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HK GROUP CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS OFFICE THIS (MONDAY) EVENING:

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AT HER OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN DOWNING STREET THIS MORNING.

A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS OFFICE AFTER THE MEETING SAID: +THE PRIME MINISTER MET THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 16. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND MR RICHARD LUCE WERE ALSO PRESENT AS WERE SIR RICHARD EVANS WHO WILL SHORTLY BE TAKING UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS HM AMBASSADOR IN PEKING AND SIR PERCY CRADOCK. THE PROGRAMME FOR THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS ALSO INCLUDES SEPARATE CALLS ON SIR GEOFFREY AND MR LUCE.

+THIS WAS THE THIRD VISIT BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS SINCE JULY 1983. MINISTERS REAFFIRMED HMG'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND TO THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO PARLIAMENT, TO CHINA AND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TALKS. IT PRODUCED A CLOSE IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON MATTERS INVOLVED.

+THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO KEEPING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FULLY INFORMED AND TO RECEIVING THEIR ADVICE. THE GOVERNOR AND UNOFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THIS FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER COLLEAGUES AND FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.+

MR RICHARD LUCE, THE FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LATER HOSTED A LUNCH FOR THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

TOMORROW, THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET MR LUCE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

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QUARTERLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STABLE AT 4.1 PER CENT

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION CONTINUED TO STABILISE, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1983 WAS 4.1 PER CENT, THE SAME AS THAT RECORDED FOR THE QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER.

THE RATE FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1983 WAS 3.7 PER CENT, AND THAT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1982 WAS 3.9 PER CENT.

/THE NUMBER .....

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1983 WAS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO BE 105 000, AS COMPARED WITH 95 200 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1983, AND 98 000 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1982.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1983 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 1.6 PER CENT WHILE THAT FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1983 WAS 1.5 PER CENT. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO RATES IS NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS 39 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER, AS COMPARED WITH 39 200 FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 1983.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

IN COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 1983 WAS 4.5 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 15 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 55 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN THE HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1983 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND MARCH 20, 1984.

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IMPORTANCE OF DBS STRESSED

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THE DISTRICT OFFICER PLAYS THE MAJOR ROLE IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID TODAY.

AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICER HAS THE DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE WELL CONSIDERED, THROUGH THEIR ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

+IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE DISTRICT BOARD SHOULD BE A USEFUL MACHINERY FOR THE PURPOSE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT IT TO ITS OPTIMUM EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

MR YAP WAS DISCUSSING THE PRESENT ROLE OF NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICERS AT A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN TAKEN MORE AND MORE SERIOUSLY BY BOTH THEIR OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+AS THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME MELLOWS IN FUTURE YEARS, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES IS QUITE LIKELY TO ESCALATE CORRESPONDINGLY,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE TRANSFER OF SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES AS LAND ADMINISTRATION AND SQUATTER CONTROL WAS BASICALLY TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT OFFICER TO CONCENTRATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, AND ON THE CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE DISTRICT OFFICER IS NOW ABLE TO SPARE MORE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DEFICIENCIES AND SHORTFALLS IN THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT, TO ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE DISTRICT ARE APPROPRIATE AND COMPATIBLE WITH LOCAL ASPIRATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, TO CO-ORDINATE DEPARTMENTS' ACTIONS IN IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE DISTRICT, AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, TO CONVERT INTO ACTIONS THE TWIN CONCEPTS OF 'COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT' AND 'COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT',+ HE SAID

TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THESE TWIN CONCEPTS, MR YAP SAID THE FIRST STEP WAS TO INSTIL INTO THE RESIDENTS A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY WITHOUT WHICH IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO TALK OF FOSTERING MUTUAL CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICER STILL CO-ORDINATES WORK WHICH INVOLVES A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND CHAIRS VARIOUS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES, SUCH AS THOSE CONCERNING CLEARANCES, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND STREET MANAGEMENT.

/+THIS IS .....

+THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC AND THEIR LIKELY REACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE DECISIONS ARE MADE AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS TAKEN, AND THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

+THE DISTRICT OFFICER RETAINS ALL OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, SUCH AS TSO, TONG AND SUCCESSION MATTERS.

+HE IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND HAVE PROVIDED REMOTE AND DETACHED VILLAGES WITH BASIC FACILITIES.

+ALSO, LIAISON WITH RURAL COMMITTEES, VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND VILLAGERS IS STILL PART OF THE EVERYDAY WORK OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER.

+AS FAR AS DEVELOPMENTS ARE CONCERNED, THE DISTRICT OFFICER MAINTAINS HIS POSITION AS THE CHIEF ADVISER ON THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE RESIDENTS OF HIS DISTRICT AND HENCE HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN PLANNING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND DETERMINING PRIORITIES.

+THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS DUTIES IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, AND IT IS THE DISTRICT OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT THIS OBJECTIVE IS REALISED,+ HE SAID.

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MORE RECREATIONAL TIME FOR PEOPLE

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HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE PART IN MORE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF THE REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS AND THE IMPROVED STANDARDS OF LIVING.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM AT THE OPENING OF THE YAU MA TEI RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION PREMISES.

HE SAID THE ASSOCIATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER 1981 TO PROMOTE SPORTS AND RECREATION AMONG YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI RESIDENTS.

DESPITE ITS SHORT HISTORY, THE ASSOCIATION HAS ORGANISED 25 ACTIVITIES FOR ABOUT 10 000 PEOPLE, HE SAID.

THE ASSOCIATION HAS SPONSORED SUCH SPORTS EVENTS AS THE DISTRICT SPORTS FESTIVAL ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET, SWIMMING GALA AND THE DISTRICT RACE, AND HAS CONTRIBUTED COMMUNITY BUILDING BY ORGANISING YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSES AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, LIKE THE NEW YEAR'S CARNIVAL, CHILDREN'S OLYMPICS AND THE LAUNCH PICNIC FOR THE ELDERLY,+ HE SAID.

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AND, THE ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN ABLE TO DO ALL THIS LONG BEFORE BEING PROVIDED WITH PREMISES, HE SAID.

THE PRESENT PREMISES, PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY VARIOUS DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, WAS ONLY MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY YTRSA ABOUT A YEAR AGO.

+WHILST THE BUILDING IS NEITHER A NEW ONE NOR OF A MODERN DESIGN, I CAN SEE THAT EFFORTS MADE BY THE ASSOCIATION AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY VOLUNTEERS LIKE THE SCOUTS IN REDECORATING THE PREMISES HAS MADE POSSIBLE MAXIMUM UTILISATION OF THE SITE BEFORE ITS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT BY THE URBAN COUNCIL,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

WITH THE PROVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND OTHER FACILITIES, THE ASSOCIATION WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF MUCH NEEDED RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT, HE SAID.

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SCHEME TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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A SCHEME TO ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WILL BE INTRODUCED IN POK FU LAM NEAR POK FU LAM VILLAGE FROM WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 18).

THE SCHEME WILL INVOLVE THE PROVISION OF A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE, THE CANCELLATION OF A ZEBRA CROSSING, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF VARIOUS SAFETY MEASURES.

THE SCHEME IS PROPOSED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND ENDORSED BY THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE ZEBRA CROSSING NEAR THE POK FU LAM VILLAGE WILL BE CANCELLED FROM 10 AM THAT DAY UPON COMPLETION OF A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE AT THE POK FU LAM GARDENS INTERCHANGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING CENTRAL-BOUND BUS STOP OUTSIDE DAIRY FARM WILL BE RESITED TO A POSITION NEAR THE FOOTBRIDGE.

TO GUIDE PEDESTRIANS TO THE FOOTBRIDGE AND TO CURB JAY-WALKING, SAFETY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

THEY INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAIRWAYS TO SHORTEN THE JOURNEY TO THE FOOTBRIDGE, THE ERECTION OF RAILINGS, THE INTRODUCTION OF CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS ALONG POK FU LAM ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH CHI FU ROAD, THE CLOSING OF THE CENTRAL DIVIDER AND THE GAPS BETWEEN THE EXISTING REFUGE ISLANDS, AND THE ERECTION OF DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO GUIDE PEDESTRIAN TO THE FOOTBRIDGE.

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SECOND LONGEST DRY SPELL RECORDED

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A PERIOD OF 62 DAYS ENDING ON DECEMBER 26, 1983 WAS THE SECOND LONGEST DRY SPELL ON RECORD, ACCORDING TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S MONTHLY REVIEW FOR DECEMBER JUST PUBLISHED.

NO MEASURABLE RAIN WAS RECORDED DURING THE PERIOD, AND THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL OF 7.4 MM WAS ONLY 29 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL AMOUNT.

THE LONGEST DRY SPELL ON RECORD, OF 67 DAYS, WAS FROM DECEMBER 8, 1980 TO FEBRUARY 12, 1981.

BECAUSE OF THE DRYNESS, THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 7 TO 29, THE LONGEST CONTINUOUS PERIOD FOR THIS WARNING.

AS THE FIRE RISK WAS HIGH, COUNTRY PARKS AT TAI LAM CHUNG, TAI MO SHAN, SHING MUN AND POK FU LAM TOGETHER WITH THE NATURE RESERVE AT TAI PO KAU WERE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 3 ONWARDS.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW, OVER 680 HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED LAST MONTH.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF THE YEAR, 6.1 DEGREE CELSIUS, AS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 30, WAS THE SIXTH LOWEST FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY FINE AND MILD FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 22.

BUT A SURGE OF WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED DURING THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 22, CAUSING TEMPERATURES TO DROP. WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE NORTH AND WERE STRONG IN EXPOSED AREAS UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

CLOUDY WEATHER SET IN AND LASTED TILL DECEMBER 28, WHILE TEMPERATURES DROPPED FURTHER, REACHING A MINIMUM OF 10.7 DEGREE CELSIUS ON DECEMBER 25 WHEN A 60-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS FOUND DEAD IN SHEK KIP MEI.

WINDS BECAME FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY ON DECEMBER 28 AND THE CLOUDY WEATHER WAS INTERRUPTED BY SUNNY PERIODS DURING THE DAY.

CLOUDS RETURNED IN THE EVENING AND THERE WERE PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN OVERNIGHT.

AN INTENSE SURGE OF WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED FROM THE NORTH EARLY ON DECEMBER 29, WITH WINDS TURNING NORTHERLY AND BECOMING STRONG IN EXPOSED AREAS. THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH LIGHT RAIN AND TEMPERATURES DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IN THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 30, A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 6.1 DEGREE CELSIUS, THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF THE YEAR, WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. HOAR FROST WAS REPORTED AT TAI MO SHAN AND TATE'S CAIRN WHERE TEMPERATURES DROPPED TO -3.6 DEGREE CELSIUS AND -0.1 DEGREE CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

/THE COLD .....

THE COLD WEATHER THAT DAY CLAIMED THE LIFE OF A MAN IN A PARK AT TO KWA WAN.

THE WEATHER WAS FINE ON DECEMBER 30 BUT TURNED CLOUDY WITH LIGHT RAIN IN THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 31.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED ON DECEMBER 4 TO 7 AND ON DECEMBER 31.

EXCEPT FOR A SHORT BREAK, THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 4 AND 7 TO 31.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	DEC 23, 12.10 AM	DEC 23, 10.50 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	DEC 28, 10.00 AM	DEC 30, 10.00 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	191.1 HOURS	- 11.8 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
RAINFALL	7.4 MM	- 17.9 MM BELOW NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	43 PER CENT	- 9 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	64 PER CENT	- 5 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.5 DEGREE CELSIUS	- 1.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	16.8 DEGREE CELSIUS	- 0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	14.7 DEGREE CELSIUS	- 0.5 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	9.7 DEGREE CELSIUS	- 1.7 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	101.2 MM	- 19.6 MM BELOW NORMAL

THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 24.3 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 14 WHILE THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 6.1 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 30.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MOVES SOME OFFICES

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A NUMBER OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES IN KOWLOON HAVE MOVED OR WILL BE MOVING TO NEW OFFICES TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC. DETAILS OF THE CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	OFFICE	TO	REMOVAL DATE
(A)	FROM PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, DUNDAS STREET		
	TSUEN WAN STUDENT GUIDANCE CENTRE	7/F., KWAI HING (MTR) GOVERNMENT OFFICES	10/1/84
(B)	FROM MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING		
(I)	TSUEN WAN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	7/F., KWAI HING (MTR) GOVERNMENT OFFICES	11/1/84
(II)	SAI KUNG DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	6/F., SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES	13/1/84
(III)	ADULT EDUCATION SECTION	12/F., ASIAN HOUSE 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI	20/1/84
(IV)	ISLANDS DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	ROOMS 707-709, 7/F., YU YUET LAI BUILDING, 43-45 WYNDHAM STREET, CENTRAL	27/1/84
(V)	TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	ROOMS 400 AND 401, 4/F., KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN	23/1/84
(VI)	NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL OFFICE	9/F., TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON	25/1/84
(VII)	TUEN MUN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	1/F., FAR EAST BANK BUILDING, 135-143 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN	25/1/84
(VIII)	YUEN LONG DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE		

/(IX) SHA TIN .....

(IX)	SHA TIN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	6/F., SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES	25/1/84
(X)	ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AND CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE	7/F., TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MA TAU WAI ROAD	30/1/84

(C) FROM KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD

KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE	8/F., TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MA TAU WAI ROAD	10/2/84

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RECREATION AREA FOR TAI PO

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A LARGE AREA OF LAND TO THE WEST OF TAI PO NEW TOWN NEAR SHUI WAI VILLAGE IS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

THE PROJECT INCLUDES REALIGNMENT OF A 700 METRES LONG SECTION OF LAM TSUEN RIVER AT ITS LOWER COURSE TO REDUCE FLOODING.

SEVEN HUNDRED METRES OF SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY ACCESS ROADS WITH ASSOCIATED FOOTPATHS NEAR SHUI WAI VILLAGE WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

IN ADDITION, 260 METRES OF CYCLE TRACKS AND A 500-SQUARE-METRE CYCLE PARK WILL BE BUILT.

THE WHOLE AREA, COVERING ABOUT 5.5 HECTARES, WILL BE LANDSCAPED.

WORK, TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WILL START IN MID-1984 AND TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORK CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING; OR AT TAI PO DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY NOT LATER THAN MARCH 13.

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SPORTS INSTRUCTORS INVITED TO SAFETY SEMINAR

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A SEMINAR ON SAFETY IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS WILL BE HELD AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE ON JANUARY 22 (SUNDAY).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THE SEMINAR, WHICH IS OPEN TO INSTRUCTORS AND VOLUNTEERS, WILL INCLUDE TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND A FILM SHOW.

THE CHIEF RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR DAVID MAK, WILL OPEN THE SEMINAR AND SPEAK BRIEFLY ON ITS PURPOSE AND AIM.

OTHER SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS FROM THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES AND THE MARGARET TRENCH REHABILITATION CENTRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL START AT 9.30 AM ON JANUARY 22.

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LANTAU ROADS WILL PROVIDE MORE DIRECT LINK

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A NUMBER OF ROADS AND BRIDGES ARE TO BE BUILT TO PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT LINK BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN MUI WO ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE LOCAL ACCESS ROADS TOTALLING 240 METRES, EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING LOCAL ROAD EASTWARDS BY 110 METRES AND A CAR PARK FOR 34 VEHICLES.

A ROAD BRIDGE AS WELL AS A COMBINED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE WILL ALSO BE BUILT ACROSS THE RIVER CHANNEL TO LINK UP NORTHERN PARTS OF MUI WO WITH SOUTHERN PARTS RAPIDLY BEING DEVELOPED.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS YEAR AND TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT IS BEING DESIGNED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS, WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, ISLANDS, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, 141 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL; THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, SINCERE BUILDING, 16TH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL; AND THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, 7TH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

ANYONE OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD DO SO IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY MARCH 13.

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TRIAL SEAWALL TO BE BUILT AT TAI O

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A TRIAL SEAWALL IS TO BE BUILT ON THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE TAI O RIVER CHANNEL, LANTAU, TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING.

THE SEAWALL, MEASURING 40 METRES BY 14 METRES, WILL BE USED FOR DESIGN TESTING, PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT SEAWALL ON THE SITE.

BESIDES HELPING TO REDUCE FLOODING, THE PERMANENT SEAWALL WILL ALSO FORM PART OF GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE REMOTE RURAL TOWNSHIP'S ENVIRONMENT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL AND CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD REACH THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

THE NOTICE (IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH) WITH A PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE. THE PLAN MAY ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY DIVISION, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); AND AT ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, SINCERE BUILDING, 16TH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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BIDS CALLED FOR SHA TIN MARKET STALLS

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THIRTY-EIGHT MARKET STALLS IN SHA TIN WILL BE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC AUCTION ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 20).

THE STALLS ARE LOCATED AT TAI WAI TEMPORARY MARKET, SHA TIN MARKET, FO TAN EAST COOKED FOOD MARKET AND FO TAN WEST COOKED FOOD MARKET, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE BIDDING WILL BE HELD AT THE LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL, LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN, STARTING AT 10 AM.

THE STALLS ARE DESIGNATED FOR THE SELLING OF DIFFERENT GOODS, WITH UPSET MONTHLY RENTALS RANGING FROM $1 250 TO $5 000.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MAY START BUSINESS ON FEBRUARY 1 ON A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF THE SHA TIN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-6065745.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 88.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 516.250 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 426.418 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 72.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER MAINS TEST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF AT 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JANAURY 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE BOUNDED BY CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, POPLAR STREET, BOUNDARY STREET, NAM CHEONG STREET, WONG CHUK STREET AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD, INCLUDING TAI NAN STREET, KI LUNG STREET, YU CHAU STREET AND MAPLE STREET.

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TAPS OFF FOR TEN HOURS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 19) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WO YI HOP ROAD BETWEEN HO FUNG COLLEGE AND ROUTE TWISK, INCLUDING CHEUNG SHAN ESTATE, HILLTOP COUNTRY CLUB, LO WAI, TUNG PO TO, SAN TSUEN, YI PEI CHUN, CHUK LAM SIM YUEN AND FU YUNG SHAN.

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TUEN MUN WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO NOON ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 18) FOR MAINS WORKS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY THE SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD BETWEEN PUI TO ROAD AND TAP SHEK KOK AND ALSO BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WU KING ESTATE, MELODY GARDEN AND SECTION 44 OF WU KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

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