



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1984

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1984

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CONCERN GROWING OVER U.S. RULES OF ORIGIN
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING IN GENEVA OF THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) SHOULD HELP TO DEMONSTRATE THE LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, WHO WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED U.S. RULES OF ORIGIN ON TEXTILES EXPORTS TO AMERICA.

HE SAID: +I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD JUDGE IT BY WHETHER IT SUCCEEDS IN GETTING THE U.S. RIGHT AWAY TO WITHDRAW THE REGULATIONS. THAT WOULD BE AN UNFAIR TEST.+

MR MACLEOD, WHO WILL LEAVE HONG KONG BY AIR FOR GENEVA TONIGHT, WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE CERTIFICATE-OF-ORIGIN ISSUING ORGANISATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING IN GENEVA WOULD PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF ADVERSE REACTIONS TO THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO BE MADE EVIDENT.

+INDEED,+ HE SAID, +IT WILL BE QUITE APPARENT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE OBJECTIONS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER TO THESE PROPOSALS. I THINK IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THEM TO BE AIRED, TO BE MADE MORE POINTED AND IT WILL CERTAINLY BE ONE MEANS OF INFLUENCING THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME -- IN OTHER WORDS, INFLUENCING THE U.S. ATTITUDE ON THE REGULATIONS.

+BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE THE END OF THE STORY. I THINK WE HAVE TO KEEP PURSUING THE MULTILATERAL AVENUE, WE HAVE TO KEEP PURSUING THE BILATERAL AVENUE, WE HAVE TO KEEP PURSUING THE PRESSURE THROUGH LOBBYING, THROUGH PRESSURE GROUPS AND SO ON. THERE IS A WHOLE RANGE OF THINGS GOING ON AND NO ONE OCCURRENCE, NO ONE TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETING, NO ONE NEGOTIATION WILL BE THE FINAL ANSWER.+

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUBJECT COULD IF NECESSARY CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE TEXTILE COMMITTEE AT FUTURE MEETINGS OR IT COULD GO INTO SOME OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUM, SUCH AS THE GATT COUNCIL.

THE DIRECTOR DESCRIBED AS +VERY USEFUL+ THE MEETING HE HAD WITH THE CERTIFICATE-OF-ORIGIN ISSUING ORGANISATIONS, THE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

/+I THINK

+I THINK WE HAVE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE REGULAR CONSULTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE ORGANISATIONS, PERHAPS GOING BEYOND THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING FOR MANY OF THE ORGANISATIONS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR J.D. MCGREGOR, SAID THAT, FOLLOWING THIS MORNING'S MEETING, THE ORGANISATIONS WOULD HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN SETTING UP SOME FORM OF DIRECT SYSTEM OF LIAISON BETWEEN THE MAIN ORGANISATIONS NOT ONLY TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER BUT MANY OTHER MATTERS, WHICH, AS HE PUT IT, +WE ARE GOING TO FACE IN TIME TO COME.+

IN EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAD SIMILAR MOTIVES, MR MCGREGOR SAID: +WE HAVE VERY MANY MAJOR ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG, SOME OF WHICH ARE REPEATING OR CROSSING PATHS OCCASIONALLY.+

+THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE C.M.A., AND OURSELVES (THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED A TRIUMVIRATE OF MAJOR ORGANISATIONS.+

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND SO WERE MANY OF THE OTHER EXPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS, THE INDIAN CHAMBER AND THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, MR R.J.N. SIDNEY-WOOLLETT, SAID THE TRADE ASSOCIATIONS FELT THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD ACTED QUICKLY AND HAD RESPONDED TO THIS THREAT TO HONG KONG'S TRADE IN A VERY GOOD WAY.

+WE HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED,+ HE SAID.

MR SIDNEY-WOOLLETT, WHO ENDORSED MR MCGREGOR'S REMARKS, SAID THE SITUATION HAD CRYSTALLISED A MOVEMENT FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, WHO HAD SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT INTERESTS IN DIFFERENT WAYS, TO GET TOGETHER AND FORM A VERY UNITED FRONT IN WHAT COULD BE THE FIRST OF POSSIBLY MANY THREATS TO HONG KONG'S TRADE IN THE FUTURE.

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BANK SIZE LIMITS UNCHANGED

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THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES THIS YEAR IN THE SIZE CRITERIA FOR BANKING LICENCE APPLICATIONS.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA, WHICH ARE:

FOR FOREIGN BANKS -

TOTAL ASSETS, LESS CONTRA ITEMS, OF AT LEAST
US\$12 000 MILLION OR EQUIVALENT; AND

/FOR COMPANIES

FOR COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG -

TOTAL ASSETS, LESS CONTRA ITEMS, OF AT LEAST HK\$2 500 MILLION; AND DEPOSITS FROM THE PUBLIC (I.E. EXCLUDING THOSE FROM BANKS, DTCS OR CONNECTED PARTIES) OF AT LEAST HK\$1 750 MILLION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE THRESHOLDS FOLLOWING THE 1982 REVIEW WHEN THE CRITERIA WERE LAST REVISED, AND THAT THE U.S. DOLLAR HAS STRENGTHENED SIGNIFICANTLY AGAINST MOST OTHER CURRENCIES SINCE THEN.

KEEPING THE THRESHOLD AT THESE LEVELS WOULD MAINTAIN THE QUALITY, IN TERMS OF SIZE, OF POTENTIAL APPLICANTS, HE SAID.

REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE THRESHOLD IS SET, ASSUMING IT IS NOT ACTUALLY LOWERED, THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN APPLICANTS WILL TEND TO DWINDLE NOW THAT THE SURGE AFTER THE LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM IN 1981 HAS PASSED, HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SIZE CRITERIA ARE ONLY A PRE-CONDITION FOR APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED. THERE ARE OTHER LICENSING CRITERIA, SUCH AS RECIPROCITY AND ADEQUATE HOME COUNTRY SUPERVISION, AND UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS COMPLETE DISCRETION OVER THE GRANTING OF BANKING LICENCES.

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JULY MONEY SUPPLY DECLINES

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BOTH THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY AND THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY DECLINED ON ALL DEFINITIONS IN JULY, REFLECTING MAINLY A DECREASE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH THE MONETARY SECTOR, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE CONTINUED TO GROW AT A MODERATE RATE; OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG AGAIN REGISTERED ONLY A MARGINAL INCREASE.

(A TABLE SETTING OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR JULY AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS, WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE NETWORK AND ALSO BOXED FOR COLLECTION.)

/DEPOSITS

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY ONE PER CENT IN JULY, AGAINST A RISE OF 1.7 PER CENT IN JUNE. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECREASED MARGINALLY, BY 0.4 PER CENT, BUT INCREASED BY 23.8 PER CENT OVER THE 12 MONTHS. FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO RISE, BY ONE PER CENT. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY, THE INCREASE WAS NINE PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 31.0 PER CENT.

DURING THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY, WHILE TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS FELL SLIGHTLY BY 0.2 PER CENT, THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 23.0 PER CENT. THIS SHIFT LARGELY REFLECTED A MOVEMENT OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FROM BANKS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BECAUSE THE INTEREST RATES OFFERED BY THE LATTER, WHICH CLOSELY REFLECT MONEY MARKET RATES, WERE WELL ABOVE THE DEPOSIT RATES SET BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS DURING THIS PERIOD.

THIS DISPARITY OF INTEREST RATES ALSO MADE SWAP DEPOSITS ATTRACTIVE, AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THIS MAY EXPLAIN THE SHIFT FROM HONG KONG DOLLAR TO FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS DECREASED, WITH HK\$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) FALLING BY 5.7 PER CENT, HK\$M2 BY 3.6 PER CENT AND HK\$M3 BY 1.3 PER CENT. THESE WERE IN CONTRAST TO THEIR RESPECTIVE INCREASES OF 0.7 PER CENT, 1.1 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT IN JUNE.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY, HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 FELL BY 10.3 PER CENT, 6.0 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, OVER THE 12 MONTHS, THEY RECORDED INCREASES OF 6.2 PER CENT, 14.2 PER CENT AND 21.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

WHILE TOTAL M1 DROPPED BY 4.6 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 FELL BY TWO PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 0.1 PER CENT, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF ONE PER CENT, 1.2 PER CENT AND 2.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN JUNE. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY, TOTAL M1 FELL BY 8.6 PER CENT AND TOTAL M2 BY 0.4 PER CENT BUT TOTAL M3 GREW BY 3.7 PER CENT. OVER THE 12 MONTHS, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 8.7 PER CENT, 17.6 PER CENT AND 26.0 PER CENT.

/LOANS AND

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.4 PER CENT IN JUNE. THE INCREASE IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY WAS 2.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS, 12.1 PER CENT. IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROBUST EXPORT PERFORMANCE, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE INCREASED FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH, BY 1.5 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY THE INCREASE WAS 9.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS 22.0 PER CENT. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO GROW ONLY MODESTLY, WITH A RISE OF 0.8 PER CENT, THE SAME AS IN JUNE. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO JULY THE INCREASE WAS 1.9 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS THE INCREASE WAS 6.1 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

THE NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF THE MONETARY SECTOR, ROSE TO \$12.2 BILLION AT THE END OF JULY FROM \$11.3 BILLION AT THE END OF JUNE. STATISTICS COLLECTED (ON THE BASIS OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS) BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOW A SHARP INCREASE, OF \$4.0 BILLION, MORE THAN MATCHED BY A RISE OF \$4.6 BILLION, TO \$37.1 BILLION, IN NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF THE MONETARY SECTOR. THESE FIGURES ARE SUGGESTIVE OF RENEWED ACTIVITY IN SWAP DEPOSITS IN JULY.

LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS WAS 50.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 50.4 PER CENT IN JUNE. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL SLIGHTLY TO 47.5 PER CENT FROM 48.9 PER CENT IN JUNE.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF LICENSED BANKS AND LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IN OPERATION EACH ROSE BY ONE, TO 135 AND 30 RESPECTIVELY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ALSO ROSE, TO 317; THERE WERE TWO NEW REGISTRATIONS IN THE MONTH, WHILE ONE COMPANY CHANGED TO LICENSED STATUS.

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TEXTILES-RELATED FEES REVISED

THE FEES CHARGED UNDER THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM WILL BE REVISED UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (FEES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1984 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FROM OCTOBER 1, FEES FOR TEXTILE-RELATED APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:-

| <u>TYPES OF APPLICATIONS</u> | <u>FEES</u> | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <u>CURRENT</u> | <u>REVISED</u> |
| NON-RESTRAINED EXPORT LICENCES | \$ 10 | \$ 20 |
| RESTRAINED EXPORT LICENCES | \$ 30 | \$ 60 |
| QUOTA TRANSFERS | \$100 | \$100 |
| APPLICATIONS FOR SWING OF QUOTA | \$ 30 | \$100 |
| FREE QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS | \$100 | \$200 |
| IMPORT LICENCES | NIL | \$ 20 |
| NON-QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATION | NIL | \$100 |

THE ANNUAL TEXTILE CONTROL REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM \$200 TO \$1 000 FROM NOVEMBER 1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DATE OF ANNUAL REGISTRATION.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT STRESSED THAT THE INCREASE IS NECESSARY TO RECOVER COSTS AND THE REVISED FEES WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

+THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THE REVISION AND HAS EXPRESSED ITS FULL SUPPORT.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S ESTABLISHED POLICY THAT FEES SHOULD RECOVER THE FULL COST OF OPERATING THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM, IT WAS FEARED, WHEN FEES WERE LAST REVIEWED IN 1982, THAT TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO FULL COST RECOVERY MIGHT PLACE AN EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON THE TEXTILES TRADE. THE FEES SET IN 1982 ACCORDINGLY ENABLED ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE COST OF OPERATING THE SYSTEM, AS ESTIMATED IN 1981/82, TO BE RECOVERED.

/+THE TRADE

+THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW ASSESSED THE UP-TO-DATE COSTS OF THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM. THE TOTAL COST FOR 1984/85 IS \$84 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE PRESENT SCALE OF FEES IS ESTIMATED TO YIELD AN ANNUAL REVENUE OF ABOUT \$35 MILLION, OR 42 PER CENT OF THE 1984/85 COST OF THE SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE FIVE-FOLD INCREASE FROM \$200 TO \$1 000 FOR THE TEXTILE CONTROL REGISTRATION FEE, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT FIRSTLY, THIS IS AN ANNUAL FEE, AND AS SUCH IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE= SECONDLY, IT WOULD SERVE TO DETER THE SETTING UP OF FRONT COMPANIES, THAT IS, COMPANIES WHICH DO NOT CARRY ON GENUINE BUSINESS BUT ARE ONLY SET UP TO EXPLOIT THE SCHEMES FOR ALLOCATION OF FREE QUOTAS, ETC.

THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD HAS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT AN IMPORT LICENCE FEE OF \$20 BE INTRODUCED AS IMPORT LICENSING FOR TEXTILES IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM AND \$20 IS THE APPROXIMATE COST OF SUCH SERVICE.

THE \$100 FOR NON-QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATIONS REPRESENT THE COST OF THIS SERVICE.

THE QUOTA TRANSFER FEE OF \$100, REPLACING THE OLD FEE OF \$30, WAS INTRODUCED ON JUNE 1, PENDING COMPLETION OF THIS REVIEW. THE FEE FOR APPLICATION FOR SWING OF QUOTA INCREASING FROM \$30 TO \$100, WILL BE THE SAME AS FOR QUOTA TRANSFERS BECAUSE BOTH PROVIDE SIMILAR FLEXIBILITY TO THE TRADE.

+THE REVISED SCALE OF FEES WOULD RECOVER, FULLY, THE COST OF THE SYSTEM PLUS A SMALL MARGIN FOR INCREASE IN COST. IT WILL THEREFORE NOT BE NECESSARY TO ADJUST FEES AGAIN FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BETWEEN 1981/82 AND 1984/85 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF INVOLVED IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEXTILES CONTROL SYSTEM, HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 15 POSTS IN SPITE OF A 40 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO BE PROCESSED IN 1984/85 BY COMPARISON WITH 1981/82. +THIS REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCTIVITY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NEW ROADS FOR NEW TOWN * * * *

THREE ROADS TO SERVE HONG KONG'S LATEST NEW TOWN AT JUNK BAY ARE TO BE BUILT ALONG THE ORIGINAL WESTERN COASTLINE OF AP TSAI PENINSULA.

ONE OF THESE ROADS, A 950-METRE-LONG DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, WILL CONNECT TWO OTHERS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE AREA - THE PO LAM ROAD EXTENSION AND A NEW ROAD LEADING INTO HANG HAU.

BRANCHING OUT FROM THIS NEW ROAD WILL BE TWO SHORTER ONES. THAT IN THE NORTH WILL SERVE THE FUTURE VILLAGE OF YAU YUE WAN AND ITS COMMUNITY FACILITIES WHILE THE ONE IN THE SOUTH WILL REACH A HOUSING ESTATE FOR 20 000 PEOPLE WHICH WILL BE BUILT ON A RECLAMATION SITE.

FOUR SUBWAYS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED AT THE JUNCTIONS OF THE THREE NEW ROADS.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES AND WILL INCLUDE ANCILLARY WORKS SUCH AS FOOTPATHS, CYCLE TRACKS AND CARPARKS. THE WHOLE AREA WILL BE LANDSCAPED.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A RELATED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, 692 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON; AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAI KUNG BRANCH OFFICE, 63 MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY OCTOBER 30.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES TO RECLAIM AN AREA OF 2.3 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED OFF YAU YUE WAN AT THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF AP TSAI PENINSULA.

THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE USED FOR A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, ROADS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF THE AFFECTED AREA WAS ALSO PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 692 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON; AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAI KUNG BRANCH OFFICE, 63 MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NOTICE AND THE PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL AND CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

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COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED
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A LIMITED NUMBER OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDY OR RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES ARE BEING OFFERED TO RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OFFERED UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN, AND ARE INTENDED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO LIFE IN HONG KONG ON THEIR RETURN FROM STUDY ABROAD.

COUNTRIES OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS ARE THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, NIGERIA, MALAYSIA, JAMAICA, GHANA AND SRI LANKA.

THE COURSE OF STUDY NORMALLY EXTENDS OVER A PERIOD OF TWO ACADEMIC YEARS.

THE EMOLUMENTS WILL COVER APPROVED EXPENSES FOR TRAVEL, LIVING AND STUDY DURING THE TENURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS NORMALLY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AND NOT MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMENCES. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE GRADUATES OF RECOGNISED UNIVERSITIES OR HOLDERS OF EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WHO ARE RECOMMENDED FOR THE AWARDS MUST SATISFY CERTAIN LANGUAGE, HEALTH AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND OTHER PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 15TH FLOOR, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SECTION NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 29.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

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FORUM ON YUEN LONG PROBLEMS
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YUEN LONG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON LOCAL PROBLEMS AND DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AT AN OPEN FORUM ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON (SEPTEMBER 2).

THE DISTRICT FORUM IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL FROM 3 PM UNTIL 4.30 PM.

THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

SPEAKERS WILL BE THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RICHARD YUEN; THREE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS -- MR TANG CHI-LEUNG, MR NATHAN MA AND MR TERRY TANG; AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS -- MR TAM MAN-KWAN, MR TAI KUEN-CHING AND MR TSANG HOI-HANG.

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LANTAU FORT TO BE REPAIRED
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A HISTORIC FORT AT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF LANTAU ISLAND IS TO BE REPAIRED AND CONSOLIDATED AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE RESTORATION OF FAN LAU FORT. WORK INVOLVES REPAIRING AND CONSOLIDATING THE WALLS OF THE FORT, PARTS OF WHICH ARE COLLAPSING.

THE FORT, MEASURING ABOUT 21 METRES BY 46 METRES, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT DURING THE LATE 17TH AND EARLY 18TH CENTURIES. IT WAS ABANDONED DURING THE 1830'S.

IN NOVEMBER 1981 THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD DECLARED THE FORT A MONUMENT. REPAIR WORK WILL START IN OCTOBER AND TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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MANPOWER SURVEY ON ACCOUNTANCY

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BEGIN A MANPOWER SURVEY ON ACCOUNTANCY IN HONG KONG ON SEPTEMBER 14.

THE TWO-WEEK SURVEY, ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING BOARD, WILL COVER 1 200 RANDOMLY-SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS AND IS AIMED AT UPDATING FIGURES ON EMPLOYMENT, TRAINEES AND EXISTING VACANCIES, IN ADDITION TO IDENTIFYING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF EMPLOYEES AND JOB QUALIFICATIONS PREFERRED BY EMPLOYERS.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SELECTED INTERVIEWEES.

+I HOPE THE EMPLOYERS WILL GIVE US THEIR FULLEST SUPPORT DURING THE SURVEY AS THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL IN FORWARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS IN DRAWING UP TRAINING PROGRAMMES,+ SAID THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAINING BOARD, MR A.R. HAMILTON.

HE ASSURED PARTICIPANTS THAT THE DATA COLLECTED WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND RELEASED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY SINGLE ESTABLISHMENT.

ASSISTING IN THE SURVEY ARE THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY.

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WATER FUN FOR FIREMEN

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THE FINAL OF THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES SPORTS AND WELFARE CLUB SWIMMING GALA WAS HELD TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE VICTORIA PARK SWIMMING POOL.

THE ANNUAL EVENT WAS OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR ROBERT HOLMES, AND WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 500 OFFICERS AND MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MORE THAN 200 DISCIPLINED AND CIVILIAN STAFF TOOK PART IN THE 23 FINAL EVENTS, THE HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH WAS AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVITATION RELAY TEAMS FROM THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1984

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PEDESTRIAN OASIS FOR WAN CHAI
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THE SECTION OF O'BRIEN ROAD BETWEEN JOHNSTON ROAD AND HENNESSY ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED INTO A LANDSCAPED PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPECTED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION IN THE AREA.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE WHOLE WIDTH OF THE ROAD FROM HENNESSY ROAD TO THOMSON ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, EXCEPT FOR A SIX-METRE WIDE EMERGENCY ACCESS PATH FOR FIRE ENGINES.

THE CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN THOMSON ROAD AND JOHNSTON ROAD WILL REMAIN.

THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT WILL BE LANDSCAPED WITH COLOURED PAVING BLOCKS, TREES AND SHRUBS, SEATING AND GAMES TABLES.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING ENTRANCE), HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (HONG KONG NORTH), HARBOUR CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG WAH MANSION, GROUND FLOOR, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

OBJECTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BEFORE OCTOBER 30.

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TRAFFIC PLAN FOR FOOTBALL SEASON
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HAPPY VALLEY FROM SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 2) THROUGHOUT THE FORTHCOMING FOOTBALL SEASON, WHENEVER THERE IS A FOOTBALL MATCH AT HONG KONG STADIUM.

TWO HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH MATCH, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES WILL COME INTO EFFECT:

- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN HOI PING ROAD AND STADIUM PATH WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY, SOUTHBOUND.
- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND COTTON PATH WILL BE RESTRICTED TO VEHICLES REQUIRING LOCAL ACCESS.
- * EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY, NORTHBOUND, BUT VEHICLES WILL STILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CAR PARK OF ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL FROM TUNG LO WAN ROAD.
- * LINK ROAD, BETWEEN CAROLINE HILL ROAD AND HAPPY VIEW TERRACE, WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY, UPHILL. VEHICLES LEAVING THE UPPER SECTION OF BROADWOOD ROAD, HAPPY VIEW TERRACE AND LEIGHTON HILL SHOULD PROCEED TO WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD.
- * WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON HYSAN AVENUE WILL HAVE TO TURN LEFT INTO LEIGHTON ROAD, EASTBOUND.
- * SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON SUN WUI ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO LEIGHTON ROAD, WESTBOUND.
- * CMB ROUTE 17 ON JOURNEYS TO SO KON PO WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TUNG LO WAN ROAD, MORETON TERRACE, CAUSEWAY ROAD AND LEIGHTON ROAD.
- * MAXICABS ON ROUTES 5 AND 14, BOUND FOR CAUSEWAY BAY, WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND MORRISON HILL ROAD.

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FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF THE MATCH, CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN STADIUM PATH AND HOI PING ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY, NORTHBOUND. CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN LEIGHTON ROAD AND COTTON PATH WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

MATHESON STREET, RUSSELL STREET, SHARP STREET EAST AND THE SECTION OF LEIGHTON ROAD SOUTH OF IRVING STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED TO LEARNER DRIVERS BETWEEN 2 PM AND 4.30 PM IN THE CASE OF DAY MATCHES, AND BETWEEN 7.30 PM AND 8.30 PM IN THE CASE OF NIGHT MATCHES.

PARKING SPACES ON SUN WUI ROAD, STADIUM PATH AND THE UNNAMED ROAD AROUND THE STADIUM WILL BE SUSPENDED ABOUT FOUR HOURS BEFORE A MATCH.

ALL SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL CROWDS HAVE DISPERSED AFTER THE MATCH.

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TRAFFIC DETOUR AT ALBANY ROAD
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FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 2) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, ALBANY ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY, SOUTHBOUND, FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE RESTRICTION PERIOD, VEHICLES ON ROBINSON ROAD AND OLD PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA GARDEN ROAD.

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NORTH POINT WATER CUT
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THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 3) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO ENABLE LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF KING'S ROAD FROM SHU KUK STREET TO NORTH VIEW STREET.

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