



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
IMPROVED LAW IN BANK SUPERVISION PLANNED	1
NEED SEEN FOR CHANGE IN ILLEGITIMACY LAW	2
PERSONAL TOUCH IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE	5
BETTER EMPLOYMENT FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES	5
STUDENT LOAN FUNDS OFFERED FOR 1985-86	6
CHANCE TO VISIT MAI PO MARSHES	7
DOTTING THE EYES OF TWO DRAGONS	8
DRAGON BOAT RACE IN CHAI WAN	9
FARMERS TO STUDY NEW TECHNIQUES IN U.S.	9
TSEUK LUK STREET ROOF STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED	10
SUMMER BRINGS SPORTS TRAINING OPTIONS FOR ALL	10
NEW PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT FOR TAI PO	12
NEW NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TUEN MUN	12
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC COURSE SEEKS PARTICIPANTS	13
300 TO ATTEND SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT	14
GRASS PITCHES TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATION	14
SPECIAL STAMPS ON SALE TOMORROW	15
SERVICE RESERVOIR FOR KWUN TONG	15
HOLIDAY MAIL	16
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	16

IMPROVED LAW IN BANK SUPERVISION PLANNED

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NEW LEGISLATION WAS NEEDED IN HONG KONG'S SYSTEMS OF SUPERVISING BANKS, AS UNDERLINED BY RECENT EVENTS AND GOVERNMENT WAS SET ON IMPROVING THEM, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS BLYE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT AN INTERNATIONAL CREDIT AND FINANCE FORUM, MR BLYE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR WAS INTENDED TO BE LIMITED TO THE MINIMUM TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR MACRO MONETARY POLICY, SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICE AND TO THE PROVISION OF A MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR DEPOSITORS AND INVESTORS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SECTOR HAD EVOLVED IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS OTHER SECTORS OF ITS ECONOMY, NAMELY THROUGH MARKET FORCES WITH A MINIMUM OF DELIBERATE DISCRIMINATORY INFLUENCE FROM GOVERNMENT.

+WE DO NOT HAVE POLICIES WHICH ARE DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT NURTURING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR,+ MR BLYE STRESSED, +BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOTHING IS DELIBERATELY DONE TO RESTRICT IT EITHER.+

MR BLYE SAID THAT NOBODY SHOULD EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT AS THE PRIME MOVER IN ANY FINANCIAL INNOVATION.

+ONLY GENUINE BORROWERS AND LENDERS ARE IN A POSITION TO TEST THE NEED FOR AND VIABILITY OF SUCH MARKETS AND THEY MUST PAY THE PRICE OF FAILURES, NOT THE TAXPAYER. THEY SHOULD ALSO REAP THE PROFITS.+

HOWEVER, WHEN BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES ARE IDENTIFIED AS UNREASONABLY IMPEDING LAWFUL AND ACCEPTABLE VENTURES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT SWIFTLY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, MR BLYE SAID.

HE TOLD PARTICIPANTS AT THE FORUM THAT HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL SECTOR STOOD OUT AMONG THE OTHER MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH HAD GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY OVER THE YEARS.

+THE FINANCIAL SECTOR CONTRIBUTED ABOUT 17 PER CENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT TEN YEARS AGO,+ HE SAID. +NOW THAT CONTRIBUTION IS ROUGHLY 20 PER CENT.+

TWO FACTORS ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS EXPANSION IN THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, MR BLYE CONTINUED.

TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE ENTREPOT TRADE IS ONE AND THE OTHER IS DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ROLE FROM BEING AN ADJUNCT TO OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, PROVIDING FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, TO BECOMING AN ATTRACTION TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE, MR BLYE MADE AN ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S GROWING TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION WITH MARKETS STILL RELATIVELY UNEXPLORED.

/HE SAID

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 2 -

HE SAID THAT CHINA WAS NOW HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET AFTER THE UNITED STATES AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA GREW BY 81 PER CENT IN VALUE LAST YEAR. BY CONTRAST, IN 1978 CHINA'S MARKET POSITION WAS IN 37TH PLACE, HE POINTED OUT.

RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA LAST YEAR GREW BY 130 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND WHILE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE RATE OF GROWTH IN THE YEARS AHEAD, MR BLYE SAID HE HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE TREND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SHARPLY UPWARD.

THE STATE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY TODAY IS EVIDENCE THAT THE QUESTION MARK WHICH HUNG OVER THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS WAS REMOVED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, HE EXPLAINED.

+IN THE YEARS TO COME THERE WILL BE MANY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND THOSE OTHER AREAS OF CHINA WHICH ARE OPENING THEIR DOORS TO OUTSIDE INVESTMENT.

+ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE BUTTRESSED BY THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG,+ HE SAID, +I AM CONVINCED THAT HONG KONG IS THE PLACE TO BE TO TAKE BEST ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.+

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NEED SEEN FOR CHANGE IN ILLEGITIMACY LAW
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THE PRESENT STATE OF THE LAW COULD LEAD TO VERY GRAVE INJUSTICES FOR CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK IF NO PROVISION WAS MADE IN A WILL FOR THEM, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

AND SINCE HE HAD A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY TO CONSIDER IDEAS FOR LAW REFORM, HE WOULD BE TAKING STEPS TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE ANY GOOD REASONS WHY REFORMS IN THIS AREA OF FAMILY LAW SHOULD NOT PROCEED, MR THOMAS TOLD DIRECTORS OF THE PO LEUNG KUK, AT THEIR LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY.

IT MIGHT BE A NEGLECTED AREA OF LAW AND IT MIGHT NOT INVOLVE VERY MANY CHILDREN, BUT IF THOSE CHILDREN WERE SUFFERING AN INJUSTICE BECAUSE THE LAW DID NOT GIVE THEM ADEQUATE PROTECTION AFTER THE DEATH OF THEIR FATHER, HE TOOK THE VIEW THAT A CHANGE IN THE LAW SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, MR THOMAS SAID.

BUT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE WIDE CONSULTATION AND PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE WERE BROUGHT FORWARD.

/+NONETHELESS WE

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 3 -

+NONETHELESS WE SHALL HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE, AND I AM GOING TO START ON THIS FOLLOWING THIS LUNCH,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THE 1971 LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG, MR THOMAS SAID, MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE LEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF A MAN BY HIS WIFE OR HIS CONCUBINE, AND HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

ALTHOUGH THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY HIM AND MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE FRUIT OF A LONG-TERM STABLE RELATIONSHIP, NONETHELESS THEY WERE NOT BY STATUTE HIS CHILDREN, MR THOMAS SAID.

DURING A MAN'S LIFE HE COULD BE MADE LIABLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ALL HIS CHILDREN WHETHER LEGITIMATE OR ILLEGITIMATE. BUT ON HIS DEATH HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN HAD NO INTEREST IN HIS ESTATE UNDER THE RULES OF INTESTACY, NOR DID THEY HAVE ANY RIGHT TO CLAIM AGAINST HIS ESTATE AS HIS DEPENDANTS, EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE MAINTAINED THEM DURING HIS LIFETIME, MR THOMAS SAID.

IN HIS TALK ENTITLED +PROVISIONS FOR ILLEGITIMACY+, MR THOMAS SAID THAT IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ALL CHILDREN OF A MAN, ACKNOWLEDGED BY HIM, HAD EQUAL RIGHTS. ENGLAND TOO HAD SHOWN A SIMILARLY COMPASSIONATE ATTITUDE BY ELIMINATING MOST DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND ALLOWING PERSONS WHO HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DEPENDENT UPON A DECEASED TO MAKE A CLAIM FOR PROVISION FROM HIS ESTATE.

BUT HONG KONG, HE SAID, POSSIBLY INADVERTENTLY, HAD REDUCED THE STATUS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN SO THAT THEY HAD NO CLAIM UPON THEIR FATHER'S ESTATE AFTER HIS DEATH.

+A MAN MAY MAKE WHATEVER PROVISION HE WISHES FOR HIS CHILDREN, LEGITIMATE OR ILLEGITIMATE, BY WILL. WHILE THOSE WHO LIVE TO AN ADVANCED AGE AND DIE MAY TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF PROVIDING FOR ALL THEIR CHILDREN BY WILL, IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE DIE WITHOUT HAVING MADE A WILL TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR DEPENDANTS.

+THE PRESENT STATE OF THE LAW CAN LEAD TO VERY GRAVE INJUSTICES. THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT EXAMPLES OF YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE FATHERED CHILDREN IN LONG TERM, STABLE RELATIONSHIPS, AND WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ACCIDENTS. BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT MARRIED TO THE MOTHER OF THEIR CHILDREN AND HAD NOT MADE A WILL, THE CHILDREN WERE NOT ENTITLED TO SHARE IN PROPERTY AFTER DEATH,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

IT MIGHT BE ARGUED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE VIRTUES OF CHINESE COMMUNITIES, PROVISION WOULD BE MADE ON AN INFORMAL BASIS FOR ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN ON THE DEATH OF THEIR FATHER. HE TOOK THE VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT THERE COULD BE NO HARM IN ENSURING THAT THE LAW ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE VIRTUOUS PRACTICES OF THE COMMUNITY.

/+THERE IS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 4 -

+THERE IS CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT IF THE LAW ENSURES THAT THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS ARE SAFEGUARDED WHEN IN INDIVIDUAL CASES THE COMMUNITY'S HIGH STANDARDS ARE NOT OBSERVED FOR SOME REASON,+ HE SAID.

THE LAW, HE SAID, RECOGNISED AND ENFORCED THE OBLIGATION OF A FATHER TO SUPPORT HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN DURING HIS LIFETIME AND THERE WAS A PROPOSAL GOING FORWARD SOON TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THAT THE MAXIMUM RATE AT WHICH HE COULD BE COMPELLED TO DO SO SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

THE LAW ALSO ALLOWED A FATHER TO SEEK THE EXCLUSIVE CUSTODY OF HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN, MR THOMAS SAID.

+AS A MATTER OF CONSISTENCY AND OF JUSTICE, THEREFORE, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE THAT THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF A MAN WHO CAN PROVE THAT THEY WERE DEPENDENT UPON HIM DURING HIS LIFETIME - AND WERE MAINTAINED DURING HIS LIFETIME - SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO SEEK REASONABLE PROVISION FROM HIS ESTATE IN THE EVENT OF HIS UNTIMELY DEATH WITHOUT A WILL HAVING BEEN MADE NAMING THEM AS BENEFICIARIES,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

SPEAKING OF THE LONG-STANDING VIRTUE OF CHINESE COMMUNITIES' CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, MR THOMAS SAID, +BUT EVEN IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS, FAMILY TIES HAVE LOOSENED THROUGH PRESSURES OF MODERN LIFE, ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS, AND AS A RESULT OF FAMILY MEMBERS DISPERSING AROUND THE WORLD.+

THE PO LEUNG KUK PLAYED AN EVER-INCREASING ROLE IN HELPING THOSE UNFORTUNATE PERSONS FOR WHOM FAMILY SUPPORT WAS EITHER LACKING OR INSUFFICIENT.

AMONG THE MANY YOUNG CHILDREN UNDER THE PROTECTION AND CARE OF THE KUK WERE A SMALL MINORITY BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, AND HE THOUGHT THEY WERE +A PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP+, MR THOMAS SAID. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO REFER TO THESE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN TODAY FOR TWO REASONS: FIRSTLY BECAUSE, AS A GROUP THEY WERE, ALMOST BY DEFINITION, WITHOUT A REPRESENTATIVE VOICE TO SPEAK FOR THEM; AND SECONDLY, THE PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY OF A LEGAL NATURE WITH WHICH THEY WERE FACED, WERE PROBLEMS THAT HAD TO SOME EXTENT BEEN CREATED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS THAT DID NOT ADEQUATELY TAKE THEIR RIGHTS INTO ACCOUNT.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 5 -

PERSONAL TOUCH IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
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FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, LED BY THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR NG CHAN-LAM, TODAY (TUESDAY) APPLIED THE PERSONAL TOUCH TO ENCOURAGE TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICT TO REGISTER AS VOTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER.

THE GROUP INCLUDED DR FANNY CHEUNG, MR KAN CHUNG-NIN, MR CHEUNG CHI-YUEN, MR WONG WANG-FAT AND MR CHOY KAN-PUI.

THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF VISITED MORE THAN 20 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO DISTRIBUTE REGISTRATION FORMS TO TEACHERS, AND ASSISTED THEM TO REGISTER FOR THE ELECTION. THERE ARE SOME 100 PRIMARY, SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS IN SHA TIN.

THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE, WHICH STARTED LAST WEEK, IS PART OF A CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF TEACHING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

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BETTER EMPLOYMENT FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES
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GRADUATES OF FULL-TIME COURSES FROM HONG KONG'S FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN 1984 ENJOYED BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT SURVEY.

IT ALSO REVEALED THAT 1 732 GRADUATES, OR 71.6 PER CENT OF ALL GRADUATES, WERE EMPLOYED BY MID-OCTOBER, THREE MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1983/84.

THIS COMPARED WITH 1 378 OR 67.3 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR.

THERE WERE 388 GRADUATES, OR 16 PER CENT, PURSUING FURTHER FULL-TIME STUDIES, AND 299, OR 12.4 PER CENT STILL LOOKING FOR SUITABLE JOBS AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY.

IN 1983/84, 2 614 FULL-TIME STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG, HAKING WONG AND LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WHICH OPERATES THE FIVE INSTITUTES, SAID THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF GRADUATES WAS MOST ENCOURAGING.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 6 -

THEY ENJOYED, ON THE WHOLE, BETTER OPPORTUNITIES THAN GRADUATES OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND WERE ALSO FOUND TO BE MORE READILY ACCEPTED BY THE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, HE ADDED.

A SUMMARY OF THE JOBS UNDERTAKEN BY GRADUATES REVEALED THAT MOST WERE EMPLOYED IN AREAS RELATING TO THEIR COURSE OF STUDY -- 41 PER CENT WERE EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY, 16.9 PER CENT IN COMMERCE, 5.5 PER CENT IN PUBLIC UTILITIES, TWO PER CENT IN GOVERNMENT AND 6.2 PER CENT IN OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS EDUCATION OR NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS.

AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY, THE AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY OF EMPLOYED GRADUATES WAS 8.6 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1983.

THE SURVEY ALSO INDICATED THAT 77 PER CENT OF THE GRADUATES HAD TAKEN UP SOME FORM OF PART-TIME STUDY AFTER GRADUATION -- 47.9 PER CENT ATTENDING EVENING COURSES AND 33.8 PER CENT PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSES.

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STUDENT LOAN FUNDS OFFERED FOR 1985-86
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STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NEED OF A LOAN TO COMPLETE THEIR STUDY ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE 1985-86 ACADEMIC YEAR FROM TWO STUDENT LOAN FUNDS.

THE FUNDS WHICH PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE ASSISTANCE ARE FROM THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS' LOAN FUND AND THE STANDARD-SING TAO FAT CHOY DRIVE STUDENTS' LOAN FUND.

MAXIMUM LOANS VARY FROM \$1 800 PER ANNUM FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT TO \$2 600 PER ANNUM FOR A POST-SECONDARY STUDENT.

APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR BOTH LOAN FUNDS AND PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVE LOANS FROM EITHER FUNDS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL UNDERTAKING TO REPAY THEIR LOANS BY INSTALMENTS OF AT LEAST 10 PER CENT OF THEIR MONTHLY SALARY FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES.

THE LOANS WILL THEN BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THEIR PERSONAL CURRENT OR SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WITH A LOCAL BANK.

/THESE LOANS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 7 -

THESE LOANS ARE MADE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. NEW APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR LOANS AND RECIPIENTS WISHING TO APPLY FOR FURTHER LOANS FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR MUST COMPLETE A PRESCRIBED FORM.

APPLICANTS WHO INTEND TO ENTER THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD APPLY TO THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THOSE WISHING TO ENTER THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY'S ASSISTANT SECRETARY, STUDENT AFFAIRS.

THOSE INTENDING TO ENTER THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SHOULD APPLY TO THE STUDENT WELFARE OFFICER OF THE POLYTECHNIC.

APPLICANTS WISHING TO ENTER THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG SHOULD APPLY TO THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC.

THOSE INTENDING TO ENTER THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE SHOULD APPLY TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OF THE COLLEGE.

ALL APPLICANTS WHO ARE ATTENDING ANY OF THESE FIVE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ALSO APPLY IN THE SAME MANNER AND THEIR APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 16.

STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WISHING TO APPLY FOR LOANS ARE ADVISED TO OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 15TH FLOOR, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 7.

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CHANCE TO VISIT MAI PO MARSHES

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HONG KONG'S NATURE LOVERS HAVE A CHANCE TO VISIT MAI PO MARSHES, A NATURE RESERVE KNOWN FOR ITS BIRDLIFE.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS ORGANISING, ON AN EXPERIMENTAL SIX-MONTH BASIS, EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO THE MARSHES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EVERY SUNDAY STARTING JULY 7.

THE MARSHES, SITUATED ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF DEEP BAY NEAR YUEN LONG, IS AN IMPORTANT ATTRACTION FOR BIRDWATCHERS. OF HONG KONG'S 350 RECORDED SPECIES, 250 HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE AREA.

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ANNOUNCING THE PROJECT TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE EDUCATIONAL VISITS, ORGANISED FOR THE FIRST TIME, ARE TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE INTERESTING FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE AREA.

+THE VISITS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF GUIDED TOURS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S NATURE WARDENS WHO WILL BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON THE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE IN THE NATURE RESERVE AND THEIR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO 20 PER VISIT AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

VISITORS SHOULD BE AGED 12 OR OVER AND THOSE UNDER 17 SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD TELEPHONE THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK VISITORS CENTRE AT 3-2817365 TO ARRANGE FOR ADVANCE BOOKINGS, GIVING THEIR NAMES, IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS, AGES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

BOOKING SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE AND NO APPLICATIONS FOR VISITS MORE THAN TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE WILL BE ENTERTAINED, HE ADDED.

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DOTTING THE EYES OF TWO DRAGONS

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES, TODAY (TUESDAY) OFFICIATED AT THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY OF TWO NEW DRAGON BOATS AT THE TAI WONG YEH TEMPLE IN YUEN CHAU TSAI, TAI PO.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, ALSO OFFICIATED AT THE CEREMONY, WHICH BEGAN WITH AN OFFERING OF ROASTED PIGS, CHICKENS AND OTHER DELICACIES TO THE PATRON GOD OF FISHERMEN, TAI WONG YEH.

THE OFFICIATING GUESTS THEN DOTTED THE EYES OF TWO NEW DRAGON BOATS, AFTER A BRIEF CEREMONY BY VILLAGE ELDERS OF PRAYERS AND PRAISES IN THE HAKKA DIALECT.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EXHIBITION RACE BY LAST YEAR'S DRAGON BOAT RACE WINNING TEAMS.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 9 -

DRAGON BOAT RACE IN CHAI WAN
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COMPETITORS COMPRISING FISHERMEN AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL VIE FOR TOP HONOURS IN THE CHAI WAN DRAGON BOAT RACE TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JUNE 20).

THE EVENT, SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, IS ORGANISED BY THE CHAI WAN FISHERMEN RECREATION CLUB.

A TOTAL OF 22 DRAGON BOATS OF VARYING SIZES WILL TAKE PART IN THE RACES TO BE HELD FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM IN THE CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING BASIN.

THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR E. LOCKYEAR, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION.

MEANWHILE, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHEN THEY TRAVEL TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT TO WATCH THE SHAU KEI WAN DRAGON BOAT RACE TO BE HELD IN THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER ON SATURDAY (JUNE 22).

+HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP FOR THE RACES AND AS THE FAIRWAY TO THE TYPHOON SHELTER IS NARROW, PEOPLE ARE URGED TO BE CAREFUL,+ HE ADDED.

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FARMERS TO STUDY NEW TECHNIQUES IN U.S.
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FOURTEEN VEGETABLE FARMERS WILL LEAVE ON FRIDAY (JUNE 21) FOR THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY THE LATEST TECHNIQUES IN FARMING AND MARKETING.

THE 12-DAY STUDY TOUR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, WILL PRESENT A BANNER TO THE TEAM AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

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/10

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 10 -

TSEUK LUK STREET ROOF STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING THE CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OF 40, 42 AND 42A, TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, TO ENABLE THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WITHOUT DANGER TO PEOPLE.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN THE KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON JULY 18, 1985 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF THE EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDER ISSUED IN JULY 1984 UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AND AS A RESULT OF THE OWNERS' FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDER.

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS MADE.

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SUMMER BRINGS SPORTS TRAINING OPTIONS FOR ALL
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SUMMER IS WITH US, AND THIS SUMMER MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER IN HONG KONG HAVE MADE RESOLUTIONS TO GET FIT OR STAY FIT -- PARTICULARLY THROUGH REGULAR SPORTS TRAINING.

AS IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, THERE IS AN INCREASING INTEREST IN SPORTS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG. THE RECENT TRIUMPHS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM AND OF A LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB HAVE NO DOUBT ADDED IMPETUS TO THIS ENTHUSIASM.

FORTUNATELY, THE SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMME OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OPTIONS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS ON OFFER:

- + WATERPOLO -- THIS COURSE STARTED IN MAY AND CONTINUES TILL SEPTEMBER. IT IS OPEN TO ANY COMPETENT SWIMMER AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 35. TRAINING TAKES PLACE FOR AN HOUR IN THE EVENINGS ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT FOUR COUNCIL SWIMMING POOLS: PAO YUE KONG (ABERDEEN) ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND MORSE PARK, KWUN TONG AND LAI CHI KOK IN KOWLOON.

/+ FISHING

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 11 -

- + FISHING -- THE FIRST SERIES OF THIS POPULAR ANNUAL COURSE TAKES PLACE THIS MONTH. IT CONSISTS OF LECTURES AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, FOLLOWED BY FISHING PRACTICE IN THE HARBOUR OR OFF LAMMA ISLAND.
- + ATHLETICS -- THIS COURSE, HELD IN JULY AND AUGUST, IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED OVER 14 AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TEST THEIR CAPACITIES FOR SPRINTING, HURDLING, MIDDLE-DISTANCE RUNNING, JUMPING AND THROWING EVENTS AT THE PERTH STREET, CAUSEWAY BAY AND WAN CHAI SPORTS GROUNDS. TRAINING IS AT BOTH ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS.
- + SUMMER BADMINTON -- THIS STARTS ON JULY 1 AND ENDS ON AUGUST 31. BASIC SKILLS ARE TAUGHT BY EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS AT VARIOUS INDOOR GAMES HALLS. ENROLMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED AND WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
- + LADIES SELF-DEFENCE JUDO -- THIS STARTS ON JULY 7 AND CONTINUES TILL OCTOBER 27. NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO 40 -- BUT ANYONE WHO MISSES OUT ON THIS COURSE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET HER NAME DOWN FOR THE FOLLOWING ONE.

ANYONE WISHING TO FOLLOW UP THESE OR OTHER OPTIONS CAN CONTACT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S SPORTS PROMOTION OFFICE AT 5-756793.

FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THERE ARE THE NATIONAL SQUAD TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS VENUES, THE SWIMMING TRAINING PROGRAMME AT TAI WAN SHAN SWIMMING POOL, AND THE SWIMMING GALA FOR THE DEAF AT MORSE PARK SWIMMING POOL. MORE DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM 3-404584 OR 3-7111974.

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/12

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 12 -

NEW PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT FOR TAI PO
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ANOTHER LARGE PUBLIC ESTATE IS TO RISE IN THE BURGEONING TAI PO NEW TOWN PROVIDING MODERN HOMES FOR 40 000 PEOPLE ON COMPLETION BY 1989.

PILING WORKS WILL SOON BEGIN FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW PROJECT, TAI WO ESTATE.

+THE PILING WORKS WILL COVER THREE 35-STOREY TRIDENT BLOCKS, A 20-STOREY SLAB BLOCK, A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A COMMERCIAL CENTRE,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID THESE FOUR RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS WOULD ACCOMMODATE SOME 13 300 PEOPLE IN 2 942 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS WHEN THEY WERE READY BY 1988.

+TAI WO ESTATE WILL BE THE FOURTH PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING PROJECT IN THE NEW TOWN AND WILL BE DEVELOPED IN FOUR PHASES ON A SITE COVERING 15.7 HECTARES TO THE NORTH OF TAI PO OLD MARKET.

+AT PRESENT, CONSTRUCTION WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY ON THE THIRD RENTAL ESTATE IN TAI PO, FU SHIN ESTATE, WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE 25 000 PEOPLE ON COMPLETION NEXT YEAR.+

THE FIRST TWO RENTAL ESTATES IN THE NEW TOWN, TAI YUEN AND KWONG FUK, ARE NOW HOUSING 50 000 PEOPLE.

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NEW NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TUEN MUN
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THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AWARDED A \$94 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NURSING SCHOOL AND STAFF QUARTERS IN TUEN MUN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE CHIEF ARCHITECT, MR A.M. WAHAB, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HUNG WAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED.

THE PROJECT, WHICH IS PART OF THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, INCLUDES A 17-STOREY BUILDING WITH A NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL, A STUDENTS' QUARTERS AND A TUNNEL LINK TO THE HOSPITAL.

TWO OTHER BUILDINGS - A 17-STOREY BLOCK WITH COMMUNAL FACILITIES AND QUARTERS FOR NURSING STAFF, AND A FOUR-STOREY BLOCK WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR MINOR STAFF WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

THE TRAINING SCHOOL AND STAFF QUARTERS WILL BE BUILT ON A SITE ADJACENT TO THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL.

WORK WILL START IN EARLY NEXT MONTH AND TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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/13

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC COURSE SEEKS PARTICIPANTS
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GIRLS AGED BETWEEN 10 TO 15 WHO ARE KEEN ON KEEPING FIT CAN TRY A RELATIVELY NEW SPORT - RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS.

THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE DIVISION (RSSD) OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION WILL JOINTLY ORGANISE AN ELEMENTARY RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC TRAINING COURSE AIMED AT PROMOTING FITNESS IN GENERAL.

PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE USE OF EQUIPMENT LIKE RIBBONS, RATTAN RINGS AND COLOURED RUBBER BALLS TO PERFORM MOVEMENTS IN TUNE TO MUSIC.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM JULY 17 TO AUGUST 19 AT HA KWAI CHUNG GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL.

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT ENROLMENT IS LIMITED TO 30 PERSONS ONLY.

THE BRANCH AND THE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION ARE ALSO ORGANISING A SPECIAL 20-HOUR COURSE TO TRAIN QUALIFIED TRAMPOLINE INSTRUCTORS IN MID-JULY.

THE INTENSIVE COURSE IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ACQUIRED THE ELEMENTARY SILVER BADGE QUALIFICATION AND ARE WILLING TO TEACH THE SPORT IN THE FUTURE.

IT WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 15 - 19 FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

THOSE WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE MAY ATTEND A QUALIFYING EXAMINATION SET BY THE ASSOCIATION, AND ON PASSING WILL BE AWARDED AN INSTRUCTOR'S CERTIFICATE.

INTERESTED PERSONS AGED 18 OR ABOVE ARE URGED TO APPLY NOW AS ENROLMENT IS LIMITED TO 30 PERSONS ONLY. COURSE FEE IS \$30.

A BALLROOM DANCE INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE WILL ALSO BE HELD IN JULY FOR THOSE WISHING TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND INTERESTED IN TEACHING BALLROOM DANCES.

THE COURSE, COMPRISING 19 SESSIONS, WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 26 UNTIL OCTOBER 1 ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT THE TO KWA WAN SPORTS CENTRE.

THOSE AGED 18 OR ABOVE ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART AND APPLICANTS SHOULD ATTEND AN AUDITION AT THE SPORTS CENTRE ON JULY 26.

COURSE FEE IS \$30 AND ENROLMENT IS LIMITED TO 20 PERSONS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE ABOVE COURSES ARE AVAILABLE AT RSSD OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, 14TH FLOOR, RUTTONJEE HOUSE, 11 DUDDLELL STREET, CENTRAL.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT 5-224415.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 14 -

300 TO ATTEND SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT
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ABOUT 300 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES, AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART IN A SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE FEDERATION OF EASTERN DISTRICT MULTI-STOREY BUILDING OWNERS ASSOCIATION AND IS SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY-FORMED EASTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM WILL TALK ON THE WORK OF THE TEAM AND ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE TEAM, COMPRISING A HOUSING MANAGER, AN ASSISTANT HOUSING MANAGER AND TWO HOUSING ASSISTANTS, HAD BEEN INSPECTING A NUMBER OF PRIVATE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS TO ADVISE RESIDENTS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE SEMINAR.

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GRASS PITCHES TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
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A NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT URBAN COUNCIL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO FACILITATE ANNUAL RENOVATION AND RETURFING WORK.

THESE INCLUDE THE GRASS PITCH AT THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND AND GRASS PITCH NO 4 AT THE KOWLOON TSAI PARK WHICH WILL BE CLOSED AS FROM JULY 1. THE MONG KOK STADIUM WILL BE CLOSED AS FROM JULY 16.

ALL THE THREE VENUES WILL BE REOPENED FOR PUBLIC USE IN EARLY OCTOBER.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 15 -

SPECIAL STAMPS ON SALE TOMORROW

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THE POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS TOMORROW (JUNE 19) TO COMMEMORATE THIS YEAR'S DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL.

AS ALL POST OFFICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CROWDED, ADDITIONAL COUNTERS FOR NORMAL BUSINESS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TOMORROW AT THE FOLLOWING POST OFFICES:

HONG KONG ISLAND - GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HENNESSY ROAD, MORRISON HILL, NORTH POINT, QUEEN'S ROAD AND SHEUNG WAN.

KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES - KOWLOON CENTRAL, CHEUNG SHA WAN, GILLIES AVENUE, KOWLOON CITY, KWUN TONG, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, TSIM SHA TSUI AND TSUEN WAN.

+IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUE OF FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS AND A FIRST DAY COVER, A SOUVENIR SHEET WILL ALSO BE ON SALE TOMORROW,+ A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO SHOW THEIR USUAL TOLERANCE AND IF POSSIBLE, TRY TO TRANSACT THEIR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS ON THE DAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE SPECIAL STAMPS ISSUE DATE.

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SERVICE RESERVOIR FOR KWUN TONG

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A SALT WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR WILL BE BUILT IN LAM TIN ESTATE TO SUPPLEMENT THE FLUSHING WATER SYSTEM IN KWUN TONG.

THE RESERVOIR, WITH A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 5 000 CUBIC METRES, WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING MA YAU TONG FLUSHING WATER RESERVOIR.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 650 METRES OF SALT WATER PUMPING MAINS ALONG CHA KWO LING ROAD TO LINK THE EXISTING SUPPLY SYSTEM WITH THE PROPOSED REPROVISIONED KWUN TONG SALT WATER PUMPING STATION.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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/16

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

- 16 -

HOLIDAY MAIL
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THERE WILL BE ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON SATURDAY (JUNE 22), WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIRTY-EIGHT POST OFFICES, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO NOON THAT DAY, INCLUDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON, AND TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN CENTRAL AND TAI PO POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DETAILS OF THE OTHER POST OFFICES WHICH WILL BE OPEN CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY POST OFFICE OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU AT TEL: 5-231071 OR 5-231072.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 55.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 324.034 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 441.704 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 75.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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