



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1977

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UNOFFICIALS SHOULD BE
MORE VOCAL TO REFLECT PUBLIC OPINION

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IN HONG KONG WHERE THERE IS NO ELECTED GOVERNMENT FOR A POPULATION WITH DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS AND ATTITUDES, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE MORE VOCAL IF THEY ARE TO REFLECT THE VIEWS AND FEELINGS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG SAID TODAY.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER SAID A GOOD CASE IN POINT WAS THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON GODBER AT THE LAST SITTING OF THE COUNCIL AND HE SYMPATHISED WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF TODAY WHO COULD NO LONGER MAKE AND ANNOUNCE DECISIONS WITHOUT GIVING FULL EXPLANATION TO THE PUBLIC.

DR. CHUNG PRODUCED RESEARCH INTO THE INCREASING CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNOFFICIALS TOWARDS THE COUNCIL'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS WHICH SHOWED THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF 1957 - 1964 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED BY EACH OF THEM IN A YEAR WAS ONLY 1.3 AND THAT THERE WERE PRACTICALLY NO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPEECHES EACH UNOFFICIAL MADE DURING AN ANNUAL SESSION WAS ABOUT 2.

UNDER THE GOVERNORSHIP OF SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THE UNOFFICIALS HAD BEEN MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN THE COUNCIL'S PROCEEDINGS AND, ON AVERAGE, EACH HAD ASKED ABOUT 11 ORIGINAL AND 10 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND CONTRIBUTED TO EIGHT DEBATES A YEAR, HE SAID.

THE INCREASING VOLUME, COMPLEXITY AND SOPHISTICATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ONE HAND AND THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION ON ITS PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE OTHER IMPOSED A TREMENDOUS BURDEN ON THE MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THE UNOFFICIALS, DR. CHUNG SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, UNLIKE THOSE IN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD CENSORSHIP AND POOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WERE AWARE OF RISING STANDARDS OF LIVING AND SOCIAL PROGRESS ELSEWHERE.

THEIR DESIRE FOR BETTER LIVING, MORE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND LESS UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH WAS FURTHER STIMULATED BY THE SOCIALLY-MINDED, SOME OF WHOM UNFORTUNATELY MIGHT NOT HAVE A BALANCED OUTLOOK OR ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HONG KONG SITUATION.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSEQUENTLY UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE TO INCREASE, AT TIMES OVER-AMBITIOUSLY, THE PACE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH WAS HOWEVER IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, HE SAID.

/DR. CHUNG

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DR. CHUNG REFERRED TO THE UNFAVOURABLE SIGNS OF CHANGE AFFECTING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND SAID IT WAS EVIDENT WE COULD NOT IN FUTURE DEPEND TOO MUCH ON IT FOR OUR CONTINUED GROWTH.

HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WHICH, HE SAID, WERE MUCH WIDER THAN THAT OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHICH HE PROPOSED BUT WHICH WAS REJECTED TEN YEARS AGO.

HE PLEDGED TO SERVE ON IT TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY, ALTHOUGH HE SAW THAT ITS TASK WOULD NEITHER BE SIMPLE NOR EASY.

HE QUOTED THE RESULTS OF A RECENT SURVEY IN THE +FORTUNE+ MAGAZINE WHICH GAVE AN 'INVESTABILITY INDEX' TO 14 ASIAN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH HONG KONG SCORED FULL MARKS ON LACK OF RED-TAPE, COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDES, AND SECOND HIGHEST ON GOVERNMENT STABILITY, LABOUR FORCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, LIVING CONDITIONS AND COSTS, RISK-REWARD RATIO, AND CORRUPTION- IT SCORED LOWEST ON RECEPTIVITY TO NEW VENTURES.

+UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SOME KIND OF INCENTIVE, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE OUR SCORE ON RECEPTIVITY TO NEW VENTURES,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG REITERATED A PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO CO-ORDINATE PROGRAMME PLANNING AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

+THERE SHOULD BE VERTICAL INTEGRATION AND CONTINUITY IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION FROM THE LOWEST TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.+ CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY WAS ~~THE~~ PREREQUISITE FOR FUTURE SUCCESS IN INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION, SOPHISTICATION AND DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS AND DEATH INSURANCE SCHEME, DR. CHUNG ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO MAKING EMPLOYERS ONLY CONTRIBUTE, OR CONTRIBUTE ONE OR TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS MORE THAN EMPLOYEES, AND TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME MUCH EARLIER THAN LATE 1980.

PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SCHEME AS FAR AS HE COULD GATHER HAD BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING BUT THESE POINTS HAD COME OUT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ADVOCATED A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR WAGE EARNERS.

THE SCHEME NOW PROPOSED WAS TO BE DIFFERENT FROM HIS IN THREE MAJOR AREAS: IT WOULD BE NON-COMPULSORY ON EMPLOYERS WHOSE EMPLOYEES CHOSE NOT TO JOIN, IT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO CONTRACT OUT IF THEY ALREADY PROVIDED SIMILAR BENEFITS, AND IT REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION FROM EMPLOYEES.

/UNDER PRESENT

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UNDER PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG, DR. CHUNG SAID, HE NOW THOUGHT A SEMI-COMPULSORY SCHEME MORE ACCEPTABLE AND PRACTICAL.

HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOWEVER HOW CONTRACTING OUT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY MADE BY THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED EN-BLOC INTO THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME IF THE EMPLOYEE WAS NOT TO BE PENALISED ON CHANGING FROM AN EMPLOYER WHO HAD NOT CONTRACTED OUT TO ONE WHO HAD, OR VICE VERSA.

+SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, I HARDLY SEE THE WISDOM OR LOGIC OF ALLOWING ANY EMPLOYER TO CONTRACT OUT FROM THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

HE HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT IT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE SUCCESS OF THE WHOLE SCHEME.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER WAS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GREEN PAPER ON BRITISH NATIONALITY LAW.

IT WAS EXTREMELY UNFAIR AND IN FACT DANGEROUS TO THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG IF HONG KONG BRITISH CITIZENS WERE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH THOSE IN OTHER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES AND THOSE IN FORMER DEPENDENCIES AS BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZEN.

HONG KONG DID NOT HAVE BEFORE IT THE OPTION OF BECOMING INDEPENDENT, HE SAID, WHILE THOSE RESIDENTS IN FORMER DEPENDENCIES BUT NOW INDEPENDENT COMMONWEALTH NATIONS, HAD THE ALTERNATIVE CHOICE OF CITIZENSHIP OF THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

DR. CHUNG SAID THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF ADVERSE COMMENTS IN THE PRESS, AND THE GREEN PAPER HAD NOT GONE UNNOTICED BY THE UNOFFICIALS OF BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS WHO HAD FORMED AN AD HOC GROUP TO STUDY IN DETAIL ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG.

THE UNFAVOURABLE OBSERVATIONS OF UMELCO HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

+IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THAT WITH GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LONDON AND HONG KONG, WE CAN ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION WHICH WILL MAINTAIN BOTH THE INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WHICH IS SO VITAL TO OUR FUTURE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING,+ DR. CHUNG SAID.

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SUPPORT FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION
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THE HON. JAMES WU TODAY VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

+A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME MIGHT SAVE US FROM THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRITISH ECONOMIC ILLS, AND PUT US ON THE LOGICAL PATH THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE CARVED OUT FOR THEMSELVES IN THE FACE OF COMPETITION FROM LOW-COST PRODUCERS AND PROTECTIONISM BY IMPORTING COUNTRIES,+ MR. WU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

OUTLINING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN +ECONOMIC GROWTH+ AND +ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT+, MR. WU SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT IN THE LAST 25 YEARS HONG KONG HAD SEEN BOTH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, PERHAPS MORE GROWTH, THAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THIS INDICATED WHERE OUR DIRECTION SHOULD BE -- TO DEVELOP AN INDUSTRIAL BASE OF GREATER SOPHISTICATION AND DIVERSITY, A CASE FORCED UPON US BY BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURES.

MR. WU ADDED THAT HE WAS HEARTENED TO HEAR OF THE GOVERNOR'S FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE GROWTH OF WORLD TRADE IN 1978 THAT WOULD BENEFIT HONG KONG, AND REJOICED OVER THE PROSPECT OF A LARGER SURPLUS IN OUR BUDGET AS PREDICTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

COMMENTING ON THE GOVERNOR'S PREDICTION THAT OUR GDP GROWTH WAS LIKELY TO BE 8 PER CENT ALTHOUGH OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE WOULD BE LAGGING BEHIND IN GROWTH, MR. WU SAID, +THIS GROWTH, PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD, HAS CAUSED APPRECIABLE INFLATION IN WAGES AFFECTING SOME INDUSTRIES, AND IN HIND-SIGHT, WE COULD HAVE DONE BETTER NOT TO TAKE THOSE STOP-AND-GO MEASURES IN THE RECESSION YEARS OF 1974/75 BUT TO PROCEED WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED PUBLIC WORKS POLICY.+

MR. WU ALSO THANKED THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS EFFORTS IN GOING TO LONDON AND BRUSSELS TO STATE HONG KONG'S CASE ON THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT AND GAVE THE STRONGEST SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATING TEAM NOW IN BRUSSELS.

TURNING TO THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FOR THREE YEARS OF COMPULSORY AND FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR EVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVER, MR. WU SAID THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO KEEP UP WITH BETTER-OFF NEIGHBOURING REGIONS.

+I ALSO AGREE THAT SUBSIDISED PLACES IN FORMS IV AND V FOR 40 PER CENT OF JUNIOR SECONDARY LEAVERS ARE APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT SCHOOL EXAMINATION AT SOME STAGE IS A NECESSARY EVIL TO ENSURE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND TO EVALUATE TEACHING PERFORMANCE,+ HE ADDED.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT NO INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD COMPLAIN IF 14 YEAR-OLDS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK AS A RESULT OF THIS MEASURE.

+RATHER,+ HE SAID, +ANY CONCERN WOULD BE FOR THE ADEQUACY AND RELEVANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY.+

HE ADDED, +IN ALL PHASES OF EDUCATION, I BELIEVE THAT BY NOW, THE TAXPAYERS, AND GOVERNMENT, HAVE REASONABLY PROVIDED THE QUANTITY OR NUMBERS, AND IT IS FOR EDUCATORS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY WILL BE DELIVERING THE QUALITY.+

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RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC
SHOWS MARKED IMPROVEMENT

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC HAS SHOWN MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS FOLLOWING THE GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG-TERM PLANS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIFE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE HON. Q.W. LEE IN THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. LEE SAID AS TIME GOES ON, PEOPLE HAVE HIGHER ASPIRATIONS AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT OCCASIONALLY CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE PUBLIC STILL FEEL THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY CONSULTED ON MATTERS CONCERNING THEM VITALLY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE VARIOUS MEANS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.

+OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED FULLY AND IN GOOD TIME ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE NOTED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MR. LEE SAID THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS SCHEME HAD AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AND HOPED THAT THE REVIEW OF THE SCHEME RECENTLY COMPLETED BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESULT IN IT DOING MORE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE.

ON THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS EARLIER THIS MONTH, MR. LEE SAID THEY WERE JUST WHAT THE PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AND ONLY BY GOING FORWARD WITH SUCH PROGRAMMES CAN HONG KONG HAVE SOCIAL STABILITY REQUIRED TO DEVELOP OUR ECONOMY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEREFORE LEADING HONG KONG TO DEVELOP INTO A SOCIETY IN THIS RIGHT DIRECTION AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD APPROPRIATE FUNDS PRUDENTLY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMMES ACCORDING TO OUR FINANCIAL CAPABILITY IN THE LIGHT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.

MR. LEE ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AN OVERALL LOOK TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE ANY REAL PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

HE SAID RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN SOME CASES OF DISCONTENT REGARDING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THE NEWS MEDIA AND EVEN MANIFESTED IN INDUSTRIAL ACTION.

+IT IS APPRECIATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS HANDLED THE SITUATION WITH ABSOLUTE FAIRNESS, TACT AND FIRMNESS.+

BUT HE SAID AS THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS NOW A HIGHLY COMPLICATED MULTI-LAYERED ESTABLISHMENT OF ENORMOUS SIZE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE AN OVERALL LOOK TO SEE WHETHER SUCH A PROBLEM EXISTED.

HE ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE ONLY WHEN THERE IS HARMONIOUS MANAGEMENT AND STAFF RELATIONSHIP CAN GOOD SERVICE BE EXPECTED FROM OUR CIVIL SERVICE.

TIMETABLES FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT WELCOMED
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THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLES FOR EACH SUBJECT IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, PROVIDING FOR LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING.

ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSALS WHICH SHE MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR A MODE OF PLANNING BY BLOCK GRANTS WERE NOT ACCEPTED, SHE WAS CERTAIN THE LONG TERM PLANNING NOW EMBARKED ON WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE.

SHE SUGGESTED SETTING SOCIAL WELFARE STANDARDS WHICH SHE SAID WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SET OUR TARGETS RIGHT AND MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND MANPOWER.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE OF STANDARD SETTING IS TO INDICATE THE LEVEL WHICH PUBLIC OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD STRIVE TO ATTAIN IN PROVIDING THEIR SERVICES.

+IN OTHER WORDS, THE STANDARD IS MEANT TO BE INDICATIVE= IT SHOULD BE HIGH ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN OR RAISE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES, BUT SUFFICIENTLY LOW AT THE SAME TIME TO BE ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY AND BE WITHIN THE LIMIT OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES,+ SHE SAID.

SHE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN THE STANDARDS:

- * THE PRIMARY AIM OF STANDARD SETTING IS TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN SUCH A MANNER AND AT SUCH LEVELS THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL WELL-BEING OF THOSE RECEIVING THE SERVICES ARE PROTECTED. THUS, CHILD CARE CENTRES MUST BE ENSURED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE FOR THE CHILDREN.
- * STANDARD SETTING MUST BE REALISTIC SO THAT THE LEVEL ASPIRED TO SHOULD REFLECT THE SOCIAL NORM AND REALITY IN TERMS OF PEOPLE'S WAY OF LIVING. FOR EXAMPLE, SHE SAID, THE STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES OR OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. FURTHERMORE, IN SETTING STANDARDS, THE NEED FOR THE SERVICE MUST BE CONSIDERED. WE SHOULD THUS BE REALISTIC AS WE SET THE STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE ELDERLY AND OTHER SERVICES TO ENSURE THAT QUANTITY AND QUALITY ARE KEPT IN BALANCE, SHE SAID. SHE WAS SURE THAT NONE OF US WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME CHILDREN FORCED OUT OF THE CLOSED PRIVATE NURSERIES AND BE PUT IN EVEN WORSE SITUATIONS. IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE QUALITY OF SERVICES SHOULD BE RAPIDLY IMPROVED, SHE ADDED.

* THE THIRD PRINCIPLE CONCERNS THE PACE AT WHICH OUR PROGRAMME SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF STANDARD SETTING IS INDICATIVE, WITH THE COROLLARY THAT WE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN OUR APPROACH TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE AGREED STANDARDS. SHE SAID OUR EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATIONS REGARDING CHILD CARE CENTRES SUGGESTS THAT STANDARDS SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN AS FINAL- RATHER THEY SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENTS AS CONDITIONS CHANGE. +HENCE,+ SHE ADDED, +IN THE DEBATE ON THE CHILD CARE CENTRES BILL, I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF REVIEWING THE REGULATIONS IF CIRCUMSTANCES PROVED NECESSARY.

+TO ILLUSTRATE MY POINT, ALTHOUGH THE REGULATIONS OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE STATE THAT ONLY PERSONS WITH RECOGNIZED TRAINING IN CHILD CARE PLUS FIVE YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE ARE QUALIFIED TO BE EMPLOYED AS SUPERVISORS OF CHILD CARE CENTRES, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY, WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO ALLOW THE EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED APPROPRIATE TRAINING AS +PROVISIONAL SUPERVISORS+ SO THAT CHILD CARE CENTRES CAN BE MAINTAINED IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS.+

SHE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCLOSE THE COMPLETE LIST OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHITE AND GREEN PAPERS IT HAS IN PREPARATION SO THAT AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS MAY KNOW THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING AND WILL NOT GET THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENT'S THINKING AND PLANNING IN THE WHOLE FIELD IS MOVING IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION AND THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF WORK NOT YET SUBJECTED TO THE PLANNING PROCESS IS NO LONGER NEEDED. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WOULD THEN MAKE THE BEST USE OF THEIR RESOURCES AND THEIR POTENTIAL TO START NEW SERVICES IN A PARTICULAR AREA.

ON THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME, FOR WHICH SHE HAD MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTIONS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, SHE THOUGHT THAT THE WAITING PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS BEFORE GRANTING SUPPLEMENTS OR ALLOWANCES TO LONG-TERM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AND THOSE NOT QUALIFYING FOR THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, BUT UNABLE TO WORK, IS TOO LONG. TWELVE MONTHS OR EVEN LESS WILL BE MORE REASONABLE.

SHE FURTHER ASKED THAT THE VARIOUS PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTS BE GIVEN WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY AND THE LOWERING OF THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS MANPOWER RESOURCES PERMIT.

SHE WANTED THE PROPOSED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPEALS BOARD TO HAVE WIDER REPRESENTATION AND NOT TO BE COMPOSED MAINLY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

IN ADDITION, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY WHICH HAD GROWN ENORMOUSLY.

SHE FELT THAT INCENTIVES LIKE TAX DEDUCTIONS WOULD URGE MORE EMPLOYEES TO JOIN THE CONTRIBUTORY INSURANCE SCHEME, AND PROPOSED THAT WHEN THIS COMES INTO EFFECT, THE SETTING UP OF A SEPARATE OFFICE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS IS DESIRABLE AS NOT ALL SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE DEALT WITH BY TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS WHOSE SERVICE MAY BE MORE NEEDED IN OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES.

SHE ASKED FOR MORE MULTI-PURPOSE SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICES, ESPECIALLY +HOME HELP+ AND COUNSELLING, AND HOPED FOR CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN THE FORTHCOMING GREEN PAPER ON PERSONAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH.

ON REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER THOUGHT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AIMS SHOULD BE INTEGRATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL INTO SOCIETY.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE HANDICAPPED SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SOCIETY AND NOT BANISHED TO OUTLYING AREAS +BETWEEN THE GARBAGE DUMP AND BURIAL PLACES FOR THE DEAD,+ SHE SAID.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT AS SMALL AS PRACTICABLE SO THAT MAXIMUM SUPPORT COULD BE GOT FROM CONTACT WITH THE ABLE-BODIED, SHE ADDED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT MORE CO-ORDINATION WITH THE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE VARIOUS SPECIALIST WORK IN THE FIELD OF REHABILITATION.

A LARGE NUMBER OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WERE ALSO REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES, SHE SAID, AND SHE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO ACTIVELY CONSULT WITH THE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTES TO INCREASE THEIR TRAINING CAPACITIES. SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PART-TIME OR PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSES SHOULD BE INCREASED.

SHE PLEADED FOR MORE REALISTIC PLANNING OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES, AND FOR GREATER AND BETTER USE OF PART-TIME COURSES, TO ENABLE NEW ENTRANTS TO THE FIELD TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER AN INITIAL SHORT INTRODUCTORY COURSE.

SHE WELCOMED THE ADVENT OF NINE YEARS OF FREE EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO FORM III LEAVERS IN SENIOR SECONDARY FORMS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES. SHE HOPED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF SUBSIDIZED SCHOOLING TO STUDENTS WHO WANT IT UP TO THE SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE LEVEL. AT LEAST AIDED SCHOOL PLACES EITHER IN SENIOR SECONDARY OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL FORM THREE LEAVERS.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME WOULD SERVE THE COMPARATIVELY AFFLUENT FAMILIES, OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING PLANS SHOULD AIM AT BENEFITING THE MORE NEEDY GROUPS.

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SHE HOPED THAT THE PILOT SCHEME WOULD PROVE SUCCESSFUL AND WOULD BE GREATLY EXPANDED IN FUTURE.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER MADE A PLEA FOR REVISING THE MARRIAGE REFORM ORDINANCE AND TABLED A PAPER TO SUPPORT HER REQUEST.

THE ORDINANCE DOES NOT ADEQUATELY PROVIDE FOR THE POST REGISTRATION OF CUSTOMARY AND VALIDATED MARRIAGES WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS MISSING, OR FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF REGISTRATION OF SUCH MARRIAGES WHERE ONE SPOUSE IS EITHER MISSING OR DOES NOT CONSENT, SHE EXPLAINED.

SHE ALSO ASKED FOR AN EARLY DATE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF THE IDENTITY AND PAST SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR OF RAPE VICTIMS.

SHE WAS PLEASED WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS IN WOMEN'S POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST DECADE BUT POINTED OUT THAT THERE COULD STILL BE MORE, IN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR MARRIED WOMEN IN THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS SUBSIDISED HOUSING, EDUCATION ALLOWANCE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND MEDICAL AND DENTAL TREATMENT FOR THEIR DEPENDANTS, WHICH SHE HOPED WOULD BE REVIEWED NEXT YEAR.

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NEED TO RESTORE HEALTHY STOCK MARKET STRESSED

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THE HON. P.G. WILLIAMS TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO RECREATE A HEALTHY STOCK MARKET AND TO RESTORE ITS ABILITY TO PROVIDE CAPITAL FOR HONG KONG'S ENTERPRISES.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE ABILITY TO RAISE CAPITAL ON THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET WAS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS MOOTED BY POTENTIAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIALISTS WHEN COMPARING THE MERITS OF HONG KONG AND ITS NEIGHBOURS.

+IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND DAMAGING TO HONG KONG THAT PRESENTLY THE ANSWER IS A NEGATIVE ONE,+ HE REMARKED.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS FOR THE LOW-LEVEL TURNOVER AT THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET EVEN WITH GOOD COMPANY RESULTS ON THE WHOLE.

+POSSIBLY THE MEMORY OF LOSSES INCURRED AFTER THE BOOM OF 1972/73 IS AN INHIBITING FACTOR.

+THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND HOUSE OWNERSHIP IS CERTAINLY TAKING MONEY AWAY FROM THE STOCK MARKET AND AN OVERHEATED PROPERTY MARKET HAS ITS DANGERS.+

BUT HE NOTED THAT A MAJOR FACTOR IS THE +FOG THAT SHROUDS THE TAXATION OF THE SO CALLED HABITUAL TRADER IN STOCKS AND SHARES+.

HE SAID THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT PUT INTO THE EFFECT THE PRACTICE OF TAXING HABITUAL TRADER AT A MOST VOLATILE TIME RESULTING IN GENERAL CONFUSION.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID NO DEFINITION OF A HABITUAL TRADER HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING AND THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAS ASSERTED ITS RIGHT TO LOOK BACK INTO TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSTATED NUMBER OF YEARS.

+AT PRESENT MANY WEALTHY INVESTORS ARE LOCKED OUT OF THE MARKET TO PROTECT PROFITS MADE IN 1972/73. THEY FEEL THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO TRADE FOR FEAR OF PROMPTING A REVIEW OF EARLIER TRANSACTIONS AND THEY COULD BE LOCKED OUT FOR YEARS.+

HE SAID HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE IS BEING HARMED AND IT IS ALSO BEING COUNTER PRODUCTIVE INASMUCH AS +THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOW RECEIVING A MUCH REDUCED INCOME BECAUSE OF THE PAUCITY OF TRADING IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE STAMP DUTY WHICH WAS DOUBLED IN 1972 TO DAMPEN THE BOOM HAS NEVER BEEN REDUCED+.

ON DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY, MR. WILLIAMS WELCOMED THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL PARTICULARLY ON THE PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF LAND AT FORMATION COST FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL DIVERSIFY THE INDUSTRIAL BASE AND DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY LEAD TO THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGY.

HE SAID THERE IS SCOPE FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OUR EXISTING RANGE OF INDUSTRIES BUT THERE IS A LIMIT AND UNLESS THE BASE CAN BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE SOME LAND INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF A SERVICE TYPE, FOR EXAMPLE A FOUNDRY, NEW INDUSTRIES CANNOT BE SERVED AND WOULD NOT BE VIABLE.

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBER EMPHASISES NEED FOR SENIOR APPOINTMENT
TO HEAD UNIT FOR REHABILITATION PLAN

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THE NEW UNIT SET UP IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO IMPLEMENT THE REHABILITATION PLAN FOR THE DISABLED SHOULD ACT AND BE REGARDED AS THE OFFICIAL CHANNEL FOR INFORMATION, ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DR. FANG, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE FRUSTRATING FOR A HANDICAPPED PERSON THAN TO BE SHUNTED FROM ONE DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR APPOINTING A COMMISSIONER TO HEAD THE NEW UNIT, AND HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUITY IN THE POST OF PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE UNIT, WHICH REQUIRED SOME TIME TO SETTLE IN.

DR. FANG SAW THE MAIN TASK OF HIS COMMITTEE AS +LYING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME PLAN AND IN MONITORING ITS PROGRESS,+ AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG SUPPORT, SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY WOULD BE MADE IN THE COMING FIVE YEARS.

HE REMAINED CONCERNED, HOWEVER, OVER THE SHORTAGE OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS, PARTICULARLY IN OUT-PATIENT CLINICS.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON GENERAL PRACTICE AND TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A REASONABLE CAREER STRUCTURE AND SALARY FOR THOSE TAKING IT UP AS A SPECIALITY.

INCREASING STATUS IS BEING GIVEN TO GENERAL PRACTICE IN MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES AND AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS RECOGNISING ITS IMPORTANCE IN HONG KONG, A COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS WAS RECENTLY SET UP, HE SAID.

IN EVERY BRANCH OF MEDICINE AS WELL, A MORE CONSISTENT TRAINING PROGRAMME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TOGETHER WITH IMPROVED PROMOTION PROSPECTS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE OBTAINED HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS, HE ADDED.

ONE POSSIBLE WAY TO RETAIN DOCTORS LONGER IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, DR. FANG SUGGESTED, MIGHT BE TO EXTEND THEIR INTERNSHIP FROM ONE YEAR TO TWO YEARS.

THIS IS DESIRABLE IN ITSELF, HE POINTED OUT, BECAUSE THE INTERNS COULD THEN COVER ALL THREE MAJOR SPECIAL AREAS OF MEDICINE INSTEAD OF TWO DURING THIS PERIOD AND HAVE A FURTHER SIX MONTHS FOR GENERAL PRACTICE.

/HE WOULD

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HE WOULD WELCOME A STATEMENT ON PLANS TO REDUCE THE HIGH TURNOVER OF DOCTORS AND TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF THEM TO SERVE THE PUBLIC.

HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHEN LEGISLATION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION OF PARA-MEDICAL STAFF WOULD BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL.

ON THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME WHICH, HE SAID, WAS A SUBJECT DEAR TO HIS HEART, DR. FANG SAID IT SHOULD HELP TOWARDS PROVIDING DECENT SELF-CONTAINED HOMES FOR ALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND AT THE SAME TIME STRIKE A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE REQUIRING PUBLIC HOUSING AND THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO PAY MORE FOR BETTER HOUSING STANDARDS.

HE THOUGHT THAT ADEQUATE HOUSING WAS A BASIC SOCIAL NEED AND SINCE THOSE IN PUBLIC HOUSING WERE ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS THOSE REQUIRING HELP, RENTALS SHOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF SUBSIDY AND SHOULD BE PITCHED AT THEIR INCOME LEVELS.

HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE COMING YEAR AND BELIEVED THAT THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTORY DEATH, SICKNESS AND, HE HOPED, RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME WOULD FILL A VACUUM WHICH COULD NOT BE FILLED BY THE EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

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WAYS TO PROMOTE OUR TRADE AND CULTURE

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HONG KONG MUST BE ESTABLISHED AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION CENTRE TO FILL THE GAP IN OUR TRADE PROMOTION STRATEGY AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE A MORE PLANNED AND ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING THE ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THESE TWO POINTS WERE RAISED BY THE HON. ALEX WU AT THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IF EVER THERE WAS AN IDEAL PLACE FOR A MAJOR TRADE FAIR FACILITY IN THIS REGION, IT IS HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+WE HAVE THE TRADE VOLUME AND A FREE IMPORT-EXPORT SYSTEM WHICH MAKES THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS IN AND OUT FOR EXHIBITION PURPOSES BOTH EASY AND UNCOMPLICATED.+

+THIS WOULD PROVIDE MANY LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR US AND IF PROPERLY DEVELOPED AND PROMOTED COULD BE A MOST VIABLE PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE GREAT EUROPEAN CITIES COULD NOT BE IMAGINED WITHOUT THEIR TRADE FAIR FACILITIES, +AND IT IS NOT ONLY THE BENEFITS FROM DIRECT TRADING THAT ACCRUE TO THESE COUNTRIES, IT IS THE ANCILLARY BUSINESS THAT TRADE FAIRS BRING TO HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND RETAILERS WHICH GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THESE EVENTS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. WU GAVE AS EXAMPLE A TRADE MART IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, BUILT UP OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, WHICH HAD AN ESTIMATED BUSINESS TURNOVER OF HK\$22 BILLION THIS YEAR AND EXPECTED SOME 400,000 VISITORS.

AS TO HONG KONG, MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A TRADE FAIR CENTRE WAS NOT NEW. A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S PARKS, RECREATION AND AMENITIES SELECT COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN NOVEMBER 1964 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

AFTER TWO YEARS OF DELIBERATION IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SOME 130,000 SQ. FT. OF FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED NET SPACE FOR TRADE EXHIBITIONS, AND TO INCLUDE FURTHER FACILITIES FOR DISPLAYING MACHINERY AND OTHER HEAVY EXHIBITS.

THE SPACE COULD BE COUPLED WITH AN INDOOR STADIUM TO SEAT 7,500 AND CONVENTION FACILITIES, SO THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE VIABLE AND THE FACILITIES INTERCHANGEABLE.

/THE SUB-COMMITTEE

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THE SUB-COMMITTEE FURTHER FAVOURED A SITE ON THE HUNG HOM RECLAMATION OVER OR ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED NEW HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINAL.

THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, FOR SOME REASON, DECIDED TO PROCEED ONLY WITH THE INDOOR STADIUM.

IF THE FULL PACKAGE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AT THAT TIME, THE COMMUNITY COULD BY NOW HAVE HAD A MOST USEFUL AND FLOURISHING ASSET, HE SAID.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RE-EXAMINE THE MATTER URGENTLY SO THAT +THIS MOST OBVIOUS GAP IN HONG KONG'S TRADE FACILITIES+ COULD BE CLOSED WITH ALL SPEED.

TURNING TO THE ARTS IN WHICH THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS NOTED A SURGE OF INTEREST, MR. WU PLEADED FOR EXPERT PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION, SO THAT FUNDS FOR ACTIVITIES WOULD BE USED +TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MAJORITY, REACHING ALL SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY.+

IT IS PERHAPS TIME, HE SAID, FOR GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS RATHER UNCHARACTERISTICALLY LOW PROFILE IN THIS RESPECT AND TO ESTABLISH A POLICY ON SUBSIDIES FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

PERHAPS IT IS ALSO TIME, HE CONTINUED, TO START THINKING ABOUT A CENTRAL ORGANISATION WHICH WOULD IN A FEW YEARS TIME ACT AS AN OVERALL CO-ORDINATOR OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

SUCH A BODY, HE EXPLAINED, COULD HELP TO PREVENT OVERLAPPING OF EFFORTS AND ESTABLISH OVERALL CULTURAL POLICY GUIDELINES, WHICH WERE SADLY LACKING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

IT WOULD ALSO BE INVALUABLE WHEN THE NEW AUDITORIA BEING PLANNED ARE COMPLETED, HE SAID.

MR. WU ALSO ADVOCATED A FULL-FLEDGED GOVERNMENT-BACKED ACADEMY OF THE ARTS TO EMBRACE ALL THE PERFORMING ARTS, FOR WHICH, HE SAID, WE SHOULD ALREADY BE MAKING PLANS.

HE DOUBTED WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PLANNERS TO FILL THE NEW CULTURAL VENUES.

+DEDICATED PEOPLE WITH NATURAL APTITUDES SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES NOW TO PREPARE TO PLAY VITAL ROLES IN A FEW YEARS TIME.

+WE SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON TRAINING TECHNICIANS FOR INDUSTRY AND OTHER FIELDS. WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR OUR FUTURE CULTURAL NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

/AS AN INTERIM

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AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, HE ASKED GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER CONVERTING ONE OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION TO START CATERING FOR SPECIALIST TRAINING NEEDS IN MUSIC AND THE ARTS. MANY OF OUR TALENTS WERE NOW BEING LOST, +SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE GAP IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+HONG KONG IS SOMEWHAT ISOLATED FROM THE WORLD'S MAJOR TRAINING CENTRES FOR THE ARTS AND SO WE MUST TO A LARGE EXTENT BE SELF-RELIANT ON THE FACILITIES WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO OUR STUDENTS.

+WE OWE IT OUR TALENTED YOUNG NOT TO DELAY ANY FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD THE GOVERNMENT HAD DRAWN UP TO BE PART OF AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO OUTLINE ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT, AND TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

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NEED FOR BETTER INTERPRETATION OF LAWS TO ORDINARY PEOPLE
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THERE IS A VERY OBVIOUS NEED TO ADOPT A MORE SYSTEMATIC AND METICULOUS APPROACH TO INTERPRET THE LAWS TO THE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO SPEAK LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SUGGESTED SIX WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS:

- * SENDING MORE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COURSES ON TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION,
- * MAKING MORE AVAILABLE TRANSLATIONS OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN COMMON USE,
- * RECRUITING MORE CANTONESE-SPEAKING MAGISTRATES BY ENLARGING THE UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT OF LAW STUDENTS,
- * REVIVING THE JP MAGISTRATE SYSTEM,
- * EXPANDING THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND MAKING SUCH SERVICE MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE AT CDO OFFICES, AND
- * REVIEWING EXISTING POLICIES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS, IF NECESSARY BY RECRUITING MORE QUALIFIED STAFF.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO HAD SUGGESTIONS FOR BRINGING DOWN EVEN MORE THE LEVEL OF CRIME. +THERE IS STILL A GENERAL FEELING AMONG THE PUBLIC THAT MUCH MORE HAS STILL TO BE DONE,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PROPERLY DESIGNED AND ADEQUATE STREET-LIGHTING WAS NEEDED TO PREVENT CRIME AND THERE WERE QUITE A NUMBER OF STREET-LIGHTING +BLACKSPOTS+ REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION.

HE URGED THAT THE RECENTLY COMPLETED COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON ROAD LIGHTING, WHICH SHOWED UP EXISTING DEFECTS, BE ACTED UPON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE POLICE SHOULD ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STATIC AND MOBILE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS, CARRY OUT MORE PATROLS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS IN +BLACKSPOT+ AREAS AND DURING CRITICAL PERIODS DURING THE DAY OR NIGHT-TIME.

WHILE THE DISTRICT FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES AND THE MAC'S HAD RENDERED MAGNIFICENT SUPPORT, +THERE IS A NEED FOR A RAPID EXPANSION OF CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE IN ALL POLICE DISTRICTS SO THAT HOUSEHOLDERS CAN THEMSELVES COMBAT CRIME THROUGH SIMPLE BUT USEFUL CRIME PREVENTION SELF-HELP MEASURES,+ HE SAID.

/ON THE WORK

ON THE WORK OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A SUB-REGISTER OF ELDERLY WOMEN WHO COULD PROVIDE PART-TIME HELP FOR YOUNG WORKING WIVES, BABY-SIT FOR THEM, OR LOOK AFTER HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WHILE THEIR PARENTS WERE AT WORK, WITH SOME BASIC TRAINING PROVIDED FOR THEM FREE.

SUCH A SERVICE WOULD NOT ONLY BE HELPFUL TO THE FAMILIES CONCERNED, IT WOULD MAKE THE ELDERLY WOMEN FEEL THEY WERE PERFORMING A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THAT THEY WERE WANTED, HE SAID.

HE FURTHER PROPOSED THAT FOR THE VERY POOR FAMILIES, THE COST OF SUCH SERVICE COULD BE ASSISTED BY THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

FOR MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES WHO EARNED BETWEEN \$3,500 AND \$6,000, MR. CHEONG-LEEN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE WHETHER SPECIAL MORTGAGE FACILITIES COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITH ITS PARTIAL ASSISTANCE OR GUARANTEE, TO HELP THEM BUY THEIR OWN HOMES ON THE BASIS OF 10 PER CENT DOWN PAYMENT, 15 YEAR REPAYMENT TERM, AND INTEREST RATES AT BETWEEN 7-1/2 TO 9 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

THIS MEASURE WILL FURTHER STIMULATE THE TREND TOWARDS HOME OWNERSHIP, NOT TO MENTION KEEPING THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY IN A HEALTHY CONDITION,+ HE SAID.

THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY NOW LOOKING INTO HOUSING FOR MIDDLE-INCOME CIVIL SERVANTS FOR WHOM THERE WAS NO HOUSING PROVISIONS, WERE BEING AWAITED, HE ADDED.

HE SUGGESTED THAT INITIALLY THE PROPORTION OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS RESERVED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TENANTS BE SET AT TWO-THIRDS TO THREE-QUARTERS SO THAT MORE HIGH INCOME TENANTS WOULD MOVE OUT OF HIGHLY SUBSIDISED ACCOMMODATION TO MAKE WAY FOR THOSE IN DESPERATE NEED ON THE WAITING LIST.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT A BAD IDEA FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK ADDITIONAL LOANS FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OR OTHER SOURCES FOR MORE PUBLIC HOUSING TO KEEP UP WITH THE BUILDING PROGRAMME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW OF THE LARGE FORECAST EXPENDITURE ON THE HOUSING PROGRAMME, IT WAS VITAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP UNDER ANNUAL REVIEW THE PROPORTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL AND FOR HOME OWNERSHIP.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN REFERRED TO THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE PERSONAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND SAID THE NEED FOR SUCH SERVICES COULD BE BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE AGE GROUPS: DURING PRIMARY SCHOOL, DURING SECONDARY SCHOOL, AND POST SECONDARY SCHOOL UP TO ABOUT THE AGE OF 20.

/HE URGED

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HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO DISSOLVE THE MORIBUND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND APPOINT INSTEAD AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES WITH UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, SO AS TO STIMULATE CLOSER LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INTERESTED IN YOUTH SERVICES.

THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD MONITOR SPECIAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH GROUPS AS WELL AS DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN YOUTH PROGRAMMES, AND SEEK OUT DEFICIENCIES OR NEW APPROACHES.

+IT WOULD BE A FOCAL POINT TO STRENGTHEN THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE VARIED RANGE OF SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND MAKE THEM REALISE THEY ARE VERY MUCH A PART OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

ON EDUCATION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN POINTED OUT THAT THE GAP IN THE PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN OF BOAT PEOPLE HAS TO BE FILLED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE PERCENTAGE OF SUBSIDISED PLACES IN FORMS IV AND V FROM 40 TO BETWEEN 50 AND 60 PER CENT.

HE SUGGESTED ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OPEN UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG SINCE THERE WAS BOUND TO BE MORE COMPETITION FOR THE LIMITED PLACES IN THE EXISTING UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC AS THE RESULT OF 11 YEARS OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ISSUE EVERY TWO YEARS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION, AFTER THE VARIOUS REPORTS AND GREEN AND WHITE PAPERS ON EDUCATION PRESENTLY EXPECTED WERE COMPLETED, SO THAT PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY COULD GAIN A CLEARER INSIGHT INTO THE CURRENT STATE OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

ON INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN WAS INTERESTED IN THE FORMATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, A COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE CARRYING OUT OF A SURVEY ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, TO HELP WITH THE WORK OF THE NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG DOES NOT FALL BEHIND ITS REGIONAL COMPETITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BRITISH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY TO SEE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

THE BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, MR. GERALD KAUFMAN, NOW IN HONG KONG, WILL PAY A VISIT TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MR. KAUFMAN WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR. DONALD LIAO WHO WILL BRIEF HIM ON PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG AND WILL TAKE HIM ON A TOUR OF TWO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES - LEK YUEN AND WO CHE - IN SHA TIN.

MR. J.R. TODD, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND MR. H.R. HUSBAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY MR. KAUFMAN ON THE TOUR.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT. MR. KAUFMAN WILL ARRIVE AT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT 2.30 P.M. TOMORROW AND AT LEK YUEN AT 4.45 P.M.

REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE IN SAN TIN

A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS AT SAN TIN RURAL COMMITTEE FOR RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE LIVING NEARBY FOR THREE DAYS FROM NOVEMBER 2 BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DAILY.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN OR WARDS BETWEEN 11 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS.

THEY SHOULD ALSO REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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JUBILEE CHANCE FOR ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA
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THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN HONG KONG IS FAST DEVELOPING INTO A MAJOR PRIORITY, MR. PETER MOSS, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

OUTLINING PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE PAGEANT MR. MOSS TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF VICTORIA: +IN ADDITION TO THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS THAT HAVE GONE INTO DISTRIBUTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE, THANKS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT AND MANY VOLUNTARY BODIES, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MOUNT LARGE SCALE EXTRAVAGANZAS THAT OFFER SHEER ENTERTAINMENT TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SPECTATORS.

+ONE SUCH OPPORTUNITY OCCURRED WHEN HONG KONG PLANNED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE.

+A STEERING COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR Y.K. KAN DECIDED THAT OUR PROGRAMME OF CELEBRATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE A SILVER JUBILEE PAGEANT IN THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM, RUNNING FOR SIX NIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO 25 INCLUSIVE.

+IN PLANNING THIS EVENT, OUR OBJECT HAS NOT BEEN MERELY TO HONOUR THE QUEEN BUT ALSO TO CELEBRATE THE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS THAT HONG KONG HAS MADE IN THE COURSE OF HER REIGN, THANKS TO THE WILL AND DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.+

+SO THE THEME OF THIS PAGEANT IS 'LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE', AND THAT THEME WILL BE REINFORCED BY THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME WE HAVE DEVISED.+

MR. MOSS SAID THAT TICKETS PRICED AT \$1 AND \$5 WILL BE ON SALE FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 31) AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES, ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TICKET OFFICES, SALES BOOTHS AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR AND FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

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