



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF FOOD
COMMODITIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

ANOTHER SAVE FUEL DRIVE TO BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY
CURRENT RESTRICTIONS UNLIKELY TO BE LIFTED FOR TIME BEING
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY LAUNCH ANOTHER PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO URGE THE COMMUNITY TO SAVE ELECTRICITY BY CUTTING DOWN ON THE USE OF ALL APPLIANCES, PARTICULARLY AIR-CONDITIONERS.

+WE ALSO INTEND TO PROVIDE FURTHER PUBLICITY ON THE STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY ALL USERS, WHETHER DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL, TO AVOID WASTE,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE WAS CERTAIN THAT, AS BEFORE, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD GIVE A LEAD IN ECONOMISING ON THEIR OWN CONSUMPTION.

MR. HADDON-CAVE WAS REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD FUEL OIL PROBLEMS AS IT AFFECTS HONG KONG.

EVEN IF THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WAS EFFECTIVE, HE SAID, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, AS SUGGESTED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, TO DO AWAY WITH THE CURRENT MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.

+THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN EVENTUALLY RELAX THESE RESTRICTIONS CAN ONLY BE GAUGED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE WITH VOLUNTARY SAVINGS DURING THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS AND, UNTIL THIS HAS BEEN TESTED, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO LET UP ON THE CURRENT LEVEL OF RESTRICTIONS.

+BUT, HOPEFULLY,+ HE ADDED,+IF ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PLAY THEIR PART IN ECONOMISING IN THE USE OF AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, FURTHER MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS WILL NOT PROVE TO BE NECESSARY.+

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING INCREASED SUPPLIES OF FUEL OIL AND, HOPEFULLY, HONG KONG WOULD RECEIVE SLIGHTLY MORE FUEL OIL THIS QUARTER.

+BUT, EVEN IF WE DO, IT IS DOUBTFUL IF IT WILL BE NEARLY ENOUGH TO MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND DURING THE COMING MONTHS, WHEN NORMALLY ABOUT 15 PER CENT MORE ELECTRICITY IS CONSUMED THAN IN THE WINTER MONTHS,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

THE OIL SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE UNCERTAIN, HE NOTED, AND ANY FORECAST OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE POSITION WAS FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EVIDENCE THERE WAS INDICATED THAT FOR AT LEAST THE CURRENT QUARTER UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, THE ONLY PRODUCT WHERE SUPPLY IS LIKELY TO FALL BELOW DEMAND IS THE TYPE OF FUEL OIL USED BY THE ELECTRICITY COMPANIES.

ON RISING PRICES OF FUEL OIL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A WORRYING FACTOR AND IT WAS LIKELY BEFORE LONG TO CAUSE MORE TROUBLE TO THE WORLD ECONOMY THAN SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES.

+OUR CITY

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+OUR OWN BILL FOR OIL, FOR INSTANCE, IS LIKELY TO COST AT LEAST TWICE AS MUCH THIS YEAR AS IT DID LAST, THAT IS TO SAY ABOUT \$900 MILLION MORE.+

HONG KONG WAS NOT, HOWEVER, THE WORST AFFECTED, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, OTHER CONSUMING TERRITORIES WITH CHRONIC FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES WERE LIKELY TO BE MORE SERIOUSLY HIT AND THERE WAS SOME DANGER OF A SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH OF WORLD TRADE.

+THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH WE IN HONG KONG ON OUR OWN CAN DO LITTLE TO INFLUENCE,+ HE SAID, +BUT IT IS MY BELIEF THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO AVOID THE WORST DANGERS.+

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CALL FOR EASING LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS

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THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG TODAY CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF ELECTRICITY AND SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE TIME HAD COME TO RELAX THEM.

+TO ALLOW SHOPS TO BRIGHTEN UP WOULD BE BENEFICIAL ALL ROUND, AND NOT LEAST IT WOULD HELP TO DISPEL SOME OF THAT STYGIAN GLOOM INTO WHICH OUR CITY HAS BEEN CAST, AT A COST, IN TERMS OF ELECTRICITY AND FUEL CONSUMED, WHICH IS MINISCULE,+ HE SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE OIL SITUATION.

IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND, HE SAID, THAT THE PUBLIC HAD ACTED RESPONSIBLY SINCE DECEMBER IN CO-OPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO CONSERVE FUEL.

A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN RETAIL TRADE AND SHOPS WITHOUT LIGHTED WINDOWS AND WITHOUT LIGHTED DISPLAY CASES LOST THEIR ATTRACTION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, BUSINESS.

THIS LOSS OF BUSINESS, HOWEVER LITTLE, WAS ENORMOUS COMPARED WITH THE EXPENDITURE SAVED BY NOT USING DISPLAY LIGHTING AND MUST SERIOUSLY AFFECT PROFITS, HE SAID.

MR. CHEUNG NOTED THAT RETAIL SHOPS CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S INVISIBLE EARNINGS, AND TO AUGMENT OUR EARNINGS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES THE SHOPS MUST BE ABLE TO ATTRACT TOURISTS.

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NEED FOR CONSERVING FUEL OIL UNDERLINED

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR ECONOMISING ON THE USE OF FUEL OIL AND FOR FINDING NEW SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLIES DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD FUEL OIL PROBLEM AS IT AFFECTS HONG KONG.

LEADING THE DEBATE, THE HON LEE QUO-WEI SAID THAT THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN QUANTITIES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS +MUST BE CONSIDERED A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION.

MR. LEE SAID THE SINGLE MOST SERIOUS EFFECT OF THE OIL CRISIS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE COST OF OIL IMPORTS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF DECISIONS BY THE PRODUCER GOVERNMENTS TO RAISE THE CRUDE OIL PRICES BY OVER 200 PER CENT, HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE MANY EFFORTS OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO CONSERVE ENERGY THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE SHORT TERM TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECT OF THE PRICE INCREASES.

AS THE PROBLEM OF BOTH THE SUPPLY AND PRICE WAS NOT EASY FOR HONG KONG TO SOLVE ALONE, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION AND ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE APPROACH OF THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN ELECTRICITY DEMAND WOULD BE AT ITS PEAK.

MR. LEE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PUBLICISE HOW TO AVOID WASTAGE AND TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION AND ECONOMY, SO THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY COULD CO-OPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR ANY FUTURE CONTINGENCY.

+THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND FOR KEEPING OUR DOMESTIC PRODUCTS COSTS REASONABLE SO AS TO PRESERVE OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD MARKETS.+

SHOULD THE CAMPAIGN PROVE TO BE EFFECTIVE, HE ADDED, IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE WITH THE IMPOSITION OF THE RESTRICTIONS, OR AT LEAST SOME OF THEM, NOW IN FORCE.

MR. LEE WARNED THAT ALTHOUGH MOST OIL DESTINATION EMBARGOES HAD FOR THE TIME BEING BEEN LIFTED BY THE ARAB PRODUCER STATES UNTIL JUNE THIS YEAR, HONG KONG MUST NOT BE LULLED INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE SITUATION HAD NOW RETURNED TO NORMAL.

+ACTUALLY, THE OIL INDUSTRY HAS NEVER FACED SO MUCH UNCERTAINTY AS IT DOES TODAY. IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED OIL PRODUCTION LEVELS STILL REMAIN INADEQUATE TO MEET UNRESTRAINED GLOBAL DEMAND,+ HE COMMENTED.

HE ALSO FELT THAT IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE OF WORLD DEMAND.

+AS TO PRICES, IT MUST NOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WILL COME DOWN, UNLESS THE RATE OF WORLD-WIDE INFLATION CAN BE EFFECTIVELY CHECKED,+ HE ADDED.

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WARNING OF FURTHER CUTBACKS IN FUEL CONSUMPTION

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THE HON. DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO EXERT GREATER PRESSURE ON THE OIL COMPANIES TO INCREASE THEIR OIL SUPPLIES TO HONG KONG.

+THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO SEEK ASSURANCE FROM THE OIL COMPANIES THAT THEY WOULD NOT DIVERT OUR SHARE OF OIL TO PLACES WHERE THEY CAN OBTAIN BETTER PRICES THAN IN HONG KONG, + HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE OIL SITUATION.

DR. CHUNG WARNED THAT FURTHER CUTBACKS IN THE USE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY MAY BECOME NECESSARY THIS SUMMER IF THE POWER COMPANIES COULD NOT OBTAIN A 15 PER CENT INCREASE IN OIL SUPPLIES.

WITH HONG KONG ABOUT TO ENTER A PEAK SEASON OF MAXIMUM DEMAND FOR ELECTRIC ENERGY DUE TO THE HEAVY LOADING OF AIR-CONDITIONING, +WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT AT THIS STAGE AND HAVE TO CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORT TO SAVE ELECTRICITY, + HE STRESSED.

WHILE HE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF GIVING ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND INDUSTRY PRIORITY OF FUEL OIL, DR. CHUNG EMPHASISED THAT INDUSTRY MUST NOT ABUSE THIS PRIORITY AND MUST BE AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO SAVE THROUGH GREATER EFFICIENCY AND LESS WASTAGE.

IN THIS REGARD, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WAS NOW ORGANISING A TEAM OF FOREIGN AND LOCAL EXPERTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO INDUSTRY WAYS AND MEANS OF SAVING ENERGY AND TO CONDUCT TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND SEMINARS ON EFFICIENT USE OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE ENERGY CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS DRIVE WILL MAKE SOME MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY IN HONG KONG, + HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG ALSO CALLED ON THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED CONSUMER COUNCIL TO MAKE A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE SITUATION OF OIL SUPPLY AND OIL PRICING FOR THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS.

ALTHOUGH SUPPLY OF OIL IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE MIGHT BE LESS CRITICAL THAN A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE NOTED, OIL PRICES HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED. FUEL OIL WHICH WAS SELLING AT ABOUT \$100 PER TON WAS NOW SELLING AT OVER \$300, WHILE ELECTRICITY FOR A MEDIUM BULK USER NOW COST 17-1/2 CENT PER KILOWAT-HOUR AS COMPARED TO 10 CENTS SIX MONTHS AGO.

DR. CHUNG EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR SUPPLYING HONG KONG WITH ADDITIONAL FUEL OIL AT A CRITICAL PERIOD, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO PERSUADE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY HONG KONG WITH MORE OIL IN THE COMING SUMMER SO AS TO MINIMISE HARDSHIP.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OIL POLICY COMMITTEE, MR. MICHAEL CLINTON, AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OIL DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, MR. ROY PORTER, FOR THEIR GOOD WORK.

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GOVT URGED TO OPEN UP NEW SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLY

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY URGED TO LOOK FOR NEW SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLIES AT REASONABLE PRICES AND EXPAND PRESENT ONES TO PROVIDE FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE NEEDS.

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD FUEL PROBLEM AS IT AFFECTS HONG KONG, MR. ANN TSE-KAI WARNED THAT HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS WOULD, COST-WISE, BE PLACED AT A DISADVANTAGE IN MAJOR MARKETS SINCE OUR INDUSTRY IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON OIL AND OIL BY-PRODUCTS.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S MAIN CUSTOMERS - THE UNITED STATES AND THE U.K. - WERE EITHER FIXING THEIR OIL PRICES AT LOWER LEVELS THAN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, OR RELYING TO A MINOR DEGREE ON OIL FOR POWER GENERATION.

WHILE ON THE WHOLE, HONG KONG HAD NOT SUFFERED MUCH FROM THE WORLD OIL CRISIS, MR. ANN SAID, IT HAD TO PAY CONSIDERABLY MORE FOR FUEL OIL WITH PRICES NOW NEARLY FOUR TIMES THOSE PREVAILING IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

+WITH A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN AND GOOD MANAGEMENT AND NO UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT,+ HE ADDED, +WE COULD EXPECT TO CONTAIN THE NEW SITUATION.+

APART FROM ELECTRICITY, HE POINTED OUT, THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY STILL CONSUMED ABOUT 17.8 PER CENT OF TOTAL OIL IMPORTS WHILE THE TWO ELECTRICITY COMPANIES CONSUMED APPROXIMATELY DOUBLE THIS QUANTITY.

MR. ANN SUPPORTED THE SUGGESTIONS BY HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES THAT INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS SHOULD EXERCISE GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY.

WITH THE ADVENT OF SUMMER, HE WENT ON, THERE WOULD BE INCREASES IN THE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY FOR AIR-CONDITIONING AND HE FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOW LAUNCH AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOUGHTLESS WASTE AND EXTRAVAGANT COMFORT.

+AS THE SUMMER MONTHS ARE THE PEAK MONTHS OF HIGH ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, PERHAPS A GREATER EFFORT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DISSUADE INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONER OWNERS FROM COULDN'T-CARE-LESS LAISSEZ-FAIRE BEHAVIOUR,+ HE SAID.

MR. ANN POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE SPINNING INDUSTRY AIR-CONDITIONING WAS A TECHNICAL NECESSITY, AND THERE WERE CERTAIN INDUSTRIES THAT MUST CONSUME OIL FOR THE SAKE OF STEAM. TO THESE INDUSTRIES, OIL COULD NOT BE SUBSTITUTED BY ELECTRICITY.

+IN THE EVENT OF CONTINGENCY,+ MR. ANN SAID, + I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEAR THESE TWO PARTICULAR POINTS IN MIND.+

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PJWER CONSUMPTION AT AIRPORT DOWN BY 25 PER CENT
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A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT THE AIRPORT AS A RESULT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF VARIOUS ECONOMY MEASURES SINCE LATE 1973, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID TODAY.

BASED ON THE FIGURES FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, HE SAID, ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN RESPECT OF TERMINAL BUILDING LIGHTING WAS 68 PER CENT OF THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND THE TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY AT THE AIRPORT WAS DOWN 25 PER CENT. +HOWEVER, IN MONETARY TERMS, THE INCREASED COST PER UNIT HAS OUTWEIGHTED THIS SAVING IN CONSUMPTION AND THE ELECTRICITY BILL HAS RISEN BY 24 PER CENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ROBSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SAVINGS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AT THE AIRPORT.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE MEASURES TAKEN TO SAVE ELECTRICITY AT THE AIRPORT HAD NOT RESULTED IN A NEED FOR INCREASED MANPOWER FOR SECURITY PURPOSES.

+ALTHOUGH THE SAVINGS MADE BY SWITCHING OFF CERTAIN CEILING LIGHTS MAY BE SMALL IN THEMSELVES, THEY ARE PRECISELY WHAT IS NEEDED, PARTICULARLY DURING THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS, WHEN ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION NORMALLY INCREASES AND WHEN THE HEAT FROM INCREASED LIGHTING LEADS, IN TURN, TO AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF AIR-CONDITIONING,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

NO STAMP DUTY ON GOLD TRANSACTIONS
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STAMP DUTY IS NOT PAYABLE ON GOLD TRANSACTIONS IN THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-GAVE, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID GOLD WAS TRANSACTED AS A COMMODITY IN THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE AND THE EVIDENCE OF BUYING OR SELLING WAS A RECEIPT OR ENTRIES IN THE BOOKS OF THE EXCHANGE MEMBERS CONCERNED.

+THESE RECEITS USED TO BEAR A 15 CENTS STAMP DUTY, BUT THIS REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN DISPENSED WITH SINCE APRIL 1, 1973,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT BY THE EXCHANGE FOR ANY DOCUMENT TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES WHICH ATTRACTED A STAMP DUTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STAMP ORDINANCE.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. HADDON-GAVE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE AND ANY OTHER GOLD AND SILVER DEALERS, LIKE OTHER BUSINESSMEN, WERE CHARGEABLE TO PROFITS TAX ON PROFITS WHICH THEY EARNED ON THEIR TRANSACTION.

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SPEED LIMITS TO BE REVIEWED

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A CLOSE EXAMINATION IS TO BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER CHANGES IN THE SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN ROADS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG WHO WANTED TO KNOW IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER INCREASING THE SPEED LIMIT TO 40 M.P.H. FOR SOME NEW OR IMPROVED MOTORWAYS IN KOWLOON SUCH AS THE WIDENED PORTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, CORNWALL STREET EXTENSION AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

AN IMPORTANT FACTOR MUST BE SAFETY, MR. ROBSON SAID, AND IN THIS RESPECT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO RAISE THE SPEED LIMIT ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD UNTIL WORK ON ITS WIDENING AND ON THE INTERCHANGES AT THE WESTERN END IS COMPLETED.

HOWEVER, MR. ROBSON ASSURED DR. CHUNG THAT THE NEED TO PROVIDE REALISTIC SPEED LIMITS ON ALL ROADS WAS UNDER CONSTANT CONSIDERATION, AND THE CORNWALL STREET EXTENSION AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REVIEW TO BE MADE.

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PROCEDURES LAID DOWN FOR DEALING WITH GRAFT
ALLEGATIONS
AGAINST I.C.A.C. OFFICERS
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THE GOVERNOR HAS ISSUED AN INSTRUCTION SETTING OUT THE PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH ANY ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION WHICH MAY BE MADE AGAINST OFFICERS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE INSTRUCTION STATES THAT IF ANY SUCH ALLEGATION IS RECEIVED EITHER BY THE COMMISSION OR BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICER IT MUST BE REFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE ALLEGATION WARRANTS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION -- IN WHICH CASE HE WILL REFER IT TO THE GOVERNOR -- OR WHETHER IT WARRANTS AN INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMISSION ITSELF, OR WHETHER IT DOES NOT WARRANT ANY FURTHER ACTION.

WHERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONSIDERS THAT AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HE WILL INFORM THE COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION, WHO WILL PASS THE ALLEGATION AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VIEW TO THE COMMISSION'S OPERATIONS TARGET COMMITTEE, MR. CLINTON EXPLAINED. THE COMMISSIONER WOULD IN DUE COURSE REPORT WHAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BOTH TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TO THE TARGET COMMITTEE.

IN CASES WHERE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONSIDERS THAT NO FURTHER ACTION IS WARRANTED HE WILL PASS THE ALLEGATION TOGETHER WITH HIS VIEW ON IT TO THE COMMISSIONER, WHO WILL INFORM THE TARGET COMMITTEE IN CASE THE COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS CALLED FOR, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ADDED.

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I.C.A.C. OPERATIONS TARGET COMMITTEE
GETS DOWN TO WORK
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THE OPERATIONS TARGET COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HELD ITS FIRST MEETING THIS MORNING.

SITTING ON THIS ADVISORY BODY ARE THE HON. JOYCE SYMONS, SIR RONALD HOLMES, DR. RAYSON HUANG, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE, A PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL REPRESENTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JACK CATER AS WELL AS MR. JOHN PRENDERGAST.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON SAID THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN SETTING UP THE OTHER TWO ADVISORY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION -- THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION COMMITTEE AND THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS -- UNTIL THE STAFF TO SERVICE THEM HAD BEEN RECRUITED AND TRAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIORITY FOR THE STAFFING OF THE COMMISSION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, RECRUITMENT AND STAFFING OF THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT AND OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT IS PROCEEDING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BUT IS UNLIKELY TO BE COMPLETED UNTIL ABOUT SEPTEMBER WHEN NEW OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COMMISSION WILL BECOME AVAILABLE.

ALTHOUGH STAFF TO SERVE THE TWO ADVISORY COMMITTEES WILL NOT BE FULLY OPERATIVE UNTIL ABOUT SEPTEMBER, +PLANNING FOR THESE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, IS UNDER WAY AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS SOME TIME IN JUNE,+ MR. CLINTON SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE AT THIS STAGE TO OVERBURDEN THE COMMISSION WITH FURTHER ADVISORY BODIES, NOT, AT LEAST, UNTIL THE THREE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN FULLY ESTABLISHED.

+CONSEQUENTLY, THE NEED FOR FURTHER UNOFFICIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN THE FORM OF AN ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL BE CONSIDERED ONCE THESE THREE COMMITTEES HAVE FOUND THEIR FEET AND HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME,+ HE SAID.

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SECOND INTERIM REPORT ON SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME
MAY BE PUBLISHED

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CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO PUBLISHING A SECOND INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. BRAY SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT A FINAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME COULD BE PREPARED BEFORE THE SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SUBMITTED ITS OWN REPORT ON THE CAUSES OF VIOLENT CRIME AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS IN THE 12 TO 20 AGE GROUP.

THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH CENTRE COMMISSIONED THE PROJECT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S FIRST INTERIM REPORT IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

MR. BRAY SAID THE REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH CENTRE WOULD PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY 1975.

IN ITS FIRST INTERIM REPORT, THE SUB-COMMITTEE LISTED A TENTATIVE LIST OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF CRIME AND CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH WERE NECESSARY BEFORE WELL-FOUNDED RECOMMENDATIONS COULD BE MADE IN A FINAL REPORT.

SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF THE FIRST INTERIM REPORT, MR. BRAY SAID, THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD MET SEVEN TIMES AND MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED THAT THEY HAD COVERED A SUFFICIENT AREA OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE.

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IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR LICENSED AREAS UNDER WAY

PLANS ARE NOW READY FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STANDARDS OF EXISTING LICENSED AREAS, PRINCIPALLY BETTER TOILETS AND BATHHOUSES, DRAINAGE AND ELECTRIFICATION.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ESTIMATES OF COST FOR THESE PLANS WOULD SHORTLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE +ATROCIOUS CONDITIONS+ IN THE WONG CHUK HANG LICENSED AREA, MR. LIGHTBODY NOTED THAT SUCH EXPENDITURE ON IMPROVING THESE AREAS WOULD BE A GOVERNMENT ONE RATHER THAN A LIABILITY OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WONG CHUK HANG LICENSED AREA WERE ALREADY IN HAND AND BUILDING WORK ON GREATLY IMPROVED TOILET AND BATHHOUSE FACILITIES HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND THEY SHOULD BE READY FOR USE SHORTLY.

WORK ON OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD START IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, INCLUDING RENEWAL OF DEFECTIVE PAVING AROUND THE PERIMETER, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SURFACE DRAINAGE AND PROVISION OF A SITTING-OUT AREA, AS WELL AS A DECENT REFUSE COLLECTION POINT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS WERE NOT ENOUGH IN THEMSELVES, AND THEY MUST BE BACKED UP BY ADEQUATE DAY-TO-DAY SUPERVISION BY HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF.

A SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER POST HAD RECENTLY BEEN CREATED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THERE HAD ALSO BEEN RE-DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF AND RE-DEFINITION OF JOBS WHICH WOULD ALLOW STAFF TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE AREAS WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED BY PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR. WILLIAMS ON WHEN THE WONG CHUK HANG INHABITANTS COULD BE REHOUSED IN PUBLIC HOUSING, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THESE FAMILIES HAD LIVED IN THE AREA FOR THREE TO FOUR YEARS AND THEY WERE +VERY DESERVING OF AN ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING.+

HE SAID: + UNDERSTANDABLY, HOWEVER, THEY INSIST ON STAYING IN THE ABERDEEN AREA AND THIS MEANS THAT THEIR PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED UNTIL PUBLIC HOUSING IS AVAILABLE IN THAT AREA.

+OUR BUILDING PROGRAMME WILL NOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY UNITS IN THE ABERDEEN AREA FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT I CAN ASSURE MY HONOURABLE FRIEND THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONSTANTLY ON THE WATCH FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY THAT MAY PRESENT ITSELF FOR MOVING THESE FAMILIES INTO PUBLIC HOUSING AT AN EARLIER DATE.+

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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GROOVING OF RUNWAY TO START NEXT MONTH

WORK ON GROOVING KAI TAK RUNWAY IS EXPECTED TO START SHORTLY TO ENSURE GREATER SAFETY FOR AIRCRAFT LANDING, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. SZETO WAI IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MR. ROBSON SAID THAT TENDERS FOR THE GROOVING PROJECT HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON MARCH 29 AND HE HOPED THAT A CONTRACT WOULD BE AWARDED TODAY SO THAT WORK COULD START NEXT MONTH.

+IN THIS EVENT THE ENTIRE RUNWAY SHOULD BE GROOVED BY THE END OF AUGUST, + HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON EXPLAINED THAT DANGER TO AIRCRAFT LANDING DURING HEAVY RAIN WAS NOT ONLY POSED BY SLIPPERINESS, BUT ALSO BY +AQUA PLANING+ -- THAT IS, A FILM OF WATER BUILDING UP BETWEEN THE TYRES OF THE AEROPLANE AND THE SURFACE OF THE RUNWAY SO THAT THERE IS NO DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THEM, WITH A SUBSEQUENT LOSS OF FRICTION AND BRAKING POWER.

THE CUTTING OF SHALLOW GROOVES ON THE RUNWAY SURFACE CAN HELP TO PREVENT AQUA PLANING BY BREAKING UP THE FILM OF WATER, AND PROVIDING A ROUGH SURFACE FOR BETTER BRAKING PERFORMANCE, HE SAID.

GROOVING HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON THE RUNWAY IN 1971, BUT THESE GROOVES WERE OVERLAYED LAST YEAR BY A STRENGTHENING LAYER OF BITUMINOUS MATERIAL, WHICH MUST BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE BEFORE IT COULD BE GROOVED. GRIT BLASTING AND OTHER METHODS HAD BEEN TRIED OUT ON A SMALL SCALE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, BUT THEY PRODUCED LITTLE EFFECT.

+TRIAL GROOVES WERE ALSO CUT AT PERIODIC INTERVALS AND KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION TO CHECK WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO START GROOVING, + MR. ROBSON ADDED.

DANGER OF SLIPPERINESS COULD BE REDUCED IF RAIN WATER WAS SHED FROM THE RUNWAY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. +THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY INCREASING THE CROSS FALL OF THE SURFACE OF THE RUNWAY WHICH IN FACT WAS DONE LAST YEAR WHEN THE KAI TAK RUNWAY WAS STRENGTHENED BY LAYING AN ADDITIONAL THICKNESS OF BITUMINOUS MATERIAL OVER THE OLD SURFACE.+

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT AQUA PLANING COULD ALSO BE AVOIDED BY PROVIDING A LONGER LENGTH OF RUNWAY.

TWO EXTENSIONS WERE COMPLETED AT THE KAI TAK RUNWAY LAST YEAR, GIVING AN EXTRA 500 FEET OF EFFECTIVE RUNWAY SURFACE, AND PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT MARGIN OF SAFETY AGAINST OVERRUN TYPE ACCIDENTS.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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INCREASE IN DUTIES FOR INDUSTRIAL-TYPE ETHYL ALCOHOL
EXPLAINED

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED TODAY THAT THE DUTIES ON INDUSTRIAL-TYPE ETHYL ALCOHOL WERE INCREASED LAST MONTH TO PRESERVE THE PARITY BETWEEN THE RATES FOR INDUSTRIAL-TYPE LIQJORS AND NON-EUROPEAN LIQUORS.

HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD STATED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH THAT THE DUTIES ON INDUSTRIAL-TYPE ETHYL ALCOHOL WOULD NOT BE INCREASED, BUT SAID THAT HE WAS LATER REMINDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY THAT THE DUTIES ON ETHYL ALCOHOL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN KEPT IN LINE WITH THOSE FOR NON-EUROPEAN TYPE SPIRITS.

+THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT, OTHERWISE, THERE IS AN ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED FROM USING IMPORTED ETHYL ALCOHOL AS A BASE FOR CHINESE WINE, TO THE DETRIMENT OF LOCAL DISTILLERS, + HE EXPLAINED WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK CHUEN.

MR. WOO WANTED TO KNOW WHY THE DUTIES ON INDUSTRIAL-TYPE ETHYL ALCOHOL WERE RAISED DESPITE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ASSURANCE TO THE CONTRARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH.

ACCORDING TO MR. HADDON-CAVE, THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASE ON INDUSTRIAL COSTS WOULD NOT BE TOO SIGNIFICANT.

ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF THE DUTY OF ETHYL ALCOHOL COLLECTED IN 1973/74 WAS IN RESPECT OF THE ETHYL ALCOHOL CONTENT OF IMPORTED PERFUMERY PRODUCTS. ABOUT 10 PER CENT WAS USED TO MAKE CHINESE WINE IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE DUTY WAS THEN THE SAME AS FOR NON-EUROPEAN TYPE SPIRITS, WHILE ABOUT FIVE PER CENT WAS USED BY LABORATORIES.

ONLY ABOUT 10 PER CENT, HE ADDED, WAS USED BY INDUSTRY BECAUSE MOST OF THE ALCOHOL USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES IN HONG KONG IS DENATURED, THAT IS RENDERED NON-POTABLE, AND IS THUS DUTY FREE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT ETHYL ALCOHOL FOR THE USE OF ANY EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC OR CHARITABLE INSTITUTION IS EXEMPT FROM DUTY.

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COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDANT OF CRIME VICTIM

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MADAM PAK KAM-DIP, A 71-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT OF CANTON WHOSE BROTHER WAS KILLED IN HONG KONG IN MARCH LAST YEAR WHEN HE WENT TO THE ASSISTANCE OF A ROBBERY VICTIM, HAS BEEN GRANTED COMPENSATION OF \$6,225 BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE AWARD WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY UNDER THE INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE WHICH ENABLES THE COUNCIL TO AWARD COMPENSATION TO DEPENDANTS OF A PERSON WHO DIES AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUFFERED IN THE EXECUTION OF A DUTY TO ASSIST IN RESISTANCE TO CRIME. THE MONEY WILL BE PAID THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

IN MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON SAID THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$6,225 HAD BEEN COMPUTED AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXPECTATION OF LIFE OF THE VICTIM, MR. PAK KWONG-WOON, AND SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO REPLACE THE REMITTANCES THAT HE WOULD HAVE MADE TO HIS SISTER IN CANTON HAD HE LIVED.

MADAM PAK WAS DEPENDANT ON REMITTANCES OF \$100 TO \$200 PER MONTH FROM HER BROTHER.

MR. THORNTON SAID MR. PAK, WHO WAS THE WATCHMAN OF A BUILDING IN FA YUEN STREET, KOWLOON, SHOWED GREAT COURAGE WHEN HE PURSUED AND CONFRONTED A ROBBER ON MARCH 22 LAST YEAR AFTER A 60-YEAR-OLD WOMAN RESIDENT OF THE BUILDING REPORTED TO HIM THAT SHE HAD BEEN ROBBED OF \$50 AT KNIFE POINT IN THE LIFT WHILE RETURNING HOME.

TRAGICALLY, MR. PAK WAS EVENTUALLY STABBED BY THE ROBBER AND DIED FROM HIS INJURIES.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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NEW TREASURY SUB-OFFICE FOR KOWLOON CITY SOON

A NEW SUB-TREASURY SERVING RESIDENTS IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN TWO TO THREE MONTHS' TIME, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS A RESULT OF SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, IT WAS FOUND THAT ONLY IN KOWLOON CITY WAS THE DEMAND SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT THAT TREASURY REVENUE COLLECTION OFFICES WERE NORMALLY ONLY CONGESTED IN THE MONTHS WHEN QUARTERLY RATE PAYMENTS FELL DUE.

THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, MR. HADDON-CAVE WENT ON, HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PAY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS BY POST AND ABOUT 800,000 ACCOUNTS (OR 25 PER CENT) OUT OF A TOTAL OF 3,200,000 PAID AT TREASURY OFFICES EACH YEAR ARE NOW SETTLED IN THIS CONVENIENT AND TIME SAVING FASHION.†

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY RECALLED THAT WHEN THE POSTAL PAYMENT CAMPAIGN BEGAN IN 1968, LESS THAN 40,000 ACCOUNTS A YEAR OR ABOUT TWO PER CENT, WERE PAID THROUGH THE POST. †THIS CAMPAIGN HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS,† HE REMARKED.

HE HOPED THAT WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN, COUPLED WITH THE NEW FACILITIES THE NEW SUB-TREASURY IN KOWLOON CITY WILL PROVIDE, CONGESTION AT TREASURY CASH OFFICES WOULD BE REDUCED.

NONETHELESS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FELT THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT CONGESTION WOULD BE ELIMINATED COMPLETELY FOR †SO MANY PEOPLE LEAVE THE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO THE LAST MOMENT.†

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FINANCIAL AID TO BAPTIST COLLEGE

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. JOHN CANNING TODAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN UNDER DETAILED CONSIDERATION AND THE MATTER WOULD SHORTLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

MR. CANNING ALSO ASSURED DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, WHO RAISED THE QUESTION IN COUNCIL, THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AS SOON AS A DECISION WAS MADE ON THE APPLICATION.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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WHEAT AND FLOUR STOCKS SUFFICIENT
FOR TWO MONTHS' CONSUMPTION
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STOCKS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IN HONG KONG REPRESENT AT ANY ONE TIME ABOUT TWO MONTHS' CONSUMPTION OF FLOUR, WHICH AMOUNTS TO SOME 18,000 METRIC TONS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. JAMES MCGREGOR, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE THE PRESENT STOCK POSITION, WITH A FURTHER 9,000 TO 10,000 METRIC TONS IN TRANSIT TO HONG KONG.

+I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE MANagements OF OUR THREE FLOUR MILLS AND LEADING BAKERIES THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF SUPPLY AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID. +ALL APPEAR CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM EITHER IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH THE PRESENT STOCKS AND SUPPLY POSITION ARE SATISFACTORY.+

MR. MCGREGOR, REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SAID THAT BULK STORAGE OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IS EXPENSIVE IN HONG KONG AND BOTH COMMODITIES ARE PERISHABLE PRODUCTS.

FOR THESE REASONS, IMPORTERS AND BULK USERS APPARENTLY PREFER TO REGULATE THEIR SUPPLIES SO THAT THEY ARRIVE FREQUENTLY AND IN RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS.

HE SAID THAT IMPORTED FLOUR PRICES AVERAGED HK\$563 A METRIC TON DURING JANUARY 1973. BY JANUARY THIS YEAR THE AVERAGE PRICE HAD RISEN TO HK\$1,222 PER METRIC TON, AN INCREASE OF 117 PER CENT.

A LARGE PROPORTION OF OUR DOMESTICALLY CONSUMED FLOUR WAS PRODUCED BY MILLING IMPORTED WHEAT, THE AVERAGE C.I.F. PRICE FOR WHICH ROSE FROM HK\$524 A METRIC TON IN JANUARY 1973, TO HK\$962 PER METRIC TON IN JANUARY 1974, AN INCREASE OF 84 PER CENT.

MR. MCGREGOR ADDED: +A SMALL BUT WELCOME REDUCTION IN PRICE FOR IMPORTED WHEAT AND FLOUR DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR HAS, I AM SORRY TO SAY, BEEN MORE THAN OFFSET BY HIGHER FREIGHT RATES.

+THESE INCREASES HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE PRICE OF BREAD REACHING THE CONSUMER.+

BREAD WHICH COST THE HOUSEWIFE 80 CENTS PER POUND IN JANUARY 1973, HAD INCREASED TO \$1 A POUND BY OCTOBER 1973 AND IS NOW \$1.40 A POUND, BUT THIS SCALE OF INCREASE IS SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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NEW DEPRECIATION RATES FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A REVISED TABLE OF RATES OF ANNUAL DEPRECIATION IN RESPECT OF PLANT AND MACHINERY UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE RULES.

THE NEW RATES, EFFECTIVE FROM THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT COMMENCING ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 1974, WERE AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE LAST MONTH FOLLOWING A PROPOSAL BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH.

THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-GAVE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT IN CONSTRUCTING THE NEW TABLE, THE BOARD BORE TWO OBJECTIVES IN MIND.

*FIRST, TO PROVIDE A MEASURE OF RELIEF FOR MOST PROFITS TAX PAYERS BY INCREASING THE BASIC RATE FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY (WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS) FROM 10 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT ON THEIR REDUCING VALUES= AND SECONDLY, TO MAKE FOR SIMPLER ADMINISTRATION BY KEEPING THE NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONS TO THE BASIC RATE WHERE THE 15 PER CENT WOULD BE EITHER TOO GENEROUS OR INSUFFICIENT TO A MINIMUM.+

HE SAID EXAMPLES OF EXCEPTIONS INVOLVING RATES HIGHER THAN 15 PER CENT INCLUDED BLEACHING AND FINISHING MACHINERY AND PLANT (20 PER CENT), ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND PLANT (20 PER CENT), MOTOR VEHICLES (25 PER CENT), PLASTIC MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND PLANT (20 PER CENT), SULPHURIC AND NITRIC ACID PLANT (25 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE AND MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND PLANT (20 PER CENT).

EXAMPLES OF EXCEPTIONS INVOLVING RATES LOWER THAN 15 PER CENT INCLUDED SHIPS (10 PER CENT) AND MACHINERY FOR THE PLANT-INTENSIVE PUBLIC UTILITIES (10 PER CENT).

EXPLAINING WHY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM ENJOYING THE BASIC RATE OF 15 PER CENT, HE SAID: *FIRST, THE COST TO THE REVENUE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE= SECONDLY, THE RELIEF IS INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR= AND THIRDLY, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES NEED ADDITIONAL RELIEF BEYOND THAT RESULTING FROM THE INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INITIAL ALLOWANCE I ALSO PROPOSED IN MY BUDGET SPEECH.+

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REPORT ON DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED COMPLETED

A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS IN MAKING BUILDINGS AND THE FACILITIES THEY CONTAIN MORE ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED PEOPLE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND A REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO INTERESTED PARTIES FOR THEIR COMMENT.

THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TODAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG THAT THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED LAST DECEMBER AND WAS ISSUED TO VARIOUS P.W.D. OFFICES FOR STUDY.

+THEIR COMMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTORATE, +HE SAID.

MR. MCDONALD ANTICIPATED THAT THE REPORT TOGETHER WITH THE P.W.D. HEADQUARTERS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE SENT TO INTERESTED PARTIES WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO OBTAIN THEIR COUNSEL ON BOTH THE REPORT AND THE DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE.

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SIMPLER COMPENSATION PROCEDURES
FOR BUILDINGS AFFECTED BY STREET ALTERATIONS

A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR COMPENSATION TO THOSE WHOSE PROPERTIES ARE AFFECTED BY STREET ALTERATION PROJECTS WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE STREETS (ALTERATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT ORDINANCE A TRIBUNAL MAY HEAR AND DETERMINE ANY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ONLY AFTER THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED A FORMAL OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF THE STREET ALTERATION AND HAS NEVERTHELESS AUTHORISED THE UNDERTAKING EITHER IN TOTO OR IN RESPECT OF A PART WHEREBY THE OBJECTOR'S INTEREST IS STILL ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

THE TRIBUNAL HAS NO POWER TO HEAR OR DETERMINE A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF ANY MATTER REGARDING WHICH NO FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE STREET ALTERATION HAS BEEN LODGED.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE BILL REMOVES THE EXISTING PARADOX WHICH RESTRICTS THE POWER OF THE TRIBUNAL TO HEAR AND DETERMINE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION ONLY TO THOSE UNDERTAKINGS AGAINST WHICH OBJECTION HAVE BEEN LODGED.

A PERSON, THEREFORE, WHOSE INTEREST IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A STREET ALTERATION BUT WHO HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO IT WILL THUS BE ABLE TO CLAIM COMPENSATION WHETHER HE HAS LODGED A FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE UNDERTAKING OR NOT, HE ADDED.

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BILL ON COMPANY ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS
BEING CONSIDERED
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY OUTLINED THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI WHO ASKED WHEN THE PROPOSED REVISED COMPANIES LEGISLATION WOULD BE PUBLISHED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO IMPLEMENTING FIRST THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO COMPANY ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS TO BRING THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE BROADLY INTO LINE WITH THOSE NOW IN FORCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND TO REQUIRE DIRECTORS' REPORTS TO GIVE MUCH FULLER INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR COMPANIES' AFFAIRS.

+A DRAFT BILL DESIGNED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS HAS NOW BEEN PREPARED AND COMMENTS AND VIEWS ON IT ARE BEING SOUGHT FROM HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL AND CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

+THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT IT HAS NO COMMENTS AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER BODIES WILL BE RECEIVED SHORTLY.

+I HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED THAT THE BILL COULD BE READY IN TIME TO BE APPLICABLE TO ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974 BUT IT MAY NOT NOW BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET.

+THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT SIX MONTHS NOTICE BE GIVEN BEFORE THE NEW PROVISION COMES INTO OPERATION AND IT IS NOW ALREADY MID-APRIL, + HE SAID.

HE CONTINUED THAT NO OTHER DRAFTING WAS PROCEEDING AT THE PRESENT TIME TO GIVE EFFECT TO FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT.

BUT HE SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THEM WOULD BE PUT IN HAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND REPORT RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF 'INSIDER TRADING' HAD ALREADY BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE.

BUT THE PROVISIONS CONCERNED WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION ON 'INSIDER TRADING' HAD BEEN MADE AND, IN ANY EVENT, WITHOUT A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS COUNCIL TO DEBATE THE MATTER.

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MORE CLINICS TO BE PROVIDED IN ESTATES
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ON AVERAGE THERE IS ONE LOW-COST AND WELFARE CLINIC TO EVERY 13,000 AUTHORISED POPULATION LIVING IN HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK KOW SAID TODAY.

THERE WERE 90 WELFARE AND LOW-COST CLINICS IN THE 25 GROUP B ESTATES (FORMERLY RESETTLEMENT ESTATES) AND 47 SUCH CLINICS IN THE 26 GROUP A ESTATES (FORMERLY LOW COST HOUSING ESTATES), HE TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILFRED WONG.

ACCORDING TO MR. LI, NOMINATIONS OF TENANTS ARE PRESENTLY AWAITED FOR THREE CLINICS WHILE A FURTHER 27 PREMISES ARE TO BE ALLOCATED AS CLINICS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ON THE QUESTION OF PREMISES AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION AS CLINICS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS LESS DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING PREMISES ON NEW ESTATES.

+HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM CAN BE FORMIDABLE IN RESPECT OF THOSE ESTATES WHICH ARE FULLY LET, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF PREMISES WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO DOCTORS,+ MR. LI ADDED.

FOR THESE REASONS, HE EXPLAINED, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE RATIO RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICS.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK TO MAKE MORE PREMISES AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT RATIO.

MR. LI NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE LOW COST CLINICS ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED DOCTORS WAS EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTY IN FINDING DOCTORS TO RUN LOW COST CLINICS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTINGS
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THE NEW SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM SAN HUI TO FU TEI WILL BE OPENED TO SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC AS FROM 3 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEANWHILE, WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (APRIL 12), YUK YAT STREET BETWEEN CHI KIANG STREET AND LOK SHAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ONLY.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN BOTH AREAS. TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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**TWO HOUSEWIVES TO REPRESENT CONSUMER
INTERESTS ON RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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TWO HOUSEWIVES ACTIVELY CONCERNED WITH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

ONE OF THEM, MRS. YIU PO-CHUN, OF TSIN SHUI MA TAU VILLAGE, SHAU KEI WAN, WILL ALSO BE SERVING ON THE NEWLY-FORMED CONSUMER COUNCIL. A WIDOW, SHE PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SHAU KEI WAN KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE TSIN SHUI MA TAU VILLAGE WELFARE ASSOCIATION. SHE HAS THREE SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER.

THE OTHER, MRS. YIU LAI-JUEN, OF MORRISON STREET, IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT SOUTH-WEST AREA COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL LICENSED HAWKERS' ASSOCIATION. SHE IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH KAIFONG ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT. HER HUSBAND OPERATES A PRESERVED MEAT STALL AND THERE ARE SIX CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY.

COMMENTING ON THE APPOINTMENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY: +WE ARE SURE THESE NEW MEMBERS WILL HAVE A VERY USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH TAKING ACCOUNT OF CONSUMER INTERESTS.+

THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE IMPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SECTORS OF THE RICE TRADE, DC AND 1 OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME, AND CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES.

THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND ALL ASPECTS OF THE RICE TRADE.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RICE TRADE SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE ARE: MR. WILSON CHAN, MR. YEUNG WING-TAK, MR. CHIU OI-NIN, MR. NG SHEA-CHIU (IMPORTERS)= MR. AU-YEUNG CHEUNG, MR. CHOY YING-CHING (WHOLESALE)= MR. NG HUNG-MOW, MR. CHANG MAN-YIM (RETAILERS)= MRS. C.M.L. DA SILVA (MAJOR RETAIL OUTLETS).

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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TELEVISION IN HONG KONG

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THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD HAS RE-ITERATED ITS CONCERN OVER UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION.

+IN OUR VIEW, THE THOUGHTLESS USE OF VIOLENCE IN TELEVISION IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A DISTORTED PICTURE OF LIFE, PARTICULARLY TO YOUNG VIEWERS, AND THEREBY ENDS ACCEPTED COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND VALUES, + THE BOARD SAYS IN ITS SECOND REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY.

+WE ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL THIS ASPECT OF TELEVISION, + IT SAYS, EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE REVISED CODES OF PRACTICE RELATING TO PROGRAMME STANDARDS WHICH SET STRICT AND DETAILED RULES ON THE PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION.

HOWEVER, THE BOARD IS SATISFIED THAT BOTH TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF VIEWERS IN MIND WHEN TRANSMITTING PROGRAMMES AND IN CONSEQUENCE WORK IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITY.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, AN ESTIMATED 2.1 MILLION PEOPLE WATCH TELEVISION ON AN AVERAGE DAY IN HONG KONG AND IT APPEARS THAT MORE HOUSEHOLDS ARE BUYING SECOND SETS, MANY OF THEM COLOUR SETS.

AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1972, SOME 670,000 HOUSEHOLDS OWNED A TV SET -- NEARLY DOUBLE THE NUMBER IN 1969.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, A TOTAL OF 1,567 ADVERTISEMENTS WERE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. THERE WAS A RELATIVE DECREASE OF 50 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE, REFLECTING AN INCREASING AWARENESS AMONG ADVERTISERS AND LICENSEES OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS.

OF THE 11,449 FILMS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL DURING THE SAME PERIOD, ONLY 19 WERE FOUND UNACCEPTABLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRAMME CODES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE REPORT RELATES TO THE PERIOD JANUARY 1971-DECEMBER 1972 AND IN SOME INSTANCES SOME OF THE COMMENTS CONTAINED IN IT ARE NO LONGER APPLICABLE AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN PROGRAMME FORMATS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALES 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

RICE CONTROL SCHEME

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)</u>
		<u>MODE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW - OLD CROP	GOOD	-
- NEW CROP	"	2.12
S.C. JIEN - OLD CROP	"	-
- NEW CROP	"	2.06
PO NGAI	"	-
CHU CHO	"	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	"	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	"	2.01
A1 SUPER-EXTRA	"	1.90
A1 SUPER	"	1.70
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	"	-
U.S. RICE	"	1.94
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>		
	"	1.92
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>		
	"	-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>		
	"	-

/SUPPLIES AND

TIME : 1930 HOURS/FKC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.30	2.20	3.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.30	0.60	1.80
SQUID	LIMITED	5.00	2.00	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	1.80	1.00	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.20	1.50	2.00
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.60	0.80	1.30
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	1.50	1.20	1.30
MELON COAT	---	---	---	---
BREAMS	NORMAL	4.50	3.00	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.60	1.10
MACKERELS	NORMAL	3.60	2.80	3.20
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	1.20	0.50	1.00
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.20	0.70	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	6.00	3.00	5.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.60	1.80	2.00
POMFRETS	SCARCE	9.00	7.50	8.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.00	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974

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	GOOD	0.80	0.20	0.50
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.35	0.10	0.25
CHINESE LETTUCE	GOOD	0.50	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	LIMITED	2.00	0.60	1.50
CHINESE KALE	GOOD	0.70	0.20	0.50
STRING BEANS	---	---	---	---
SPRING ONION	GOOD	0.80	0.30	0.60
SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE SPINACH	LIMITED	1.50	0.50	1.20
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.40	0.50	1.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 305 (AVERAGE)

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