



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1984

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PROPOSED LEGCO ELECTIONS BY FUNCTIONAL
CONSTITUENCIES EXPLAINED
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THE PROPOSAL FOR SIX MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BE ELECTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IS A SORT OF HALFWAY HOUSE BETWEEN UNRESTRICTED DISCRETION IN APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR AND ELECTION BY A MORE CONVENTIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, SAID THIS WHEN ADDRESSING THE ROTARY CLUB KOWLOON WEST LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY TO STIMULATE PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON WHETHER APPOINTED MEMBERS SHOULD BE RETAINED IN 1991.

MR BRAY EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING APPOINTED SYSTEM IS NOT ARBITRARY.

+THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A VERY BROAD CROSS SECTION OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY EVEN THOUGH THE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTED AND THE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE GOVERNOR. THEY ARE TYPICAL HONG KONG PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY IS CONCEIVED AS A CONSTITUENCY WHICH COMPRISES A SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH IS NOW REPRESENTED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE CHANGE FROM THE APPOINTED SYSTEM IS THAT THE CONSTITUENCY WILL BE DEFINED IN LAW -- THAT IS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - NOT BY THE GOVERNOR,+ HE SAID.

+THIS HAVING BEEN DONE, THEN THOSE COMPRISING THE CONSTITUENCY WILL ELECT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVE INSTEAD OF THE SELECTION BEING MADE BY THE GOVERNOR. THOSE PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY NOT INCLUDED AMONG THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM - AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT,+ HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH WORK ON THE DETAILED PROVISIONS OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WAS NOT COMPLETE, MR BRAY OUTLINED THE POSSIBILITIES BEING EXAMINED.

+IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THERE WILL BE TWO SORTS OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY - NAMELY ONE COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS AND ONE COMPOSED OF CORPORATE BODIES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE KIND OF ARRANGEMENT THAT EXISTS TODAY TO ENABLE A LARGE NUMBER OF CORPORATE BODIES TO PRODUCE A SMALL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES, MR BRAY REFERRED TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ELECTION ADOPTED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THIS NON-STATUTORY BODY PROVIDES SIX SEATS FOR LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES, FOUR OF WHICH ARE SELECTED BY ELECTION AND THE REMAINING TWO BY DIRECT APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR. EACH OF THE 385 REGISTERED EMPLOYEE TRADE UNIONS IS ENTITLED TO ONE VOTE IRRESPECTIVE OF SIZE.

/NOMINATIONS FROM

NOMINATIONS FROM ALL ELIGIBLE UNIONS ARE CALLED FOR TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTION AND THE NOMINEES NEED NOT BE FROM THE NOMINATING UNION BUT MUST BE A PAID-UP MEMBER, PAID STAFF, OR OFFICE-BEARER OF ANY OF THE ELIGIBLE UNIONS. ALL THE UNIONS ARE THEN NOTIFIED BY LETTER OF THE ELECTION DETAILS.

+ON ELECTION DAY, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE THE LETTER FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND A LETTER OF ATTORNEY FROM HIS UNION BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. VOTING IS BY SECRET BALLOT. LAST YEAR'S TURNOUT RATE WAS ABOUT 45 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THAT ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY MIGHT BE DEFINED WAS BY REFERENCE TO A STATUTORY REGISTER, SUCH AS A REGISTER OF TEACHERS MAINTAINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE.

+THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, PROBABLY NEED TO BE MORE THAN JUST TEACHERS. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE REGISTERED VOTERS FOR THE ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THIS DOES HAVE CERTAIN AGE AND RESIDENCE QUALIFICATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

HE RECOGNISED THAT THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WAS NOT AN EASY AREA, AND EXPECTED MUCH DISCUSSION WHEN DETAILED PROPOSALS WERE MADE.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNOR AS PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BE REPLACED BY A PRESIDING OFFICER ELECTED FROM AMONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS BY THE MEMBERS THEMSELVES, MR BRAY CLARIFIED A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE CAUSED SOME CONFUSION.

+IN FACT HIS ROLE IS VERY LIMITED,+ MR BRAY SAID, +THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE IS VERY MUCH MORE LIKE THAT OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.+

+HE IS THERE TO SEE FAIR PLAY. HE IS NOT THERE AS AN ADVOCATE OF ONE VIEW OR ANOTHER BUT AS A PERSON WHO ENSURES THAT THE RULES ARE FOLLOWED, THAT VOTES ARE PROPERLY TAKEN AND SO FORTH. HIS FUNCTION IS CLOSER TO THE ROLE OF A REFEREE IN A FOOTBALL MATCH THAN THAT OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE WINNING TEAM,+ MR BRAY SAID.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, THE SPEAKER IS NOT OPPOSED IN HIS CONSTITUENCY AT ELECTION TIME AND DOES NOT VOTE WHEN VOTES ARE TAKEN AND HIS PARTY CANNOT COUNT ON HIS SUPPORT IN CONTROVERSIAL DEBATES.

+QUITE THE REVERSE, HE DOES HIS BEST TO ENSURE THAT ALL SHADES OF OPINION ARE BROUGHT OUT IN DEBATE AND IN BRITAIN HE DOES THIS BY CALLING THE NAMES OF MEMBERS TO SPEAK WHEN THERE ARE SEVERAL WANTING TO SPEAK AT ONCE,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT PRESENT IS NOT VERY ONEROUS, MR BRAY NOTED THAT IF PROCEEDINGS BECOME MORE CONTROVERSIAL IN YEARS TO COME, THIS MIGHT NOT BE SO.

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+IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE - MORE ACTIVE NOT IN PUSHING THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT IN REGULATING THE PROGRESS OF DEBATE IN A FAIR WAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO SOME CRITICISM THAT THE TIME OF TWO MONTHS PLANNED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER WAS INADEQUATE, MR BRAY SPOKE AT LENGTH ON THE NUMEROUS STEPS REQUIRED FOR PLANNING AND EXECUTION TO BE IN TIME FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN JULY 1985.

THESE STEPS INVOLVE SUCH HUMDRUM ACTIVITIES AS TRANSLATION AND PRINTING OF DOCUMENTS, AND COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TIMETABLES. THEY ALSO INVOLVE CHANGES TO HONG KONG ORDINANCES AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION AND TO THE LETTERS PATENT AND ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BY THE QUEEN IN COUNCIL IN LONDON. FURTHERMORE IT WILL BE A LENGTHY PROCESS TO PREPARE THE ELECTORAL ROLLS AFTER THE LAW HAS BEEN IN PLACE.

+THIS IS A VERY TIGHT TIMETABLE. THERE IS VERY LITTLE ROOM FOR UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES OR PROLONGED ARGUMENT OVER DETAILS OF POLICY OR LAW.

+TOO MUCH RUSH WILL LEAD TO MISTAKES YET TIME SIMPLY WILL NOT ALLOW FOR PROLONGED DEBATE. THERE IS JUST TIME FOR DELIBERATE THOUGHTFUL PROGRESSION BUT NOT MUCH MORE.

+SO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ANOTHER TWO OR THREE MONTHS OVER DISCUSSIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER ARE IN FACT ASKING FOR A DELAY OF ONE YEAR IN THE START OF REFORM OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THIS IS JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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MACLEOD DISAPPOINTED WITH OUTCOME OF TALKS

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TALKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE NEW AMERICAN TEXTILE IMPORT REGULATIONS ENDED YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON, THE SECOND DAY OF THE TALKS, WITHOUT ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE U.S.

ANNOUNCING THIS, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND LEADER OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS.

+WE STATED CLEARLY AND FIRMLY THE REASONS WHY THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS ARE IN BREACH OF BOTH THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT AND THE 1982-1987 BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S. WE FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. RESCIND THE REGULATIONS.

/+DESPITE THE

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+DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS TAKING EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 7, WE WERE TOLD THAT AT THIS POINT THE U.S. WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR MAIN ARGUMENTS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO CONSIDER FURTHER THESE AND OTHER POINTS OF VIEW.

+ALTHOUGH CERTAIN QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION WERE ANSWERED THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE REGULATIONS. APPARENTLY DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO THE FINAL FORM AND CONTENT OF THE REGULATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS BEING RECEIVED.

+WE WERE ASSURED THAT THE POINTS WE HAD MADE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS REVIEW. NEVERTHELESS THE UNITED STATES STATED THAT IT WAS THE INTENTION AT THIS POINT IN TIME THAT THE INTERIM REGULATIONS WOULD GO INTO EFFECT AS PUBLISHED.+

HOWEVER, MR MACLEOD SAID THAT THE BROADER PICTURE GAVE RATHER MORE GROUNDS FOR HOPE THAN THE OUTCOME OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATION ITSELF MIGHT SUGGEST.

+THE FACT IS THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH WILL AFFECT MANY EXPORTING COUNTRIES, NOT JUST HONG KONG, AND NOT JUST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

+PERHAPS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANTLY, MANY INFLUENTIAL GROUPS IN THE U.S. ITSELF ARE AGAINST THE NEW REGULATIONS, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESSURES FROM MANY SOURCES ARE BEING EXERTED TO REVERSE THIS DECISION. THUS I HAVE CERTAINLY NOT GIVEN UP HOPE THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN,+ HE SAID.

+FOR OUR PART THE NEXT FORUM IN WHICH WE SHALL BE FORMALLY INVOLVED IN PRESSING OUR VIEWS IS THE GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE, SCHEDULED TO MEET IN GENEVA ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE, A SIGN IN ITSELF OF THE WIDESPREAD DISMAY WHICH THIS MEASURE HAS CAUSED.

+FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE NOT YET EXHAUSTED THE AVENUE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ONCE THE U.S. IS READY TO RESPOND TO OUR MAIN ARGUMENTS, OR IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

THE DELEGATION'S ADVISERS, MR STEPHEN CHEONG AND MR KENNETH FANG, TOGETHER WITH MR BILL DORWARD, THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN NEW YORK, APART FROM ADVISING THE DELEGATION, HAVE MET A CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON WHO CAN HELP TO COUNTER THE TIDE OF PROTECTIONISM.

THE ADVISERS ARE HOPEFUL THAT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACHIEVED. THEY WILL BE TRAVELLING TO NEW YORK WHERE THEY INTEND TO CONTINUE LIAISON WITH OTHER U.S. GROUPS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE COUNTER PRESSURES TO THE PROTECTIONIST FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF THESE REGULATIONS.

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TRADE BALANCES FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS
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HONG KONG'S TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES HAS IMPROVED TO THE EXTENT WHERE IT MAY NOW BE IN BALANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR ANTHONY LATTER, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCH GIVEN BY THE YOUNGER MANAGERS' CLUB OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, MR LATTER NOTED THAT THE DEFICIT IN 1982 WAS \$7 BILLION.

HE FELT THAT SINCE THAT YEAR, THERE HAD BEEN A FAVOURABLE SHIFT IN THE BALANCE OF INTEREST, PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY DEPRESSED EARNINGS IN HONG KONG AND THE DEPRECIATION OF THE LOCAL CURRENCY. THIS DEPRECIATION AUTOMATICALLY ENHANCES THE HONG KONG DOLLAR VALUE OF, FOR EXAMPLE, A GIVEN AMOUNT OF US DOLLAR INTEREST RECEIPTS.

+THUS THERE HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN HONG KONG'S CURRENT ACCOUNT WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS,+ MR LATTER SAID.

ON THE OVERALL CAPITAL ACCOUNT, MR LATTER CONCEDED THERE WAS +REASONABLY CLEAR EVIDENCE+ OF INCREASED OUTFLOWS FROM HONG KONG.

FOR INSTANCE, EXPORTERS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RETAINING MORE EARNINGS OVERSEAS THAN FORMERLY, WHILE THE INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH BANKS AND DTC'S HAD RESULTED IN SOME OVERALL OUTFLOW EVEN THOUGH PART OF THE INCREASE HAD BEEN MET BY BANKS FROM THEIR OWN SOURCES AND PART SIMPLY REPRESENTED A SHIFT INTO HONG KONG OF EXISTING FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS FROM ELSEWHERE.

+EVEN SO, THE EXTENT OF ANY OUTFLOWS SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED. THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, LIMITS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH DISINVESTMENT MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE: LOCAL ASSET VALUES HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED AND MAY HAVE DISCOURAGED REALISATIONS, AND THE SHARP FALL IN THE EXCHANGE RATE UP TO LAST SEPTEMBER AND OCCASIONAL SHARP INCREASES IN INTEREST RATES SINCE THEN HAVE ON BALANCE BEEN DETERRENT FORCES,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT ON THE OTHER SIDE, OVERSEAS INVESTMENT WAS SURELY STILL COMING INTO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS.

+GIVEN THE LEVEL OF OVERSEAS INVOLVEMENT IN THESE SECTORS AND THE PROSPECT OF PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL FORMATION RUNNING AT SOME \$45 BILLION THIS YEAR, THERE MUST SURELY STILL BE A CONSIDERABLE INFLOW OF CAPITAL ON THIS SCORE, WHETHER VIA REINVESTMENT OF EARNINGS OR NEW MONEY,+ MR LATTER SAID.

+IN SUM, THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THERE IS A FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM HONG KONG OF DESPERATE AND SEVERELY DAMAGING PROPORTIONS SHOULD BE VERY CRITICALLY CROSS-EXAMINED.

+AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY ARE GUILTY OF OVERLOOKING THE FACTS OF OUR RECENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND OF FOCUSING ON SELECTED ELEMENTS IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, WITHOUT PROPER REGARD TO THE MANY DIFFERENT PLUSES AND MINUSES WHICH FORM THE OVERALL PICTURE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, MR LATTER POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD PERFORMED IMPRESSIVELY, IN A MANNER WHICH CONTINUES TO BE THE ENVY OF THE TERRITORY'S COMPETITORS.

SOME SCARS OF A CONFIDENCE CRISIS WERE BORN BY THE FINANCIAL AND PROPERTY MARKETS, AND A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE HAD TO A DEGREE AFFECTED INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT.

+WHATEVER ANXIETIES THERE HAVE BEEN, HONG KONG HAS BY AND LARGE GOT ON WITH THE JOB OF BEING HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVERALL LIVING STANDARDS IN HONG KONG, AS MEASURED BY PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN REAL TERMS, HAD ADVANCED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

+IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1982 UNEMPLOYMENT WAS 3-1/2 PER CENT AND RISING RAPIDLY; TODAY IT IS BACK AT ABOUT 3-1/2 PER CENT AND STEADY -- A FIGURE WHICH ANYWAY PROBABLY REPRESENTS VIRTUALLY FULL EMPLOYMENT.

+IN AUGUST 1982, THE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE WAS STEADY AT AROUND 10 PER CENT; TODAY IT IS NINE PER CENT AND DECLINING.

+TODAY DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE RUNNING SOME 35 PER CENT HIGHER IN VOLUME THAN TWO YEARS AGO. THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP HAS SHRUNK FROM NINE PER CENT TO FIVE PER CENT OF THE IMPORT BILL, AND, TAKING ACCOUNT OF OUR HABITUAL SURPLUS ON TRADE IN SERVICES, IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES TOGETHER IS ACHIEVING ROUGH BALANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SEVEN YEARS,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT FIXED INVESTMENT WAS NOT SO BUOYANT AS IT SHOULD BE AT THIS POINT IN THE ECONOMIC CYCLE: AS PROPORTION OF GDP IT HAD DROPPED FROM 32 PER CENT IN 1982 TO PERHAPS 27-28 PER CENT THIS YEAR.

+BUT THIS IS STILL A HIGH FIGURE BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. MOREOVER, MUCH OF THE DECLINE HAS BEEN IN THE PROPERTY SECTOR= INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND MACHINERY THIS YEAR WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY TURN OUT TO BE HIGHER IN REAL TERMS THAN IN 1982,+ HE SAID.

MR LATTER ALSO ELABORATED ON THOSE AREAS WHERE THE RECORD WAS LESS IMPRESSIVE.

/+THUS, COMPARED

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+THUS, COMPARED WITH TWO YEARS AGO, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR NOW BUYS 24 PER CENT FEWER US DOLLARS, 27 PER CENT FEWER YEN AND 10 PER CENT FEWER DEUTSCHEMARKS. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE NET CHANGE AGAINST STERLING, AND ALTHOUGH I COULD QUOTE A NUMBER OF CURRENCIES AGAINST WHICH OURS HAS ACTUALLY STRENGTHENED, THE OVERALL POSITION IS BEST SUMMARISED BY THE TRADE-WEIGHTED INDEX, WHICH NOW STANDS SOME 19 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN AUGUST 1982.

+TWO YEARS AGO, A REDUCTION IN BEST LENDING RATE TO 12-1/2 PER CENT HAD JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED; TODAY IT STANDS AT 15 PER CENT. THEN THE HANG SENG INDEX STOOD AT 1 035; TODAY IT IS AROUND THE 900 MARK. AND IF THERE WAS A SUITABLE SUMMARY INDICATOR OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, I AM SURE THAT IT WOULD EXHIBIT A SUBSTANTIAL SETBACK,+ HE SAID.

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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS INDEX UP

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR WAS 109.1, WHICH WAS 19.2 PER CENT ABOVE THAT IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THIS INDICATED THAT INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY WAS MAINTAINED AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THE INDEX WAS 13 PER CENT BELOW THAT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1983 AND 4.2 PER CENT BELOW THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1983, AS A RESULT OF SEASONAL FACTORS.

THERE WERE SEVERAL INDUSTRIES WHOSE OUTPUT IN THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR WAS EVEN HIGHER THAN THEIR QUARTERLY AVERAGES IN 1983. THESE INCLUDED THE TOBACCO, PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE SURVEY RESULTS ALSO ENABLE ANALYSIS TO BE MADE OF THE PRODUCTION TRENDS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

ACCORDING TO THE INDEX SERIES IN 1982, THE VOLUME OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR WAS 9.5 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1981. CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHEN THE INDEX ROSE BY 7.8 POINTS OR 8.6 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER. THE TREND OF INCREASE CONTINUED INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, ENDING IN AN AVERAGE INDEX OF 100.2 FOR 1982.

THE YEAR 1983 STARTED OFF WITH AN INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF 91.5 IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THE SECOND QUARTER SAW A VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION, WITH THE INDEX RISING TO 116.0, AND FURTHER TO 122.5 AND 125.4 IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. THIS RESULTED IN AN OVERALL INDEX OF 113.9 FOR 1983.

SINCE 1977, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHING THE QUARTERLY INDEXES OF TEXTILE PRODUCTION COVERING THE SPINNING AND WEAVING INDUSTRIES. IN 1982, A NEW QUARTERLY SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WAS INITIATED WITH THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING AN INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE WHOLE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THE INDEX, WITH THE QUARTERLY OUTPUT AVERAGE OF 1981 TAKEN AS 100, IS AIMED AT PROVIDING AN UP-TO-DATE INDICATOR OF THE LEVELS AND TRENDS OF NET OUTPUT AT CONSTANT PRICES FOR INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE.

IT ALSO SUPPLEMENTS THE STATISTICS COMPILED FROM THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS WHICH PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PERFORMANCE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND COST STRUCTURE OF DIFFERENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION COVERED ALL MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 500 OR MORE PERSONS, AND A SAMPLE OF THOSE ENGAGING FEWER THAN 500 PERSONS. THE TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 AMOUNTED TO 4 000 ESTABLISHMENTS.

A SUMMARY TABLE OF THE QUARTERLY INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP, COVERING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982 TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, IS GIVEN BELOW.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, FIRST QUARTER 1982 - FIRST QUARTER 1984+.

THIS PUBLICATION IS ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-7224504.

Summary table of quarterly indexes of industrial production
by broad industry group, 1st quarter 1982 to 1st quarter 1984

(1981 = 100)

broad industry group	weight	1982	1983	1982				1983				1984
				1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
1. Food, beverages and tobacco	34.8	100.7	110.9	87.4	96.1	112.5	106.7	94.5	105.0	121.5	122.6	102.9
2. Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	251.3	99.6	106.0	93.4	95.7	95.6	113.5	89.6	109.8	108.8	115.6	104.3
3. Textiles (including knitting)	127.4	94.6	103.5	79.4	95.1	105.3	98.5	76.6	109.3	117.1	110.8	99.6
4. Paper products and printing	61.3	111.7	133.1	92.3	105.5	125.2	123.9	110.5	132.3	148.0	141.7	121.4
5. Chemical, rubber, plastic and non-metallic mineral products	110.0	106.9	120.8	90.0	110.9	120.2	106.6	92.9	129.5	138.3	122.6	113.2
6. Basic metals, fabricated metal products and non-electrical machinery	104.1	101.4	105.1	88.6	107.5	105.4	104.0	90.3	106.6	112.1	111.2	112.1
7. Electrical and electronic products, professional equipment and optical goods	216.2	99.7	123.2	95.1	92.7	101.3	109.5	93.6	123.5	133.5	142.2	109.3
8. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	94.9	93.9	117.6	90.4	93.6	95.7	95.8	98.0	112.4	118.4	141.6	119.1
All manufacturing industries	1 000.0	100.2	113.9	90.5	98.3	104.2	107.7	91.5	116.0	122.5	125.4	109.1

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GOVERNOR RETURNING TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM PEKING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER ATTENDING THE LATEST ROUND OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT CA 101, ETA 11.15 AM.

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\$593 MILLION CONTRACT FOR TUEN MUN HOSPITAL
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED A \$593 MILLION CONTRACT TO AOKI CORPORATION TO BUILD A REGIONAL HOSPITAL AT TUEN MUN.

WORK WILL START AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN 42 MONTHS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, MR CHAMSON CHAU, AND THE SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AOKI CORPORATION, MR SUNAO HORII.

THE NEW 1 600-BED HOSPITAL WILL BE LOCATED NEAR CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL IN THE NORTHERN PART OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

IT WILL COMPRISE FOUR 10-STOREY MAIN WARD BLOCKS, A 10-STOREY OPERATING THEATRE BLOCK, A THREE-STOREY PATHOLOGY BLOCK AND A FOUR-STOREY BLOCK TO HOUSE VARIOUS SPECIAL FACILITIES.

THE GROSS AREA OF THE BUILDINGS WILL BE ABOUT 116 000 SQUARE METRES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR 400 NURSES AND STAFF QUARTERS. WORK ON THESE WILL BE CARRIED OUT UNDER SEPARATE CONTRACTS.

THE PRESENT CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOSPITAL BLOCKS, SERVICES INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING AIR-CONDITIONING, VENTILATION, FIRE PREVENTION, ELECTRICAL, AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.

THE WHOLE PROJECT SHOULD BE READY BY EARLY 1988 AND IT WILL BECOME A REGIONAL HOSPITAL SERVING THE GROWING POPULATION OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AS WELL AS THE NORTH-WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT PRESENT, TUEN MUN HAS A POPULATION OF 230 000.

WITH THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS FIGURE WILL REACH 500 000 BY THE 1990'S.

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\$187M PUBLIC HOUSING CONTRACTS SIGNED

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY AWARDED YET ANOTHER THREE PUBLIC HOUSING CONTRACTS TOTALLING MORE THAN \$187 MILLION TO PROVIDE MODERN HOMES FOR 13 000 PEOPLE BY 1986.

SIGNED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FRED PANG, THE LARGEST CONTRACT, OF \$149.6 MILLION, IS FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF TIN PING ESTATE IN FANLING-SHEK WU HUI NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE 35-STORY TRIDENT LI BLOCKS, A STANDARD SEVEN-STORY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A LORRY PARKING AREA, PLUS ASSOCIATED ROADS, DRAINAGE AND EXTERNAL WORKS.

UPON COMPLETION BY 1986, THE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 2 448 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 11 300 PEOPLE.

TIN PING ESTATE, THE THIRD PUBLIC RENTAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN, IS BEING DEVELOPED IN TWO PHASES AND WILL EVENTUALLY HOUSE 22 700 PEOPLE WHEN FULLY COMPLETED BY 1987.

THE SECOND CONTRACT, WORTH \$18.9 MILLION, IS FOR THE BUILDING OF A MODERN BLOCK AT TUNG TAU ESTATE AS THE PHASE IIB OF ITS REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE THE LIVING CONDITIONS AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING FOR TENANTS.

THE 26-STORY SINGLE-H BLOCK, TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1986, WILL CONTAIN 366 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 1 690 PEOPLE.

UNDER THE PREVIOUS PHASES OF REDEVELOPMENT, THREE NEW BLOCKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN BUILT ON THE ESTATE, PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION FOR 7 100 PEOPLE.

THE THIRD CONTRACT, VALUED AT OVER \$18.5 MILLION, IS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAISSON FOUNDATION AND SUPERSTRUCTURES FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A TWO-STORY CAR PARK AT CHUN SHEK ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

ALSO TO BE BUILT IS A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE WHICH WILL LINK THE CAR PARK WITH THE ADJOINING SUN TIN WAI ESTATE.

5.5 MILLION ENQUIRIES IN SIX MONTHS

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ABOUT 5.5 MILLION ENQUIRIES AND CASES WERE HANDLED AT THE 63 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION DURING THE FIRST-HALF OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 15 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

OF THE 2 267 000 ENQUIRIES, HE SAID THE MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS INCLUDED TELEPHONE NUMBERS, LOCATIONS AND OPENING HOURS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES, JOB VACANCIES, APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING AND MATTERS RELATING TO PROPERTY RATES.

+ALSO, SOME 3 231 000 GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE PERIOD. THE MOST POPULAR ONES WERE APPLICATION FORMS FOR GOVERNMENT JOB VACANCIES, EVENING COURSES AND PROGRAMMES, HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS AND SPONSOR FORMS FOR WALK FOR A MILLION.

+IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 94 PER CENT OF THE 197 000 CASES HANDLED WERE REQUESTS FOR STATUTORY DECLARATION SERVICE -- MAINLY FOR DECLARATION OF TRUE COPIES AND MATTERS CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND EXAMINATIONS -- APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, ALLOWANCES, COMPENSATION AND RELIEF, + HE SAID.

UNDER THE +FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME+ ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY, 1 558 CASES WERE DEALT WITH DURING THE PERIOD BY THE SOCIETY'S SOLICITORS IN EIGHT DISTRICT OFFICES IN WAN CHAI, EASTERN; YAU MA TEI, MONG KOK, WONG TAI SIN, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

THE +RENT OFFICER SCHEME+ IS ANOTHER SERVICE WHICH AIMED AT ASSISTING LANDLORDS, TENANTS AND SUB-TENANTS WISHING TO DISCUSS THEIR TENANCY PROBLEMS.

DURING THE HALF YEAR, 6 774 CALLERS MADE USE OF THIS SERVICE AND DISCUSSED THEIR PROBLEMS WITH RENT OFFICERS AT THE 10 URBAN DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE OFFICES IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE 63 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES, LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND THEIR BRANCH OFFICES, ALSO PROVIDED OTHER SERVICES.

+THESE INCLUDE ADVISING AND OFFERING INFORMATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HELPING TO SOLVE PERSONAL PROBLEMS, DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS AND ARRANGING REFERRALS WHERE THE PROBLEM IS DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX AND REQUIRES ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO APPROACH THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE IN THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS AT WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, 13TH FLOOR. THIS CENTRE OPERATES A 24-HOUR HOTLINE -- TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-692255 -- DURING TYPHOONS, + HE SAID.

HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, TOO, CAN EXPLORE UNDERWATER WORLD
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A GROUP OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS ARE NOW ABLE TO EXPLORE THE UNDERWATER WORLD AFTER COMPLETING A SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING COURSE.

THE ONE-MONTH PILOT SCHEME, DESIGNED TO TRAIN THEM IN BASIC DIVING SKILLS, WAS LAUNCHED RECENTLY, FOLLOWING A SEMINAR ON SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE ABLE-BODIED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

+SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE SKILLS, NOT EASILY MASTERED EVEN BY THE ABLE-BODIED,+ SAID MRS POLLY LAI, WHO HEADS THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE SPECIAL GROUPS UNIT OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

+TRAINEES WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THE SCHEME PROVED THAT, GIVEN THE RIGHT FORM OF INSTRUCTION AND ASSISTANCE, THEY COULD DO JUST AS WELL AS THE ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE,+ MRS LAI SAID.

+MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRAINING HAS HELPED BUILD UP THEIR CONFIDENCE,+ SHE SAID.

INITIALLY, THEY WERE BEING TAUGHT ELEMENTARY SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING TOGETHER WITH SOME ABLE-BODIED PARTICIPANTS.

THE SCHEME WAS ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, WITH THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG UNDERWATER FEDERATION.

UNDER THE SCHEME WHICH WAS FREE, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AGED 16 OR ABOVE WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SERIES OF LECTURES AND PRACTICAL TRAINING CONDUCTED IN THE SHAM SHUI PO PHAB CENTRE AND THE LAI CHI KOK PARK SWIMMING POOL.

TO BE ELIGIBLE, THEY HAD TO PASS A SWIMMING TEST AND PRODUCE A FITNESS CERTIFICATE FROM A DOCTOR.

THE SCHEME COMPRISED SIX LECTURES AND 10 PRACTICAL SESSIONS.

THE HANDICAPPED TRAINEES PAIRED UP WITH THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS THROUGHOUT THE TRAINING.

+BESIDES BASIC DIVING TECHNIQUES, THEY ALSO LEARNT UNDERWATER SIGN LANGUAGE, THE USE OF UNDERWATER BREATHING APPARATUS AND RELATED KNOWLEDGE+, MRS LAI SAID.

THERE WERE 16 PARTICIPANTS AND SOME WILL BE SELECTED TO UNDERGO FURTHER TRAINING BY THE HONG KONG UNDERWATER FEDERATION.

+FOR THE PILOT SCHEME, ONLY THOSE WITH ONE LIMB AMPUTATED WERE ELIGIBLE. WITH MORE FUNDS AND MANPOWER, WE PLAN TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO COVER OTHER CATEGORIES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS AS WELL,+ MRS LAI SAID.

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APART FROM ORGANISING DIVING COURSES, THE SPECIAL GROUPS UNIT ALSO CONDUCTS OTHER PILOT SCHEMES SUCH AS SKATING FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, WHEELCHAIR TENNIS, CANOEING FOR PHABERS AND SOCCER COMPETITIONS FOR THE DEAF.

THE UNIT, ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER 1982, IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS, TO MODIFY VARIOUS GAMES TO SUIT THEIR DISABILITY, AND TO TRAIN VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THE UNIT.

SO FAR, OVER 10 000 HANDICAPPED PERSONS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN 150 PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE UNIT.

THESE PROJECTS RANGE FROM SWIMMING, PONY RIDING AND ARCHERY TO ANGLING, BALL GAMES AND ROLLER SKATING.

THE UNIT ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE DISABLED, SUCH AS THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION.

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LOGO FOR YIN NGAI SOCIETIES
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THE GROWING NUMBER OF YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN HONG KONG, GROUPS FORMED MAINLY BY HOUSEWIVES TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WILL HAVE A LOGO OF THEIR OWN FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE LOGO IS THE WINNING ENTRY OF A DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE SOCIETIES.

IT WILL BE USED BY THE SOCIETIES AS THEIR OFFICIAL LOGO IN LETTER HEADS, MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND POSTERS.

AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE LEI MUK SHUE YIN NGAI SOCIETY, MRS L.B. YUEN, PRESENTED A SHIELD AND A CASH PRIZE OF \$500 TO THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST, MR Y.Y. KONG.

THERE ARE 23 YIN NGAI SOCIETIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 3 000.

SINCE 1980, THE SOCIETIES HAVE ORGANISED A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER IN WOMEN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND NEIGHBOURLINESS.

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ARTS FESTIVAL ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL
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THE NINTH FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS TO BE HELD FROM OCTOBER 18 TO NOVEMBER 4 WILL PRESENT A GREAT VARIETY OF ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE, DR PHILIP KWOK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, DR KWOK SAID 11 OVERSEAS AND NINE LOCAL GROUPS WILL OFFER 54 INDOOR PERFORMANCES DURING THE FESTIVAL. MOST OF THE VISITING GROUPS WILL ALSO GIVE FREE OUTDOOR SHOWS.

+SOME OF THE PERFORMING GROUPS AIM TO ENTERTAIN, WHILE SOME OF THE ARTISTS ARE DEVOTED TO TRADITIONAL AESTHETICS WHICH GO BACK CENTURIES OR MORE; STILL OTHERS ARE CONSCIOUSLY PRESERVING OR RE-CONSTRUCTING IMPORTANT PARTS OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE,+ DR KWOK NOTED.

HE SAID IT WAS FITTING THAT HONG KONG, BEING AN IMPORTANT MEETING GROUND BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE VARIOUS CULTURES OF THE EAST, SHOULD BE THE LOCATION OF THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF ASIAN ARTISTS.

OVERSEAS GROUPS WILL INCLUDE THE GRAND BALLET OF TAHITI, THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ISLAND TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVAL; THE MANILA METROPOLITAN THEATRE, WHICH WILL PRESENT THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING PERFORMANCE; CHINA'S SHAANXI CLASSICAL ARTS TROUPE, WHICH WILL OFFER A STAGE PRODUCTION ENTITLED +RE-CREATED TANG DYNASTY DANCE AND MUSIC+; AND THE AINU TRADITIONAL CULTURE GROUP FROM HOKKAIDO.

OTHER PARTICIPATING ARTISTS WILL BE AUSTRALIA'S POPULAR FOLK MUSIC GROUP, SIROCCO; SUMATRA'S MINANG DANCE GROUP; MALAYSIA'S SUKTRA GAMELAN DANCE GROUP OF TERENGGANU; SIAMESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE FROM THAILAND; THE KOREA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA; THE INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC AND DANCE TROUPE; AND VIOLINIST L. SUBRAMANIAM FROM INDIA.

LOCALLY, THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FOUR PERFORMING COMPANIES -- THE HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA, THE HONG KONG REPERTORY THEATRE, THE HONG KONG DANCE COMPANY AND THE HONG KONG CHORUS -- WILL BE JOINED BY THE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, THE CHOR FUNG MING CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE, THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR, THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND THE MELODY QUINTETE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FESTIVAL, THERE WILL BE 19 LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND THREE EXHIBITIONS -- +QING CERAMICS+ AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART, +HONG KONG DESIGN 1984+ AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL AND +TUNG LUNG FORT - A FIRST LOOK+ AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY.

/BOOKING FOLDERS

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BOOKING FOLDERS CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE CITY HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, SPACE MUSEUM, HONG KONG COLISEUM AND URBAN COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

POSTAL BOOKING FOR THE PERFORMANCES WILL START TOMORROW (THURSDAY) UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5 (WEDNESDAY). COUNTER BOOKING AND TELEPHONE BOOKING (5-739595) WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 13.

BLOCK BOOKING SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS, COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS FROM TOMORROW AT 3-7216175.

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COURSE FOR ART TEACHERS
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A FOUR-SESSION COURSE ON THE TEACHING OF ART AND DESIGN APPRECIATION IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ART TEACHERS.

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY MORNINGS FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 20 AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE CANTONESE.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS LIMITED TO 30. APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ART SECTION BY SEPTEMBER 14.

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPANTS WITH SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE.

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JUDO COURSES FOR CHILDREN
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A SERIES OF JUDO COURSES FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 14 WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG JUDO ASSOCIATION, A TOTAL OF FIVE ELEMENTARY JUDO COURSES WILL BE GIVEN AT VARIOUS INDOOR GAMES HALLS AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN.

THE FIRST COURSE WILL START ON SEPTEMBER 14 AND THE LAST, ON SEPTEMBER 20. EACH COURSE WILL LAST FOR SIX WEEKS, WITH TEACHING SESSIONS HELD TWICE A WEEK IN THE EVENINGS.

/+MEMBERS OF

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+MEMBERS OF THESE ELEMENTARY COURSES CAN JOIN A FURTHER TRAINING COURSE TO BE OFFERED BY THE RSS IN DECEMBER AND ON COMPLETION OF THESE TWO COURSES, THE CHILDREN WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART IN THE FIFTH GRADE JUDO (YELLOW BELT) EXAMINATION, + AN RSS SPOKESMAN SAID.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED CAN APPLY NOW. THE ENROLMENT, LIMITED TO 40 FOR EACH COURSE, IS ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS. THE FEE IS \$5 PER COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE HEAD OFFICE ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF WING ON CENTRE, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, AND ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY DIALLING 5-458511.

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PUBLIC REMINDED TO PREVENT MOSQUITO NUISANCE
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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC NOT TO RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE AGAINST MOSQUITOES AS THE SECOND PEAK OF MOSQUITO BREEDING IS ABOUT TO SET IN.

THE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO LAUNCH AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN NEXT MONTH.

LEAFLETS AND POSTERS WITH THE THEME +MOSQUITOES BREED ONLY IN WATER+, WILL BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED, ADVISING THE PUBLIC ON VARIOUS WAYS TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES FROM BREEDING.

HEALTH STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON WAYS TO ELIMINATE POTENTIAL MOSQUITO BREEDING GROUNDS.

IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE TO ALLOW MOSQUITO BREEDING. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10 000.

LAST MONTH, 26 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR MOSQUITO BREEDING OFFENCES, RESULTING IN A TOTAL FINE OF \$31 850. THE FINES RANGED FROM \$900 TO \$3 000.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADVISED BUILDING CONTRACTORS TO INSPECT THEIR SITES REGULARLY AND TO APPLY LIGHT DIESEL ON THE SURFACE OF STAGNANT WATER.

/HE SUGGESTED

HE SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PREVENT MOSQUITO NUISANCE:

- * DISPOSE ALL USELESS TINS, JARS, BOTTLES AND OLD TYRES PROPERLY.
- * COVER ALL WATER STORAGES AND TANKS.
- * ENSURE WINDOW-SHADES ARE CLEAR OF REFUSE AND WASTE WATER.
- * UNBLOCK CHOKED DRAINS AND KEEP ALL INLETS CLEAR OF REFUSE.
- * CHANGE WATER IN FLOWER VASES EVERY WEEK AND SEE THAT NO WATER ACCUMULATES IN THE TRAYS OF FLOWER POTS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

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THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD EAST OF THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO TEXACO ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 24).

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THIS SLIP ROAD, TSUEN FU STREET AND TSUEN WAH STREET BEFORE REJOINING CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

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PLB PROHIBITED ZONE IN YUEN LONG

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FROM 8 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 24), A NUMBER OF ROADS IN YUEN LONG WILL BE PROHIBITED TO ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THESE ROADS ARE:

- * THE SECTION OF SAU FU STREET BETWEEN TUNG LOK STREET AND FOOK HONG STREET.
- * THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING OFF FAIRVIEW PARK BOULEVARD TO MAN YUEN CHUEN.
- * NGAU TAM MEI ROAD.
- * THE ACCESS ROAD TO CHUK YUEN.
- * NULLAH-BUND ROAD LINKING MA TIN AND WONG NAI TUN.
- * PING WUI STREET.

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KWUN TONG SITE FOR LEASE
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A SITE IN KWUN TONG IS BEING OFFERED ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF WAI YIP STREET AND SHUN YIP STREET, THE SITE MEASURES 1 150 SQUARE METRES.

IT CAN EITHER BE USED FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF CARS OR AS AN OPEN STORAGE AREA.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS SEPTEMBER 7.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON EAST), YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE TENDER PLAN CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE PLACES.

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TRAFFIC MEASURES IN SHEUNG WAN
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THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHEUNG WAN FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 24):

- * WING LOK STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY. WITHIN THE ZONE, NO MOTOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE RESTRICTED PERIOD.
- * THE EXISTING WESTBOUND TRAM-ONLY LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH WING LOK STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE RE-OPENED TO ALL VEHICLES.

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NEW MAXICAB SERVICES IN YUEN LONG
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NEW MAXICAB ROUTE NOS. 36, 37, 38 AND 39 WILL BE INTRODUCED
IN YUEN LONG FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 24).

ALL FOUR ROUTES WILL START AT YUEN LONG TOWN. NO. 36 WILL
LEAD TO MAN YUEN CHUEN, NO. 37 TO NGAU TAM MEI, NO. 38 TO HA CHUK
YUEN AND NO. 39 TO PAK SHA TSUEN.

FARE WILL BE FROM \$1 TO \$2, DEPENDING ON THE DISTANCE
TRAVELLED.

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