



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1983

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1983

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PRINCE PHILIP'S MESSAGE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE DELIVERED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AT THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HONG KONG BALL THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING:

+I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DELIGHTED TO VISIT HONG KONG AND I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY ITS DEVELOPMENT EVER SINCE I FIRST CAME HERE IN 1946. BUT ON THIS OCCASION I FEEL RATHER LIKE A MIDWIFE OR A GODPARENT, SINCE THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE I HAD THE PLEASURE OF HELPING TO BRING WWF-HONG KONG INTO THE WORLD.

+THE ORGANISATION OF THIS GREAT PANDA BALL SHOWS THAT IT HAS RAPIDLY DEVELOPED INTO AN EFFECTIVE FUND-RAISING ORGANISATION. I COULD SEE FROM THE PLANS FOR THE MAI-PO MARSHES, WHICH I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO VISIT THIS MORNING, THAT WWF-HONG KONG IS INVOLVED IN AT LEAST ONE VERY WORTHWHILE CONSERVATION PROJECT.

+BUT THIS IS A PANDA BALL AND THAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN MORE SENSES THAN ONE. WWF-HONG KONG SHARES THE PANDA SYMBOL WITH ALL THE OTHER WWF ORGANISATIONS WORLDWIDE AND IS THEREFORE PART OF THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO GIVE WILDLIFE A CHANCE TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THE HUMAN POPULATION IS STILL EXPLORING AND EXPANDING ITS HABITAT, AND WHERE DEVELOPMENT, EXPLOITATION AND POLLUTION ARE THREATENING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SPECIES WITH EXTINCTION.

+IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF THE FUNDS GENERATED THIS EVENING WILL BE SPENT IN CHINA IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF AN UNIQUELY CHINESE ANIMAL, BUT WHICH ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE WWF SYMBOL.

+SO THAT THIS EVENING, IN SPITE OF ALL THE ANXIETIES AND UNCERTAINTIES, WHICH I KNOW THAT YOU FACE HERE, ALL OF YOU PRESENT WHO HAVE BEEN GENEROUS ENOUGH TO SUPPORT WWF HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT COME WHAT MAY, THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE MUST GO ON, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOUR PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE IN HONG KONG; YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOUR GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO CONSERVE NATURE WORLDWIDE, BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, YOU HAVE MADE A PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESCUE OF THE GIANT PANDA, A SPECIES THAT HAS GAINED A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ITSELF IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT WHICH ALSO HAS SUCH A PARTICULAR AND EMOTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR ALL CHINESE PEOPLE.+

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH VISITS MAI PO MARSHES
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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, STARTED HIS BUSY PROGRAMME EARLY THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING WITH A VISIT TO MAI PO MARSHES NATURE RESERVE NEAR YUEN LONG WHERE A RECREATIONAL AND WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND INTERNATIONAL, MR CHARLES DE HAES, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HONG KONG, DR PHILIP KWOK.

ON ARRIVAL, HE WAS INTRODUCED BY DR KWOK TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY, MR CLIVE VINEY.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TOURED THE RESERVE WHERE HE ALSO SAW VARIOUS FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING OBSERVATION TOWERS, A TEMPORARY WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTRE, FOOTPATHS, A BOARDWALK INTO THE RESERVE'S MANGROVE AREA AND CAR PARKS.

THE CONSTRUCTION COST OF ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION IS BEING BORNE BY WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HONG KONG.

THE MAI PO MARSHES, LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF DEEP BAY, COMPRISE 208 HECTARES OF SHALLOW SHRIMP PONDS AND 85 HECTARES OF A MANGROVE STRIP.

THE DUKE LEARNT THAT MANGROVE IS A RARITY IN HONG KONG, SUPPORTING A RICH DIVERSITY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE AT THE MARSHES.

AS THE NATURE RESERVE IS ALSO A RESTING PLACE FOR BIRDS ON MIGRATORY PASSAGE ALONG THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, IT IS IDEAL FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES.

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CAMP RENAMED AFTER DUKE OF EDINBURGH
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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP TODAY (TUESDAY) UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO MARK THE RENAMING OF STOKES CAMP AT TAI PO AS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING CAMP.

THE CAMP IS IMPORTANT TO THE OPERATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME IN HONG KONG AS IT PROVIDES AN EXPEDITION TRAINING GROUND FOR SCHEME PARTICIPANTS AND ADULT HELPERS.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE CAMP WITH THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS WELCOMED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD COMMITTEE, MR ALEX WU.

MR WU THEN PRESENTED TO THE DUKE THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE AWARD COMMITTEE, MR J.P. LEE, THE CAMP WARDEN, MR RAYMOND LAM, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

/AFTER UNVEILING

AFTER UNVEILING THE PLAQUE, PRINCE PHILIP TOURED THE CAMP AND SAID THAT HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH ITS FACILITIES. THEY INCLUDE DORMITORIES, CONFERENCE ROOMS, A KITCHEN AND OPEN SPACE FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

HE ALSO SAW A MODEL SHOWING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE CAMP.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS ALONE, MORE THAN 5 500 PEOPLE HAVE USED THE CAMP WITH ITS EASY ACCESS TO VARIOUS POPULAR EXPEDITION SPOTS.

THE CAMP IS OPEN NOT ONLY TO SCHEME PARTICIPANTS, BUT ALSO TO OTHER SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WELFARE ORGANISATIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS.

THE AWARD SCHEME CHALLENGES PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 25 THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH TO SERVE OTHERS, ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS, EXPERIENCE ADVENTURES AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

THE DUKE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE KEEN PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME.

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DUKE INAUGURATES CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROJECT * * * *

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, UNVEILED A PLAQUE AT THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON TO INAUGURATE A CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROJECT.

UNDER THIS PROJECT, ALL ENDANGERED SPECIES OF MAMMALS AND BIRDS HELD AT THE GARDENS WILL BE IDENTIFIED FROM TODAY WITH A PANDA SYMBOL OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND.

THE DUKE'S VISIT ALSO COINCIDED WITH THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH MANAGES THE GARDENS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS RECEIVED ON ARRIVAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HONG KONG, SIR KENNETH FUNG. HE ALSO MET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND THE HONORARY ZOOLOGICAL CURATOR, DR KENNETH SEARLE.

IN A SPEECH WELCOMING HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, MR CHEONG-LEEN POINTED OUT THAT IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG'S ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION HAD EXPANDED APPRECIABLY.

THE NUMBER OF VISITS MADE BY THE PUBLIC TO THE GARDENS NOW EXCEEDED THREE MILLION A YEAR, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, DR SEARLE SAID THAT THE GARDENS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROPAGATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY.

+TO THE MAN IN THE STREET, AN 'ENDANGERED SPECIES' IS SOMETHING OF A MYTHICAL CREATURE AND EDUCATION IS ANOTHER PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

+FOR THIS REASON, IT IS A VERY GREAT HONOUR FOR US TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND INTERNATIONAL, HRH PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, TO INAUGURATE THE IDENTIFICATION OF ALL ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THESE GARDENS WITH THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PANDA SYMBOL,+ DR SEARLE SAID.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE DUKE TOURED THE GARDENS AND WAS SHOWN SOME OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES, INCLUDING THE ORANG-UTANS, RED-CHEEKED CRESTED GIBBONS AND WHITE-NAPED CRANES.

THE FIVE ORANG-UTANS, THE MOST PRECIOUS SPECIES OF THE GARDENS, CAME FROM ZOOS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE DUKE LEARNT THAT THE GARDENS COOPERATE WITH OTHER ZOOS AND BIRD COLLECTION ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMMES FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

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SICKNESS LEAVE BILL DUE FOR FINAL READING
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THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, PROVIDING FOR INCREASED PAID SICK LEAVE FOR WORKERS, WILL GO THROUGH ITS FINAL READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW.

PRIOR TO THAT, AMENDMENTS WILL BE MOVED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, MR T.S. LO, TO FIVE CLAUSES OF THE BILL IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

MR LO WILL MOVE AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL DIVIDE THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM ACCUMULATION OF 120 DAYS OF PAID SICK LEAVE, INTO TWO CATEGORIES.

CATEGORY ONE WILL COMPRISE 36 DAYS WHICH AN EMPLOYEE CAN CLAIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING PROVISIONS, AND CATEGORY TWO WILL COMPRISE THE REMAINING 84 DAYS WHICH AN EMPLOYEE CAN TAKE ONLY ON PRODUCTION OF A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ATTENDING THE EMPLOYEE AS AN OUT-PATIENT OR IN-PATIENT IN HOSPITAL.

HE WILL ALSO PROPOSE THAT SICK LEAVE BE EARNED AT A RATE OF TWO DAYS PER MONTH FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT, AND FOUR DAYS PER MONTH FOR THE SECOND YEAR ONWARDS.

THE BILL ORIGINALLY PROVIDES FOR TWO DAYS PER MONTH FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS AND FOUR DAYS PER MONTH THEREAFTER.

DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL MOVE AN AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR THE BILL TO COME INTO OPERATION ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF BILL IN THE COUNCIL ON JULY 13, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SICKNESS BENEFIT FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO MAY BE SICK FOR QUITE A LONG PERIOD.

UNDER EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO ONE DAY'S PAID SICK LEAVE FOR EVERY COMPLETED MONTH OF SERVICE, UP TO AN ACCUMULATED MAXIMUM OF 36 DAYS.

EARLIER AT THE MEETING TOMORROW, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL ALSO MOVE A MOTION INCREASING THE COVERAGE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO ALL NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$8 500 A MONTH, FROM THE PRESENT \$7 500 A MONTH WAGE LEVEL.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO ALL MANUAL WORKERS WHO ARE COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR MONTHLY EARNINGS.

FOUR OTHER BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME AT THE MEETING, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE TILL NOVEMBER 9 OR 10.

THEY ARE: MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, PENSIONS (INCREASE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983, AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

IN ADDITION, THREE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS CONCERNING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE INCIDENCE OF MALARIA, AND, THE INCREASING PRICES IN THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

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JULY RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX UP
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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN JULY WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 652 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

AT 137, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR JULY ROSE BY THREE POINTS OR TWO PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE JUNE FIGURE, AND BY 14 POINTS OR 11 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX, AT 105, WAS TWO POINTS OR TWO PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR JUNE, AND THREE POINTS OR THREE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR JULY 1982.

COMPARED WITH THE JUNE FIGURE, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR FIVE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES, OTHER CONSUMER GOODS, FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, AND FUELS INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT, TWO PER CENT, ONE PER CENT AND ONE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

COMPARED WITH JULY 1982, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, THOSE OF CONSUMER DURABLES BY 13 PER CENT, OTHER CONSUMER GOODS BY 12 PER CENT, FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO BY 11 PER CENT AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS BY SEVEN PER CENT.

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS REGISTERED IN RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES (EIGHT PER CENT), FOLLOWED BY INCREASES IN FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOUR PER CENT), FUELS (THREE PER CENT), CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS (TWO PER CENT), AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS (ONE PER CENT).

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED SLIGHTLY, WHILE THOSE OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED TO A LARGER EXTENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE. MOTOR VEHICLES, HOWEVER, RECORDED DECLINES IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF SALES. WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1982, SUPERMARKETS RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES. DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SALES VALUE BUT A MODERATE RISE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLES 1 AND 2 PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR JUNE AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR JULY OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND OF RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS).

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF THE JULY RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1982 ARE ALSO GIVEN. ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO.: 3-7216024.

TABLE 1 : VALUE INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR
JUNE AND JULY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	JUNE 1983 (REVISED FIGURES)	JULY 1983 (PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	JULY 1983 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1983		JULY 1983 COMPARED WITH JULY 1982	
			POINTS	%	POINTS	%
TOTAL RETAIL SALES (HK\$ MILLION)	4 560	4 652				
RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEXES :						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	134	137	3	2	14	11
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	145	146	1	1	14	11

/FUELS

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FUELS	177	178	1	1	29	19
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	134	139	5	4	9	7
CONSUMER DURABLES	127	132	5	4	15	13
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	127	130	3	2	14	12
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
SUPER- MARKETS	221	223	2	1	42	23
MOTOR VEHICLES	59	57	-2	-3	-6	-10
DEPART- MENT STORES	112	119	7	6	13	12

NOTES: FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCLUDES SUPERMARKETS.

CONSUMER DURABLES INCLUDES MOTOR VEHICLES.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCLUDES DEPARTMENT STORES.

TABLE 2 : VALUE INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR
JUNE AND JULY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	JUNE 1983	JULY 1983	JULY 1983 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1983		JULY 1983 COMPARED WITH JULY 1982	
	(REVISED FIGURES)	(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	POINTS	%	POINTS	%

RETAIL SALES
VOLUME
INDEXES :

/(I) FOR ALL

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(I)	FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	103	105	2	2	3	3
(II)	BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
	FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	104	105	1	1	4	4
	FUELS	119	120	1	1	4	3
	CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	99	104	5	5	2	2
	CONSUMER DURABLES	106	110	4	4	8	8
	OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	99	101	2	2	1	1
(III)	BY SELECTED TRADES						
	SUPER-MARKETS	154	155	1	1	16	12
	MOTOR VEHICLES	40	39	-1	-3	-7	-15
	DEPARTMENT STORES	87	93	6	7	2	2

NOTES: FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCLUDES SUPERMARKETS.

CONSUMER DURABLES INCLUDES MOTOR VEHICLES.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCLUDES DEPARTMENT STORES.

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SIR PHILIP SEES WORK ON ID CARD SCHEME
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SPENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE SCHEME.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, SIR PHILIP WENT TO CARRIAN CENTRE IN GLOUCESTER ROAD - ONE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S EIGHT IDENTITY CARD ISSUE CENTRES - AND TOOK A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE REPLACEMENT PROCESS.

THE AVERAGE TIME NOW NEEDED TO REPLACE AN OLD IDENTITY CARD IS LESS THAN 30 MINUTES.

SIR PHILIP WAS TOLD THAT THE IDENTITY CARD ISSUE SCHEME, WHICH STARTED IN MAY THIS YEAR, WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND THAT CLOSE TO 400 000 PEOPLE HAD REPLACED THEIR OLD IDENTITY CARDS WITH NEW ONES.

BY MAY NEXT YEAR, ALL MEN UNDER THE AGE OF 35 WILL HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH NEW IDENTITY CARDS.

IN VIEW OF THIS GOOD PROGRESS, ALL OLD IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED TO MALE RESIDENTS BORN BETWEEN 1960 AND 1964 WILL BE DECLARED INVALID AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

ALL THE EIGHT IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES ARE NOW GEARED UP TO DEAL WITH ANY LAST-MINUTE RUSH.

DURING THE VISIT, SIR PHILIP ALSO CHATTED WITH IMMIGRATION STAFF INVOLVED IN THE REPLACEMENT EXERCISE.

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MODERN HOMES FOR 3 500 MORE AT ESTATE
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A NEW BLOCK PROVIDING MODERN HOMES FOR 3 500 PEOPLE WILL RISE ON THE LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE UNDER ANOTHER PHASE OF A REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AND UPGRADE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE OLDER ESTATE.

WORK WILL BEGIN SHORTLY UNDER A \$38.6 MILLION TENDER JUST APPROVED BY THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THE TENDER COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 26-28-STOREY TWIN-TOWER BLOCK, TWO COOKED-FOOD STALLS AND ASSOCIATED ROADS, DRAINAGE AND EXTERNAL WORKS.

+THE NEW BLOCK WILL PROVIDE 778 MODERN, SELF-CONTAINED FLATS,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID THE FIRST TWO PHASES OF THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME HAD BEEN COMPLETED, WITH 6 000 TENANTS HAVING MOVED INTO 1 700 FLATS IN THREE NEW BLOCKS BUILT ON THE SITES OF OLD ONES.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1983

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ELLEN WAS WORST STORM IN FOUR YEARS

ELLEN WAS THE WORST TYPHOON TO STRIKE HONG KONG SINCE HOPE IN 1979, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTED TODAY.

SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE KILLED, SOME OTHERS WERE REPORTED MISSING, AND ABOUT 330 MORE WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE TYPHOON.

SIGNAL NO. 10, HOISTED WHEN TYPHOON ELLEN STRUCK ALMOST DIRECTLY ON SEPTEMBER 9, LASTED FOR EIGHT HOURS, AS MANY HOURS AS WHEN DISASTROUS TYPHOON WANDA STRUCK IN 1962.

ELLEN'S HURRICANE FORCE WINDS LASTED FOR FIVE HOURS AT CHEUNG CHAU, LONGER THAN THE TIME WHEN WANDA STRUCK IN 1962, TYPHOON ROSE IN 1971 OR TYPHOON HOPE IN 1979.

A MAXIMUM GUST OF 128 KNOTS WAS RECORDED AT CHEUNG CHAU, THE HIGHEST RECORDED THERE SINCE 1953. AT WAGLAN ISLAND, GUSTS REACHED 122 KNOTS, THE HIGHEST SINCE TYPHOON RUBY IN 1964.

ELLEN ORIGINATED AS A TROPICAL DEPRESSION NEAR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS OVER THE PACIFIC ON AUGUST 29. IT MOVED WESTWARDS AND INTENSIFIED INTO A TYPHOON ON SEPTEMBER 4, ABOUT 520 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF MANILA.

ELLEN ATTAINED ITS MAXIMUM INTENSITY DURING THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6, AND ENTERED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THE NEXT MORNING. IT CONTINUED WEST-NORTHWESTWARDS AT 8 KNOTS, APPROACHING THE SOUTH CHINA COAST ON SEPTEMBER 8. ELLEN PASSED TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG, MOVING IN A NORTHWEST DIRECTION. IT CAME CLOSEST TO HONG KONG AROUND 7 AM ON SEPTEMBER 9, WITH ITS CENTRE ABOUT SEVEN NAUTICAL MILES OFF FAN LAU, THE SOUTHWESTERN TIP OF LANTAU ISLAND.

TYPHOON ELLEN THEN MOVED OVER MACAU, AGAIN CAUSING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. IT LATER MOVED NORTH-NORTHWEST INTO GUANGDONG, CAUSING TREMENDOUS DAMAGE TO EIGHT COUNTIES IN THE PROVINCE.

FINALLY, MOVING FURTHER INLAND, ELLEN WEAKENED INTO A TROPICAL STORM AND DISSIPATED RAPIDLY DURING THE NIGHT.

IN HONG KONG, THE STAND-BY SIGNAL NO. 1 WAS HOISTED AT 5 AM ON SEPTEMBER 7 WHEN ELLEN WAS ABOUT 420 NAUTICAL MILES EAST-SOUTHEAST OF HONG KONG. WINDS WERE LIGHT AND MAINLY FROM THE EAST, BUT BECAME NORTHERLY THE NEXT MORNING.

THE STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS HOISTED AT 7.45 AM AND THE WINDS BECAME FRESH TO STRONG DURING THE AFTERNOON. THE NORTHEASTERLY GALE OR STORM SIGNAL NO. 8 NE WAS HOISTED AT 4.45 PM. BY 9 PM, WINDS OVER HONG KONG WERE GENERALLY STRONG FROM THE NORTH TO NORTHEAST AND GALE WAS REPORTED AT WAGLAN ISLAND.

/BETWEEN MIDNIGHT

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BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 1 AM, THE HOURLY MEAN WIND SPEED AT WAGLAN ISLAND INCREASED RAPIDLY FROM 59 KNOTS TO 76 KNOTS. THE INCREASING GALE OR STORM SIGNAL NO. 9 WAS HOISTED AT 1 AM ON SEPTEMBER 9 WHILE THE HURRICANE SIGNAL NO. 10 WAS HOISTED AN HOUR LATER.

AS ELLEN PASSED TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG, MOVING IN A NORTHWEST DIRECTION, IT FIRST BROUGHT HURRICANE FORCE WINDS TO WAGLAN ISLAND, REACHING A MAXIMUM HOURLY MEAN WIND OF 86 KNOTS FROM THE SOUTHEAST BETWEEN 4 AM AND 5 AM. IT BROUGHT MAXIMUM HOURLY MEAN WINDS OF 90 KNOTS TO CHEUNG CHAU, AND A MAXIMUM GUST OF 128 KNOTS FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTHEAST, BETWEEN 6 AM AND 7 AM.

HURRICANE FORCE WINDS CONTINUED TO AFFECT HONG KONG FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS BUT WEAKENED AT CHEUNG CHAU AROUND 10 AM. THE NO. 10 SIGNAL WAS REPLACED BY THE SOUTHEASTERLY GALE OR STORM SIGNAL NO. 8 SE AFTER BEING HOISTED FOR EIGHT HOURS.

WINDS VEERED FROM SOUTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST AS ELLEN MOVED FURTHER AWAY ON A NORTHWESTERLY TRACK AND THE NO. 8 SE SIGNAL WAS REPLACED BY THE SOUTHWESTERLY GALE OR STORM SIGNAL NO. 8 SW AT 2 PM. IT WAS REPLACED BY THE NO. 3 SIGNAL AT 5.37 PM WHEN GALES SUBSIDED.

WINDS REMAINED GUSTY FRESH TO STRONG FOR MOST OF THE NIGHT AND ALL SIGNALS WERE LOWERED AT 9.20 PM ON SEPTEMBER 9.

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SIMULATOR DRIVING COURSE OFFERED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS TO OFFER SIMULATOR DRIVING COURSES FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING LEARNERS AT THE DEPARTMENT'S INDOOR INSTRUCTION CENTRE, PUI CHING ROAD, KOWLOON, STARTING FROM SUNDAY (OCTOBER 16).

THE FIRST TEN-DAY COURSE WILL BE GIVEN DAILY BETWEEN 4.15 PM AND 5.15 PM. THE FEE WILL BE \$250.

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE COURSE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO ENROL AT THE HONG KONG SCHOOL OF MOTORING AT WONG CHUK HANG FOR OFF-STREET AND ON-STREET TRAINING.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DRIVING TEST SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, DUNDAS STREET.

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GROUP LOOKS INTO SHOP SECURITY

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MEMBERS OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED SOME LOCAL GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS TO SEE THEIR GENERAL SECURITY MEASURES.

THE IDEA OF THE VISIT WAS INITIATED AT A COMMITTEE MEETING WHEN MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE RECENT INCREASE IN ROBBERY AND BURGLARY CASES INVOLVING GOLDSMITH SHOPS.

/THE ASSISTANT

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THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRANCIS HO SAID, +THE COMMITTEE IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CRIMES AND, WITH THE HELP OF THE POLICE, WE ORGANISED A SEMINAR IN JULY FOR THE STAFF OF LOCAL GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS ON SECURITY MEASURES.

+THE SEMINAR WAS WELL RECEIVED AND PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO OPEN AND CLOSE THEIR SHOPS AT FIXED HOURS TO BETTER FACILITATE POLICE PATROLLING.

+DURING TODAY'S VISIT WE LISTENED TO THE VIEWS OF SHOP OPERATORS AND TRIED TO WORK OUT A TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURE,+ HE ADDED.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED
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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON CHOW SUK-SANG ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1982 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

CHOW WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF A 14-YEAR-OLD BOY IN JANUARY 1982.

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SPORTS AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES
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A 'KOWLOON WEST CARNIVAL' WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 23 (SUNDAY) BRINGING AN AFTERNOON OF SPORTS AND GAMES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, AT MONG KOK'S MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND.

THE CARNIVAL WHICH WILL START AT 1.30 PM, IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL.

URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR LEE CHIK-YUET, AND CHIEF RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND CHAN, TOGETHER WITH OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM THE REGION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

SOME 5 000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY, ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE CARNIVAL. THOSE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING SHOULD CONTACT THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OFFICES AT MONG KOK (3-326449), SHAM SHUI PO (3-860945) AND YAU MA TEI (3-7235789).

ACTIVITIES PLANNED INCLUDE BMX CYCLING PERFORMANCES, A FOOTBALL SKILL TEST, A THREE-A-SIDE BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT, POTTED GAMES FOR CHILDREN AND A MARTIAL ARTS DISPLAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRE PREVENTION TEACHING KITS

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FIRE PREVENTION TEACHING KITS WILL BE PRESENTED TO SOME 500 PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS AT A CEREMONY AT THE WONG TAI SIN FIRE STATION AT 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 13).

THE KITS HAVE BEEN PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, AND SPONSORED BY MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS (HK) LTD., AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER LAM LOK-BUN WILL SPEAK AT THE CEREMONY, AND DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EDUCATION, MRS RUBY LAU, WILL MAKE THE PRESENTATIONS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FESTIVAL TO PROMOTE LOCAL IDENTITY

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A DISTRICT FESTIVAL WILL BE STAGED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN TO PROMOTE A GREATER SENSE OF LOCAL IDENTITY.

THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL, TO BE LAUNCHED ON OCTOBER 30, WILL FEATURE 18 RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK, STUDY OR LIVE IN THE DISTRICT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 13) AT 3 PM AT THE PENTHOUSE, 37TH FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA TOWER, 12 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LIU LIT-FOR, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE EVENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LOLLY CHIU, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF THE ORGANISING SUB-COMMITTEES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

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