



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RECORD PRODUCTION OF 39 470 FLATS IN PUBLIC SECTOR
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TOTAL HOUSING PRODUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR REACHED AN ALL-TIME RECORD OF 39 470 FLATS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR JUST COMPLETED.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO.

HE SAID THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S OUTPUT AGAIN EXCEEDED THE TARGET OF 35 000 FLATS WHILE THE HOUSING SOCIETY MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION OF A FURTHER 3 725 FLATS.

HE ADDED THAT THE AUTHORITY WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO MAINTAIN AND EVEN IMPROVE ON THIS LEVEL OF PRODUCTION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

TURNING TO CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, HE SAID THE AUTHORITY NOW HAD 13 HOSTELS AND 35 SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE AGED ON ITS ESTATES, AND OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WOULD PROVIDE 25 MORE HOSTELS ON NEW ESTATES.

+IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY HAS, SINCE 1979, ALLOCATED A QUOTA OF PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ELDERLY, WHO ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL INCOME LIMITS, AND WHO HAVE TO WAIT ONLY ABOUT TWO YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE, OF COURSE, ALSO HOUSED EACH YEAR UNDER THE COMPASSIONATE QUOTA.+

MR LIAO SAID THE AUTHORITY WOULD ALSO LOOK INTO WAYS OF GIVING SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO FAMILIES PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE AND CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY MEMBERS.

TURNING TO THE SUGGESTION THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD GROWN RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO VACATE PUBLIC HOUSING IN FAVOUR OF THOSE IN GREATER NEED, MR LIAO SAID:

+THIS IS A SUGGESTION OFTEN MADE, BUT ONE WHICH WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT AND COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES.

+THE PERIODIC MEANS-TESTING OF ALL HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANTS - ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION - WOULD IN ITSELF BE A MASSIVE AND VERY COSTLY UNDERTAKING, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE COST-EFFECTIVE IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF FLATS LIKELY TO BE RECOVERED.

+QUITE APART FROM THIS, SUCH A POLICY COULD BE SEEN AS DISCOURAGING TENANTS FROM BETTERING THEIR LOT, AND PERHAPS LEAD TO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TAKING ON THE STIGMA OF BEING SIMPLY SECOND-CLASS HOUSING FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.

HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE BETTER-OFF TENANTS TO MOVE OUT OF RENTED PUBLIC HOUSING, EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR INTO HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS.

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID, ABOUT 10 000 RENTAL FLATS WOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE GENERAL HOUSING POOL BY FORMER TENANTS MOVING INTO HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS.

+WHEN PRODUCTION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME INCREASES FROM 1984/85 ONWARDS, WE EXPECT AS MANY AS 5 000 FLATS TO BE RELEASED EVERY YEAR BY TENANTS BUYING THEIR OWN HOMES,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO SAID THAT THE 35 000 FLATS AND HOUSES COMPLETED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DURING 1981/82 ALSO SET AN ALL-TIME RECORD. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE SAID, IT WAS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT LAST DECEMBER 30 000 FLATS WERE STILL VACANT.

HOWEVER, HE WAS +CONFIDENT THAT THE LARGE UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR HOUSING FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL LEAD TO A STEADY TAKE-UP OF VACANT FLATS, AND JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF THE FASTEST POSSIBLE HOUSING PRODUCTION ON ALL AVAILABLE LAND.+

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POLICY ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT IS TO MAINTAIN MOBILITY
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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT IS TO MAINTAIN MOBILITY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE, MR SCOTT SAID THERE ARE THREE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES: IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AND MORE ECONOMIC USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM.

ON THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, MR SCOTT SAID IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE MAIN ARTERIAL LINKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PLANNED AND COMMENCED OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, ARE COMPLETED.

+PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SHA TIN-TAI PO ROAD, THE WIDENING OF THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, MUST BE PUSHED TO COMPLETION.

+THESE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY NETWORKS OF NEW AND IMPROVED ROADS SERVING BOTH THE NEW TOWNS AND THE OLDER URBAN AREAS.+

MR SCOTT SAID THIS PROGRAMME REQUIRED THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1.2 BILLION IN 1981/82, AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT IS BUDGETED FOR 1982/83.

ON THE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HE SAID THIS INCLUDES THE HUGE PROJECTS OF CONSTRUCTING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, AND OF REBUILDING THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE OBJECTIVE OF ECONOMIC USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, MR SCOTT SAID, MEANS GIVING PRIORITY IN GENERAL TERMS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT OVER PRIVATE TRANSPORT, AND TO MASS CARRIERS OVER PERSONAL VEHICLES.

+SO FAR BY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES, IT HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE OVERALL DEMAND- AND THE PRIVATE VEHICLE, COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING, HAS NOT BEEN PENALISED.

+BUT PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE INCREASING AT SUCH A RATE THAT ROAD CAPACITY IS UNABLE ADEQUATELY TO ACCOMMODATE THEM, AND CONGESTION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTOLERABLE.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICY WAS LAID DOWN IN THE 1979 WHITE PAPER ON INTERNAL TRANSPORT POLICY: +IF UNACCEPTABLE CONGESTION IS TO BE AVOIDED, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT RESTRAINT ON ROAD USE BY MOTOR-CYCLES AND PRIVATE CARS WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE.+

MR SCOTT ALSO SPOKE ON SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON TRAFFIC WARDENS, THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, PARKING POLICIES AND GOODS VEHICLES.

ON THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, HE SAID SOME FORM OF RESTRAINT ON ITS USAGE MAY BE NECESSARY UNTIL A SECOND FIXED HARBOUR CROSSING IS IN OPERATION. HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE LATTER POINT IS BEING VIGOROUSLY PURSUED AND THE FORMER REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

ON GOODS VEHICLES, MR SCOTT SAID THEIR PROLIFERATION AND OPERATIONS ARE COMPLEX AND THEY ARE THIS YEAR TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A CONSULTANCY STUDY AS TO BOTH THEIR TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS.

+THEIR IMPORTANCE IN OUR ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IS SUCH THAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE POSITION REASONABLY FULLY BEFORE MEASURES CAN BE CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID.

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EXTENSIVE MONITORING OF POWER COMPANIES CARRIED OUT
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DESPITE THE EXTENSIVE MONITORING ROLE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CHECK THAT CONSUMERS GET A RELIABLE SERVICE BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THE POWER COMPANIES REMAIN RESPONSIBLE DIRECT TO THEIR CONSUMERS FOR PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT SERVICE AT REASONABLE PRICES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S MONITORING ROLE DOES NOT MAKE THEIR LIFE PARTICULARLY EASY,+ MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON ALLAN LEE AND THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO +THE PATIENT AND HELPFUL WAY THE COMPANIES HAVE CO-OPERATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS RESPECT.+

HE SAID THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH THE PRICES ELSEWHERE, AND THE RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY WAS, HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT, +UNPARALLELLED+.

REFERRING TO THE REQUEST FOR AN ASSURANCE THAT A FAIR PRICE WAS BEING PAID FOR ELECTRICITY AND THAT AN EFFECTIVE MONITORING MACHINE WAS IN OPERATION, MR JEAFFRESON SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT MR LEE USED THE WORD +MONITORING+.

+FOR THERE SEEMS TO BE A WIDESPREAD MISBELIEF THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IS TO 'SUPERVISE' THE POWER COMPANIES,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE WORK WERE THE +APTL NAMED+ FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, WHOSE JOB WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSUMERS GOT A RELIABLE SERVICE BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

+THE FINANCIAL MONITORING UNIT IS CONCERNED THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD GET IT AT A REASONABLE PRICE, THAT SHAREHOLDERS GET A REASONABLE RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT AND WITH THE GENERAL FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE COMPANIES. THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER IS CONCERNED WITH THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE COMPANIES, FOR THEIR PART, SUBMIT THEIR PLANS FOR EXPANSION FOR THE COMING FIVE YEARS, INCLUDING THEIR PROGRAMMES FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND FULL FINANCING PLANS, AND THESE ARE EXAMINED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

+WHEN BOTH ARE SATISFIED AND THE SENIOR LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE SATISFIED, THE RESULTS ARE PUT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ADVICE,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

REFERRING TO MR LEE'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE MONITORING WAS EFFECTIVE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE ANSWER WAS +A MATTER OF JUDGEMENT.+

BUT THE TWO AGENCIES WERE STAFFED BY PEOPLE WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND IF THIS WAS THOUGHT INSUFFICIENT TO COVER A PARTICULAR ASPECT, CONSULTANTS WERE CALLED TO HELP.

+SO AT LEAST THE MACHINERY IS THERE. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY IN HONG KONG COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH PRICES FOR ELECTRICITY ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

+AND THE RELIABILITY OF HONG KONG'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT UNPARALLELLED,+ HE SAID.

DISCUSSING MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG'S QUESTION OF THE HIGHER TARIFFS PAID FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN CHEUNG CHAU THAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN TACKLED FOR MANY YEARS AND HE THOUGHT THAT A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO CONSUMERS IN CHEUNG CHAU WAS +NOT FAR AWAY+.

BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP SOON

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A BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMALLY SET UP WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS TO DEAL WITH MATTERS AFFECTING THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MACDONALD, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING WHICH HE REPLIED TO POINTS RAISED EARLIER BY HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES.

REPLYING TO THE HON F.K. HU, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT HE HAD MADE REFERENCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A BODY IN AN ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER.

HE ADDED THAT HIS PROPOSALS FOR THE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND FOR ITS VARIOUS SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEES HAD NOW BEEN FINALISED AND WERE ABOUT TO BE CIRCULATED TO INTERESTED PARTIES FOR COMMENT.

MR MCDONALD WAS HOPEFUL THAT HIS PERMANENT NON-STATUTORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AND WOULD HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS.

DURING THE BUDGET DEBATE, SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS REFERRED TO THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND TO ITS PRODUCTIVITY.

IN THE CONTEXT OF PRODUCTIVITY, THE HON. S.L. CHEN SUGGESTED THAT WHILE THE WORK OUTPUT OF MANY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, A DIRECT COMPARISON COULD BE MADE BETWEEN PUBLIC WORKS AND SIMILAR WORKS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE SUBMITTED FIGURES RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE AND PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE AND FROM THE RESULTS OF HIS ANALYSIS HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE WORK COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT MORE ECONOMICALLY BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR CHEN WENT ON FURTHER TO SUGGEST THAT HIS COMPARATIVE FIGURES WOULD HAVE PROVED EVEN MORE UNFAVOURABLE HAD THE EXPENDITURE ON WORKS CARRIED OUT BY CONSULTANTS BEEN DEDUCTED FROM THE CALCULATIONS.

IN REPLY, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT WHILE HE AGREED THAT EXPENDITURE ON WORKS DONE BY CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE DEDUCTED, HE SUGGESTED THAT OTHER ELEMENTS SUCH AS EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE WORKS AND THE PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS OF MAINTENANCE STAFF AND SITE SUPERVISORY STAFF SHOULD ALSO BE DEDUCTED AS NONE OF THESE ELEMENTS WAS INCLUDED IN NORMAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND FEE SCALES.

HE SAID MR CHEN STATED THAT IN HIS ANALYSIS HE WAS INTERESTED IN ONLY A BROAD INDICATION RATHER THAN PRECISE FIGURES.

/BUT MR

BUT MR MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT TO IGNORE THE VERY LARGE EXPENDITURE ON WORKS CARRIED OUT FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL THE DEFENCE WORKS PROGRAMME AND THOSE FUNDED BY OTHER AGENCIES, WHICH IN THE PAST YEAR ALONE AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$400 MILLION, WAS A RATHER SERIOUS OMISSION.

+WHEN ALL RELEVANT FACTORS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THERE IS USUALLY A LEAD TIME OF ONE TO TWO YEARS FROM INITIAL DESIGN TO CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE, STAFF COSTS IN ANY GIVEN FINANCIAL YEAR CANNOT DIRECTLY RELATE TO CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE IN THAT YEAR, THE RATIO OF PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS TO EXPENDITURE IN THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE FROM 1977/78 TO 1981/82 AVERAGES ABOUT SIX PER CENT -- WELL BELOW THE FIGURES GIVEN IN MR CHEN'S ANALYSIS AND ALSO WELL BELOW THE 10 PER CENT FIGURE FOR CONSULTANCY FEES WHICH HE CONTENDS IS RARELY EXCEEDED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

BUT MR MCDONALD ADMITTED THAT HIS ANALYSIS WAS ALSO INCOMPLETE AS IT IGNORED THE NOT INSIGNIFICANT, BUT DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY, AMOUNT OF STAFF TIME SPENT ON DESIGN AND PLANNING STUDIES AND ADVISING OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ON PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS WHICH DID NOT RESULT IN ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT GENERALLY MORE ECONOMICAL TO HAVE WORK CARRIED OUT BY PRIVATE CONSULTANTS,+ HE SAID.

+THERE WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN THE NEED TO EMPLOY CONSULTANTS WHEN SPECIAL EXPERTISE IS REQUIRED OR WHEN THE EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST WITH PEAKS OF WORKLOAD IS TRULY MORE ECONOMICAL THAN TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN ADDITIONAL STAFF.+

ON THE COMPLAINTS VOICED BY MR HU AND MR CHEN OVER DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS LAID DOWN MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS.

+THE ORDINANCE ALSO PLACES UPON AUTHORISED PERSONS THE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS.

+WHILE THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF AUTHORISED PERSONS IS NOT QUESTIONED IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THEIR STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE MAY SOMETIMES CONFLICT WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR CLIENTS,+ HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT THESE PROFESSIONAL MEN WOULD EVER ALLOW THE LATTER TO OVERRIDE THE FORMER, IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SHOULD PLAY A BALANCING ROLE, HE SAID.

MR MCDONALD CONTINUED: + THE SERVICE AT PRESENT GIVEN BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH CENTRALISED PROCESSING COVERS A VERY WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS IN ADDITION TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

+FOR EXAMPLE, ON LEASE CONDITIONS, PLANNING MATTERS, NEW ROAD PROPOSALS AND ROAD WIDENING SCHEMES, RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY OPERATIONS, BY THE AIRPORT, GEOTECHNICS AND SO ON.

+BEFORE CENTRALISED PROCESSING CAME INTO BEING, AUTHORISED PERSONS HAD TO RESEARCH ALL OF THESE FACTORS THEMSELVES, WHICH THEY FOUND TIME-CONSUMING AND A CAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF THEIR PROPOSALS.+

MR MCDONALD FELT SURE THAT NO AUTHORISED PERSON WOULD WISH TO RETURN TO THAT SYSTEM WHICH WOULD OF COURSE RESULT IF GOVERNMENT WITHDREW ITS PRESENT PROCESSING SERVICE.

ON MR CHEN'S COMMENT THAT PROCEDURES IN HONG KONG ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND TIME-CONSUMING THAN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, MR MCDONALD REFERRED TO THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE R.I.B.A. JOURNAL IN WHICH THERE WAS AN ARTICLE ON COMPLAINTS RAISED BY ARCHITECTS OVER THE TIME TAKEN FOR PROCESSING PLANNING PERMISSIONS BY THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL.

FROM THE EXPERIENCE QUOTED BY ONE PRACTICE, HE ADDED, THE AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR PROCESSING WAS 16.8 WEEKS.

+THIS IS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN THE STATUTORY 60 DAYS ALLOWED FOR PROCESSING IN HONG KONG,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, I SUGGEST THAT THE NORMAL BUILDING PROPOSAL CONSIDERED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HERE TENDS TO BE A GOOD DEAL LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN THE NORM ABROAD, EVEN IN LONDON.+

TURNING TO MR HU'S SUGGESTION THAT THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE WAS OVER-CAUTIOUS AND LACKING IN CLEARLY DEFINED STANDARDS, MR MCDONALD SAID THE GCO NOW WORKED TO THE STANDARDS AND PRACTICE SET OUT IN THE TECHNICAL MANUAL FOR SLOPES PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER 1979.

THE MANUAL WAS PREPARED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERS, DRAWN FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS, TOOK FULL ACCOUNT OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND CURRENT GEOTECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND WERE WELL AWARE OF THE PRACTICAL AND COST IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AND OF THE NEED TO AVOID OVER-CAUTIOUS AND EXTRAVAGANTLY EXPENSIVE STANDARDS.

THE MANUAL WAS PUBLISHED AS A DRAFT DOCUMENT TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION AMONG, AND COMMENTS FROM THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

IT WAS CLEARLY STATED THAT IT WOULD BE AMENDED IN THE LIGHT OF RELEVANT COMMENTS AND OF ANY IMPROVEMENT IN OUR GEOTECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE.

+HOWEVER, IN THE 2-1/2 YEARS SINCE ITS PUBLICATION VERY LITTLE TECHNICAL COMMENT ON THE MANUAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE GUIDELINES SET DOWN IN THE GEOTECHNICAL MANUAL AND THE EXPERTISE NOW AVAILABLE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ENSURE THAT THE STANDARDS BEING ADOPTED REPRESENT A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND COST TO THE COMMUNITY.+

IN FOLLOWING THESE STANDARDS, HE WENT ON, DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN ENGINEERS SOMETIMES OCCURRED. IN SUCH INSTANCES APPEALS MIGHT ALWAYS BE MADE TO THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE WHO WOULD CONSIDER THEM SYMPATHETICALLY.

HOWEVER, MR MCDONALD REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE CAME INTO BEING AS A DIRECT RESULT OF MAJOR DISASTERS SUCH AS THOSE AT PO SHAN ROAD AND SAU MAU PING AND HE WAS SURE THAT ALL WOULD AGREE THAT THE STANDARDS SET MUST ENSURE THAT SIMILAR TRAGIC EVENTS WOULD NOT RECUR IN FUTURE.

DURING THE BUDGET DEBATE, REFERENCES WERE MADE TO LAND RELATED MATTERS SUCH AS LAND PRODUCTION AND SALE, THE ROLE OF LAND SALES REVENUE IN THE FINANCING OF CAPITAL WORKS, THE CURRENT STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

ON LAND SALE, MR MCDONALD REJECTED THE MYTH THAT GOVERNMENT OPERATES A HIGH LAND PRICE POLICY.

+SUCH A POLICY HAS NEVER EXISTED AND DOES NOT EXIST NOW,+ HE SAID. +WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO OFFER SITES FOR SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLISHED PROGRAMME AND TO ALLOW THE MARKET TO DECIDE WHEN AND WHERE TO BUY AND, WITHIN REASON, HOW MUCH TO PAY.

+WE ARE LOOKING FOR CLOSER CORRELATION BETWEEN SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR LAND FOR ALL USES, REASONABLE VALUES AND PRICES AND REGULAR AND RELIABLE RATHER THAN SPASMODIC AND ASTRONOMICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND. IN OTHER WORDS, STABILITY.+

REFERRING TO THE POSITION OF LETTERS B IN THE LAND ACQUISITION AND RESUMPTION PROCESSES, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE OFFER OF A LETTER B WAS AN OPTION.

+A CASH ALTERNATIVE IS AVAILABLE AND IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF MANY OF THESE INVOLVED TO CHOOSE CASH. WHETHER CHANGING CONDITIONS IN THE LAND MARKET AND THE RECENT RELATED ADJUSTMENTS IN LAND COMPENSATION LEVELS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL AFFECT THIS TREND REMAINS TO BE SEEN AND THE GOVERNMENT IS KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON DEVELOPMENTS.+

MR HU SUGGESTED THAT FRESH EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH SPECIALLY DEvised LAND DISPOSAL AND PRODUCTION SCHEMES TO ATTRACT THE PARTICIPATION OF HOLDERS OF LETTERS B.

IN REPLY, MR MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR, LETTER B HOLDERS HAD BEEN LESS READY THAN PREVIOUSLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME AIMED AT THEM AND IT WAS BY NO MEANS CLEAR WHAT CHANGES IN MARKET CONDITIONS, EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, WOULD NEED TO OCCUR BEFORE SITES OFFERED WOULD ATTRACT BIDS FROM THEM.

COMMENTING ON MR HU'S THREE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS, HE SAID:
 +THE FIRST, UNDER WHICH LETTER B HOLDERS WOULD TAKE UP A PERCENTAGE OF THE RESIDENTIAL ELEMENT AS WELL AS THE WHOLE OF THE COMMERCIAL ELEMENT IN HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES OR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING PROJECTS, COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED EITHER AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP OR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES OR BY EATING INTO THE NORMAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME.

+IN OTHER WORDS, MAKING MORE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO LETTER B HOLDERS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ELSEWHERE.+

AS REGARDS MR HU'S SECOND SUGGESTION, UNDER WHICH SURRENDER OF LETTERS B WOULD BE LINKED WITH RECLAMATION AND EXCAVATION PROJECTS, MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THAT WOULD BE LIKELY TO BRING IN ONLY SMALL QUANTITIES OF LETTERS B SINCE PREMIUM WOULD IN ANY CASE NORMALLY BE REDUCED CONSIDERABLY BY THE DEDUCTION OF FORMATION COSTS.

ACCEPTANCE OF LETTERS B AGAINST PREMIUM IN RESPECT OF LAND TRANSACTIONS IN THE URBAN AREAS, MR HU'S THIRD SUGGESTION, MIGHT INDEED PROVE ATTRACTIVE TO LETTER B HOLDERS, HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD RESULT ONCE AGAIN IN A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO OTHER WOULD-BE PURCHASERS AND COULD ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM IN THE PROCESS.

NEVERTHELESS, MR MCDONALD ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW THE QUESTION OF REDUCING THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF LETTERS B.

COMMENTING ON THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG'S REFERENCE TO THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, ITS DISTRICT LAND OFFICERS, LAND PRODUCTION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND THE HERITAGE OF RESIDENTS, MR MCDONALD SAID THE INTENTION WAS THAT DISTRICT LAND OFFICERS, LIKE ALL CIVIL SERVANTS, SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO LOCAL CONDITIONS AND NEEDS AND TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK.

+THIS IS THE AIM OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO PLAY ITS PART FULLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY,+ HE ADDED.

MR MCDONALD AGREED WITH MR CHEUNG THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COMPENSATE FOR CONDITIONS NOT REMAINING AS THEY WERE, IF THAT WAS WHAT WAS MEANT BY LOSS OF HERITAGE.

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, A GOOD DEAL WAS DONE APART FROM OFFERING LETTERS B AND CASH COMPENSATION FOR LAND ACQUIRED OR RESUMED, TO ENSURE THAT GENEROUS TERMS WERE OFFERED WHEN VILLAGE REMOVALS BECAME NECESSARY.

+MOREOVER, A PRINCIPAL AIM OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS IN A SENSE TO ENSURE THAT WHAT SPRINGS UP IN PLACE OF WHAT IS 'LOST' OFFERS IN MODERN TERMS AT LEAST AS GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL SELF-FULFILLMENT AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING,+ SAID MR MCDONALD.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CHILD ABUSE CASES WORKING WELL
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PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CHILD ABUSE CASES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE WORKING WELL ON A PRACTICAL BASIS AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR A CENTRAL REGISTRY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEYNE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WAS COLLECTING QUARTERLY STATISTICS OF ALL SUCH CASES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED.

+IF HOSPITALISATION IS REQUIRED, AND THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ABUSE, A CASE CONFERENCE WILL BE CALLED TO ENSURE A CO-ORDINATED TREATMENT PLAN FOR THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY,+ HE SAID.

THE CONFERENCE IS ATTENDED BY ALL THE RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL WORKERS - THE CASEWORKER, THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER, THE DOCTOR, THE POLICE AND A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST.

+WHERE THE PARENTS REFUSE TO CO-OPERATE, A CARE AND PROTECTION ORDER CAN BE OBTAINED, OR THE CHILD ADMITTED TO A PLACE OF REFUGE,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, MR ALLEYNE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM TO SEE IF A FORMAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO THE CASE CONFERENCES.

HE NOTED THAT OF ABOUT 200 KNOWN CASES LAST YEAR, 108 WERE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THAT 36 OUT OF THESE WERE THE SUBJECT OF PROSECUTIONS, RESULTING IN 29 CONVICTIONS.

ON THE SHORTFALL IN TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS, MR ALLEYNE OUTLINED WAYS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

+TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL,+ HE SAID, +THE SWD HAS DEVOTED MUCH EFFORT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS TO IDENTIFY JOBS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING.

+THERE MAY WELL BE STILL FURTHER SCOPE TO ENLARGE THE USE OF NON-SOCIAL WORK TRAINED PERSONNEL BOTH AT THE GRADUATE AND NON-GRADUATE LEVEL FOR CERTAIN JOBS WHERE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING IS NOT ESSENTIAL.

+INDEED THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER HAS ALSO SO RECOMMENDED, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS COMMENCED TO EXAMINE SOME OF ITS POSTS WITH THIS IN VIEW,+ HE SAID.

ON THE NEED TO STOP THE DRAIN OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, MR ALLEYNE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WORKING PARTY HAD PROPOSED A REVIEW OF THE WORKING CONDITIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, INCLUDING SALARIES, CAREER PROSPECTS AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING, SO AS TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER RETENTION RATE, AND THIS WAS BEING PURSUED.

TURNING TO A PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRAL PROVIDENT OR PENSION SCHEME BY THE REV THE HON MCGOVERN AND THE HON ANDREW SO, MR ALLEYNE SAID : +AFTER DISCUSSION WITH BOTH SIDES OF INDUSTRY AND MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT THE SCHEME WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO APPLY.+

INSTEAD, PROPOSALS WERE FORMULATED TO EXTEND ENTITLEMENT TO SICK LEAVE WITH PAY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO A MAXIMUM OF 120 DAYS AND TO MAKE A DEATH GRANT PAYABLE TO THE FAMILY OF A WAGE EARNER AT A FLAT RATE OF \$3 000 IF THE DEATH OCCURS DURING EMPLOYMENT, SUBJECT TO A QUALIFYING PERIOD OF SERVICE, MR ALLEYNE SAID.

WHERE THE DEATH GRANT IS NOT COVERED UNDER THIS ORDINANCE, AN EQUIVALENT GRANT WOULD BE PAYABLE WITHOUT A MEANS TEST UNDER THE SWD'S SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME.

+ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOW IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

REFERRING TO DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG'S COMMENT ON THE GROWTH RATE OF ELDERLY POPULATION AND ON THE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR THEIR RETIREMENT, MR ALLEYNE SAID WELFARE PROVISIONS FOR THE ELDERLY INCLUDED BOTH CASH ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES.

FIGURES SHOW THAT 173 000 PEOPLE, OR MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION OF 70 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, ARE RECEIVING OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND ANOTHER 31 000 RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE ELDERLY OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF 1 420 ADDITIONAL PLACES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED, 2 150 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND 240 PLACES IN DAY CARE CENTRES.

SUPPORTING SERVICES, SUCH AS HOME HELP AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES, ARE ALSO BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THEIR REQUIREMENTS.

ANOTHER SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT IS THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME PROVIDING HELP TO 46 000 FAMILIES.

+THE STANDARD OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS NOW CLEARLY ABOVE THE SUBSISTENCE LEVEL AND CAN BE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE REASONABLE RATHER THAN MEAGRE,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

THE VALUE OF THE ALLOWANCE WAS CONTINUALLY BEING WATCHED CLOSELY SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ITS PURCHASING POWER WAS MAINTAINED, AND THAT THE STANDARD KEPT PACE WITH THE GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY, HE SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

NOTING THERE WERE CONFLICTING VIEWS ON THIS, HE SAID +A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE MIGHT BE TO RESTRICT THE SCHEME TO DEPENDENT PARENTS ONLY, AND THIS IS BEING FURTHER CONSIDERED.+

THE PRESENT COMPASSIONATE HOUSING QUOTA WOULD, HE SAID, CONTINUALLY BE USED TO HELP FAMILIES WHO WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS.

+IN ADDITION, THE PRIORITY SCHEME FOR HOUSING THE ELDERLY WILL ALSO ENABLE GROUPS OF THREE UNRELATED ELDERLY PERSONS TO ADVANCE MORE RAPIDLY UP THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WAITING LIST,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE REHABUS SERVICE, MR ALLEYNE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE POLICY GOVERNING TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED WOULD BE REVIEWED THIS YEAR AND HE HOPED IT WOULD PRODUCE SOME APPROACHES TO MEETING THEIR NEEDS.

REFERRING TO THE NEW SUBVENTION SYSTEM, MR ALLEYNE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FINANCING OF ANY AGENCY OR SERVICE WHICH MIGHT EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES UNDER THE NEW SCHEME.

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KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BILL 1982

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BILL 1982 WHICH WAS INTRODUCED TO TIE IN WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME IN MAY THIS YEAR WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

THE CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS HEADED BY MR PETER C. WONG.

SPEAKING DURING THE BILL'S SECOND READING DEBATE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR WONG SAID APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED WHEN THE KCR BECOMES A PUBLIC CORPORATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE MADE:

- * THE DEFINITION OF +LAND HELD BY THE CROWN+ WAS RE-DEFINED AS +LAND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO A RIGHT OF OCCUPATION RECOGNISED BY LAW+ TO AVOID ANY AMBIGUITY THAT MIGHT ARISE.
- * THE WORDS +CONVENIENT FOR+ WAS SUBSTITUTED BY +INCIDENTAL TO+.
- * THE PHRASE +AS SOON AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE+ IN THE SUB-CLAUSE WHICH REFERS TO THE HANDING OVER TO THE POLICE PERSONS ARRESTED BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WAS REPLACED BY THE WORD +FORTHWITH+, AS IT IS FELT THAT RAILWAY EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN MORE POWER THAN POLICE OFFICERS.

* THE WORD +RASHLY+ WAS REPLACED BY +RECKLESSLY+, WHICH IS A TERM MORE COMMONLY USED IN A LEGAL CONTEXT.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE PROPOSED 116 REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE NEW ORDINANCE WOULD NO DOUBT GIVE AMPLE POWER TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KCR TO RUN THE RAILWAY EFFICIENTLY.

+WE HAVE MADE CERTAIN HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO RE-DRAFT SOME 25 REGULATIONS,+ MR WONG SAID.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL, MR BENTON CHEUNG, CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE +WELL-LOCATED AND USEFUL PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS, OR PERHAPS EVEN ESCALATORS+ ALONG THE RAILWAY LINE.

HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD REMEMBER, CROSSING RAILWAY TRACKS HAD BEEN A PRACTICE OF COUNTRYFOLK AND THEIR LIVESTOCK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

WHILE AGREEING THAT THE ELECTRIFIED SYSTEM WOULD MAKE THIS PRACTICE A THING OF THE PAST AND THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD NETWORKS AND SUPER HIGHWAYS WOULD ALSO CHANGE THE OLD WAY OF LIFE FOREVER, MR CHEUNG URGED THAT PENDING COMPLETION OF ALL THESE FACILITIES, +CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE REALITIES OF THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICES AND WAY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

HE ALSO DREW MEMBERS' ATTENTION TO A SIX-MILE-LONG LIGHT RAIL SERVICE WHICH WAS ONCE OPERATED BY THE KCR BETWEEN FANLING AND SHA TAU KOK.

THE LIGHT RAIL ROUTE HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A MOTORWAY BUT IT IS NOW IN NEED OF WIDENING AND REDEVELOPMENT TO BRING IT IN LINE WITH OTHER MODERN ROAD PROJECTS, HE SAID.

+A MODERNISED FANLING-SHA TAU KOK HIGHWAY WOULD BE VERY TIMELY IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT REPORTS THAT SIU MUI SHA AND SHA YU CHUNG ACROSS THE BORDER WITH CHINA, MAY BE AREAS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

+A MODERN HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO SHA TAU KOK COULD BE EXTENDED EVENTUALLY TO PROVIDE A THROUGH MOTOR ROUTE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE EASTERN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, AS WELL AS PLACES, 'MORE FAR',+ SAID MR CHEUNG.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE +GREAT DRAFTING BATTLES OVER THIS MODEST BILL+.

+THAT WAS NOT IN FACT THE CASE, BUT WE ARE AS ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR THE DILIGENCE WHICH THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' LEGISLATION SCRUTINY GROUP APPLIES TO ITS TASK,+ HE SAID.

HE INFORMED MEMBERS THAT A SEPARATE BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WOULD BE INTRODUCED LATER THIS YEAR.

LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL APPEALS APPROVED
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A SCHEME OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL, IDENTICAL TO THAT PROVIDED IN CIVIL APPEALS, WAS TODAY APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN MOVING THE MOTION FOR APPROVAL, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON PAUL NAZARETH STRESSED THAT LEGAL AID WOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDED IN ALL CRIMINAL APPEALS.

HE SAID A MEANS TEST WOULD HAVE TO BE MET AND THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED THAT AN APPLICANT HAD REASONABLE LEGAL GROUNDS FOR SEEKING TO APPEAL.

MR NAZARETH SAID AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES RULES ALSO PROVIDED FOR A RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF LEGAL AID.

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RECIPROCAL MEDICAL ACCORD WITH BRITAIN
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UNDER RECIPROCAL HEALTH CARE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, HONG KONG RESIDENTS TO BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED WITH ALL IMMEDIATE NECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ON THE SAME TERMS AS PERSONS ORDINARILY RESIDENT THERE, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR HO POINTED OUT THAT REGULATIONS CONCERNING CHARGES FOR OVERSEAS VISITORS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE BEING LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR. THESE REGULATIONS WILL PROVIDE FOR FREE TREATMENT IN CERTAIN TYPES OF CASES, INCLUDING ACCIDENTS, EMERGENCY AND CASUALTY CASES, BUT WILL REQUIRE CHARGES TO BE LEVIED IN OTHER CASES ON PERSONS NOT ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AMONG THOSE EXEMPTED FROM THE NEW CHARGES ARE VISITORS (INCLUDING STUDENTS) WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ONE YEAR, AND PEOPLE FROM COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES HAVING RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

UNITED KINGDOM VISITORS TO HONG KONG WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL IMMEDIATE NECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ON THE SAME BASIS AS HONG KONG RESIDENTS, MR HO SAID. +THE RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT APPLY TO PERSONS WHO GO TO EACH OTHER'S TERRITORY FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT,+ MR HO SAID.

HE SAID THAT TO ESTABLISH THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR TREATMENT, HONG KONG VISITORS WILL BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A VALID IDENTITY CARD, PASSPORT OR CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BILL 1982 AND THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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INCREASED SERVICES FOR FARMERS

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STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT MADE 130 000 VISITS TO INDIVIDUAL FARMERS AND FISHERMEN LAST YEAR TO OFFER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE INCLUDED THE PROMOTION OF MODERN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS TO MAKE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF AVAILABLE WATER RESOURCES AND THE CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK DISEASE.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THESE VISITS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALWAYS MADE AVAILABLE SERVICES TO THE FARMING AND FISHING INDUSTRIES THROUGH RECOGNISED BODIES SUCH AS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

+HOWEVER, THESE SERVICES ARE NOW BEING REORGANISED TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND GIVE EVEN GREATER COVERAGE,+ HE SAID.

LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY WERE ALSO PROVIDED, AND LAST YEAR \$13 MILLION WAS LOANED TO 1 800 FARMERS AND ANOTHER \$11 MILLION TO 143 FISHERMEN FROM LOAN FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, MR RIDDELL-SWAN ADDED.

+RESOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE ARE AT PRESENT SUFFICIENT BUT SHOULD AN INCREASED NEED FOR THESE LOANS ARISE THEN STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

THE 198 FARMING AND FISHING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES SO FAR REGISTERED ALSO PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING MODERN FARMING AND FISHING METHODS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT INITIAL STEPS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN FOR A REVIEW OF THE WHOLE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM TO DETERMINE ANY SPECIFIC AREAS CALLING FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

DURING THE BUDGET DEBATE, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, COMMENTED THAT THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT NO LONGER COVERED ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY RELATE TO COUNTRY PARKS AND CONSERVATION.

/MR RIDDELL-SWAN

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THE PRESENT NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN USE DESPITE THE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES THE DEPARTMENT NOW COVERS.

+IT IS A NAME WELL KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AND DESPITE A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT BY A GREAT MANY PEOPLE, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A SIMPLE COMPREHENSIVE ALTERNATIVE WHICH TRANSLATES NICELY INTO CHINESE.

+IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LIKELY COSTS INVOLVED, I DO NOT PROPOSE TO RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE OF NAME AT THIS TIME BUT WILL CERTAINLY KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW.+

THE EXISTING TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PRIORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE WENT ON, +ARE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE AT PRESENT BUT ARE ALSO BEING KEPT UNDER REVIEW AND WILL BE ADJUSTED IF AND WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT CHANGE+.

ON COUNTRY PARKS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS RECRUITING STAFF FOR A PARK RANGER SERVICE WHICH WOULD REGULARLY PATROL ALL COUNTRY PARKS AND GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO VISITORS.

+THESE RANGERS WILL HAVE POWERS OF ARREST AND WILL COMPLEMENT THE POLICE PATROLS. THEY WILL ALSO BE IN RADIO COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND WILL BE ABLE TO CALL FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE WHEN NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

VISITOR FACILITIES INSIDE PARKS ESPECIALLY TOILETS, WERE BEING IMPROVED, MR RIDDELL-SWAN ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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AMNESTY RUMOURS +RUBBISH+, GOVERNOR SAYS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING DISMISSED AS +RUBBISH+ RUMOURS SPREAD BY SNAKEHEADS ABOUT AN AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND WARNED PEOPLE NOT TO BE MISLED BY THEM.

+THIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION WHATEVER OF DOING ANYTHING SO SILLY AS TO RELAX OUR DEFENCES NOW THAT THEY ARE HOLDING,+ HE STRESSED. AND SIR MURRAY HOPED THE MEDIA WOULD SPREAD THE WORD.

+PEOPLE HERE ARE SICK OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND IF THEY ARE NOT CAUGHT ON THE FRONTIER WIRE, OR PICKED UP BY A POLICE LAUNCH AT SEA, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE BY THE POPULATION OR SIMPLY HAVE TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP FOR LACK OF A LIVING,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR GAVE THE WARNING IN A SPEECH AT A DINNER GIVEN BY THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES IN HIS AND LADY MACLEHOSE'S HONOUR.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE HUGE INFLUX OF 1978, 1979 AND 1980 HAD BEEN STOPPED BY OUR OWN MEASURES, EMPLOYERS' COOPERATION IN DENYING ILLEGALS WORK, AND WITH THE HELP OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, SOME PEOPLE STILL ATTEMPTED TO COME USUALLY ENCOURAGED BY RUMOURS OF AN AMNESTY ON HIS DEPARTURE, OR THE ARRIVAL OF SIR EDWARD YOUDE, OR EVEN THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF WALES' CHILD.

+THEY SHOULD NOT BE MISLED,+ HE SAID. +ALL THIS IS RUBBISH SPREAD BY SNAKEHEADS FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE THREAT POSED BY PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN EUROPE AND AMERICA.

THIS WAS A SIMPLE POLITICAL REFLEX TO THE MASSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT THERE WITH WHICH HONG KONG SINCERELY SYMPATHISES, HE SAID, +BUT IT IS A SHOCK THAT IT SHOULD BE AIMED AT HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND HONG KONG CONTRIBUTE LITTLE TO THIS PROBLEM WHICH IS DUE TO QUITE DIFFERENT CAUSES AND DIFFERENT COMPETITION.

+IT IS MONSTROUS THAT IN SPITE OF THIS, THE OPPOSITE SHOULD BE ALLEGED OUT OF PURE POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY,+ HE ADDED.

HONG KONG WAS FORTUNATE, HOWEVER, IN THAT IT HAD FIRST CLASS NEGOTIATORS WHO HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE OBVIOUS ANSWER, SIR MURRAY SAID, LAY IN BOTH DIVERSIFICATION AND IN MOVING UP MARKET, AND IN BOTH DIRECTIONS THERE HAD BEEN NOTABLE SUCCESSES.

/THE GOVERNMENT,

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, COULD AND WOULD HELP IN TWO PARTICULAR WAYS -- FIRSTLY, BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF BACK-UP SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL AND SUPPORT FACILITIES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY STANDARDS, AS WELL AS BY TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT; AND SECONDLY, BY THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE GOVERNOR PUT MUCH FAITH IN THE NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE EXPANDED TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT WILL HELP DIRECT.

HE ALSO BELIEVED A SECOND POLYTECHNIC TO BE A MUST. +THE PRINCIPLE IS ACCEPTED. WE ARE NOW ONLY DISCUSSING THE HOW AND THE WHERE.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH CHINA AND TO THE NEED TO CONSTANTLY CULTIVATE THE STRONG AND GROWING ECONOMIC LINKS WITH THE UK.

IN HIS VIEW, OUR FUTURE MUST BE BASED ON TWO INTERCONNECTED ENDEAVOURS:

- * TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND DEEPEN THE TRADITIONAL MEANS OF OUR PROSPERITY BASED ON EXPORT, FINANCE, TOURISM AND COMMUNICATIONS (ALL WORLDWIDE IN NATURE AND EXTERNALLY ORIENTED), AND
- * AT THE SAME TIME EXPAND OUR TWO-WAY LINKS WITH GUANGDONG AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA WHEREVER MUTUAL BENEFIT CAN BE FOUND.

THESE TWO ENDEAVOURS, THE GOVERNOR SAID, ARE INTERRELATED BECAUSE WITHOUT THE PROSPERITY AND PURCHASING POWER DERIVED FROM OUR WORLDWIDE ROLE, OUR TRADE WITH CHINA WOULD DWINDLE; AND WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF STRONG MUTUAL COOPERATION AND TRUST WITH CHINA THE CONFIDENCE ON WHICH OUR WORLDWIDE INTERESTS ARE BASED MIGHT FAIL.

+SO THESE ARE THE LINES ON WHICH I AM SURE HONG KONG SHOULD DEVELOP. WE CAN DO SO FROM A SOUND INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL BASE, AND EXPERIENCE ACCUMULATED IN A HARD SCHOOL.

+I AM SURE THAT IN THIS WAY YOU MAY FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, SIR MURRAY SAID: +I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW SAD MY WIFE AND I ARE TO LEAVE HONG KONG; THESE YEARS HERE HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION AND A PRIVILEGE. THOUGH OUR FUTURE PLANS ARE VAGUE, CERTAINLY HONG KONG WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR THOUGHTS, WE HOPE TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS HERE, AND IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH WE CAN HELP AT ANY TIME WE WILL DO SO.+

EARLIER IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE FEDERATION, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR HONG KONG'S ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE PAST DECADE WAS DUE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS.

+I HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE AND THE EXHILARATION TO LIVE AND WORK AT THE CENTRE DURING THIS PERIOD OF DYNAMIC GROWTH- I HAVE ALSO HAD ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY.

+FOR A JUDGEMENT ON HOW THAT RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN DISCHARGED, THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER ANYTHING WAS ACHIEVED -- WITH A GROWTH OF 10 PER CENT ANNUALLY SOMETHING MUST HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED -- BUT WHETHER YOUR GOVERNMENT USED THIS GROWTH IN THE RIGHT WAY, DID THE RIGHT THINGS AT THE RIGHT TIME TO ENCOURAGE IT AND PROVIDE THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FURTHER GROWTH, AND THE STABILITY AND INTERNATIONAL RESPECT ON WHICH ALONE SECURE PROSPERITY CAN BE BUILT.

+THE JUDGEMENT MUST BE YOURS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD TO HOLD 4TH MEETING
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THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD, WILL HOLD ITS FOURTH MEETING AT THE CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16).

AMONG THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING WILL BE THE BOARD'S STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES FOR 1982/83 AND THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THE FOURTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING IS AN OPEN MEETING AND HEADMASTERS OF SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS.

DURING THE MEETING, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FOR PUBLISHING A DISTRICT NEWSPAPER FOR SHAM SHUI PO AIMED AT AROUSING LOCAL INTERESTS AMONG THE RESIDENTS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO GIVE THEIR OPINION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF WAI MAN VILLAGE, THE SPORTS TRAINING CLASSES AND DANCE CLASSES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT, AND THE VARIETY SHOW FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE LEI CHENG UK ESTATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD TO BE HELD AT THE CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL, 298 NAM CHEONG STREET, SHAM SHUI PO ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16) AT 2.30 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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50 000 YUEN LONG PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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ABOUT 50 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN YUEN LONG ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16).

ORGANISED BY THE SHAP PAT HEUNG RURAL COMMITTEE TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF TIN HAU - THE GODDESS OF HEAVEN - THE EVENT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FESTIVALS FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE WHO PRAY TO HER FOR FAIR WEATHER AND GOOD FISHING.

THE PROGRAMME WILL FEATURE A TWO-HOUR PROCESSION, BEGINNING AT 10.30 AM WHEN 7 000 PEOPLE FROM 34 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL SET OFF FROM THE EASTERN BUS TERMINUS, ARRIVING THE YUEN LONG STADIUM VIA FUNG CHEUNG, CASTLE PEAK AND TAI YUK ROADS.

THE PROCESSION WILL INCLUDE A PARADE BY FIVE DRAGONS, FOUR UNICORNS, 26 LIONS, THREE FLOATS, TWO FLORAL VEHICLES, CHIU CHAU GONGS AND DRUMS, PUPPET SHOW, CHINESE FOLK DANCES AND MUSIC.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, AND HIS WIFE WILL BE THE GUESTS OF HONOUR AT THE FESTIVAL PROCESSION.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A TRADITIONAL +FA PAU+ DRAW IN THE OPEN AREA OPPOSITE THE TAI SHU HA TEMPLE AT 3.30 PM.

THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON THE 23RD DAY OF THE THIRD MONTH ON THE LUNAR CALENDAR, WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATED IN OTHER FISHING AREAS LIKE JOSS HOUSE BAY, CHEUNG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL PROCESSION IN YUEN LONG ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16). A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 9 AM. STAFF OF CNTA INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE MEDIA.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16) FOR THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT TRAFFIC IN YUEN LONG WILL RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER THE PROCESSION IS COMPLETED IN THE AFTERNOON.

ROAD CLOSURES AND DIVERSIONS IN YUEN LONG (FROM 10 AM):

- * A SECTION OF THE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC LANE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN FUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND TAI YUK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. THE EXISTING EASTBOUND TRAFFIC LANE WILL THEN BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-LANE, TWO-WAY TRAFFIC, AND NO LANE CUTTING WILL BE ALLOWED;
- * FUNG CHEUNG STREET, HOP YICK ROAD, A SECTION OF TAI TONG ROAD BETWEEN HOP YICK ROAD AND KAU YUK ROAD AND TAI YUK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC;
- * MA MIU ROAD NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ON NING ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES;
- * BOTH BANKS OF THE NULLAH FROM TAI KI LING BRIDGE TO THE TEMPLE AT TAI SHU HA WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY FROM NORTHERN BANK ROAD TO SOUTHERN BANK ROAD.

SUSPENSION OF ON-STREET PARKING IN YUEN LONG (FROM 8 AM):

- * CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN FUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND TAI YUK ROAD;
- * ON NING ROAD SECTION BETWEEN KIK YEUNG ROAD AND MA MIU ROAD;
- * MA MIU ROAD SECTION BETWEEN ON NING ROAD AND MA WANG ROAD;
- * ON LOK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TAI KIU ROAD;
- * MA WANG ROAD;
- * WANG CHAU ROAD; AND
- * TAI KIU ROAD.

/BUS STOP

BUS STOP RELOCATION AND BUS DIVERSION (FROM 9.30 AM):

- * THE BUS TERMINUS IN FUNG CHEUNG ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED;
- * KMB ROUTES 50 AND 68 WILL TERMINATE AT MA MIU ROAD. ON JOURNEYS TO YUEN LONG, THE BUSES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD, MA WANG ROAD AND MA MIU ROAD, AND ON RETURN JOURNEYS VIA MA MIU ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD;
- * KMB ROUTES 53, 55, 57, 58 AND 61 WILL TERMINATE AT KIK YEUNG ROAD TERMINUS. ON JOURNEYS TO YUEN LONG, THE BUSES WILL BE VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD, MA WANG ROAD, MA MIU ROAD, ON NING ROAD AND KIK YEUNG ROAD AND OUTWARD JOURNEY VIA ON NING ROAD, MA MIU ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD;
- * KMB ROUTES 51, 54, 64, 76 AND 77 ON JOURNEYS TO YUEN LONG WILL BE EXTENDED BEYOND THE WESTERN ROUNDABOUT OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND PROCEED VIA MA WANG ROAD, MA MIU ROAD AND ON NING ROAD TO REACH KIK YEUNG ROAD TERMINUS. ON RETURN JOURNEYS, THE BUSES WILL OPERATE DIRECTLY FROM KIK YEUNG ROAD ONTO CASTLE PEAK ROAD;
- * KMB ROUTE 56 WILL OPERATE FROM WONG NAI TUN VIA TAI TONG TO FRASER VILLAGE WHERE A TEMPORARY STOP WILL BE PROVIDED; AND
- * ALL BUS STOPS ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG) SECTION BETWEEN FUNG CHEUNG STREET AND TAI YUK ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

AS FOR TUEN MUN, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM.

- * A SECTION OF TIN HAU ROAD ITS JUNCTION WITH TSING WUN ROAD.
- * A SECTION OF HUNG CHEUNG ROAD ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN HAU ROAD.
- * A SECTION OF SAN ON STREET ITS JUNCTION WITH HUNG CHEUNG ROAD
- * A SECTION OF HING WONG STREET ITS JUNCTION WITH HUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CAR PARK IN SAN ON STREET AND THE CAR PARK BETWEEN HUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND SAN LIK STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

EXTRA POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON DUTY TO GUIDE MOTORISTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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EXHIBITION ON EYE CARE

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT AN EXHIBITION ON SATURDAY (APRIL 17) TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD EYE CARE.

THE FIVE-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT ADMIRALTY STATION. ADMISSION WILL BE FREE.

THROUGH VISUAL AIDS, IT WILL FEATURE THE STRUCTURE OF THE EYE AND WAYS TO PREVENT COMMON EYE DISEASES, INCLUDING CATARACT, GLAUCOMA, REFRACTIVE ERRORS, AND RATIONAL DETACHMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EXHIBITION IS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO PROTECT THEIR EYES.

+PEOPLE WHO ARE GIFTED WITH GOOD EYE SIGHT SHOULD LEARN HOW TO CONSERVE IT. THE COMMON SAYING OF PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN EYE CARE,+ HE ADDED.

FOR SOME DISEASES SUCH AS CATARACT AND GLAUCOMA, EARLY DETECTION AND EARLY TREATMENT CAN PREVENT BLINDNESS.

SOME OF THE DISPLAYS FOCUS ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST INJURIES TO EYES WHICH MAY BE SUSTAINED IN INDUSTRIAL INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY UNTIL WEDNESDAY (APRIL 21) AND STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY DAY FROM 9.30 AM TO 5 PM TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT EYE CARE.

A BOOKLET ON EYE CARE WILL ALSO BE GIVEN FREE TO VISITORS.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES RAISE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY CHEST

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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RAISED A TOTAL OF \$34 047 FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH.

THE MONEY, A RECORD SUM RAISED BY THE DEPARTMENT, CAME FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY STAFF OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND A CHARITY WALK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, \$33 402 WAS RAISED FOR THE CHEST.

AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT VICTORIA PRISON TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE VICE PATRON OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST, MR YU LOOK-YAU, RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT FROM SUPERINTENDENT LI TING-CHONG, WHO REPRESENTED ALL STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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NEW PLATFORM FOR LO WU STATION ***

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLATFORMS AT LO WU STATION AS PART OF THE ELECTRIFICATION AND MODERNISATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED A \$47 MILLION CONTRACT TO MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE NEW PLATFORMS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR LEUNG MIN-SUN, GOVERNMENT ENGINEER OF THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

THE WORKS WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE PLATFORMS AND SUBWAYS SUPPORTED ON STEEL BEARING PILES AND PLATFORM CANOPIES.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT IS THE BUILDING OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION WHICH WILL HOUSE THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OPERATING AT LO WU WHEN THE NEW STATION IS BUILT TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWUN TONG ***

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE BUS AND GENERAL TRAFFIC FLOW ON HOI YUEN ROAD IN KWUN TONG WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16).

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, THE BAN ON RIGHT-TURNS FROM SHING YIP STREET ONTO HOI YUEN ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE RESCINDED, AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE ROAD JUNCTION.

HOWEVER, NO RIGHT-TURN WILL BE PERMITTED FROM HOI YUEN ROAD SOUTHBOUND INTO HOW MING STREET WESTBOUND.

IN ADDITION, THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND BUS STOPS AT HOI YUEN ROAD WILL BE MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING NEW LOCATIONS:

- * REVISED NORTHBOUND BUS STOP LOCATIONS:
ROUTE 40 - OUTSIDE NO. 61, HOI YUEN ROAD;
ROUTE 5B, 11D, 19, 23 - OUTSIDE NO. 47/49, HOI YUEN ROAD.
- * REVISED SOUTHBOUND BUS STOP LOCATIONS:
ROUTE 19 - OUTSIDE NO. 64, HOI YUEN ROAD;
ROUTE 13C - OPPOSITE NO. 63, HOI YUEN ROAD AND
ROUTE 23 - OPPOSITE NO. 61, HOI YUEN ROAD.

THE NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGMENTS WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT STRESSED.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FLYOVER

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TWO SECTIONS OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16) FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

THEY ARE:

- * THE EASTBOUND TRAFFIC LANE OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FLYOVER, LEADING FROM KOWLOON CITY INTERCHANGE NEAR THE JUNCTION OF BOUNDARY STREET AND COLLEGE ROAD ONTO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST NEAR TAK KU LING ROAD; AND
- * THE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC LANE OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FLYOVER, LEADING FROM KOWLOON CITY INTERCHANGE NEAR NAM KOK ROAD ONTO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST NEAR SHORT STREET.

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FROM BOUNDARY STREET TO SAN PO KONG AND WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FROM SAN PO KONG TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST CAN PROCEED ON THE GROUND LEVEL ROADS AS USUAL, AND WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE.

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KOWLOON SALT WATER MAINS CHECKS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF AT DIFFERENT TIMES BETWEEN APRIL 15 AND APRIL 20 TO FACILITATE ROUTINE CHECKS OF WATER MAINS.

AFFECTED DISTRICTS INCLUDE WANG TAU HOM, HO MAN TIN, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY AND SAN PO KONG.

THE DATES AND LOCATIONS OF THE WATER CUTS ARE:

- APRIL 15 - PREMISES ALONG RENFREW ROAD, OXFORD ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD.
- APRIL 16 - WANG TAU HOM, LOK FU ESTATE AND PREMISES ALONG JUNCTION ROAD, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, CARPENTER ROAD, SHEK KU LUNG ROAD, KAI TAK ROAD, TAK KU LING ROAD, SOUTH WALL ROAD, LUNG KONG ROAD, NAM KOK ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, HAU WONG ROAD AND LION ROCK ROAD.
- APRIL 18 - PREMISES ALONG LOK SIN ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TUNG TAU LANE AND TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD (INCLUDING TUNG TAU ESTATE).
- APRIL 19 - UPPER AND LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE AND PREMISES ALONG CHUK YUEN ROAD, MUK LUN STREET.
- APRIL 20 - PREMISES ALONG SHA TIN PASS ROAD, FUNG TAK ROAD AND PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (APRIL 17) AT 10 AM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

THIRTY-FIVE SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CT1288	CS1138	CS3882	CF 100	CP 78
CS 379	CS8283	7777	CR8688	AS 888
AA 820	AY 208	CS8388	CS1789	CM 55
CS1635	CS1288	CS 118	CS 330	CT 181
AT 1	CS 732	CS8838	CS 748	CC 678
CS9616	CL 88	CS3278	CS 631	CS 378
CS 900	CS 899	CS8783	CS 328	CS1833

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 74TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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