



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HONG KONG'S TECHNICAL ROLE IN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION STRESSED	1
NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY	2
WATER FIGURES	3
ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	4
BAN ON RIGHT TURN	5
LABOUR DEPARTMENT REVIEWS ORGANISATION	6
IMPROVEMENT TO TSING YI ROADS	7
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL GRANTS .	8
COUNTRY AND COMMODITY BREAKDOWN FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1982	9
FIFTY TEAMS TO COMPETE IN TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE	13
LOGO CHOSEN FOR EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD	14

HONG KONG'S TECHNICAL ROLE IN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION STRESSED
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BY SUPPLYING OIL RIGS FOR OVERSEAS COMPANIES NOW, HONG KONG IS DEMONSTRATING THAT IT IS READY AND EQUIPPED TO DO THE SPECIALIST WORK OF CONSTRUCTION, SUPPORT AND REPAIR FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID THIS MORNING IN A MESSAGE CONVEYED BY LADY MACLEHOSE.

LADY MACLEHOSE WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY IN WHICH SHE LAUNCHED THE OIL RIG EUROASIA AT TSING YI.

IN HER SPEECH, LADY MACLEHOSE SAID:

+MR TUNG, MR KING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

+I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TO LAUNCH THE FIRST OIL RIG TO BE BUILT IN HONG KONG.

+I AM SORRY MY HUSBAND IS UNABLE TO BE HERE TODAY. HE IS, HOWEVER, FEELING MUCH BETTER AND HAS ASKED ME TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONCERN AND YOUR VERY WARM MESSAGES WHICH HE GREATLY APPRECIATES. MY HUSBAND SENDS HIS BEST WISHES TO EUROASIA AND ALL CONCERNED ON THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION AND HAS ASKED ME TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOU ALL.

+IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IF AND WHEN OIL IS FOUND OFF THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, HONG KONG WILL PLAY A TERTIARY ROLE IN THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED, NOT DISMAYED BY THAT TERM.

+INDEED, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF OIL IS FOUND IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES OFF THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, THERE WILL BE SO MUCH TO DO THAT ALL THOSE PLACES WITH PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY ROLES WILL ALL BE KEPT BUSY PROVIDED THEY ARE READY AND EQUIPPED TO DO THE SPECIALIST WORK OF CONSTRUCTION, SUPPORT AND REPAIR.

+I CONGRATULATE EUROASIA IN GETTING IN FIRST AND BLAZING THE TRAIL BY SUPPLYING RIGS FOR OVERSEAS COMPANIES NOW, THUS DEMONSTRATING THAT HONG KONG CAN DO THE JOB.

+CERTAINLY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP- GOOD FACILITIES FOR TEACHING MARINE ENGINEERING HAVE RECENTLY BEEN OPENED AT THE POLYTECHNIC WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE C.Y. TUNG GROUP AND WORLDWIDE.

+I AM AWARE THAT YOUR COMPANY IS OPERATING ON A VERY CONGESTED SITE AND WATER-FRONT LAND IS SCARCE. YOU HAVE, HOWEVER, APPLIED FOR MORE LAND IN AN ADJOINING SITE AND I HOPE YOUR APPLICATION WILL RECEIVE A FAVOURABLE OUTCOME IN A FEW MONTHS.

+MY GOOD WISHES AND THANKS GO TO ALL WHO MAKE THIS NEW INDUSTRY A SUCCESS IN HONG KONG. MAY THE RIGS GIVE SATISFACTION TO ALL- TO EUROASIA WHO BUILT THEM AND TO THE SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY WHO COMMISSIONED THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

+MY CONGRATULATIONS GO TO EUROASIA FOR THEIR COURAGE AND FORESIGHT IN STARTING THIS NEW INDUSTRY. MAY IT EXPAND AND PROSPER.+

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

- 2 -

NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY

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THE RAPID GROWTH OF HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY DIRECT MOVE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT DELIBERATELY TO DIVERT RESOURCES INTO THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID THIS EVENING (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 1982 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC BANKERS' CLUB, MR BREMRIDGE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY COULD BEST BE SECURED BY FURTHER DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID PRAGMATIC APPLICATION OF OUR PHILOSOPHY OF NON-INTERVENTIONISM TOWARDS DIVERSIFICATION REQUIRED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ONLY ENSURE THAT THERE EXISTED NO UNNECESSARY IMPEDIMENT TO DIVERSIFICATION INTO AND WITHIN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

+THUS WE PAY PARTICULAR AND CONTINUOUS ATTENTION TO PROVIDING A FAVOURABLE FRAMEWORK, INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY, WITHIN WHICH AN EXPANDING FINANCIAL SECTOR CAN OPERATE.

+CONSEQUENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED RECENTLY TO THE BANKING ORDINANCE AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THESE AMENDMENTS WERE AIMED, INTER ALIA, AT FURTHER IMPROVING OUR PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR THEREBY REINFORCING THE STANDING IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG.

ON INTEREST RATES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE OPENNESS OF OUR ECONOMY AND ITS HIGH DEGREE OF EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE MEANT THAT WE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE SCOPE FOR MAINTAINING HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY OF THE LEVEL OF US DOLLAR INTEREST RATES.

HE ALSO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FIXED AND RIGID RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOMESTIC DEPOSIT RATES AND EURODOLLAR DEPOSIT RATES.

HOWEVER, MR BREMRIDGE SAID HE DID RECOGNISE THAT THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND EURODOLLAR RATES COULD ONLY MOVE IN A RELATIVELY RESTRICTED RANGE BEFORE THE RESULTANT FLOWS INTO OR OUT OF HONG KONG, AND THE RESULTANT IMPACT ON THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR BEGAN TO PLACE AN UNACCEPTABLE STRAIN ON THE ECONOMY THROUGH THE DOMESTIC COST-PRICE STRUCTURE.

WITHIN THIS RANGE, HE SAID, HONG KONG DID HAVE SOME SCOPE FOR AN INDEPENDENT INTEREST RATE POLICY AND IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT THERE WAS A DEFINITE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INFLUENCE THE STRUCTURE OF DOMESTIC INTEREST RATES.

/AT PRESENT,

AT PRESENT, MR BREMRIDGE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TWO POINTS AT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD EXERT AN INFLUENCE ON THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF INTEREST RATES: THE REGULARLY WEEKLY CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, AND AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME INTRODUCED LAST AUTUMN TO INFLUENCE THE LEVEL OF MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES BY BIDDING FOR DEPOSITS THROUGH THE EXCHANGE FUND'S MAJOR BANKS AND LENDING THEM OUT AT A DIFFERENT TIME AND FOR A DIFFERENT PERIOD.

HE SAID THEORETICALLY THE SCHEME COULD BE PURSUED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE INTEREST RATE AGREEMENT BECAME IRRELEVANT IN PROVIDING THE UNDERPINNING FOR THE INTEREST RATE STRUCTURE, AND COULD THEREFORE BE ABANDONED. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO PURSUE THIS COURSE FOR TWO REASONS:

+FIRST, EDUCATED BY THE EVENTS OF 1965 WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE FULL - AND UNPREDICTABLE - CONSEQUENCES OF FREE AND TOTALLY UNRESTRAINED COMPETITION FOR DEPOSITS BETWEEN ALL BANKS IN HONG KONG.

+SECOND, TO RELY SOLELY ON MONEY MARKET INTERVENTION TO IMPLEMENT OUR INTEREST RATE POLICY WOULD REQUIRE A DEGREE OF PERSISTENT AND POSITIVE INTERVENTION- THIS IS WHOLLY ALIEN TO THE PHILOSOPHY, WHICH HAS SERVED THIS ECONOMY SO WELL IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR BREMRIDGE ALSO REFERRED TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHINA AND SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY THE READINESS OF THOSE TO WHOM HE SPOKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE WHICH HONG KONG HAD PLAYED, AND WAS PLAYING, IN CHINA'S MODERNISATION PLANS, AND THEIR VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG COULD ONLY CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION IF IT REMAINED PROSPEROUS, AND THAT ITS PROSPERITY DEPENDED ON ITS POSITION AS A FREE PORT, AND AS A COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+THERE IS THUS A VERY STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE VIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, AND IN THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS.

+I SUGGEST THAT THIS PROVIDES THE BEST POSSIBLE BASIS ON WHICH TO BUILD IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

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WATER FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 35.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 207.632 MILLION CUBIC METRES, EQUIVALENT TO 166 DAYS' CONSUMPTION.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 226.002 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 39.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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DETAILS WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) OF THE FIRST CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN HONG KONG FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE PROJECT WILL OCCUPY A WATERFRONT SITE OF 23 000 SQUARE METRES (2.37 HECTARES) ADJACENT TO THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, AND BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS WILL BE BUILT BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, AS A PROJECT TO MARK ITS CENTENARY IN 1984. THE JOCKEY CLUB'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAPITAL COSTS IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$300 MILLION.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING THE WAN CHAI SITE FOR THE ACADEMY, WILL CONTRIBUTE A FURTHER \$70 MILLION TOWARDS THE PROJECT.

ON COMPLETION, THE ACADEMY WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE AGREED TO MEET THE ANNUAL RECURRENT COSTS, AMOUNTING TO \$33 MILLION BASED ON ESTIMATES DRAWN UP IN JANUARY 1982.

THE HON LI FOOK-WO, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SET UP TO OVERSEE THE PROJECT, ANNOUNCED THAT THE ACADEMY WAS BEING BUILT IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEED TO PROVIDE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THIS WAS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE ARTS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY WOULD ALSO SERVE TO ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE INTEREST IN ARTS EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC EYE, AND WOULD ENSURE, THROUGH THE RAISING OF HONG KONG'S OWN PERFORMERS AND TEACHERS, AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ARTISTIC TALENT TO FULFILL FUTURE NEEDS.

+THE ACADEMY IS EXPECTED TO INTEGRATE EXISTING ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF BALLET, CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, AS WELL AS PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED PREMISES FOR OTHER PERFORMING BODIES, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC, FOR TRAINING AND REHEARSALS,+ STATED MR LI.

MR LI ADDED THAT THE ACADEMY WILL BE MANAGED BY AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION, SUBVENTED BY GOVERNMENT, AND THAT A PROVISIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ACADEMY WOULD SHORTLY BE APPOINTED.

MR ALEX S.C. WU HAS BEEN NOMINATED CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH, WHEN ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE, WILL ENGAGE STAFF FOR THE ACADEMY, DRAW UP PLANS FOR CURRICULA AND ESTABLISH ACCREDITATION AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL FOR ITS FUTURE STUDENTS.

MR LI ANNOUNCED THAT MR SIMON KWAN WILL BE FORMALLY APPOINTED BY THE JOCKEY CLUB AS THE MASTER ARCHITECT FOR THE PROJECT. HIS DESIGN WAS SELECTED BY THE PROJECT BOARD AND WILL REFLECT THE ARTISTIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACADEMY.

- 5 -

MR KWAN HAS ADOPTED A SCULPTURAL APPROACH TO THE COMPLEX, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF TWO TRIANGULAR SHAPED BLOCKS (THE SCHOOL BLOCK AND THE PERFORMING AREA BLOCK).

THESE ARE JOINED TOGETHER BY A CENTRAL ATRIUM, COVERED BY A GLASS SPACE FRAME, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A MEETING PLACE FOR STUDENTS, VISITORS AND THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS PROVIDING A LINK BETWEEN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ACADEMY, AND TO THIS END A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE SITE WILL BE LANDSCAPED.

A PARK AREA IS PLANNED, AND THE USE OF PONDS, AND BOTH STATIC AND MOVING WATER AROUND AND BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS WILL GIVE AN OASIS-LIKE IMPRESSION TO THE SITE.

SPECIAL EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO GIVE A TRANSPARENT EFFECT TO THE MAIN FOYER SO THAT THE BUILDING MERGES WITH THE OUTDOOR LANDSCAPED AREA.

THE ACADEMY WILL HOUSE FOUR MAJOR SCHOOLS : MUSIC, DANCE, ACTING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES, FOR BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN ART FORMS, WITH A NOTIONAL STUDENT BODY ESTIMATED AT 600 THROUGHOUT THE FOUR SCHOOLS AT FULL DEVELOPMENT.

FACILITIES PROVIDED WITHIN THE ACADEMY WILL INCLUDE TWO MAJOR THEATRES WITH A COMBINED MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 1 600 SEATS, CATERING FOR DANCE, DRAMA AND MUSIC PERFORMANCES, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 200-SEAT STUDIO FOR EXPERIMENTAL DRAMA.

AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE TEACHING AND PRACTICE ROOMS AND STUDIOS, AN ORCHESTRAL REHEARSAL HALL, FULLY EQUIPPED AS A RECORDING STUDIO WILL BE A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE ACADEMY.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE BUILDING WILL BE OPERATIONAL DURING THE 1985 SCHOLASTIC YEAR.

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BAN ON RIGHT TURN
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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 28), VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEE CHUNG STREET IN CHAI WAN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CHAI WAN ROAD.

THE SAME BAN WILL ALSO BE IMPOSED ON VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CHAI WAN ROAD WHICH WISH TO TURN RIGHT INTO THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WAN TSUI ROAD.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE ROAD JUNCTIONS.

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MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

- 6 -

LABOUR DEPARTMENT REVIEWS ORGANISATION

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS ORGANISATION TO SEE HOW IT CAN BEST FIT INTO THE NEW PATTERN FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR JAMES HAYES, WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

DR HAYES, WHO WAS FORMERLY THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, SAID HE WAS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES TO DISTRICTS, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE BOARDS.

HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN WHAT DISTRICTS COULD DO FOR HIS DEPARTMENT.

+THE TWO ELEMENTS, SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHAPING OF THE DEPARTMENT AND CHANGES TO LABOUR LEGISLATION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF OPINIONS AND INFORMATION, CAN COME TOGETHER AT DISTRICT LEVEL,+ HE NOTED.

DR HAYES POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD 12 DIVISIONS (13 INCLUDING THE MINES DIVISION) AND ITS SERVICES WERE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.

IT HAD 69 DIVISIONAL OFFICES OPERATING FROM 35 SUB-OFFICES, OFFERING ITS DIVISIONAL SERVICES TO THOSE DISTRICTS AND AREAS WHERE, BY ITS MANNING CRITERIA, THE NEED WAS GREATEST. NINETEEN OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICES WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 32 IN KOWLOON AND 18 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HOWEVER, BY SETTING UP OFFICES IN ALL THE 18 DISTRICTS WHERE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE LOCATED, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CUT ACROSS THE PRESENT ECONOMICAL METHOD OF PROVIDING SERVICES.

+IN THIS CONNECTION I HAVE TO MAKE THE POINT THAT NOT ALL OUR SERVICES ARE REQUIRED IN ALL DISTRICTS. OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING A DISTRICT FACTORY INSPECTORATE IN A DISTRICT WITHOUT ANY FACTORIES,+ HE NOTED.

NONETHELESS, DR HAYES CONTINUED, THERE WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR HIS STAFF TO WORK WITH AND ASSIST DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT COULD BENEFIT FROM A CLOSER INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER PARTIES AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

/+I PERSONALLY

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

- 7 -

+I PERSONALLY THINK THAT THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED MOST EFFECTIVELY BY HAVING SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON THE BOARD, BECOMING PERSONALLY KNOWN TO BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS, AND TO THE SENIOR STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND OTHER CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS WORKING IN THE DISTRICTS.

+HOWEVER, IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CASE THE TASK OF ESTABLISHING HOW BEST TO FIT INTO THE NEW PATTERN FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IS NOT STRAIGHTFORWARD, ESPECIALLY HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT OUR OFFICES AND SERVICES ARE ALREADY QUITE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED, AND THAT THE EXTRA EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN STAFF INCREASES AND EXTRA OFFICES SHOULD BE AVOIDED UNLESS IT HAS A SOLID JUSTIFICATION THROUGH DEMONSTRATED NEED AND PALPABLE RESULTS.

+WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING OUR ORGANISATION FOR DISTRICT SERVICES AND CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES ON THAT BASIS,+ HE ADDED.

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IMPROVEMENT TO TSING YI ROADS * * *

THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$45.8 MILLION CONTRACT TO LAM CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. FOR IMPROVEMENT WORK ON TWO OF THE EXISTING ROADS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND TSING YI ROAD TO PROVIDE DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROUNDABOUT AT THE WEST END OF TSING YI BRIDGE, TWO FOOTBRIDGES AT THE EAST END OF CHEUNG MEI ROAD AND A SUBWAY OUTSIDE CHEUNG CHING ESTATE.

THE WORK FORMS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WHICH INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSING YI AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

- 8 -

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL GRANTS
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A SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT SCHEME HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG.

UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, A SUM OF \$10 000 IS SET ASIDE FROM GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO HELP FINANCE ANY WORTHY PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDERTAKEN BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISED GROUPS.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW SCHEME TODAY (MONDAY), THE SECRETARY OF EPCOM, MR C.E.V. HAIN-COLE SAID, +THE FUND WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT STUDIES OR WORK AIMED AT PREVENTING OR COMBATTING LAND, WATER, AIR OR NOISE POLLUTION.+

+THERE IS NO FIXED LEVEL TO THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED- IT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE REQUIREMENTS AND MERITS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PROJECT,+ HE SAID.

+AND IF PEOPLE COME UP WITH SO MANY GOOD QUALITY PROJECTS THAT THE TOTAL SUM SHOULD PROVE INADEQUATE, WE MAY CONSIDER SEEKING EXTRA FUNDS FROM SPONSORS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ MR HAIN-COLE ADDED.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS ARE ACCEPTED ALL YEAR ROUND. THEY SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF EPCOM AT ROOM 356, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE APPLICANT MUST GIVE HIS NAME, CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. IF HE IS AFFILIATED TO ANY CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH OR OTHER RELATED ORGANISATIONS, HE SHOULD MENTION THE NAME OF THAT ORGANISATION AND ANY NECESSARY SUPPORT OR APPROVAL FROM IT.

EACH APPLICATION MUST CLEARLY STATE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH GRANT IS BEING SOUGHT, WHETHER IT IS FOR BUYING EQUIPMENT, DISPLAY MATERIAL, BOOKS, STATIONERY OR FOR PRINTING.

IT MUST ALSO CONTAIN A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE TITLE, OBJECTIVES, DURATION, TIMETABLE AND BUDGET.

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY EXPERTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE MADE TO EPCOM WHICH WILL DECIDE TO WHOM AND HOW MUCH THE GRANTS SHOULD BE AWARDED.

THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT A SHORT REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF EPCOM ONCE THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

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MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

- 9 -

COUNTRY AND COMMODITY BREAKDOWN FIGURES
FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1982

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THE TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1982, VALUED AT \$39 090 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 8 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1981.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 6 PER CENT TO \$10 933 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 7 PER CENT TO \$21 242 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 12 PER CENT TO \$6 915 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 8 PER CENT.

THE SLOW GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, GIVEN THE SLOW GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN RECENT MONTHS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) THE RELEVANT DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

	<u>JAN-FEB 1982</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN-FEB 1981</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE/</u> <u>DECREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
USA	3 824	3 490	+334	+10
UK	964	878	+ 86	+10
FR OF GERMANY	938	1 058	-120	-11
CHINA	578	365	+213	+58
AUSTRALIA	445	355	+ 90	+25
JAPAN	406	340	+ 66	+19
CANADA	305	274	+ 31	+11
SINGAPORE	269	236	+ 33	+14
NETHERLANDS	253	240	+ 13	+ 5
FRANCE	191	195	- 4	- 2

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE US ROSE BY 10 PER CENT.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$204 MILLION OR 138 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$122 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$58 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT).

/DECREASES WERE

- 10 -

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$73 MILLION OR FIVE PER CENT) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$99 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$37 MILLION OR 142 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$18 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS DECLINED BY \$13 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT.

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECLINED IN VALUE, INCLUDING WATCHES AND CLOCKS (DECLINED BY \$10 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (DECLINED BY \$113 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES INCREASED STEADILY (BY \$11 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$20 MILLION OR 239 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$102 MILLION OR 213 PER CENT) AND IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILES TO AUSTRALIA (BY \$19 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION IS PRESENTED BELOW :-

	JAN-FEB 1982 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN-FEB 1981 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3 733	3 811	- 78	- 2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	1 834	1 380	+454	+33
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1 065	1 049	+ 16	+ 2
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	870	685	+185	+27

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	798	684	+114	+17
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	728	689	+ 39	+ 6

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS :-

	<u>JAN-FEB 1982</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN-FEB 1981</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
CHINA	4 793	3 712	+1 081	+29
JAPAN	4 402	4 768	- 366	- 8
USA	2 280	2 126	+ 154	+ 7
SINGAPORE	1 754	1 501	+ 253	+17
TAIWAN	1 621	1 655	- 34	- 2
UK	928	869	+ 59	+ 7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	764	850	- 86	-10
FR OF GERMANY	486	532	- 46	- 9
SWITZERLAND	395	425	- 30	- 7
AUSTRALIA	337	276	+ 61	+22

LOCAL DEMAND FOR IMPORTED GOODS FROM CHINA REMAINED STRONG, INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN TEXTILES (BY \$221 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$138 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$123 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT), AS WELL AS MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$74 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR TEXTILE FABRICS (BY \$62 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AS WELL AS GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$44 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT).

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TEXTILE YARN (BY \$71 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT), ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$76 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$186 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE US WERE LARGELY OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$69 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT), AS WELL AS TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$47 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORTS OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$53 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (BY \$96 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT).

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$191 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT), AND OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES FROM TAIWAN (BY \$52 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT).

IMPORTS OF TEXTILES FROM TAIWAN DECLINED (BY \$33 MILLION OR FIVE PER CENT).

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION :-

	JAN-FEB 1982 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN-FEB 1981 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	6 072	5 854	+ 218	+ 4
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4 627	4 520	+ 107	+ 2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTI- CLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	3 351	3 120	+ 231	+ 7
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	2 378	2 058	+ 320	+ 16
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	1 986	1 499	+ 487	+ 32
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1 379	1 387	- 8	- 1

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO USA (BY \$166 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT), CHINA (BY \$108 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT), SINGAPORE (BY \$105 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT), INDONESIA (BY \$67 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT), REPUBLIC OF KOREA (BY \$65 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT), PHILIPPINES (BY \$63 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT), MACAU (BY \$52 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY \$46 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO FRANCE (BY \$41 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT) AND UK (BY \$163 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TEXTILES (BY \$197 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$104 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT), AND CLOTHING (BY \$62 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT).

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE RE-EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$76 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT), AND METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$223 MILLION OR 92 PER CENT).

THE FEBRUARY 1982 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+, BEING A SUMMARY REPORT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1982, WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$5 PER COPY. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MONTH'S IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY MAY AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG. (TEL. NO. : 5-214375).

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FIFTY TEAMS TO COMPETE IN TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE

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FIFTY TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S TAI PO DRAGON BOAT RACE TO BE HELD AT SHUEN WAN HOI ON JUNE 25.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (MONDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID ENTHUSIASTS WOULD HAVE ONLY THREE MORE WEEKS TO APPLY TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AND THEY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON MAY 15.

THE TRADITIONAL RACE, HELD ANNUALLY ON THE FIFTH DAY OF THE FIFTH MONTH ON THE LUNAR CALENDAR, IS TO TAKE PLACE ALONG THE MAIN DAM OF PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR FOR A DISTANCE OF 1 000 METRES.

THERE WILL BE FIVE HEATS IN THE MORNING. THE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP TEAMS IN EACH HEAT WILL COMPETE IN THE FINAL RACE IN THE AFTERNOON.

EACH TEAM WILL CONSIST OF 27 MEMBERS, COMPRISING 24 OARSMEN, A DRUMMER, A GONG BEATER AND THE COXSWAIN.

BEING ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL FESTIVALS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE RACE IS ORGANISED BY A COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, RURAL COMMITTEE, SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

FUNDS FOR THE EVENT WILL COME FROM THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD AND PRIVATE DONATIONS.

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MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

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LOGO CHOSEN FOR EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD (EDB) HAS TAKEN A STEP FORWARD IN PROJECTING ITS IMAGE BY ADOPTING A LOGO FOR ITSELF.

THE LOGO WAS SELECTED FROM AMONG 127 ENTRIES TO THE EDB LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION, LAUNCHED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE BEST DESIGN IS COMPOSED OF FOUR 'E' LETTERS, REPRESENTING THE INITIAL LETTER FOR 'EASTERN'.

+EACH OF THE FOUR E'S IN THE DESIGN DEPICTS A HUMAN FIGURE AND CONVEYS THE IDEA THAT THE EDB REPRESENTS THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE FROM ALL QUARTERS IN THE DISTRICT+, A SPOKESMAN FOR EDB SAID TODAY.

A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOURTH EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30 AT THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS BRADBURY YOUTH CENTRE, MODEL LANE, HONG KONG.

AN AWARD IN THE FORM OF A GIFT COUPON AND A SOUVENIOR PLAQUE WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE AUTHORS OF THE THREE BEST ENTRIES OF THIS COMPETITION. THE FIRST PRIZE WILL BE \$2 000 WITH \$1 000 FOR THE SECOND AND \$500 FOR THE THIRD.

THE BEST DESIGN WILL BE USED FOR PRINTING ON LETTERHEADS AND IN PUBLICITY PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

AMONG THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE FOURTH BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE BOARD'S BUDGET FOR 1982-83, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME COVERING THE AREA AROUND LIN FA KUNG TEMPLE, THE LAUNCHING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT NEWSPAPER, AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE REGISTRATION OF DISTRICT BOARD VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT, AND OF THE WORK OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY APRIL 30 AT THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS BRADBURY CENTRE, MODEL LANE, NORTH POINT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE AFTERNOON'S FULL EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ARE WELCOME TO STAY. CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE MEETING.

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