



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974

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CALL FOR LOW-RENT HOUSING FOR WORKERS IN FUTURE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

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A SCHEME FOR PROVIDING LOW-RENT HOUSING FOR WORKERS IN THE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES WAS PROPOSED BY THE HON JAMES WU TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE SITES IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AT REALISTIC PREMIUMS OR RENTALS TO ENCOURAGE FACTORIES TO PROVIDE QUARTERS FOR THEIR WORKERS AT A SPECIFIED RATE OF RETURN FOR THEIR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT WHICH WOULD AUGMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING PROGRAMMES.

MR. WU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH QUARTERS COULD BE BUILT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$50 PER SQUARE FOOT OF FLOOR AREA, MAKING IT VERY ATTRACTIVE TO WORKERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS ALIKE.

HE SUPPORTED AN EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL CORPORATION TO HANDLE THE DETAILS OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES SCHEME, BUT FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE MAINLY CONCERNED IN THE DECISION OF LEASE CONDITIONS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT ENFORCEMENT, THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS, GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE ESTATES, ROAD AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS, AND PROVISION FOR INSTALLATION OF UTILITIES.

THE ACTUAL SITE FORMATION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK TO THE CORPORATION'S SPECIFICATIONS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE USER IN THE USUAL MANNER, HE SAID, STRESSING THE NEED FOR EARLY APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS SO THAT USERS COULD GET ON WITH DETAIL PLANNING.

HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO SPEED UP AND STREAMLINE PROCEDURES IN LAND EXCHANGES, AND PRESSED FOR EARLY PUBLICATION OF LAND USE PATTERNS TO STOP SPECULATION AND REDUCE THE CHANCES OF CORRUPTION.

WHILE HE FULLY SUPPORTED UNOFFICIALS' PROPOSALS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, MR. WU DIFFERED WITH THE DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN WHO HAD BLAMED THE HIGH COST OF CONSTRUCTION IN HONG KONG TO THE LACK OF COMPETITION HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FACED IN WORLD MARKETS.

IN MR. WU'S OPINION, THE PROBLEM WAS MORE LIKELY THAT THE CONTRACTING AND PIECE-WORK SYSTEMS PRACTISED HERE WERE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO INNOVATIONS IN METHODS. WITH PROJECTS GETTING LARGER AND REPETITIVE IN THE HOUSING FIELD, THE NEED FOR RATIONALISATION AND MECHANISATION IS MORE APPARENT, HE ADDED.

ON EDUCATION, MR. WU EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING TECHNICAL TEACHER TRAINEES IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH MODERN FACTORY PLANTS IN HONG KONG. IN MY OPINION, HE SAID, LECTURERS IN SPECIAL COURSES WHO HAVE NOT COME NEAR A MODERN FACTORY IN THE TRADE FOR FIVE OR 10 YEARS OUGHT TO BE RETRAINED, AND ONLY UP-TO-DATE TEXT AND MACHINES SHOULD BE USE FOR TEACHING, WITH MORE COURSES RELATED TO MANUFACTURING.

MR. WU SAID IT HAD TO BE ACCEPTED THAT EXAMINATIONS, AS NOW PRACTISED, ARE NECESSARY EVILS, AND HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTING SPECIAL STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATIONS TO BRING ABOUT A FULLER EDUCATION.

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STRAIGHT PROMOTIONS WERE KNOWN TO CAUSE DETERIORATING STANDARDS HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC PLACES AWARDED STRICTLY ON INDIVIDUAL MERIT BY EXAMINATION HAD GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO DESERVING YOUTHS FROM POORER FAMILIES.

TURNING TO CRIME, MR. WU SAID RECENT EXPOSURES IN COURT CASES SEEMED TO CONFIRM THE BELIEF THAT CRIMES IN HONG KONG WERE INSEPARABLE FROM CORRUPTION.

THE EXCELLENT WORK DONE BY THE ICAC HAD RAISED NEW HOPES AMONG THE COMMUNITY AND HELPED TO RESTORE JUSTICE, DECENCY AND CONFIDENCE, AND HE FELT THAT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES WERE AS EASY TO MEASURE IN PUBLIC SERVICE IF THE ICAC, THE POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES COULD SUCCEED IN CLAMPING DOWN ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING, SEX PEDDLERS, TRIADS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING.

+LET US SAY THAT IF ILLEGAL GAMBLING, DRUG AND SEX PEDDLING, EXTORTION AND ROBBERIES FREQUENTLY OCCUR IN PARTICULAR PLACES AND ARE NOT PUT AN END TO, WE SHALL KNOW THAT EITHER CORRUPTION, LAXITY OR INCOMPETENCE EXISTS,+ HE SAID.

THIS, HE FELT, REFLECTED TO SOME EXTENT THE PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE REQUIRED OF OUR POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS AND C.I.D. CHIEFS, AND THE MEASURE OF THEIR MEN.

MR. WU SAID THAT IF HE WAS OVER-SIMPLIFYING, +IT HAS TO BE REMEMBERED THAT THE TAX-PAYING PUBLIC WOULD DEMAND NO LESS THAN SUCH PERFORMANCE IF THEY ARE TO ENJOY THE QUALITY OF LIFE PROMISED TO THEM.+

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HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FOR PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY URGED GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A PROGRAMME TO SELL ON THE INSTALMENT PLAN SOME OF ITS EXISTING OR FUTURE HOUSING UNITS TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND CAN AFFORD TO PAY.

HE SAID: +THERE IS AN IMPERATIVE NEED TO PROVIDE A LARGER CASH FLOW ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING PROGRAMME SO THAT GOVERNMENT CAN LIVE UP TO THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATION IN PROVIDING DECENT HOMES FOR ANOTHER 1.8 MILLION PERSONS IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.+

FURTHERMORE, MR. CHEONG-LEEN ADDED, IT COULD NOT BE REPEATED TOO OFTEN THAT THE PROCESS OF HOME-OWNERSHIP WAS AN INTERGRAL PART OF CREATING A MORE PERMANENT AND DEEP-ROOTED COMMUNITY IDENTITY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENVISAGE A HOME-OWNERSHIP SCHEME OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT DOWN PAYMENT, WITH INSTALMENT TERMS SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF BETWEEN 15 TO 20 YEARS.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

+ANOTHER ASPECT OF HOUSING WHICH DESERVES TO BE LOOKED AT BY GOVERNMENT WITH A FRESH AND CRITICAL EYE,+ HE POINTED OUT, +HAS TO DO WITH 'HOUSING BLACK-SPOTS' OR SLUM DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AREAS WHERE HONG KONG BORN OR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR TOO LONG IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN OLD SLUM BUILDINGS,+ HE SAID.

+THERE ARE QUITE A NUMBER OF SUCH 'BLACK-SPOTS' WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT, IN YAUMATI, IN MONG KOK AND PERHAPS IN ONE OR TWO OTHER DISTRICTS.+

HE CONTINUED: +SINCE IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS BEFORE URBAN RENEWAL PLANS CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN SUCH DISTRICTS, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE A PRACTICAL APPROACH IF SUCH 'BLACK-SPOTS' COULD BE PINPOINTED AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BE EMPOWERED TO BUY OVER SUCH AREAS AT CURRENT MARKET VALUES FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

+A SCHEME COULD THEN BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD RESETTLE THE RESIDENTS FROM THE 'BLACK-SPOTS', WHILE THE ACQUIRED LAND COULD EITHER BE SOLD OUTRIGHT OR DEVELOPED JOINTLY WITH PRIVATE DEVELOPERS TO PUT UP DOMESTIC HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES ON REASONABLE STANDARDS TO BE AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN EMPHASISED THAT THE CLEARING UP OF THESE HOUSING 'BLACK-SPOTS' OUGHT TO BE A SCHEME REQUIRING QUICK ATTENTION AND SHOULD PROCEED WITH MAXIMUM SPEED IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES HAVE BEEN PREPARED OR APPROVED FOR ANY OF THE DISTRICTS IN QUESTION.

ON THE QUESTION OF CRIME, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID VIOLENT CRIME WAS STILL ONE OF THE MOST WORRISOME ASPECTS AFFECTING THE DAILY LIVES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

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+SINCE THE PUBLIC IS IN A MORE RECEPTIVE MOOD THAN EVER BEFORE TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN FIGHTING CRIME,+ HE SAID,+IT WOULD BE TIMELY NOW FOR A THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME TO BE PREPARED TO SET UP MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE APPROXIMATE 5,000 LARGE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WHICH DO NOT YET HAVE ANY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF MORE COMMUNITY ORGANISERS AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF IN THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+I WOULD REGARD THIS THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRAG BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED UPON THE PROGRAMME,+ HE ADDED.

+THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES CAN BE USED NOT ONLY TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME. THEY ARE MOST USEFUL IN THE 'KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN' CAMPAIGN, IN IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION, AND IN PLANNING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.+

+THEY COULD BE EQUALLY USEFUL IN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, NARCOTICS PEDDLING, AND OTHER NON-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOW RAMPANT IN A GREAT NUMBER OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS. IN ADDITION, THEY WOULD GENERATE A FIRMER CIVIC SPIRIT AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ACT AS BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE.+

TURNING TO EDUCATION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER WHILE NOT PERFECT WERE RELATED IN A PRAGMATIC WAY TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

IN EXPRESSING GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE WHITE PAPER, HE SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDER CHANGING THE NAME OF THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION TO GENERAL SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION AND THE PRESENT FORM V EXAMINATION TO SENIOR SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

+WHEN AT A LATER DATE WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FIVE YEARS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN, THE JUNIOR SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION WOULD BE ABOLISHED AND THE EXAMINATION AT FORM V LEVEL WOULD SIMPLY BECOME KNOWN AS THE SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD START DRAFTING A 10-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR TELEVISION EDUCATION NOT ONLY IN PRIMARY EDUCATION BUT ALSO IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION. HE SAID PERHAPS A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT COULD BE PREPARED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION WITHIN THE NEXT 12 TO 18 MONTHS.

ON ECONOMY, MR. CHEONG-LEEN REMINDED GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAD AN OBLIGATION TO THE PUBLIC TO KEEP INTERNAL INFLATION AT ITS LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND NOT TO ALLOW CONTINUED INCREASES IN CHARGES BY ANY OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES WITHOUT THE FULLEST POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION.

HE MENTIONED THE TELEPHONE CHARGES, WHICH, HE SAID, HAD GONE UP ONCE THIS YEAR, AND IT WAS NOW RUMOURED THAT A SECOND INCREASE FOR THIS YEAR WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED.

+THIS IS A MATTER WHICH DESERVES THE WIDEST POSSIBLE HEARING BY THE PUBLIC, AS IT INVOLVES MANY QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO ENSURE THAT IT OPERATES AT A LEVEL OF PEAK EFFICIENCY CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC GOOD AND THE REASONABLE INTERESTS OF ITS SHAREHOLDERS,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

AVOID ALL UNNECESSARY SPENDING, SAYS MR. LI FOOK-WO

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THE HON. LI FOOK-WO TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A STOCK TAKING EXERCISE ON ITS REVENUE EARNING CAPABILITY - AS IT HAD DONE ON EXPENDITURE - WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING EARNINGS.

WHILE HE WAS NOT ALARMED BY THE POSSIBLE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, HE FELT +THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE OUR REVENUE ON THE ONE HAND, AND TO TIGHTEN OR REDUCE EXPENDITURE ON THE OTHER.+

IT WAS VITALLY IMPORTANT, HE STRESSED, TO IMPROVE REVENUE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE EXISTING TAX STRUCTURE. +PROJECTIONS MUST BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL STRUCTURE.+

HE ADDED: +WE MUST ALSO INVESTIGATE WHAT OTHER FEASIBLE AVENUES ARE OPEN TO US, THEIR REVENUE-GENERATING CAPACITY, AND THEIR COSTS. IT IS BY LAYING DOWN THESE ALTERNATIVES AND ITEMISING THEIR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS THAT WE CAN HAVE A MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATION OF OUR FINANCIAL ABILITY.+

MR. LI SHARED THE GOVERNOR'S CONCERN OVER THE EXCESSIVE 20 PER CENT RATE OF INCREASE IN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE, AND STRONGLY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID ALL UNNECESSARY SPENDING.

HOWEVER, HE APPLAUDED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO FORGE AHEAD WITH ITS LONG RANGE PROGRAMMES FOR HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND TRANSPORT.

+THIS IS NO TIME TO RETREAT,+ HE SAID. +OUR SOCIAL COMMITMENTS MUST BE MET, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE BASIC OBJECTIVES AND NECESSITIES OF OUR SOCIETY BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONFIDENCE IN OUR CONTINUING PROGRESS.+ HE REALISED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS WOULD DEPEND ON THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

MR. LI CONTINUED THAT POPULATION GROWTH WOULD HAVE A GREAT BEARING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE COMMUNITY, AND HE CALLED FOR A POPULATION POLICY TO BE FORMULATED FORTHWITH.

HOWEVER, HE FELT IT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH MERELY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FAMILY PLANNING FACILITIES AND THAT IT WAS TIME TO LOOK FURTHER THAN JUST POPULATION GROWTH.

COUPLED WITH THE POPULATION POLICY, HE SUGGESTED THAT A COMMISSION BE SET UP TO ENSURE THAT REALISTIC TARGETS ARE SET AND MET.

ON CORRUPTION, MR. LI REFERRED TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AS +A SOUND INVESTMENT FROM WHICH WE CAN ANTICIPATE HANDSOME DIVIDENDS IN THE FORM OF OUTSTANDING RESULTS.+

HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT THE TOTAL COST OF THE COMMISSION WHICH IS CHARGED TO GENERAL REVENUE, WOULD FAR EXCEED ITS ORIGINAL ESTIMATES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN APPARENT DRAIN ON THE PERSONNEL FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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MR. LI STRESSED THAT THE MISCONCEPTION OF CORRUPTION AS A WAY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG MUST BE CHANGED. +IN PARTICULAR, THE ATTITUDE OF THE YOUNGER PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE EVILS OF CORRUPT PRACTICES MUST BE CORRECTED WITH THE VIEW OF REDUCING THE CRIME RATE.

IN THIS, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SPECIAL CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE ICAC WOULD IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WHOLE COMMISSION THROUGH PUBLICITY, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.

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## PLANNING OF AIRPORT FACILITIES AND SERVICES CRITICISED

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES AT KAI TAK AIRPORT HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH ACCURATE FORECASTS OF GROWTH, NOR WITH WHAT IS ACTUALLY REQUIRED, AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL CONTROL, MR. J.H. BREMRIDGE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE AGREED THAT THERE WERE MANY PRIORITIES IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE HIGHEST OF ALL PRIORITIES WAS THE NEED TO HOUSE BETTER THE LESS WELL OFF MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IF THE OPERATION OF EITHER THE HARBOUR OR THE AIRPORT BECAME BLOCKED, THE SITUATION WOULD INDEED BE FRAUGHT WITH PERIL.

WHILE PRAISING THE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF LEAVING THE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, MR. BREMRIDGE CRITICISED THE PLANNING OF AIRPORT FACILITIES AND SERVICES WHICH, HE SAID, WAS MORE THAN THREE YEARS BEHIND WHAT WAS LONG AGO RECOMMENDED.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE AIRPORT HAD BEEN UNREASONABLY, INDEED DANGEROUSLY STARVED IN RECENT YEARS AS A RESULT OF UNWILLINGNESS BY GOVERNMENT TO SET AGAINST THE VERY CONSIDERABLE GROSS CASH FLOW AVAILABLE FROM THE AIRPORT ON THE ONE HAND THE INEVITABLE COMMITMENT TO SPEND MONEY ON THE OTHER. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN FISCAL INTERFERENCE WITH THE PLANNING PROPOSALS OF SENSIBLE EXPERTS.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID: +WHILE ANXIOUS TO ACCEPT THE REVENUE (AND INDEED TO INCREASE IT), THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN UNWILLING UNTIL VERY RECENTLY TO SPEND SUFFICIENT ON KEEPING UP WITH GROWTH.+

TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS AT THE AIRPORT, MR. BREMRIDGE SAID HE USED TO BE STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MAJOR CHANGE WAS PROBABLY PREMATURE AT A TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT HAD RELEASED VERY CONSIDERABLE SUMS FOR AIRPORT REQUIREMENTS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

+IF IN LATER YEARS THERE ARISE SIMILAR PROBLEMS OF FAILURE TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH, AN INDEPENDENT AIRPORT AUTHORITY MAY BE THE FINAL SOLUTION. WE CANNOT MUDDLE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE PRESENT, HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT SUFFICIENT SPACE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES CONTINUOUSLY TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE NEEDS OF PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

IN THIS RESPECT MR. BREMRIDGE SAID HE WAS NOT SO MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE QUALITY OF PROVISION AS THE QUANTITY, THOUGH INDEED THE AIRPORT WAS +OUR SHOPFRONT+.

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OF COURSE, HE SAID: +NO ONE IN HIS SENSES WOULD ADVOCATE MARBLE PALACES FOR GOVERNMENT AIRPORTS. IT WOULD BE EQUALLY EXTREME TO PROVIDE COWSHEDS, AND TO TREAT THOSE WHO MUST USE THEM AS CATTLE.+

ON THE QUESTION OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF THE AIRPORT, MR. BREMRIDGE SAID IT SHOULD NOT FALL ON THE TAXPAYER.

HE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE MAJORITY OF AIRLINES AND OTHER USERS OF KAI TAK WOULD OBJECT TO PAYING FAIR OR EVEN INCREASED CHARGES, PROVIDED THAT THESE WOULD RESULT IN THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES.

MR. BREMRIDGE THEN TURNED TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE MORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID AS HONG KONG'S THIRD MAJOR INDUSTRY, RANKING ONLY AFTER TEXTILES AND ELECTRONICS, TOURISM GENERATED A GROSS ANNUAL REVENUE OF MORE THAN HK\$2.8 BILLION, ABOUT HK\$1.7 BILLION OF WHICH IS REASONABLY ESTIMATED TO STAY IN HONG KONG.

+MOREOVER, THE TOURIST INDUSTRY EMPLOYS AT LEAST 100,000 OF OUR PEOPLE, WHO WOULD NOT FIND IT EASY NOW TO SECURE OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

+THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION IS ALSO A PRIME PURVEYOR OF THE OVERALL IMAGE OF HONG KONG TO THE WORLD, WHICH IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO US ALL,+ HE SAID.

MR. BREMRIDGE SAID THE ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER, HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO OPERATE ON A YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS AS A RESULT OF ITS PRIME FACIE DEPENDENCE ON THE HOTEL TAX, BESIDES GENEROUS GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

+WITH STEADILY INCREASING TOURISM, THIS WAS JUST ACCEPTABLE, BUT NOW IT APPEARS AS THOUGH HONG KONG WILL BE LUCKY IN 1974, AND POSSIBLY IN 1975, TO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT TOURIST GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE ASSOCIATION'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARIAT WOULD RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE ASSOCIATION WITH MORE MONEY ON A THREE-YEAR BASIS, SO THAT THE ASSOCIATION MAY PLAN AHEAD APPROPRIATELY.

+IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CUT BACK ON EXPENDITURE ON A SEE-SAW ARRANGEMENT, SUBJECT TO THE VAGARIES OF YEAR-TO-YEAR REVENUE,+ HE STRESSED.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION PROPOSED

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DR. HARRY FANG TODAY PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION NOW THAT IT HAS ACHIEVED UNIVERSAL FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

COMMENTING ON THE EDUCATION WHITE PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE WELCOMED ITS PROPOSALS FOR ABOLITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AND THE PROVISION OF NINE YEARS' UNINTERRUPTED EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT WHILE ABOLISHING THE S.S.E.E. ON ONE HAND, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPLACED IT WITH A JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION ON THE OTHER.

+INSTEAD OF RELIEVING THE ANXIETY CREATED BY THE S.S.E.E. AND FELT BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS ALIKE, THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION AT BEST POSTPONES THE ILL-EFFECTS AND THEREFORE, PROLONGS THE PERIOD OF PRESSURE FOR THOSE INVOLVED,+ DR. FANG SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT HE WAS NOT AGAINST ALL EXAMINATIONS AS SUCH, BUT HE STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE NATURE OF THE EXAMINATION SHOULD BE SO TAILORED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A MEANS OF SELECTION FOR PLACES BUT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S ABILITY.

+WHILE I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS FOR THE MOMENT,+ HE ADDED, +I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ABOLITION OF SUCH AN EXAMINATION AND A DECLARED AIM OF UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION, UP TO SCHOOL LEAVING LEVEL, FOR ALL IN HONG KONG.+

DR. FANG WAS SURPRISED THAT THE WHITE PAPER MADE NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

+IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, IN OUR COMMUNITY, THERE ARE 120,000 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, WHO, BEING HANDICAPPED, NEED TO BE MORE EDUCATIONALLY EQUIPPED TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. YET EXISTING FACILITIES CAN COPE WITH LESS THAN 5,000,+ HE SAID.

THIS GAP, HE ADDED, MUST BE CONSIDERED +A BLOT ON OUR OTHERWISE FINE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AND, UNLESS WE CAN FILL IT, WE CANNOT IN ALL HONESTY AND GOOD CONSCIENCE, CLAIM THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL.+

HE URGED THAT THESE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY BE INCLUDED IN OUR PROGRAMME OF UNIVERSAL FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION.

DR. FANG WOULD WELCOME A STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS POLICY AND PLANS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THIS PARTICULAR GROUP.

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IN SUMMING UP, HE SAID: +WHILE THE WHITE PAPER INDICATES A STEP FORWARD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, IT HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH IN COPING WITH OUR PRESENT NEEDS AND SOLVING THE BASIC EDUCATION PROBLEM.+

REFERRING TO THE HANDICAPPED, DR. FANG NOTED THAT LITTLE PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THEM IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THERE WAS STILL MUCH DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

HE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT SOME PROVISIONS BE MADE FOR THEM IN THE MAJOR, IF NOT ALL THE STATIONS, OF THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM.

+BEING HANDICAPPED IS NOT SHAMEFUL: NOT TAKING THE HANDICAPPED INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR SOCIAL PLANNING IS,+ HE STRESSED.

+IN OUR SOCIETY, THERE REMAINS MUCH PREJUDICE AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND ARE ABLE TO PERFORM THE SPECIFIC DUTIES THE JOB REQUIRES.

+IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, THE LAW STIPULATES A THREE PER CENT EMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE HANDICAPPED IN INDUSTRIES. OUR GOVERNMENT, THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG, AND ENGAGING THE LARGEST NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED, HAS NO MORE THAN 0.3 PER CENT ON ITS PAYROLL, WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT A RECORD WE CAN BE PROUD OF.+

HE APPEALED TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THEMSELVES..

TURNING TO MEDICAL SERVICES, DR. FANG URGED THAT THE PLANS FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES OUTLINED IN THE RECENT MEDICAL WHITE PAPER, BE IMPLEMENTED WITH +ALL POSSIBLE SPEED+.

HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROVISION OF DOCTORS TO MAN THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED SERVICES.

+RECRUITMENT STATISTICS IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS FROM 1970 SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A TOTAL INTAKE OF 595 DOCTORS, WHEREAS WASTAGE AMOUNTED TO 414 SO THAT THE ACTUAL GAIN WAS A MERE 181 OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+WHAT IS MORE ALARMING IS THAT THE ANNUAL WASTAGE FIGURES OVER THIS PERIOD OF TIME HAVE BEEN STEADILY INCREASING, FROM 63 IN 1970 TO 102 IN 1973. QUOTING THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER AGAIN, IT WAS CALCULATED THAT, BY 1982, WASTAGE AND RECRUITMENT WILL BE MORE OR LESS IN BALANCE IN THAT NET RECRUITMENT MIGHT BE IN THE ORDER OF ONLY 10 DOCTORS A YEAR.+

IT WAS EVIDENT THEREFORE, DR. FANG SAID, UNLESS THE INTAKE OF DOCTORS WAS STEPPED UP CONSIDERABLY, AND GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED IN SEEKING A WAY TO KEEP MORE DOCTORS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, +WE WOULD EITHER PUT A TREMENDOUS WORKLOAD ON THE DOCTORS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, OR WE WOULD JEOPARDIZE OUR QUALITY OF PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICE -- OR WE DO BOTH.+

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GOVERNMENT URGED NOT TO CUT PLANS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS URGED NOT TO CUT BACK IN THE PLANS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH ARE YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED EVEN IF MORE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ARISE.

IN MAKING THE APPEAL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MISS KO SIU WAH EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LONG TERM PLANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WOULD STILL BE THE +GOAL OF OUR WORK AND OUR PLANS+.

MISS KO DEPLORED THE SALE OF COMIC BOOKS WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS UNHEALTHY, DAMAGING AND DANGEROUS.

THESE BOOKS, SHE SAID, COULD LEAD CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS TO IMITATIVE BEHAVIOUR WHEN THEY WERE STILL UNABLE TO JUDGE WHAT WAS GOOD AND WHAT WAS BAD.

MISS KO FELT THAT STRONG MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO SUPPRESS THESE COMIC BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

SHE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT INDECENT EXHIBITION ORDINANCE AS ONE OF THE URGENT AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO TACKLE SOME OF THE +ROOTS OF SOCIAL EVIL+.

TURNING TO THE 12-13 AGE GROUP, MISS KO SAID THAT BASED ON THE 1971 CENSUS, THERE WERE ABOUT 20,900 SUCH CHILDREN, WHO ARE NOW NOT STUDYING IN SCHOOL AND WHO ARE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO WORK.

FOR THIS CATEGORY OF CHILDREN, SHE SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL PROGRAMME, AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE, COVERING CRAFT TRAINING, INFORMAL LEARNING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE OR COUNSELLING SERVICES.

MISS KO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK.

+IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID,+MANY TEACHERS ARE FAR TOO BUSY WITH THE TEACHING ASPECT AND HAVE THEREFORE NO TIME TO DEAL WITH THE STUDENTS' PROBLEMS, BE THEY SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL.+

HOWEVER, SHE SAID THAT WITH SPECIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN DEALING WITH HUMAN PROBLEMS, 5THE SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE HANDLING OF SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS OF THE STUDENTS WHICH AFFECT THEIR LEARNING IN SCHOOL.

MISS KO BELIEVED THAT WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, THE RAPID GROWTH OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ESPECIALLY IN SOME CONGESTED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, COULD BE PREVENTED AND REDUCED MORE EASILY.

REFERRING TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SHE SAID: +ACCORDING TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE YEAR PLAN, ABOUT 100 MORE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEAR.+

/SHE EXPRESSED .....

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SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE CENTRES WOULD PROVIDE SPACE, FACILITIES, OR EVEN MANPOWER TO SEE THAT THE SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SUPERVISED OR ORGANIZED RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND GROUP ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS AND SPORTS.

+COMMENTING ON THE EDUCATION WHITE PAPER, SHE SAID THE PROPOSED JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION SHOULD BEST BE REPLACED BY AN APTITUDE TEST OR ABILITY TEST.

AS THE FIRST J.C.E.E. WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1982 AS INDICATED IN THE WHITE PAPER, SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITH THIS AMPLE TIME TO MAKE PLANS, THE DESIGN AND CONTENTS OF THE EXAMINATIONS WOULD BE PREPARED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INFLUENCE EFFECTIVELY THE METHODS OF TEACHING AND SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND EVENTUALLY BETTER THE WHOLE QUALITY OF THE NINE-YEAR EDUCATION.

+A POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD WOULD BE TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION BY INCLUDING A PORTION OF TEACHER-ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS OVER THREE OR FOUR YEARS INTO THE FINAL RESULT OF THE EXAMINATION,+ SHE SUGGESTED.

ON SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES, MISS KO SAID THAT ABOUT \$3 MILLION WAS SPENT DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS THIS YEAR.

+BUT. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO OVERLAPPING, THE MONEY IS PROPERLY AND WISELY SPENT, MANPOWER AND FACILITIES ARE FULLY UTILIZED AND THE PROGRAMMES PLANNED ARE REALLY ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS AS WELL AS TO ENSURE BETTER PLANNING AND MORE SUITABLE PROGRAMMES FOR THE FUTURE, AN OVERALL EVALUATION SYSTEM WITH ADEQUATE DEPTH IS NEEDED,+ SHE ADDED.

MISS KO DESCRIBED THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION TO CONTROL AND REGULATE THE OPERATION OF CHILD CARE CENTRES AS +NECESSARY AND TIMELY+.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID: +IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TOO, IN THE NOT TOO FAR DISTANT FUTURE, TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION FOR OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, CHILDREN'S HOMES AND HOMES FOR THE DISABLED, TO COPE WITH THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG.

JUDGING FROM WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MISS KO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLACED MORE ATTENTION ON PREVENTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS, WHICH IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION OF A MATURE GOVERNMENT.

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REVIEW OF GAMBLING LAW URGED  
MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH NEEDED, SAYS MR. T.S. LO

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY CALLED FOR A COMPLETE REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S 'OUTDATED' GAMBLING LAWS WHICH, ONE COUNCILLOR SAID, SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

THE UNOFFICIALS' VIEW WAS EXPRESSED IN COUNCIL BY THE HON. LO TAK-SHING WHO SAID THAT WHILE HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES HAD DIFFERING VIEWS AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT THE SITUATION, THEY WERE UNANIMOUS THAT THE MATTER BE GONE INTO THOROUGHLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE INSTINCT TO GAMBLE, HE SAID, WAS PART OF HUMAN NATURE AND ONE SHOULD NOT TRY TO GO AGAINST IT. INSTEAD, HE URGED, +LET US USE OUR INGENUITY AND OUR PRACTICAL SENSE TO DEVISE PRACTICAL LEGAL MACHINERY TO CONTROL GAMBLING AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THE WORST EFFECT OF THIS INSTINCT.+

MR. LO TRACED THE HISTORY OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE ENACTED IN 1891 BY THE THEN GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM DES VOEUX, AND CONCLUDED THAT IN THE ENSUING 83 YEARS THE EXPERIMENT, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN EXPECTED TO WORK IN THE FIRST PLACE, +DID NOT WORK, HAS NEVER WORKED, AND WILL NEVER WORK.+

THE DOUBTS THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AT THE TIME BY SIR WILLIAM THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE AND LEAD TO BRIBERY HAD BEEN PROVED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT, HE SAID, AND IN 83 YEARS NO ONE HAD FOUND ANY DIFFICULTY IN PLACING A BET IN ANY FORM OF GAMBLING.

+INDEED,+ HE WENT ON, +THE ILLEGAL GAMBLING SYNDICATES WHICH FLOURISH IN HONG KONG ARE FAR WORSE THAN ANY LEGALLY CONTROLLED ONES.

+TO ENFORCE PAYMENT OF GAMBLERS' DEBTS THEY EMPLOY HOODLUMS AND RESORT TO FORCE. TO INCREASE THEIR EARNINGS THEY DEAL IN DRUGS AND PROSTITUTION. TO ENSURE THAT CUSTOMERS LOSE THEY FIX THE ODDS, LOAD THE DICE AND TILT THE TABLES. FINALLY, TO KEEP IN BUSINESS THEY RELY ON BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.+

+TO A PERSON WHO TELEPHONES HIS BOOKIE FOR AN OFF-COURSE BET ON HORSES OR DOGS THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, IN MY VIEW, ARE ENTIRELY OBLITERATED,+ HE SAID. +THE CRIMINAL LAW IS BECOMING WHAT THE POLICE CHOOSE TO ENFORCE, NOT WHAT THE LEGISLATURE ENACTS.+

CHINESE CURES

MR. LO ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, TO SET UP A SPECIAL UNIT TO COLLATE INFORMATION AND TO ESTABLISH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN THE UNIVERSITIES ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINES SO AS TO BUILD UP COMPREHENSIVE DATA ON CHINESE CURES.

/WHILST IT .....

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WHILST IT MAY BE OVER-AMBITIOUS AT THIS STAGE TO UNDERTAKE ANY LARGE SCALE RESEARCH INTO CHINESE HERBS, HE SAID, +IT WOULD BE INDEFENSIBLE NOT TO BEGIN TO BUILD A RESERVOIR OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS NOW RECOGNISED IN WESTERN MEDICAL SCIENCE THAT THE CURATIVE EFFECTS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINES AND TECHNIQUES COULD BE INTERPRETED IN STRICTLY SCIENTIFIC TERMS.

OVER 4,000 PEOPLE PRACTISED TRADITIONAL CHINESE CURES IN HONG KONG, HE NOTED, AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY HAD AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER TAKEN CHINESE HERBS IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHERS.

SO FAR, HE ADDED, IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH ANY STANDARDS SO AS TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE GENUINE ABLE CHINESE HERBALIST FROM ONE LESS ABLE OR INDEED THE OUT AND OUT CHARLATAN, AND WHILE HE DID NOT QUESTION THE WISDOM IN THE PAST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSTURE OF NON-INTERFERENCE AS REGARDS THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE DUE TO LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT, HE STRONGLY FELT THAT THE TIME HAD NOW COME TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT.

#### POLICY AND THE COMMUNITY

TURNING TO GOVERNMENT POLICY AND THE COMMUNITY, MR. LO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES IN THE PAST YEAR IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD REVERSED ITS EARLIER DECISIONS IN THE FACE OF HEATED OPPOSITION FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS WITHOUT GIVING A FULL PUBLIC EXPLANATION FOR THE ABOUT FACE. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE RECENT TROUBLE OVER THE FORM OF SHOP TENANCY AGREEMENTS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

MR. LO STRONGLY QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF REVERSING OFFICIAL DECISIONS, IF THEY WERE CONSIDERED TO BE CORRECT, STRESSING THAT +NO AMOUNT OF AXE-GRINDING RESISTANCE FROM THE IGNORANT OR SELF-SEEKING SHOULD CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO GO BACK ON WHAT IT HAS RESOLVED TO DO.+

THE REASON WAS PLAIN, HE SAID. +FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO KNUCKLE UNDER MERELY BECAUSE IT MEETS OPPOSITION, IS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION NOT OF BEING DEMOCRATIC, BUT OF BEING WEAK.

+IT CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE THE UNSCRUPULOUS AND SELF-INTERESTED TO FOMENT OPPOSITION AND STIR UP TROUBLE WHENEVER THEY CAN MAKE CAPITAL OUT OF IT.+

MR. LO DOUBTED THAT GOVERNMENT DECISIONS WERE TAKEN HASTILY OR WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. IN FACT, WITH THE MACHINERY AVAILABLE TO SOUND OUT PUBLIC OPINION AT ALL LEVELS AND EVALUATE REACTION, EVERY DECISION, HE FELT, WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT HEART AND, IF HARDSHIP TO SOME COULD NOT BE AVOIDED, BE REASONABLY FAIR TO THAT SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

/HOWEVER, MR. ....

DECISION OF PROPOSED OIL REFINERY COMPLEX URGED  
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY URGED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE  
PROPOSED OIL REFINERY COMPLEX  
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HOWEVER, MR. LO WAS EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO REVERSE EARLIER DECISION AND CHART A NEW COURSE IN CASES WHERE THE DECISION PROVED TO BE WRONG OR WHERE IT WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. +BUT IT SHOULD GIVE THE PUBLIC A CLEAR AND ADEQUATE EXPLANATION WHY IT IS DOING SO,+

HE ADDED: +IT IS ONE THING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE POLICY BECAUSE IT HAS MADE A MISTAKE OR BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED -- AND TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC WHY IT IS DOING SO.

+IT IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THING TO DELAY OR EVEN ABANDON A PERFECTLY SOUND MEASURE WITHOUT EXPLANATION MERELY BECAUSE THERE IS HEATED OPPOSITION. TO DO THIS, IN MY VIEW, IS TO FAIL IN THE PRIME FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT -- THAT OF GOVERNING.+

THE PROJECT, HE WENT ON TO SAY, INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY AND A PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX. THE PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND WOULD BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

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... CAN LIVE IN A SAFE, THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY PURE, ATMOSPHERE.  
... THE BEST CAN BE THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD, AND THIS  
... WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE WILL BE THE CASE.  
... THEY ALSO ADVOCATED DIRECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE  
... INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION POLICY.  
... HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL LAND DEVELOPMENT  
... PLANNING COMMITTEE, LIKE THE VARIOUS OTHER LAND COMMITTEES, HAD  
... NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AND HE WORKED FROM THE COMMITTEE  
... COULD PROBABLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEW OF CONGRESS AND  
... INDUSTRY.  
... THE PRIVATE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE WILL BECOME MORE  
... FUNCTIONAL IN WATER SYSTEMS OF THE STATE RESPONSIVE TO  
... EMERGENCIES.  
... THE NEED FOR A GREATER ORGANIZATION  
... DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTING THE SOLUTION  
... OF AN INDEPENDENT AND RELIABLE AND CORPUSCULE  
... SO-CALLED STATE AND NATIONAL POLICY  
... TO DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS  
... THE NEED FOR A LAND POLICY OF DIRECT STATE INTERVENTION  
... TO LAND AND WATER RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
... WERE THAT THE HOUSE WOULD PASS THE GREAT WORKING  
... ATTRACT STATE ESTABLISHMENTS TO THE

DECISION OF PROPOSED OIL REFINERY COMPLEX URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY URGED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE PROPOSED \$6,000 MILLION OIL REFINERY AND PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR +BEFORE OUR PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMERS GO ELSEWHERE.+

THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN TOLD COUNCIL THE PROJECT COULD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE THE STRUCTURE AND DIRECTION OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND A DECISION ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED ANY LONGER.

THREE YEARS HAD GONE BY, HE NOTED, SINCE THE FIRST APPLICATION FOR LAND FOR AN OIL REFINERY WAS MADE +BUT WE HAVE YET TO SEE ANY VISIBLE SIGN OF PROGRESS.+

HE REALISED THAT APART FROM THE PROJECT'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. +HOWEVER, THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHICH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS CAN BE SACRIFICED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURITY,+ HE ADDED.

THE PROJECT, HE WENT ON, WOULD PROVIDE THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND MANY ADDITIONAL DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES COULD BE CREATED TO USE THE RAW MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX.

+WE CAN LIVE IN A SAFE, THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY PURE, ATMOSPHERE.

+LET US THEREFORE CONTENT OURSELVES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS THAT ARE GOOD ENOUGH, THOUGH NOT THE BEST,+ HE SAID. +IN SOME CASES, THE BEST CAN BE THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD. AND THIS, I WOULD SUGGEST, MAY WELL BE THE CASE.+

MR. TIEN ALSO ADVOCATED DIRECT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL LAND POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION POLICY.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE, LIKE THE VARIOUS OTHER LAND COMMITTEE, HAD NO UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AND HE WONDERED HOW THE COMMITTEE COULD PROPERLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

WITH PRIVATE REPRESENTATION, HE FELT +WE WILL BECOME MORE PROMOTIONAL IN NATURE INSTEAD OF BEING SIMPLY RESPONSIVE TO ENQUIRIES.+

MR. TIEN ALSO FELT THE NEED FOR A PROPER ORGANISATION FOR DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS, AND SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF AN INDUSTRIAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CHARGED WITH CO-ORDINATING, DIRECTING AND RATIONALISING THE POLICIES RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

HE WELCOMED THE NEW LAND POLICY OF DIRECT SALES OF SITES TO LARGE AND ECONOMICALLY DESIRABLE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS AND HOPED THAT THIS POLICY WOULD BE PURSUED WITH GREATER VIGOUR TO ATTRACT SUITABLE ENTERPRISES TO HONG KONG.

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ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, MR. TIEN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SET UP STATUTORY TRAINING AUTHORITIES TO HELP LOCAL INDUSTRIES ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY MANPOWER, IN THE NUMBERS AND OF THE QUALITY REQUIRED, TO SUCCESSFULLY MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES.

+THESE INDUSTRIES ASK NO MORE THAN FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO SHARE THEIR SENSE OF URGENCY, AND TO HELP THEM NOT ONLY HELP THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO THE ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG.+

ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, MR. TIEN DEPLORED THE APPARENT LACK OF RESPONSE OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ALIKE TO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER INTRODUCING A SYSTEM OF MORE COMPREHENSIVE ACCIDENT STATISTICS WHICH WOULD REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE EFFICIENCY, OR THE LACK OF IT, IN EACH OF HONG KONG'S MAIN INDUSTRIES IN TERMS OF SAFETY MEASURES.

SUCH STATISTICS, WOULD FIRST SERVE AS A BETTER WARNING, PINPOINTING THE PARTICULAR INDUSTRY WHICH NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT, AND WOULD ENABLE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DEVISE MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF SAFEGUARDS FOR THEIR WORKERS, HE SAID.

IN CLOSING, MR. TIEN EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE DISCRIMINATION MAINTAINED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AGAINST HONG KONG IN ITS GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES, AS WELL AS BY BRITAIN.

HE SAID: +WE ARE NOW IN AN HITHERTO UNHEARD OF, AND PROBABLY UNIQUE, SITUATION, BRITAIN, OUR METROPOLITAN POWER IS NOW HERSELF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST HONG KONG IN FAVOUR OF OUR COMPETITORS WITH WHOM SHE HAS NEITHER HISTORICAL NOR ECONOMIC TIES.+

HOWEVER, HE APPLAUDED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN SEEKING A BETTER DEAL FOR HONG KONG AND SAID +IT IS NOW UP TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS.+

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**JOINT COMMITTEE SET UP TO EXAMINE CLERICAL STAFF PROBLEMS**

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AFTER A NUMBER OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CLERICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION:

♦A JOINT COMMITTEE COMPRISING STAFF AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS HAS BEEN SET UP, WITH AGREED TERMS OF REFERENCE, TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE ON A BROAD RANGE OF MATTERS AFFECTING THE CLERICAL CLASS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF CURRENT PROBLEMS. A TARGET DATE OF 3 MONTHS HAS BEEN SET FOR THE COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE ITS REPORT.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE ON:

- (A) THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE CLERICAL CLASS AND WHETHER THAT STRUCTURE, WHICH AT PRESENT CONSISTS OF FOUR RANKS AND THREE LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY RELATED TO REMUNERATION, IS APPROPRIATE FOR AN EFFICIENT CLERICAL SERVICE IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND WHETHER IT PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE CAREER STRUCTURE. APPROPRIATE COMPARISONS SHOULD BE MADE WITH OTHER GRADES HOLDING THE SAME OR EQUIVALENT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND CARRYING OUT WORK OF COMPARABLE RESPONSIBILITY-
- (B) LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF CLERICAL WORK WITHIN BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS AND WHETHER THE NUMBER OF POSTS PROVIDED IN THE PRESENT GRADES AND RANKS ACCURATELY REFLECTS RESPONSIBILITIES-
- (C) THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF CLERICAL WORK WITHIN BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, AND WHETHER MANNING IS AT CORRECT LEVELS-
- (D) THE SEVERAL KINDS OF WORK CLERICAL GRADES ARE PERFORMING, WHETHER THEY ARE ALL APPROPRIATE TO THE CLASS, AND WHETHER THEY ARE ADEQUATELY DESCRIBED AND UNDERSTOOD-
- (E) THE DATES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS AS THE COMMITTEE MAY MAKE.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THE ASSOCIATION HAS DECIDED TO SUSPEND WORK-TO-RULE ACTION. THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ASSURED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE THAT NO ACTION TAKEN BY ANY MEMBER OF THE CLERICAL CLASS IN DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE WORK-TO-RULE WILL AFFECT HIS CAREER.+

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NEW PLANT WILL BOOST SUPPLIES TO PLASTICS INDUSTRY

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AN ASSURED SUPPLY OF BASIC RAW MATERIALS FOR HONG KONG'S THIRD LARGEST EXPORT EARNER -- THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY -- IS EXPECTED TO COME ON STREAM IN WELL UNDER 18 MONTHS' TIME..

THIS WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR POLYSTYRENE MANUFACTURING PLANT ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE PROJECT, FOR WHICH SITE FORMATION WORK IS NOW IN PROGRESS, IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORLD-WIDE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY WHOSE CHAIRMAN, MR. CARL A. GERSTACKER, IS COMING TO HONG KONG FOR A BUSINESS VISIT.

SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, HE WILL BE LOOKING OVER THE SITE FOR THE NEW PLANT TOMORROW AFTERNOON (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1) ACCOMPANIED BY MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND MR. R.W. LUNDEEN, CHAIRMAN OF DOW CHEMICAL (HONG KONG) LTD.

THE COST OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT \$160 MILLION. IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE THE PLANT READY FOR OPERATION BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR OR EARLY IN 1976.

THE SITE FOR THE PLANT WAS OBTAINED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MODIFIED LAND POLICY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER TOMORROW'S SITE VISIT. A LAUNCH WILL BE LEAVING QUEEN'S PIER AT 3.15 P.M. SHARP, AND RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE G.I.S. PRESS ENQUIRY DESK NO LATER THAN 12 NOON TOMORROW. YOU ARE ADVISED THAT ROAD ACCESS TO TSING YI IS NOT AVAILABLE AS THE CONNECTING BRIDGE IS FOR COMMERCIAL USERS ONLY.

MR. GERSTACKER AND MR. MCGREGOR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SITE TO ANSWER PRESS QUESTIONS. IF WEATHER CONDITIONS DO NOT IMPROVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CANCEL THE VISIT AT SHORT NOTICE, BUT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESS.

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT AUTUMN FAIR

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THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL AUTUMN FAIR ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2) AFTERNOON AT THE STANLEY PRISON FOOTBALL GROUND.

THE FAIR, STARTING AT 2 PM, WILL BE OPENED BY MISS MARGARET MILLER, A POPULAR MOVIE AND TELEVISION STAR.

TO ENTERTAIN GUESTS, THE POLICE BAND WILL PLAY AT THE FAIR AND ALSO DEMONSTRATE A MARCH DISPLAY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE EVENT COVERED.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR RETIRING

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MR. RICHARD KWAN KWOK-CHUNG, AN ASSISTANT REGISTRAR I, WILL BE RETIRING SHORTLY AFTER 16 YEARS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, HE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A RETIREMENT GIFT TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 1), BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR. WALTER HUME, ON BEHALF OF ALL HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR. KWAN FIRST JOINED THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AS A TEMPORARY ASSISTANT REGISTRAR II IN NOVEMBER 1958 AND WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT POST IN 1963.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, AT 4.30 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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SINGING COMPETITION FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN  
WELFARE AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
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THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF SEVEN WELFARE AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING TWO RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WILL TAKE PART IN THE INTER-INSTITUTION SINGING COMPETITION WHICH WILL BE HELD THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON AT 2.30 P.M. AT THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED CHAK YAN CENTRE OF THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES.

THE TWO WELFARE INSTITUTIONS ARE THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE AND THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES. THE OTHER FIVE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ARE THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, THE KWUN TONG HOSTEL AND THE MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME.

PRIZES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY MR. MICHAEL S.H. CHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND WELL-KNOWN SOCIAL EDUCATOR IN THE CHILD CARE FIELD. MR. YIP WAI-HONG, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, BAPTIST COLLEGE, WILL BE THE JUDGE.

MISS ANNIE CHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING BEFORE THE COMPETITION STARTS.

THE COMPETITION IS ONE OF THE ANNUAL SERIES OF ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE INTER-INSTITUTION ACTIVITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND ORGANISING VARIOUS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR HEALTHY AND MEANINGFUL CULTURAL COMPETITIONS OR ATHLETIC EVENTS EACH YEAR FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER THE CARE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

THE AIM IS TO BRING THEM TOGETHER, TO ENHANCE THEIR MENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING, AND TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, SAID MR. K.W. LEUNG, THE COMMITTEE'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

+ON ACCOUNT OF THE PUBLIC SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN IN PAST COMPETITIONS, THIS ONE, WE FEEL WILL CERTAINLY BE ANOTHER SUCCESS. IT IS SINCERELY HOPED THAT THERE WILL BE MORE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC FOR THIS COMMITTEE SO THAT IT CAN MAKE ITS BEST ENDEAVOURS IN REHABILITATING AND CARING FOR THESE YOUNGSTERS.+

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974

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**+ANTI-NARCOTICS CUP+ BASKETBALL COMPETITION  
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THE FIRST MATCH IN AN +ANTI-NARCOTICS CUP+ BASKETBALL COMPETITION, ORGANISED IN SUPPORT OF THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN KWUN TONG, WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE. 22 TEAMS FROM SCHOOLS, FACTORIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS HAVE ENTERED THE COMPETITION WHICH IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE IN KWUN TONG AND THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE THERE.

MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED IN THE BASKETBALL COURT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THE EVENINGS OF EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK UNTIL MID-DECEMBER.

BEFORE THE FIRST GAME TOMORROW THERE WILL BE A BRIEF OPENING CEREMONY PRESIDED OVER BY MR. W. WILLIAMS, THE CO-ORDINATOR OF THE CAMPAIGN. MR. MICHAEL SZE, THE C.D.O. (KWUN TONG) - MR. KWOK NAI-SIK, THE C.Y.O. (KWUN TONG) AND MR. KO KAI-MAN, WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WILL PRESENT SOUVENIRS BANNERS TO THE TEAMS.

THE COMPETITION IS ONE OF THE MANY PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN.

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**SPEED LIMIT ON SECTION OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD RAISED  
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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 1) THE SPEED LIMIT ALONG THE SECTION OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD BETWEEN THE HUNG HOM INTERCHANGE AND HO MAN TIN INTERCHANGE WILL BE RAISED TO 40 MILES PER HOUR.

THE DECISION TO RELAX THE SPEED RESTRICTION ALONG THAT ROAD SECTION FOLLOWS THE FINDINGS OF A TRAFFIC SURVEY WHICH INDICATES THAT CONDITIONS THERE HAD BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE SPEED LIMIT TO BE RAISED WITHOUT JEOPARDISING ROAD SAFETY.

MEANWHILE, IN NORTH KOWLOON THE CUL-DE-SAC BRANCHING FROM NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTH OF THE NAM CHEONG STREET-CORNWALL STREET ROUNDABOUT IS NOW PROHIBITED TO VEHICLES USED BY LEARNER DRIVERS UNDER DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS. THIS IS TO FACILITATE THE CONDUCTING OF DRIVING TESTS AT THE CUL-DE-SAC.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (THURSDAY) STOOD AT 52,095 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 77.4 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 61,197 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 35,285 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 47,602 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 69.9 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

102.3 MM (4.03 IN) OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 1974.6 MM (77.74 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2093.2 MM (82.41 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 5.7 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S RAINFALL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATERWORKS OFFICE SAID THAT RAINFALL WAS WELL DISTRIBUTED AND THE YIELD WAS GENERALLY GOOD.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SUPPLY SITUATION HAD IMPROVED AND THAT THE POSITION WAS NOW BEING ASSESSED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN MONGKOK

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SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON TAI KOK TSUI ROAD IN KOWLOON, WILL BE ABLE TO TURN RIGHT INTO CHERRY STREET AND THE TAI KOK TSUI FERRY CONCOURSE STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 2).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A DIRECT ROUTE FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON TAI KOK TSUI ROAD INTO THE FERRY CONCOURSE.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGN WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEN	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.80
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	-
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.92
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.74
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1974

**SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH**

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	SCARCE	4.50	2.60	3.80
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.20	0.50	2.40
SQUID	GOOD	5.50	1.10	3.80
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.00	1.60	1.70
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	4.50	1.50	3.00
CROAKERS	GOOD	2.80	1.10	2.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	3.60	2.00	3.20
MELON COAT	--		NO SALE	
BREAMS	--		NO SALE	
YELLOW BELLY	--		NO SALE	
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.00	3.00	4.30
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	1.00	0.50	0.80
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	2.20	1.20	1.60
HORSE-HEAD	--		NO SALE	
MELON SEED	LIMITED	3.70	2.00	3.00
POMFRETS	--		NO SALE	
GARROUPAS	SCARCE	14.00	8.00	10.50
YELLOW CROAKER	--		NO SALE	

**SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES**

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	SCARCE	3.50	1.20	2.50
WHITE CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.60	0.80	1.80
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	2.80	1.00	1.80
WATER SPINACH	SCARCE	1.60	0.80	1.20
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	3.40	1.20	2.50
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	3.20	1.20	2.40
SPRING ONION	SCARCE	2.40	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	SCARCE	3.60	1.00	2.50
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	4.50	2.50	3.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.50	0.80	1.40
CHINESE SPINACH	SCARCE	1.80	0.50	1.20
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.50	2.50	3.50