



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1978

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N.T. NEW TOWNS CONCEPT NOW A REALITY, SAYS GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCEPT OF BUILDING THREE MAJOR NEW TOWNS AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN - ANNOUNCED SIX YEARS AGO - HAS NOW BECOME A REALITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS WILL SEE NOT ONLY THE CRYSTALISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR HOUSING AND INDUSTRY IN THE TOWNS, BUT ALSO THE COMPLETION OF THEIR TOWN CENTRES, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SWIMMING POOLS, LIBRARIES AND PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER FACILITIES.

+THESE TOWNS OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SOMETHING BETTER THAN WAS POSSIBLE IN THE OLD URBAN AREAS, AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEIZE IT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING TO MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE - INCLUDING UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, URBAN COUNCILLORS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF THE CONSULAR CORPS AND RURAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS - WHO WERE GUESTS AT THE CITY HALL TO SEE THE INAUGURATION OF THE 23RD TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

THE 111 COUNCILLORS WHO MAKE UP THE FULL COUNCIL OF THE KUK WERE SEATED BEHIND SIR MURRAY AND THE OFFICIAL PARTY WHICH COMPRISED THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN= THE KUK'S OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, MR. CHAN YAT-SAN= THE NEW CHAIRMAN, MR. STEPHEN Y.C. WONG= THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. LAU WONG-FAT= THE SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. PETER YEUNG AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES.

IN A WIDE-RANGING SPEECH TOUCHING ON MANY ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS WAS WELL UNDERWAY.+

+THE ORIGINAL RECLAMATION AT SHA TIN IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AND PLANS FOR ITS EXTENSION ARE FAR ADVANCED. LARGE AREAS OF THE VALLEY ARE BEING PREPARED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ESTATES FOR ABOUT 145,000 PEOPLE ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION,+ HE SAID. +THERE IS EMPLOYMENT, TOO, AT HAND FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE NEARBY INDUSTRIAL CENTRE AT FO TAN.

+AT TSUEN WAN, DEVELOPMENT HAS MOVED INTO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TOWN AND HAS BEEN ACCELERATED BY THE EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

+WORK IS ALSO IN HAND TO IMPROVE THE OLDER DENSELY POPULATED PART OF THE TOWN= HOUSING ESTATES ARE ALREADY OCCUPIED ON TSING YI, WHICH, IN THE LAST SIX YEARS, HAS ALSO DEVELOPED AS AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL AREA.+

/SIR MURRAY SAID .....

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SIR MURRAY SAID THAT AT THE THIRD NEW TOWN OF TUEN MUN, RECLAMATION OF THE CENTRAL AREA WAS COMPLETE AND BY THE END OF 1980 THE TOWN'S POPULATION WOULD BE MORE THAN 100,000 AND WOULD EXPAND QUICKLY THEREAFTER. HE NOTED THAT AN INDUSTRIAL CENTRE WAS ALSO WELL ESTABLISHED AT TUEN MUN.

SIR MURRAY RECALLED THAT WHEN HE ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 20TH TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK IN 1972, HE HAD MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF THE RURAL SPRAWL OVER LOW-LYING LAND.

+WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM,+ HE SAID, +BECAUSE, AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION, IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT ANY OVERALL SOLUTION WOULD INVOLVE LARGE-SCALE INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVATE RIGHTS AND DISTURBANCE TO THE LIVELIHOOD OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SMALL HOLDERS AND FARMERS WHO WERE LARGELY CONTENT WITH THEIR PRESENT HOMES AND PATTERN OF LIFE.

+UNTIL, THEREFORE, THEY ARE READY FOR COMPREHENSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AT BEST WE MUST ENSURE THAT ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF SANITATION ARE MAINTAINED IN THESE RURAL AREAS, THAT STREAM COURSES ARE CLEANED AND THAT SCHEMES FOR VILLAGE LIGHTING AND WATER SUPPLY ARE PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTED.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT COUPLED WITH THESE IMPROVEMENTS, A CONSCIOUS PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THE MARKET TOWNS - THE FOCUS FOR THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE RURAL AREAS - WAS NOW UNDERWAY.

+WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN EACH OF THEM NEW MARKETS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND RECREATION GROUNDS WILL BE BUILT,+ HE SAID.

+PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ARE NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT YUEN LONG, TAI PO, CHEUNG CHAU, MUI WO, TAI O, SAI KUNG, AND A START HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING FANLING - SHEUNG SHUI INTO A LARGE MODERN TOWN.

+THE COMPLETION OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN THESE TOWNS SHOULD HOPEFULLY STOP THE FURTHER SPREAD OF UNSIGHTLY AND INSANITARY SQUATTING INTO SURROUNDING LANDS.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED A POSITIVE PROGRAMME TO PRESERVE THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR RECREATION UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT INVOLVED AN INVESTMENT OF \$70 MILLION, OF WHICH \$12.4 MILLION WAS BEING SPENT THIS YEAR IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT CENTRES, ACCESS ROADS, TREE PLANTING AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS, THE INTERESTS OF VILLAGERS WOULD BE PROTECTED AND THAT IN THIS RESPECT, THE ADVICE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

/SIR MURRAY NOTED .....

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BROUGHT WITH IT MANY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACQUISITION AND CLEARANCE OF LAND. REFERRING TO THE KUK'S INTEREST IN THESE PROBLEMS, SIR MURRAY HOPED THAT THE RECENTLY-REVISED METHODS AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR THE RESUMPTION OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND FOR A REGULAR REVIEW OF THE COMPENSATION RATES, WOULD GIVE LAND OWNERS GREATER SATISFACTION.

HE ADDED: +I AM GRATEFUL TO THE KUK FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION OF THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS. AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN, COMPENSATION RATES FOR LAND OUTSIDE THE TOWNS ARE ALSO BEING REVIEWED.

+THESE MEASURES TOGETHER WITH AN UPDATING OF OTHER LEVELS OF COMPENSATION WILL GO SOME WAY TO AMELIORATING THE UPHEAVAL IN THE LIVES OF THE MANY PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO REPLIED TO THREE POINTS RAISED IN THE SPEECH BY THE KUK'S CHAIRMAN, MR. WONG, EMPHASING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING +AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AND EFFORT IN AND FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT HAS NEVER BEEN MATCHED AT ANY TIME IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG.+

ON HOUSING - THE FIRST POINT RAISED BY MR. WONG - SIR MURRAY SAID THAT UNDER THE SMALL HOUSE POLICY, WHICH WAS APPROVED IN 1972 SO AS TO ENABLE VILLAGERS MORE EASILY TO BUILD HOUSES FOR THEMSELVES TO LIVE IN, A TOTAL OF 4,853 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN APPROVED UP TO THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR.

+WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES FOUND IT NECESSARY TO INTERRUPT THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS IN SOME AREAS AT THE END OF LAST YEAR BECAUSE THE POLICY WAS BEING MISUSED ON A LARGE SCALE FOR PRIVATE PROFIT, I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT RECENT DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE HAD WITH THE SECRETARY HAVE HOPEFULLY RESOLVED THIS PROBLEM,+ SIR MURRAY SAID. +BUT, I SHOULD ADD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE POLICY SHOULD BE OBSERVED.+

ON THE PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS AND THE OPENING OF NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS SO AS TO PROVIDE FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS NEW SCHOOLS WILL NORMALLY ONLY OPERATE FORM I CLASSES INITIALLY AND WILL EXTEND INTO HIGHER FORMS EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

+HOWEVER, A LIMITED NUMBER OF CLASSES IN FORMS II AND III WILL BE ALLOWED IN SOME OF THE NEW SCHOOLS THAT OPEN IN SEPTEMBER,+ HE ADDED. +THE PROVISION OF NEW SCHOOLS TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS IN KEEPING WITH OUR AIM TO PROVIDE A PROPER BALANCE OF FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

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DEALING WITH THE THIRD POINT RAISED BY MR. WONG - THE KUK'S SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER FOR STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS IN LONDON LAST YEAR - SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT A FULL REPLY HAD BEEN SENT SETTING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ALL THE POINTS RAISED.

+SINCE THEN, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NEW TERRITORIES URBAN LAND ACQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED,+ HE ADDED.

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPENDITURE TO PROVIDE AN EVEN SPREAD OF SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS WELL IN EXCESS OF THE DIRECT REVENUE RECEIVED +AND ALL IN HONG KONG SHARE IN THE PROSPERITY WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH.+

REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S MACHINERY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT WHILE THE CREATION OF THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS HAD STRENGTHENED THE PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MACHINERY IN EACH REGION SHOULD BE STRONG AND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO, AND SOLVE, PURELY LOCAL PROBLEMS.

+YOU WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THAT A PROGRAMME OF PHASES REINFORCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS BEING EXAMINED,+ HE SAID. +CLEARLY, IT IS NECESSARY.+

AT THE CENTRE, HE SAID, THE ADVICE OF THE KUK WOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AND HE WAS SURE THAT VARIOUS COMMITTEES FORMED BY THE KUK WOULD BE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR THE FORMULATION OF IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

EXPRESSING HIS BEST WISHES TO THE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE 23RD TERM, SIR MURRAY SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE KUK WOULD FULFIL ITS ROLE WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AT HEART.

HE ALSO THANKED MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS TERM OF THE KUK AND PARTICULARLY MR. CHAN YAT-SAN WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE KUK FOR 10 YEARS UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT MR. CHAN'S +PATIENT AND TIMELY REMINDERS TO US OF THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, HIS BALANCED ADVICE AND REGARD NOT ONLY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES BUT THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN MOST VALUABLE DURING A VITAL PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT.+

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QUALIFYING AGE FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE TO BE LOWERED  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO LOWER THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FROM 75 TO 70 IN ONE STEP WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (GENERAL), MR. LU YU-HUA, SAID IT REPRESENTED YET ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INTRODUCED AN OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT FOR PEOPLE AGED OVER 60 WHO ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND HAS EXTENDED THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE TO INCLUDE OLD PEOPLE LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS.

HE SAID THE LOWERING OF THE QUALIFYING AGE WOULD IMMEDIATELY RENDER AN ADDITIONAL 74,000 PERSONS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE 70-74 AGE GROUP ELIGIBLE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE.

+ASSUMING AN INITIAL TAKE-UP RATE OF 65 PER CENT OR 48,000 APPLICANTS, IT WILL REPRESENT A 73 PER CENT INCREASE ON THE PRESENT CLIENTELE OF 66,000 NOW RECEIVING THE ALLOWANCE,+ HE SAID.

MR. LU SAID THOSE WHO WERE ELIGIBLE COULD NOW APPLY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE CASELOAD, THERE MIGHT BE SOME INITIAL DELAYS IN PROCESSING THE NEW APPLICATIONS.

HOWEVER, HE GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EFFECT PAYMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION.

WHERE DELAYS CANNOT BE AVOIDED, HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH CASES WOULD EVENTUALLY RECEIVE PAYMENTS BACK-DATED TO THE DATE OF APPLICATION AFTER OCTOBER 1.

+SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WITH THE GREATEST NEEDS, THAT IS THOSE WHO ARE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE,+ HE ADDED.

TO FACILITATE PROCESSING, HE ADVISED THAT APPLICANTS SHOULD APPLY IN WRITING TO ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS IN OR NEAR THEIR DISTRICT.

APPLICANTS WOULD THEN BE NOTIFIED OF A DATE FOR INTERVIEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTERWARDS, HE SAID.

+IF ANY APPLICANT IS CONFINED TO BED OR CANNOT TRAVEL TO ANY OF OUR OFFICES, HE CAN INFORM US AND A SOCIAL WORKER WILL CALL AT HIS HOME TO PROCESS HIS APPLICATION,+ HE ADDED.

THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE IS NON-MEANS-TESTED AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE OLD PEOPLE WITH SOME DEGREE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ENABLE THEIR FAMILIES TO CONTINUE CARING FOR THEM. THE PRESENT RATE IS \$100 A MONTH.

/MR. LU SAID .....

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MR. LU SAID THE PROPOSAL FOR A REDUCTION OF THE QUALIFYING AGE WAS MADE IN THE GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH RECOMMENDED THE REDUCTION IN TWO STAGES - TO 73 IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR AND TO 70 BY APRIL NEXT YEAR - MAINLY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS.

IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OPINION, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO LOWER THE QUALIFYING AGE TO 70 IN ONE STEP FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR RATHER THAN IN TWO STAGES AS RECOMMENDED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ONE-STEP REDUCTION IS EXPECTED TO COST AN EXTRA \$28.5 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, WHICH WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE \$78.1 MILLION ALREADY PROVIDED FOR PAYMENTS OF THE ALLOWANCE TO EXISTING CLIENTS, HE SAID.

THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM THIS EXTENDED PROVISION WOULD BE \$73 MILLION IN THE YEAR 1979-80 AND \$98.6 MILLION BY 1983-84, MAKING AN ESTIMATED TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE OF \$158.3 MILLION AND \$205.2 MILLION IN THE RESPECTIVE YEARS.

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LAND SALES FORECAST  
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TWENTY-EIGHT LOTS OF CROWN LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 45,336 SQUARE METRES WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1978, TO MARCH 31, 1979, BY THE P.W.D.'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, MR. D.M. SCOTT-WILL, P.W.D.'S ACTING GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, SAID THE LOTS COMPRISED 17 NON-INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SITES, SIX PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITES AND FIVE FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN PURPOSES.

HE SAID THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SITES COMPRISED A TOTAL AREA OF 22,061 SQUARE METRES.

OF THE 17 NON-INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SITES, NINE ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WHILE THE OTHER EIGHT LOTS ARE IN KOWLOON.

/FOUR OF THE MAJOR .....

FOUR OF THE MAJOR NON-INDUSTRIAL SITES, MEASURING A TOTAL OF 10,911 SQUARE METRES, ARE SITUATED AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND ANOTHER LARGE SITE WITH AN AREA OF 3,200 SQUARE METRES IS IN LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD.

OF THE REMAINING NON-INDUSTRIAL SITES, FOUR ARE IN THE QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL/WEST AND HOLLYWOOD ROAD AREA AND THREE IN NAM ON FONG VILLAGE.

THE RESIDENTIAL LAND OFFERED FOR SALE DURING THE SIX MONTHS COMPRISES A TOTAL AREA OF 12,425 SQUARE METRES. THEY INCLUDE THREE LOTS AT KWUN TONG WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 6,315 SQUARE METRES AND TWO GOOD SITES - ONE AT LA SALLE ROAD AND THE OTHER BETWEEN CAMBRIDGE ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD - MEASURING 3,237 SQUARE METRES AND 2,833 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIVE INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN SITES TO BE PUT UP FOR SALE MEASURE A TOTAL OF 10,850 SQUARE METRES.

THEY ARE LOCATED AT YIP KAN STREET (2,150 SQUARE METRES), WINSLOW STREET (1,600 SQUARE METRES), SAM KA TSUEN (3,300 SQUARE METRES), TIN WAN HILL ROAD (600 SQUARE METRES), AND WINSLOW STREET (3,200 SQUARE METRES).

MR. SCOTT-WILL ADDED THAT THE PROGRAMME WAS ONLY A PROVISIONAL ONE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

DATES OF SALE FOR EACH LOT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND ADVERTISED IN NEWSPAPER.

DETAILS OF THE LAND SALES FORECAST TOGETHER WITH PLANS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE LOTS TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE MAY BE SEEN AT THE P.W.D.'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND AT THE KOWLOON BRANCH OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

THEY MAY BE INSPECTED AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OFFICES AND AT THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

COPIES OF THE SIX-MONTH FORECAST MAY BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM ANY OF THESE OFFICES OR BY WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE P.W.D.

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APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME FOR CONSTRUCTION CRAFT  
TRADES EFFECTIVE FROM TOMORROW  
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EMPLOYERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION CRAFT TRADES OF BRICKLAYER/  
PLASTERER/TILER, BAMBOO SCAFFOLDER AND PLUMBER ARE REQUIRED  
TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP WITH EMPLOYEES BETWEEN  
THE AGES OF 14 AND 18 AS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE TRADES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER THE  
APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME ON THE ADVICE OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING  
COUNCIL. THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED TRADES UNDER THE  
CONTROL OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE TO 31.

THE APPRENTICESHIP PERIOD FOR THE THREE NEW TRADES HAS BEEN  
SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AS THREE YEARS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY: +IT IS  
THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE APPRENTICE TRAINING IN TRADES  
WHICH ARE VITAL TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES AND TO ENSURE AN  
ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED MANPOWER IN THESE TRADES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP MUST BE  
MADE IN THE SPECIFIED FORM AND REGISTERED WITH THE LABOUR  
DEPARTMENT SO THAT THE APPRENTICES WILL BE GIVEN PROPER  
TRAINING.

THIS WOULD RESULT IN BETTER-TRAINED CRAFTSMEN, HE SAID, AND  
AT THE SAME TIME A CONTRACT OF APPRENTICESHIP REGISTERED WITH THE  
LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO HELP PROTECT THE EMPLOYER FROM  
LOSING HIS APPRENTICE TO ANOTHER EMPLOYER.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR HAS THE POWER TO GRANT EXEMPTION  
IN CERTAIN CASES — SUCH AS IF HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE YOUNG  
PERSON HAS UNDERGONE SUFFICIENT TRAINING IN A PARTICULAR TRADE.

ANYONE REQUIRING INFORMATION ON THE APPRENTICESHIP  
ORDINANCE OR APPRENTICE TRAINING SHOULD CONTACT OFFICERS OF THE  
LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP DIVISION AT NEW RODNEY  
BLOCK, 99 QUEENSWAY, WAN CHAI (TEL. 5-280545) OR PARIS THEATRE  
BUILDING, 7 KING FUK STREET, GROUND FLOOR, SAN PO KONG  
(TEL. 3-219285).

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MORE COMMUNITY NURSING COURSES ON THE WAY

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE MORE COMMUNITY NURSING COURSES IN THE COMING YEARS TO TRAIN BOTH REGISTERED AND ENROLLED NURSES TO CARE FOR PATIENTS IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND FACILITATE THEIR EARLY DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. LAM SIM-FOOK, AT THE PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO 22 GRADUATES OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT-RUN COMMUNITY NURSING COURSE.

HE SAID THE COURSE IS A JOINT EFFORT BY THE DEPARTMENT WHICH MADE AVAILABLE THE CLASSROOM AND TEACHING FACILITIES AND THE SIX VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ALREADY PROVIDING THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE ON THE FIELD.

+I CONSIDER THIS TO BE A UNIQUE MILESTONE MARKING YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL VENTURE PIONEERED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH SINCE APRIL 1977 HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY A GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED SERVICE TO THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE PAST 16 MONTHS, DR. LAM SAID, THE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO EVALUATE AND CONSOLIDATE THE SERVICE AND TO ASSESS WHETHER EXPANSION IS NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S SICK AND DISABLED, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY.

A REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING, HE ADDED.

DR. LAM SAID CONCURRENTLY WITH THE TRAINING OF COMMUNITY NURSES GOES WITH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF MAKING THE EXISTENCE OF THE SERVICE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE AND EDUCATING PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS DOCTORS, THERAPISTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS HOW THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE CAN BEST BE USED TO REHABILITATE AND GIVE CONTINUING CARE TO THEIR PATIENTS.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE IS NOT A PRIVATE NURSING SERVICE AND DOES NOT GIVE CONSTANT NURSING SUPERVISION.

+EACH VISIT BY A COMMUNITY NURSE IS LIMITED TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR GIVING NECESSARY NURSING CARE AND INSTRUCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

DR. LAM POINTED OUT THAT THE PART PLAYED BY THE COMMUNITY NURSE IS IN SUPPORTING -- TO ENABLE THE FAMILY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THEIR SICK, DISABLED OR ELDERLY INFIRM RELATIVES IN THE HOME.

+THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT. THE COMMUNITY NURSE'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FAMILY AS A WHOLE IS A PRIME FACTOR IN BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HOSPITAL AND HOME,+ HE SAID.

/THE EXISTING .....

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THE EXISTING COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY SIX ORGANISATIONS — THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, OUR LADY OF MARYKNOLL HOSPITAL, THE YANG MEMORIAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE, NETHERSOLE HOSPITAL AND THE RENNIE'S MILL CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTRE.

THE CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A PATIENT INTO CARE BY THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE ARE THAT HE BE REFERRED BY A DOCTOR, THAT HE DOES NOT REQUIRE HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT TREATMENT, THAT HE HAS DIFFICULTY IN ATTENDING A CLINIC FOR FOLLOW-UP AND YET NEEDS SKILLED NURSING CARE AND THAT THE HOME CONDITIONS MUST BE SUITABLE FOR CARE AT HOME.

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PRE-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS  
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED BUILDINGS AT NOS. 124 AND 126, SECOND STREET IN WESTERN DISTRICT TO BE IN DANGEROUS CONDITION AND THOSE AT NOS. 120 AND 122, SECOND STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE FOUR STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING WALLS, WERE RECENTLY INSPECTED FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM AGNES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SAID: +THE BRICKWORK AT THE REAR OF THESE BUILDINGS WAS FOUND TO BE IN EXTREMELY POOR CONDITION.

+THE REAR MAIN WALL AND KITCHEN BLOCK OF NOS. 124 AND 126, SECOND STREET ALSO SHOW CLEAR SIGNS OF OUTWARD MOVEMENT. AS THERE IS A RISK OF NOS. 124 AND 126, SECOND STREET COLLAPSING THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THESE BUILDINGS IS NECESSARY.

+THERE IS A SERIOUS DANGER THAT NOS. 120 AND 122, SECOND STREET WOULD COLLAPSE DURING OR FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF NOS. 124 AND 126, SECOND STREET. ACCORDINGLY, THE CLOSURE AND DEMOLITION OF THESE TWO BUILDINGS IS ALSO NECESSARY.+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 29 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1978

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BOOKLET ON SHA TIN NEW TOWN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A REVISED VERSION OF A BOOKLET ON SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE FULL COLOUR BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, AT \$10 A COPY.

THE 44-PAGE PUBLICATION, AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE BOOKLET FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1976, CONTAINS MANY NEW PHOTOGRAPHS, TABLES, DIAGRAMS AND MAPS.

COMMENTING ON THE BOOKLET, MR. JOHN DON, DIRECTOR FOR NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, P.W.D., SAID THAT THE PUBLICATION WAS BEING BROUGHT OUT AT A TIME WHEN A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLIC INTEREST WAS BEING FOCUSED ON SHA TIN.

HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF MAJOR ENGINEERING WORKS FOR SHA TIN WERE COMPLETED OR NEARING COMPLETION SUCH AS THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL, THE DUAL-LANE TRUNK ROAD RUNNING THROUGH SHA TIN, THE FO TAN STORMWATER NULLAH, TRANSPORT FACILITIES NEAR THE NEW RACE COURSE, AND FORMATION OF NEW LAND IN MANY ATTRACTIVE LOCATIONS.

+IN ADDITION TO MANY OF THE NEW FACILITIES WHICH ARE NEARING COMPLETION, MANY NEW ENGINEERING WORKS HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP TO GRADUALLY SHAPE SHA TIN INTO A MODERN SELF-CONTAINED TOWNSHIP WITH A PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT.+ HE ADDED.

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PRESENTATION OF APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATES

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, WILL VISIT THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. LTD. AT 1, PO LUN STREET, LAI CHI KOK, AT 2.30 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO PRESENT APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATES AND TO OFFICIATE AT THE SIGNING-ON OF NEW APPRENTICES.

MR. HENDERSON WILL ADDRESS THE APPRENTICES AND THEIR PARENTS AND WILL SEE APPRENTICES AT WORK.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (INDUSTRIAL TRAINING), MR. HORACE KNIGHT, AND PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER, MRS. JOYCE SAVIDGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A VAN, AM2079, WILL LEAVE FROM THE REAR ENTRANCE OF G.I.S. AT BATTERY PATH AT 1.45 P.M. SHARP.

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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

Thursday, August 31, 1978

SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR AT THE INAUGURATION  
CEREMONY OF THE 23rd TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK

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It is six years since I attended the last Inauguration Ceremony of the Twentieth Term of the Heung Yee Kuk in 1972 and on that occasion, I spoke about your Government's plans for the three parts of the New Territories - the new towns, the surrounding low-land rural areas and the undeveloped countryside. I would like to review briefly how far we have travelled towards the goals I described six years ago.

The development of the new towns is now firmly on its way. The original reclamation of the sea at Shatin is virtually complete and plans for its extension are far advanced. Large areas of the valley are being prepared for development and housing estates for about 145,000 people are in various stages of construction; there is employment, tool at hand for the people in the nearby industrial centre at Fo Tan.

At Tsuen Wan development has moved into the northern part of the town and has been accelerated by the extension of the Mass Transit Railway. Work is also in hand to improve the older densely populated part of the town; housing estates are already occupied on Tsing Yi which, in the last six years, has also developed as an important industrial area. At the

/third new town, .....



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grounds will all be built. Public housing estates are now being constructed at Yuen Long, Tai Po, Cheung Chau, Mui Wo, Tai O, Sai Kung, and a start has been made in the process of building Fanling-Sheung Shui into a large modern town. The completion of an adequate supply of public housing in these towns should hopefully stop the further spread of unsightly and insanitary squatting into surrounding lands.

Finally, we have adopted a positive programme to preserve and develop the countryside for recreation under the Country Parks Authority. The development programme, which is being administered by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, involves an investment of \$70 million, of which \$12.4 million is being spent this year in building management centres, access roads, tree planting and other improvements. In the development of the country parks, the interests of the villagers will be protected, and in this respect the advice and co-operation of Rural Committees is of great importance.

Development of the New Territories has brought with it many problems associated with the acquisition and clearance of land and the Kuk has always taken a close interest in these problems. I hope that the recently revised methods and rates of compensation for the resumption of land in the New Territories for urban development and for a regular review of the compensation rates will give landowners greater satisfaction. I am grateful to the Kuk for its contribution and participation in the formulation of these new arrangements. As recommended by the Working Group, compensation rates for land outside the towns are also being reviewed. These measures together with an updating of other levels of compensation will go some way to ameliorating the upheaval in the lives of the many people affected by development.

/It might be .....

It might be helpful if I were to take this opportunity of replying to the three points Mr. Wong made in his speech. But please bear in mind that in speaking of these three points I am doing so against a background of Government expenditure and effort in and for the New Territories that has never been matched at any time in the history of Hong Kong; and the Secretary for the New Territories is a member of the Executive Council.

Firstly housing. Implementation of the small house policy, which was approved so as to enable villagers more easily to build houses for themselves to live in, began in 1972, and since then 4,853 applications have been approved up to the end of March this year. While it is true that the Secretary for the New Territories found it necessary to interrupt the processing of applications in some areas at the end of last year because the policy was being misused on a large scale for private profit, I am glad to hear that recent discussions you have had with the Secretary have hopefully resolved this problem, but, I should add, it is important that the spirit of the policy should be observed.

With regard to the provision of secondary school places, during the initial stages of development of the new towns and the opening of new secondary schools so as to provide free junior secondary education, that for practical reasons new schools will normally only operate Form I classes initially and will extend into higher forms each year thereafter. However, a limited number of classes in Forms II and III will be allowed in some of the new schools that open this September. The provision of new schools to achieve universal junior secondary education will substantially improve the regional distribution of schools in keeping with our aim to

/provide a proper .....

provide a proper balance of facilities throughout the New Territories.

On the third point, concerning the Kuk's submission to the Minister of State made in April last year, a full reply was sent setting out the Government's position on all the points raised. Since then the recommendations of the Working Group on New Territories Urban Land Acquisitions have been accepted and implemented.

You also mentioned, Mr. Wong, the failure of Government to provide public services and social facilities in the New Territories. I mentioned earlier the various programmes to provide an even spread of services throughout the New Territories.

Expenditure on these development programmes is well in excess of the direct revenue received and all in Hong Kong share in the prosperity which the development of the New Territories contributes to our economic growth.

Finally while the processes of consultation in the New Territories at a District level have been strengthened with the formation of the District Advisory Boards, it is necessary, too, that the Government machinery in each region should be strong and powerful enough to respond to, and solve, purely local problems; you will be glad to hear that a programme of phased reinforcement of Government local administration in the New Territories is being examined. Clearly it is necessary. At the centre, the advice of the Kuk will continue to receive careful consideration and I am sure the various committees of the Kuk, which you have organised, will be a **useful** vehicle for the formulation of ideas and recommendations.

/I am happy .....

I am happy to note from the Chairman's speech that the Kuk is determined to continue its efforts to promote the co-operation and understanding between the people of the New Territories and the Government. I am confident that the Kuk will fulfil its role with the best interests of Hong Kong at heart, and I would like to express my very best wishes to the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Councillors of the new term of the Kuk in their work.

I would also like to thank the members of the Twenty-Second Term for all their dedication and service to the people of the New Territories.

I would particularly like to thank Mr. Chan Yat-san for his long period of service to the people of the New Territories, first as a member of the Tuen Mun Rural Committee, and latterly as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Kuk. His patient and timely reminders to us of the needs of the people of the New Territories, his balanced advice and regard not only for the New Territories but the overall interests of Hong Kong, have been most valuable during a very vital period of development.

May I wish you all every success, good health and happiness.