE STRUCTURE IS SO SUPERBLY DESIGNED THAT WHEN I FIRST ENTERED THE EXHIBITION HALL, I COULD SENSE THE 'FEELING' OF YUEN LONG.+

ANOTHER VISITOR, 14-YEAR-OLD FORM II STUDENT, MAN KWOK-KIN SAID: +THE EXHIBITION REALLY OPENS MY EYES.

UNTIL TODAY, I NEVER KNEW THAT YUEN LONG HAS SUCH A LONG HISTORY AND THAT MY FAMILY IS CLOSELY RELATED TO MAN TIN-CHEUNG, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE SOUTHERN SUNG DYNASTY, WHO IS A HERO IN CHINESE HISTORY.

+IT HAS GIVEN ME MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND MADE ME FEEL PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MAN CLAN.+

THE VISITORS ARE ALSO FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE VARIETY AND QUANTITY OF INFORMATION MATERIAL THE ORGANISERS HAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AND FREE DISTRIBUTION.

/THE ADMINISTRATION .....

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PRODUCED A SPECIAL BI-LIGUAL BOOK TELLING THE STORY OF YUEN LONG WHICH DATES BACK MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS WHEN THE TANG FAMILY FIRST SETTLED IN KAM TIN.

A FORM III STUDENT, CHENG WAI-KEUNG WHO TOOK THE VISIT AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY REMARKED: +THEY ALL MAKE INTERESTING READING AND PROVIDE USEFUL KNOWLEDGE THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE ACQUIRED AT SCHOOL.+

THE EXHIBITION WILL REMAIN OPEN DAILY BETWEEN 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 12.

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OPENING OF PO LEUNG KUK SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED HAILED AS MILESTONE

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THE OFFICIAL OPENING TODAY (FRIDAY) OF THE PO LEUNG KUK'S CENTENARY SCHOOL FOR MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN -- THE FIRST AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOL SUBSIDISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT -- WAS HAILED AS A +MILESTONE+ BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. E.P. HO.

AND HE ADDED THAT ITS PROXIMITY TO THE PO LEUNG KUK NO.6 PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVIDED FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TO INTEGRATE SOCIALLY WITH NORMAL CHILDREN WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +ANOTHER WELL RECOGNISED OBJECTIVE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION+.

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CENTENARY SCHOOL AT CHOI WAN ESTATE MR. HO PRAISED THE PO LEUNG KUK FOR BEING THE FIRST ORGANISATION TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PLACES FOR MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

+MUCH HAS YET TO BE DONE IN THE FIELD OF REHABILITATION TO ACHIEVE THE TARGETS OF THE WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG,+ MR. HO SAID.

+WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL THIS YEAR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SCHOOL PLACES AND SERVICES FOR THE MODERATELY, AND LATER SEVERELY, MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

+WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INTERESTED IN SPONSORING SUCH PROVISIONS TO CO-OPERATE AND DISCUSS WITH US ABOUT FURTHER POSSIBILITIES.+

/MR. HO EXPRESSED .....

MR. HO EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PO LEUNG KUK FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOR SPENDING SO MUCH OF THEIR PRECIOUS TIME IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION AND WELFARE SERVICES OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE NOTED THAT THE KUK STARTED TO OPERATE SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES FOR SLOW LEARNING CHILDREN IN ITS AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 1973.

+ITS MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDRENS' SECTION IN LEIGHTON ROAD HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND THE FORM OF THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY IT RECEIVES WILL SOON CHANGE FROM A DISCRETIONARY SOCIAL WELFARE SUBVENTION TO THAT FOR AN AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN UNDER THE CODE OF AID,+ HE SAID.

+ITS CENTRE AT KWAI SHING PROVIDES TRAINING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. THE KUK ALSO OPERATES SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR HANDICAPPED ADULTS.+

MR. HO SAID PO LEUNG KUK IS ONE OF THE PIONEERING AGENCIES IN THE PROVISION OF A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

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TWO BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (FRIDAY) DECLARED NOS. 10 AND 12 CROSS STREET, HONG KONG, TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THESE FOUR-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS, HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

DURING A RECENT INSPECTION, HE SAID, IT WAS NOTED THAT NEW OUTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE REAR MAIN WALLS AND KITCHEN BLOCK HAD OCCURRED.

+AS THERE IS NOW A SERIOUS RISK OF COLLAPSE THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THESE BUILDINGS IS NECESSARY,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON MARCH 19 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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PHOTOGRAPH FOR ID RE-REGISTRATION
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WITH EFFECT FROM THURSDAY (MARCH 15) THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION WILL REQUIRE ALL ADULTS AT THE AGE OF 18 HOLDING JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO PRODUCE A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH ON RE-REGISTRATION FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS.

THE SIZE OF THE PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE 2'' X 1-1/2''.

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HOW TO EVALUATE FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS
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QUALITY, CONVENIENCE AND COST ARE THE MAIN FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN EVALUATING EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS, MR. ARTHUR BROWN, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION OF RANK XEROX DUPLICATING FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS AT THE CHINESE YMCA IN WATERLOO ROAD.

CITING AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY IN RELATION TO DUPLICATING FACILITIES, MR. BROWN SAID A BADLY REPRODUCED EXAMINATION PAPER WOULD POSE A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULTIES FOR CANDIDATES.

TURNING TO CONVENIENCE, HE LISTED SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS THE EASE OF PRODUCING THE COPIES, SIZE LIMITATION AND THE SPEED OF PRODUCTION.

COSTING, HOWEVER, REQUIRED CAREFUL CALCULATION TO SEE HOW THE PRICING FIT PARTICULAR NEEDS, MR. BROWN SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS LITTLE POINT THE COSTING COMING A LITTLE LESS PER COPY IF YOU HAVE TO MAKE MORE COPIES THAN YOU NEED TO GET THAT ADVANTAGE,+ HE SAID.

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PART OF PALM STREET TO BE REBUILT

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO REBUILD THE SECTION OF PALM STREET BETWEEN CHERRY STREET AND ANCHOR STREET IN TAI KOK TSUI SHORTLY.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK WERE INVITED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF PWD.

MR. T.D. ARMOUR, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION, SAID THE SURFACE OF PALM STREET HAD DETERIORATED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT REQUIRED FREQUENT MAINTENANCE AND THAT CAUSED DISRUPTON TO TRAFFIC AND INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

HE SAID THAT OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE TAKEN TO RECONSTRUCT FOOTWAYS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET.

IN ADDITION, MR. ARMOUR SAID, MINOR ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ROAD WORKS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE ROAD WILL BE RETAINED IN ITS EXISTING ONE-WAY DIRECTION WITH ONE TRAFFIC LANE AND ACCESS TO PREMISES BEING MAINTAINED.

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1979 EEC GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES

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CIRCULARS GIVING DETAILS OF THE 1979 EEC GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES (GSP) HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

APART FROM THE ADDITION OF A FEW ITEMS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE 1979 EEC GSP IS SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT APPLICATIONS MAY NOW BE MADE TO THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT FOR CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, FORMS A TO COVER GOODS TO BE SHIPPED TO THE EEC UNDER ITS GSP ARRANGEMENT.

COPIES OF THE CIRCULAR (CERTIFICATE OF PREFERENCE CIRCULAR NO. 2/79 DATED MARCH 9, 1979) CONTAINING DETAILS OF 1979 EEC GSP ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST COUNTER OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, GROUND FLOOR OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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+GOOD CITIZEN AWARD+ PRESENTATION CEREMONY

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THREE OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TREMENDOUSLY TOWARDS CRIME PREVENTION IN 1978 WILL BE PUBLICLY RECOGNISED AND AWARDED FREE TRIPS TO THE PHILIPPINES AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND VARIETY SHOW TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING.

MR. HAROLD KWOK, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (KOWLOON EAST) WILL OFFICIATE.

EIGHTEEN OTHERS WHO HAD ASSISTED POLICE IN DETECTING-PREVENTING CRIMES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED WITH MEDALS AND SOUVENIRS.

THE CEREMONY INCLUDES A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING MAGIC, ACROBATICS, SONGS BY THE WONG TAI SIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND DRAMA.

THE FUNCTION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (WONG TAI SIN) AND THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD PRESENTATION AT 8 P.M. TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF HO LAP COLLEGE, CHEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

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