



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

HONG KONG READY TO RESUME TEXTILE TALKS WITH EEC .....	1
FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME TO BE SET UP .....	2
CS PRAISES POLICE FORCE FOR SUCCESS IN CURBING CRIME ....	5
NO MAJOR CHANGE TO HK BELONGERS' RIGHTS IN UK'S NATIONALITY LAW SEEN .....	6
\$6,000 MILLION PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR NEXT THREE YEARS .....	9
COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS BEING MADE IN N.T. DEVELOPMENT ....	11
CONSULTANTS TO BE APPOINTED TO STUDY BRIDGE TO LANTAU ...	14
GOVERNMENT URGED TO PUBLICISE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL .....	16
POSSIBILITY OF AN EXHIBITION CENTRE BEING RE-EXAMINED ...	17
NEED FOR AN ARTS ACADEMY .....	18
CROWN RIGHTS (RE-ENTRY AND VESTING REMEDIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 .....	19
THREE BILLS PASSED .....	20
GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES FOR ELDERLY TO BE RELEASED TOMORROW .....	20
MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRISON WORK CLARIFIED .....	21
YOUTH HOBBIES EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW .....	22

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 1 -

HK READY TO RESUME TEXTILE TALKS WITH EEC

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HONG KONG IS READY TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE EEC ON THE TEXTILE AGREEMENT THE MOMENT IT SEEMS ANY PROGRESS CAN BE MADE, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. BILL DORWARD SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, MR. DORWARD SAID HONG KONG MADE A LOT OF CONCESSIONS IN THE INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED TALKS WHICH WERE REJECTED SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS OF OUR REFUSAL TO AGREE TO ADDITIONAL CUTBACKS, AND THE REFUSAL THAT EEC HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE AN ARBITRARY REDISTRIBUTION OF OUR TRADE TO OTHER SUPPLIERS.

THESE CONCESSIONS INCLUDE:

- \* THE ACCEPTANCE, AS LIMITS FOR 1978, OF THE LEVEL OF EEC IMPORTS IN 1976 IN MOST SENSITIVE CATEGORIES IN WHICH HONG KONG IS A DOMINANT SUPPLIER, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS A MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM THE PRINCIPLE IN THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT THAT QUOTAS SHOULD NEVER BE SET AT LESS THAN THE QUOTA LIMITS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR=
- \* THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE EEC PROPOSAL OF A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT DESPITE ITS DISADVANTAGEOUS NATURE=
- \* THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE EEC PROPOSALS ON GROWTH RATES, ALTHOUGH SOME WERE VERY LOW - ESPECIALLY BEARING IN MIND THE 1976 BASE= AND
- \* HONG KONG'S OFFER TO BRING UNDER SURVEILLANCE ALL THE PRODUCTS THE COMMUNITY WANTED UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

MR. DORWARD SAID DESPITE THE ACCEPTANCE OF SOME VERY UNPALATABLE CONDITIONS, THE EEC ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 8 IN WHICH THEY INDICATED THAT THEIR OFFER MADE ON OCTOBER 26 - IDENTICAL IN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO THAT MADE RIGHT AT THE START AND SLIGHTLY WORSE IN SOME OTHER RESPECTS - REMAINED ON THE TABLE FOR THE MOMENT.

+BUT THAT AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY. THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE OR CONCURRENCE,+ HE ADDED.

+THIS IS EFFECTIVELY WHERE THE MATTERS STAND. AS OF THIS MOMENT OUR DELEGATION IS HAVING A WELL EARNED DAY OFF IN EUROPE AND, DEPENDING ON CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY BE RECEIVED WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS, IT IS PROBABLE THEY WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG IN A DAY OR TWO.

+IF AND WHEN THEY DO, HOWEVER, THIS WILL NOT REPRESENT A BREAK OFF ON OUR PART,+ HE REMARKED.

/HE NOTED .....

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 2 -

HE NOTED THAT THERE IS ALWAYS THE HOPE THAT A BREATHING SPACE WILL ALSO ENABLE THE EEC TO REAPPRAISE THE MAJOR CONCESSIONS WE HAVE PROPOSED AND SEE THE BENEFITS THEY HOLD FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR OWN ENDS.

REVIEWING HONG KONG'S TRADE PROSPECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, MR. DORWARD SAID A HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS NOW IN OTTAWA TO EXAMINE TENTATIVELY THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT FROM JULY 1978 SHOULD THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO REMOVE ITS GLOBAL IMPORT RESTRICTION.

+WITH PAST EXPERIENCE IN MIND, ONE CONDITION HONG KONG WILL CERTAINLY SEEK IN ANY SUCH AGREEMENT IS AN UNDERTAKING BY CANADA THAT IT WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN ITS COURSE AND WILL NOT BE ARBITRARILY TERMINATED BY ONE PARTY.+

HE SAID THE NEW FIVE YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH WILL RUN FROM JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR, WAS NEGOTIATED IN A FAIR AND BUSINESSLIKE WAY AND PROVIDED THE TRADE AT THIS STAGE WITH A SUBSTANTIAL AREA OF CERTAINTY IN AN OTHERWISE CLOUDY SITUATION.

IN THE OTHER MAJOR MARKET - AUSTRALIA WHERE WIDESPREAD IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ARE IN FORCE, HE SAID THERE WAS REGRETTABLY LITTLE SIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT DISMANTLING THE CONTROLS DESPITE A FIRM RECOMMENDATION TO DO SO BY THE OFFICIALLY APPOINTED INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

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#### GOVERNMENT TO SET UP FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SET UP A FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY, THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN HOBLEY, ANNOUNCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SCHEME HOPEFULLY COULD START BY APRIL NEXT YEAR AND WITH THE HELP FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF, WOULD INITIALLY BE PROVIDED AT TWO CITY DISTRICT OFFICES - EASTERN AND MONG KOK.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT HE SHARED THE VIEWS OF THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND THE HON. PETER C. WONG THAT THE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WAS VALUABLE BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH.

/+ THE INCREASING .....

+THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF LIFE MAKES IT A MATTER OF URGENT NECESSITY TO BRING BASIC LEGAL ADVICE IN CIVIL MATTERS WITHIN THE REACH OF MORE PEOPLE MORE READILY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE NEW SCHEME WOULD BE A "SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD".

ELABORATING ON THE DETAILS OF THE NEW SCHEME, MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, SUBVENTION WOULD BE MADE FROM THE PUBLIC FUNDS TO ENABLE THE LAW SOCIETY TO ESTABLISH AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION TO MANAGE THE SCHEME.

+THAT WILL BE THE LIMIT OF THE CONTRIBUTION FROM PUBLIC FUNDS, AND I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF THE PROVISION OF FURTHER PUBLIC FUNDS IN THIS FIELD,+ HE STRESSED.

LAWYERS WILL, AS IN THE SCHEME PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, GIVE THEIR SERVICES VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT REWARD WHILE THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WOULD ARRANGE FOR THE NECESSARY CLERICAL ASSISTANCE AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES, MR. HOBLEY EXPLAINED.

+THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE WILL INITIALLY BE PROVIDED AT EACH CENTRE ON ONE EVENING A WEEK, WHEN THERE WILL BE THREE LAWYERS AT EACH CENTRE.+

+THIS IS OF COURSE A MODEST BEGINNING BUT THE LEGAL PROFESSION'S FIRM ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT WE SHOULD START SLOWLY. ONCE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GAINED, AND THE NEW MACHINERY SETTLED DOWN, WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EVENINGS WHEN THE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AND EXTEND IT TO OTHER CITY DISTRICT OFFICES,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE NEW SCHEME WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE LEGAL AID SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, AS THERE WAS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM.

+THE LEGAL AID SCHEME PROVIDES SUBSIDISED LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR PERSONS OF LIMITED MEANS. THE NEW SCHEME IS CONCERNED WITH LEGAL ADVICE, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE PRELIMINARY TO LITIGATION,+ HE NOTED.

COMMENTING ON MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTION TO RECRUIT MORE CHINESE-SPEAKING MAGISTRATES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID, +EVERYONE AGREES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THAT AND THE REASON IS THAT MAGISTRATES WHO SPEAK CANTONESE WILL ALMOST ALWAYS BE HONG KONG PEOPLE, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT IN ITSELF. HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT THINK THAT TO HAVE CHINESE-SPEAKING MAGISTRATES MEANS THAT COURT PROCEEDINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CHINESE. THAT IS A QUITE SEPARATE MATTER.+

+ANY LAWYER TRAINED IN THE LAW IN ENGLISH, AND SO TRAINED IN THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM, FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO WORK IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE, AND SAVE IN THE SIMPLEST OF CASES PREFER NOT TO AND DOES NOT,+ HE ADDED.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 4 -

FOR THE SAME REASON, MR. HOBLEY POINTED OUT, MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTION THAT THE J.P. SYSTEM BE REVIVED WITH BILINGUAL J.P.'S WOULD NOT LEAD TO THE CONDUCT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS IN CHINESE TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT AND, ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE IT WOULD INVOLVE VERY CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

THE ANSWER, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO GET MORE CHINESE SPEAKING LAWYERS ONTO THE BENCH AND THAT MEANT WE MUST INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO WERE LAWYERS.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE BENEFITS OF INCREASE IN LAW STUDENTS IN TERMS OF ACTUAL OUTPUT OF QUALIFIED LAWYERS WOULD BE REALISED NEXT YEAR.

+THE UNIVERSITY ALSO EXPECTS THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING ITS POST-GRADUATE COURSE WILL BE AUGMENTED BY A FEW HONG KONG PEOPLE RETURNING HERE WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREES OBTAINED ELSEWHERE,+ HE ADDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, A SUGGESTION PUT FORWARD BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO FURTHER ENLARGE THE INTAKE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW WAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT A GREATER OUTPUT FROM THE UNIVERSITY IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH GREATER LOCALISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL SERVICES CAN BE ACHIEVED,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID, ADDING: +AT PRESENT, THE PULL OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS TOO STRONG.+

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 5 -

CS PAYS TRIBUTE TO POLICE FORCE

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THE HON. CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS TODAY PRAISED THE POLICE FORCE'S INCREASING SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH CRIME.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DENYS SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAD MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION BY TAKING SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS, REPORTING CRIME, GIVING EVIDENCE AND, IN MANY CASES, COURAGEOUSLY RESISTING THEIR ATTACKERS, BUT, THE MAJOR CREDIT MUST GO TO THE POLICE FORCE.

+THIS MAKES ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE THE TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE THROUGH WHICH THE FORCE HAS PASSED, WITH THE CONSEQUENT BLOW TO PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN IT, DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MONDAY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE A CONTINUANCE OF DISORDER WITHIN THE FORCE AND THE IMMENSE SUPPORT GIVEN THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO THE STATEMENT MADE IT EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS OF THE SAME OPINION.

+THERE ARE SIGNS THAT GOOD SENSE AND SANITY ARE RETURNING AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE FORCE HAVE RETURNED TO THE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE AND GRIEVANCES AIRED, DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WARMLY WELCOMES,+ SIR DENYS SAID.

+THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, AND HAS GIVEN OF ITS BEST IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND DANGER.

+ALTHOUGH WE ARE SO CLOSE TO ITS UNHAPPIEST HOUR, I HAVE FAITH IN ITS FUTURE. I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL EMERGE FROM THESE TRIALS A MORE HONEST, RESPECTED AND EFFECTIVE FORCE THAN EVEN BEFORE,+ HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 6 -

UK'S NATIONALITY LAW UNLIKELY  
TO EFFECT MAJOR CHANGE TO HK BELONGERS' RIGHTS  
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THE HON. CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS SAID THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON BRITISH NATIONALITY LAW PUBLISHED BY THE U.K. GOVERNMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO EFFECT ANY SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL CHANGE TO PRESENT RIGHTS OF HONG KONG BELONGERS.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, SIR DENYS ASSURED THE UNOFFICIALS THAT THE ANXIETY EXPRESSED BY THEM, AS TO WHAT MAY BE READ INTO THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, WILL BE FIRMLY REPRESENTED TO THE U.K. GOVERNMENT, WHEN THE H.K. GOVERNMENT MAKES ITS FORMAL COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HE APPRECIATED THAT THE ALTERATION OF TITLE AND THE CREATION OF TWO CLASSES OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER MIGHT GIVE RISE IN PEOPLE'S MINDS TO ANXIETY LEST THE LINK WITH BRITAIN WERE TO BE WEAKENED IN ANY WAY.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THESE ARE NO MORE THAN PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THIS STAGE.

ON BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO HONG KONG'S INTERESTS, SIR DENYS SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTION THAT IT HAD A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HONG KONG'S INTERESTS +THOUGH IN SOME MATTERS, OF WHICH THE CURRENT TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AN EXAMPLE, BRITAIN'S INTERESTS MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF HONG KONG+.

HE SAID, +IT WOULD BE DEPLORABLE IF HMG DID NOT DO ITS BEST TO SECURE A FAIR DEAL FOR HONG KONG.+

HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG IN FAVOUR OF OTHER SUPPLIERS FOR WHOM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY.

SIR DENYS HOPED THAT THE U.K. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS UNFAIR TO HONG KONG.

ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, SIR DENYS SAID ITS PRIMARY OBJECT WAS TO INCREASE OTHER MANUFACTURING SECTORS TO OFFSET THE EFFECT OF THE RESTRICTIONS OF TEXTILE EXPORTS WITH WHICH WE MIGHT BE FACED IN THE FUTURE.

HE NOTED THAT THE VARIOUS COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE UNOFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT OF INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION WOULD BE GIVEN THE FULLEST CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE SO LONG AS THEY FALL WITHIN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

/IN HIS .....

IN HIS SPEECH SIR DENYS ALSO ANNOUNCED IN DETAILS THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS :

IT IS REQUIRED TO CONSIDER

- (I) THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH DURING THE LAST 15 YEARS=
- (II) THE PAST, PRESENT AND LIKELY FUTURE COURSE OF THE REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY=
- (III) THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN ATTRACTING OR DETERRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ACTIVITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING :
  - (A) FINANCIAL FACILITIES
  - (B) FISCAL POLICIES
  - (C) LAND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
  - (D) POLICIES RELATING TO EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING
  - (E) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF TRADE IN OVERSEAS MARKETS, AND OF INVESTMENT AND JOINT VENTURES FROM OVERSEAS=
- (IV) COMPARATIVE PRACTICES IN COMPARABLE ECONOMICS WHICH HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ENCOURAGED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES.

TURNING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION IN PROFESSOR WILLOUGHBY'S REPORT THAT IT SHOULD EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING NEW FORMS OF CONCILIATION PROCEDURE, AND WILL IN DUE COURSE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT SOME NEW PROCEDURES SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

HE NOTED THAT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME IN SUCH A LARGE ORGANISATION AS THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH AN ESTABLISHMENT OF OVER 124,000, THERE SHOULD BE SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH WORKING CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

HE SAID, +WE MUST EXPECT OCCASIONAL DISPUTES ABOUT CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND ABOUT SALARIES. MOST OF THESE DISPUTES ARE SETTLED AMICABLY BY DISCUSSION, EITHER IN THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL OR BETWEEN HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENTAL STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

+IT IS ONLY THE SMALL MINORITY, WHERE AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED, THAT COMES TO PUBLIC ATTENTION AND PERHAPS GIVES AN IMPRESSION TO THE OUTSIDER THAT A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT ITS TERMS,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DENYS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM WHICH HAVE ENLIVENED THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL IN THE PAST YEAR.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND DEBATES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE HEAVY BURDEN OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSUMED BY UMEICO MEMBERS, +MANY OF WHOM DEVOTE A HIGH PROPORTION OF THEIR TIME TO VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE+.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE UMEICO SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED HERE IN A UNIQUE WAY HAS FULFILLED AN IMPORTANT NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT BODY TO WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE RECOURSE.

+DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, IT HAS GAINED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE TO A MARKED DEGREE AND HAS ENSURED THAT MANY GRIEVANCES OF PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN REDRESSED.+

SIR DENYS ALSO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS AND OF THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR THE HARD WORK AND WILLING ASSISTANCE OF THE UNOFFICIALS.

ON LEVEL OF RECURRENT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, HE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE NEED TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC SPENDING WITHIN THE LIMITS WHICH THE ECONOMY CAN SUPPORT WITHOUT UNDUE RISK.

HE SAID, +AS ALWAYS, ALTHOUGH OUR OBJECTIVES ARE CLEARLY SET OUT AND THE EXPENDITURE WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO MEET THEM HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CALCULATED, WE MUST AND WILL RETAIN AT ALL TIMES FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, OR IN THE METHODS BY WHICH THEY ARE FINANCED OR BOTH.+

ON DISRUPTION TO LIFE CAUSED BY COMMUNITY PROJECTS, SIR DENYS SAID WHERE MATERIAL LOSS COULD BE SHOWN, THOSE WHO SUFFERED WERE COMPENSATED AND HE BELIEVED THAT IN GENERAL THEY WERE NOT UNREASONABLY TREATED.

HE SAID FAR-REACHING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE KIND ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD EMBARKED COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF SUFFERING, DISTURBANCE AND LOSS TO THOSE WHO WERE FORCED TO MOVE FROM THEIR HOMES OR WHO FOUND THAT THEIR LIVES WERE PLAGUED BY NOISE, DUST FUMES AND CEASELESS ACTIVITY AROUND THEM.

HE PAID A WHOLE-HEARTED TRIBUTE TO THE PATIENCE AND GOOD WILL OF THOSE WHO BEAR WITH SUCH FORTITUDE THE STRAINS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS HAVE IMPOSED ON THEM.

+THIS FORBEARANCE DEMANDS FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE AN APPRECIATION OF WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF PEOPLE AND A DETERMINATION TO LISTEN WITH PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING TO THEIR DIFFICULTIES.+

+ANY CIVIL SERVANT WHO FALLS SHORT OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY AND COURTESY IS UNWORTHY OF THE QUALITIES OF THE PEOPLE WHOM WE ARE HERE TO SERVE,+ HE EMPHASISED, +I HOPE THAT WE SHALL NOT FAIL THEM.+

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 9 -

MASSIVE PROJECTS TO COST GOVERNMENT  
\$6,000 MILLION IN THREE YEARS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND MORE THAN \$6 BILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS ON THE MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, WITH FURTHER COMMITMENTS BEYOND THIS PERIOD IN THE ORDER OF \$12 BILLION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, DURING THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE MAGNITUDE, IMMENSE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PROGRAMME, MR. MCDONALD MENTIONED A FEW OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS.

HE SAID THAT A VERY IMPORTANT SECTION OF THE PROGRAMME PROVIDED FOR A DEVELOPING ROAD NETWORK.

THIS INCLUDED THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE, THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, THE EASTERN CORRIDOR ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL, THE FULL SIX LANES OF THE TUEN MUN ROAD AND THE FIRST LEG OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD FROM SHA TIN TO TAI PO.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT HIGH ON THE LIST OF ITEMS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WERE THE MANY LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

+IN ABERDEEN, WESTERN DISTRICT AND CHEUNG SHA WAN, EXTENSIVE RECLAMATION PROJECTS ARE UNDER WAY,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+IN SHEK WU HUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ENGINEERING WORKS ARE STARTING ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER TANNERIES TO PROVIDE AREAS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, AND SIMILAR SCHEMES ARE UNDER WAY IN YUEN LONG, ON LANTAU AND CHEUNG CHAU AND IN SAI KUNG= AND LAND FOR THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IS BEING FORMED AT TAI PO.

+BUT BY FAR THE MOST SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE THREE NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN, WHERE LAND IS BEING FORMED AND SERVICED ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE TO PROVIDE THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NEW TOWNS.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT JUST AS IMPORTANT WERE THE BUILDING PROJECTS SPREAD THROUGHOUT HONG KONG THAT COMPLETED THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

SOME OF THESE, SUCH AS THE TWO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES BEING BUILT IN KOWLOON, AND THE HUNG HOM SPORTS STADIUM WOULD CREATE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, WHILE OTHERS, LIKE THE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN AND THE FIRST FIVE DENTAL CLINICS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN TO BE BUILT AT MORRISON HILL, WOULD BRING ADVANTAGES, JUST AS APPARENT, BUT DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC AREAS, HE ADDED.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 10 -

THE PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDED A LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS, TAKEN LARGELY FOR GRANTED, BUT WHICH WERE VITAL FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

+TAKEN SEPARATELY, EACH ITEM IN THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MANY ASPIRATION: TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THE PROGRAMME FORMS THE BASIS FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE ON WHICH OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY AND THE EQUALITY OF OUR LIVES DEPEND,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+IT IS A TREMENDOUS UNDERTAKING IN TERMS OF MONEY, RESOURCES AND EFFORT, AND IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO SURPRISING IF PROGRESS SOMETIMES FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS.+

HE RECALLED THAT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNDERSPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SPENDING PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE UNUSUALLY DRY WEATHER HAD BEEN IN OUR FAVOUR AS IT ENABLED WORKS TO PROCEED WITH FEWER THAN NORMAL INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO RAIN.

+WE HAVE HAD SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN STAFF OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL MORE THAN 11 PER CENT BELOW APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT THE EFFECT OF THE STAFF INCREASES IS NOW BEGINNING TO SHOW,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INCREASING LOAD BEING PLACED ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, NOT ONLY BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IS GIVING RISE TO A NOTICEABLE SHORTAGE OF WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, AND THIS IS RESULTING IN INCREASED WAGES, INCREASED COST AND IN MANY CASES DELAYS IN PROGRESS OF PROJECTS.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT AT THIS STAGE IN THE YEAR IT WAS STILL NOT EASY TO FORECAST WITH PRECISION WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACTUALLY SPEND ON PUBLIC WORKS IN 1977/78.

+SOME SHORTFALL IN PLANNED EXPENDITURE IS EXPECTED BUT PRODUCTIVITY HAS INCREASED AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES WILL BE VERY MUCH BETTER THAN IN RECENT YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 11 -

COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS BEING MADE IN N.T. DEVELOPMENT  
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY NAMED A LONG LIST OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO SHOW THE SCALE AND COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AND HE DESCRIBED THAT LONG LIST AS ONLY A +SAMPLE+ HE HAD CHOSEN TO ILLUSTRATE THE COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT NOW BEING MADE.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THERE WAS NOW A MUCH MORE CONSCIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE NEEDS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ON EDUCATION, HE SAID 21 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE BUILT IN TUSEN WAN, EIGHT IN SHA TIN AND SIX IN TUEN MUN IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THREE YEARS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE ADDED, TAI PO, SAI KUNG AND LANTAU WILL EACH HAVE A NEW SCHOOL AND YUEN LONG WILL HAVE TWO.

THESE NEW SCHOOL PROJECTS ARE ADDITIONAL TO A NUMBER OF OTHERS WHICH WERE BUILT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OR WHICH ARE DUE TO OPEN BY THE END OF THE YEAR IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID.

IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THERE WERE PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF HOSPITALS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

APART FROM THE CLINICS AND HOSPITALS MENTIONED BY THE GOVERNOR, HE SAID THE POK OI HOSPITAL HAD BEEN UPGRADED TO A DISTRICT HOSPITAL PROVIDING A 24-HOUR CASUALTY SERVICE.

PLANS ARE WELL IN HAND TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE HOSPITAL BY 200 BEDS, HE SAID, AND THE HOSPITAL HAS ALSO NOW BEEN PLACED ON A DEFICIENCY GRANT BASIS.

OTHER IMPROVEMENT PLANS INCLUDE AN INCREASE OF 50 BEDS EACH IN THE FANLING HOSPITAL AND THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL IN TSUEN WAN.

AS REGARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF TOWN HALLS IN EACH OF THE THREE NEW TOWNS, MR. AKERS-JONES DESCRIBED IT AS +A DEVELOPMENT OF FAR-REACHING SIGNIFICANCE, NOT ONLY IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BUT FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.+

IN ADDITION TO THE TOWN HALLS, HE SAID, COMMUNITY CENTRES ARE TO BE PROVIDED IN EACH OF THE NEW TOWNS FOR EACH 100,000 PEOPLE AND ALMOST EVERY HOUSING ESTATE WILL HAVE A SMALLER COMMUNITY HALL.

OUTSIDE THE NEW TOWNS, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING AN IMPROVED AIR-CONDITIONED AUDITORIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BUILDING OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN YUEN LONG, AND IN SHEUNG SHUI, PLANS WERE WELL ADVANCED FOR A COMMUNITY CENTRE.

REGARDING LIBRARIES, HE SAID ONE WAS OPENED IN TAI PO LAST MONTH, AND AN INTERIM LIBRARY WOULD OPEN IN SHA TIN THIS MONTH AND ANOTHER IN SHEUNG SHUI BY THE END OF THE YEAR. IN TUEN MUN AND KWAI CHUNG, A LIBRARY WILL OPEN NEXT YEAR.

AS FOR ACTIVE RECREATION, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID EXISTING FACILITIES WERE EITHER BEING CURRENTLY IMPROVED OR PLANNING WAS WELL ADVANCED ON THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

MAJOR PROJECTS HE MENTIONED INCLUDED A FULLY-EQUIPPED SPORTS GROUND BY 1980 IN SAI KUNG= PLAYGROUNDS BEING BUILT AT TAI O ON LANTAU AND ON CHEUNG CHAU= THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR PROVIDING MINI-SOCCER PITCHES, BASKET BALL COURTS, A FOOTBALL PITCH AND RUNNING TRACK= A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX OF EIGHT POOLS PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1980-81 AT CASTLE PEAK IN ADDITION TO OPENING UP NEW BEACHES= THE FANLING SWIMMING POOL WHICH WILL OPEN NEXT YEAR= AND THE YUEN LONG SWIMMING POOL, WORK ON WHICH HAD STARTED.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID: +IN THE NEW TOWNS, THE LIST OF PROJECTS IS TOO LONG TO RELATE BUT TO GIVE AN INDICATION, LET ME SAY THAT THERE ARE 51 PROJECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE IN TSUEN WAN IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.+

HE AGREED WITH THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG THAT THE SMALLER TOWNS MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED, AND HE HOPED WHAT HE HAD SAID DEMONSTRATED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE.

HE SAID THE PROGRAMME OF LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS CONTINUED OUTSIDE THE TOWNS, AND EXPENDITURE ON THESE MINOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RURAL AREAS HAD AMOUNTED TO \$20 MILLION IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

+THIS YEAR, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, A VILLAGE LIGHTING PROGRAMME HAS BEGUN AND 14 VILLAGES WILL HAVE STREET LIGHTS BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT.

+I PLAN A GREATLY INCREASED PROGRAMME NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO MATTERS OF LAND RESUMPTION, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID A JOINT WORKING GROUP IS TO BE SET UP TO SPECIFICALLY ADVISED THE GOVERNOR ON HOW TO TACKLE IN FUTURE THE QUESTION OF THE METHOD AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR RESUMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT THE TASK OF CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO GET DOWN TO WORK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

HE SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD COMPRISE FOUR HEUNG YEE KUK REPRESENTATIVES, THREE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ONE OTHER MEMBER AND TWO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND LAND RESUMPTION PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN HIS SPEECH TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COUNCIL LAST MONTH THAT +THE TIME IS RIPE FOR FRESH THINKING ON THE SUBJECT OF THE METHOD AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR RESUMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID: +THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AN ALMOST CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE BETWEEN MY PREDECESSORS, MYSELF AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS.+

CHANGES AND ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, HE SAID, BUT THE SCALE OF RESUMPTION BEING IMPLEMENTED AND REQUIRED DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO PROVIDE LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT, SUGGESTS MOST STRONGLY THAT A FRESH LOOK NEEDS TO BE TAKEN AT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMED AND THE LAND EXCHANGED SYSTEM, WHICH IS UNDER A SEVERE STRAIN FROM THE SCALE OF RESUMPTIONS AND THE EXTENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

+PERHAPS I COULD ILLUSTRATE THIS BY SAYING THAT RESUMPTIONS THIS YEAR AMOUNT TO SOMETHING IN THE ORDER OF 16 MILLION SQUARE FEET,+ HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON POINTS RAISED BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG ON THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF CLEARANCE IN SHA TIN, MR. AKERS-JONES REVEALED THAT THE COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE MARKET WERE BEING MADE THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL STUDY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND STALLS THAT MADE UP SHA TIN MARKET WERE BUILT EITHER ON LEASED AGRICULTURAL LAND OR ON CROWN LAND.

+WE ARE BUILDING A NEW TOWN AND IT WOULD QUITE BE INAPPROPRIATE TO REPEAT THE TEMPORARY EXPEDIENTS OF THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SETTING UP OF N.T. DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, MR. AKERS-JONES, SAID THE APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BOARDS IN ALL THE SEVEN ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

HE SAID THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BOARDS WOULD COVER THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE N.T. AND WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF INDIVIDUAL RURAL COMMITTEES.

THE RURAL COMMITTEES WILL CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD THE TRADITIONAL RIGHTS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE SCALE OF THE DEVELOPMENT EVERYWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE INCREASING POPULATION MAKES IT MOST IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN ADVICE FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF THE PEOPLE ON WHAT IS BEING DONE IN THE DISTRICTS AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, AS WELL AS TO GUIDE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIALIST ORGANISERS IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

+UNLESS WE CAN CREATE A SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION, WE RUN THE RISK, AT BEST, OF STERILE SPOON-FEEDING, AND AT WORST, A TOTAL LACK OF RESPONSE AND MISDIRECTED EFFORT,+ HE SAID.

CONSULTANTS TO BE APPOINTED TO STUDY BRIDGE TO LANTAU

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A CONSULTANCY WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO INVESTIGATE, AND PROVIDE DETAILED DESIGNS FOR A ROAD CROSSING, PROBABLY A BRIDGE, BETWEEN LANTAU AND THE MAINLAND, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE MR. JONES SAID STUDIES WOULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES OF THE NORTH OF LANTAU, INCLUDING THE ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, IN CASE IT SHOULD LATER BE DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH SUCH A PROJECT.

APART FROM SUCH A POSSIBILITY, THE MAIN AIM WOULD BE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LAND FOR INDUSTRY ON LANTAU.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT SITES ON NORTH EAST LANTAU WERE BEING INVESTIGATED FOR A NEW POWER STATION FOR THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE 1,400 MEGAWATTS OF GENERATING CAPACITY IN ITS FIRST STAGE, WITH ROOM BEING PROVIDED LATER FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 MEGAWATTS, AND IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE FOUR GENERATING SETS IN THE FIRST STAGE ALONE WOULD PROVIDE ALMOST AS MUCH CAPACITY AS ALL 10 SETS NOW INSTALLED ON TSING YI.

MR. JONES SAID THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND PRODUCTION HAD JUST BEEN PUBLISHED AND SHOWED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PRODUCING ALMOST 3,000 HECTARES OF NEWLY FORMED LAND BY 1981/82 AND THAT THIS WOULD INCLUDE MORE THAN 600 HECTARES - THAT IS OVER 1,500 ACRES, OR UPWARDS OF 60 MILLION SQUARE FEET - OF INDUSTRIAL LAND OVER THE PERIOD.

+THIS IS MUCH MORE FORMED LAND THAN HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN ANY COMPARABLE PERIOD IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

+BEYOND 1981/82, THE RATE OF PLANNED PRODUCTION OF LAND IN DEFINITE PROGRAMMES WILL BEGIN TO FALL OFF SOMEWHAT. SO, THE NEXT TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT, AIDED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, WILL BE TO EXAMINE IN GREATER DETAIL THAN HITHERTO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER LAND PRODUCTION ON THE MAINLAND IN THE 80'S.+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT ALL THIS INDICATED THAT CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS WERE NOW BEING MADE IN PLANNING NEW LAND PRODUCTION AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THESE MATTERS.

TURNING TO TRANSPORT, MR. JONES SAID GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF LAND PRODUCTION, LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF ADEQUATE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

+NO AREA OF LAND CAN BE PROPERLY DEVELOPED WITHOUT ADEQUATE TRANSPORT LINKS, AND CLOGGED ROADS AND STREETS WILL SLOW DOWN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO FUTURE TRANSPORT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT.+

FOLLOWING THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY PREPARED BY CONSULTANTS LAST YEAR A GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP WAS CARRYING OUT A DETAILED STUDY OF OUR FUTURE TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS AND HOW THEY COULD BE MET.

THIS WOULD UPDATE OUR PLANS FOR NEW ROADS, THE MTR AND KCR, BUSES AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES AND CONTROLS.

+HOPEFULLY, ALL THIS WORK WILL EMERGE IN THE COURSE OF NEXT YEAR IN THE FORM OF A TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER AND BE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JONES SAID THAT CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PLANS FOR SPENDING ON ROADS, TUNNELS, AND RAILWAYS ALONE COULD WELL ADD UP TO AS MUCH AS \$20,000 MILLION BY THE END OF THE 1980'S, THAT WAS WITHOUT ANY ACCOUNT BEING TAKEN OF EXPENDITURE BY THE PRIVATELY OWNED TRANSPORT OPERATORS.

+THIS IS A FORMIDABLE SUM BY ANY STANDARDS AND, ALTHOUGH I RECOGNISE THE FRUSTRATIONS FELT BY MANY OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AT THE PRESENT TIME, THESE EXPENDITURES WILL DO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN FUTURE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT.+

WE HAD TO RECOGNISE, HOWEVER, THAT HONG KONG WAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DENSELY POPULATED CITIES AND THAT THE TASK OF KEEPING THE POPULATION MOVING IN THE FACE OF GROWING TRANSPORT DEMANDS WOULD BE A NEVER ENDING ONE, MR. JONES SAID.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HE SAID THAT A FINAL REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE CONSULTANTS AND ENDORSED BY EPCOM. ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, DRAFTS OF COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION WERE BEING PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY AND OTHER INTERESTS.

+AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT IS BEING BUILT UP WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, TO LAY DOWN STANDARDS AND TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION,+ HE SAID. STAFF OF THE UNIT WOULD GRADUALLY BE EXPANDED TO PERFORM THESE FUNCTIONS.

ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MR. JONES SAID GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY RECENTLY STRENGTHENED THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC CO-ORDINATION BY ADDING TO IT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE POLYTECHNIC, THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND TIME WAS NEEDED TO SEE HOW IT WAS WORKING OUT.

+NEVERTHELESS,+ HE SAID, +I PROMISE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE WHOLE QUESTION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. I WOULD EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT WE WANT IN THIS FIELD IS A BODY THAT CAN HELP US TO TACKLE THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THAT FACE US IN APPLYING TECHNOLOGY IN THE AREAS WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST.+

ON THE SUBJECT OF COMPENSATION, MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT QUESTIONS OF PROPERTY RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE TERMS OF LEASES AND THE LAWFUL USE OF PROPERTY, SHOULD WHEREVER POSSIBLE BE DEALT WITH BY LAW.

- 16 -

BUT, WHEN IT CAME TO THE RELIEF OF HARDSHIP AND THE DISTURBANCE OF PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD, GOVERNMENT FELT THAT AN EX-GRATIA SYSTEM WAS USUALLY MORE FLEXIBLE AND MORE EFFECTIVE. HE SAID AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMPENSATION RATES HAD BEEN INSTITUTED.

CONCERNING DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND CLOSURE ORDERS, MR. JONES SAID THAT MOST EMERGENCY CLOSURES AROSE FROM FIRES AND OTHER CALAMITIES WHICH REQUIRED RAPID EVACUATION OF THE BUILDINGS CONCERNED. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THEREFORE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY CLOSURES.

HE SAID THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THOSE PERMANENTLY DISPLACED BY BUILDING CLOSURES WAS PROPERLY MADE BY THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT USUALLY ASSISTED BOTH THE OWNER AND THE TENANT BY ADVANCING PART OF THE COMPENSATION AT THE OUTSET.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO PUBLICISE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL  
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THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO USE ALL ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE KNOWN THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL'S EXISTENCE AND FACILITIES, AND ENCOURAGE ITS USE.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. CHEUNG SAID THE TRIBUNAL WAS MEANT TO BE A FORUM TO FACILITATE THE ENFORCEMENT OF CLAIMS BY PERSONS OF MODEST MEANS IN A LAWFUL, PEACEFUL, EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL WAY.

HE SAID IT WOULD SEEM, AFTER A YEAR'S FUNCTIONING, THE TRIBUNAL WAS BEGINNING TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE AND HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUBLICISE IT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS AT THE END OF WHICH A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN WHETHER TO MAKE IT A PERMANENT INSTITUTION.

HE NOTED THAT CLAIMANTS OF MODEST MEANS DID USE THE TRIBUNAL SUBSTANTIALLY AS MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF THE 6,700 CASES HANDLED DURING THE 12 MONTHS SINCE ITS INCEPTION WERE CLAIMS FOR GOODS SOLD AND DELIVERED, DISHONOURD CHEQUES, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE CHARGES IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS, HIRE-PURCHASE CHARGES, DAMAGES FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND THE LIKE.

WELCOMING THE BILL, WHICH PROVIDES THE TRIBUNAL WITH A POWER OF REVIEW, MR. CHEUNG SAID IN A TRIBUNAL OF THIS KIND, IT WAS VERY CONVENIENT AND IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A POWER.

BUT HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL TO PUT IN AN AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY THE AMBIGUITY ON THE +RUNNING OF TIME FOR APPEALS+ AFTER AN ORDER OR AN AWARD WAS HANDED DOWN BY THE TRIBUNAL.

- 17 -

IN REPLY, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON, SOLICITOR GENERAL AGREED WITH MR. CHEUNG HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE WIDELY KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD AND SAID SOME STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PUBLICISE WHAT THE TRIBUNAL HAD TO OFFER AND THESE WOULD CONTINUE.

HE NOTED THAT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CASES NOW COMING FORWARD IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND CONFIDENCE.

ON THE POINT CONCERNING THE RUNNING OF TIME FOR APPEALS, MR. THORNTON SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND CONSULT WITH MR. CHEUNG FURTHER BEFORE THE COUNCIL MET AGAIN.

THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THE THIRD READING OF THE BILL WERE POSTPONED.

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GOVERNMENT RE-EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN  
EXHIBITION CENTRE  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS RE-EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING AN EXHIBITION CENTRE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS HAS BEEN GATHERING MATERIAL TO SUPPORT HIS VIEW THAT AN EXHIBITION CENTRE WAS GREATLY NEEDED AND WOULD BE WIDELY USED.

HE SAID AN ADEQUATE EXHIBITION CENTRE WOULD NOT BE INEXPENSIVE, ADDING: +WE MUST BE QUITE SURE THAT THE DEMAND FOR IT IS REALLY THERE AND THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BE VIABLE.+

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SITE RESERVED FOR THE EXHIBITION CENTRE IN THE 1960S WAS STILL AVAILABLE.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A PROPOSAL 10 YEARS AGO THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BUILD A COMBINED INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM AND EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE AS PART OF THE HUNG HOM COMPLEX, BUT, IN 1967, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROCEED ONLY WITH THE RAILWAY STATION AND THE INDOOR STADIUM.

+THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS WAS THE OVERALL COST, THEN ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE ORDER OF \$60 MILLION, EXCLUDING THE STATION,+ MR. JEAFFRESON RECALLED.

+THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED THAT PRIORITY HAD TO BE GIVEN TO RECREATION, SPORTS AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES, AND, THUS, SINCE IT COULD NOT AFFORD THE WHOLE PROJECT, ONLY THE INDOOR STADIUM SHOULD BE BUILT IN ADDITION TO THE STATION.+

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

- 18 -

TRAINING SCHEMES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS COME FIRST

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NEED FOR ESTABLISHING AN ACADEMY OF THE ARTS IN HONG KONG IN FUTURE AND +THIS SHOULD BE OUR LONG-TERM AIM+.

+BUT THE IMMEDIATE TASK BEFORE US IS TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE VARIOUS TRAINING SCHEMES ON MUSIC -- AN AREA WHERE THERE IS WIDE AND ESTABLISHED INTEREST AND WHERE TALENT IS NOT LACKING,+ HE SAID DURING THE RESUMED ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE.

MR. LI WAS ANSWERING TO SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN ACADEMY OF ARTS MADE BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TWO WEEKS AGO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY MADE A START IN PROVIDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES FOR OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS, BUT THE DEMAND AND INTEREST IN THE OTHER PERFORMING ARTS WERE +NOT QUITE SO EVIDENT+.

+IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TACKLE FIRST THINGS FIRST,+ HE REMARKED.

MR. LI EARLIER OUTLINED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE DOING IN PROMOTING CULTURE AND ARTS BY LISTING THE VARIOUS ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN TOWARDS THIS END.

YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MENTIONED THAT A MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR AND A MUSIC CONSULTANT HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO WORK OUT A SCHEME TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF HONG KONG'S YOUNG MUSICIANS.

MR. LI TODAY REVEALED THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAD GENEROUSLY PLEDGED A DONATION TO SET UP A MUSIC FUND.

HE WELCOMED THIS TIMELY DONATION WHICH WILL BOOST THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING A GREATER APPRECIATION AND WIDER PARTICIPATION IN MUSIC AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND IN OFFERING BETTER AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS TO RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING WHETHER LOCALLY OR ABROAD.

THE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO MAKE BETTER TRAINING FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IS NOT CONFINED TO THE INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING SCHEME IN SCHOOLS.

RECENTLY, MR. LI NOTED, +A SUBSTANTIAL GRANT HAS BEEN MADE TO THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC FROM A SPECIAL FUND, ESTABLISHED BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, TO ENABLE THIS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION TO SET ITSELF UP IN THE ARTS CENTRE.+

COMMENTING ON THE UNOFFICIALS PROPOSAL TO UNIFY UNDER ONE UMBRELLA THE PERSONAL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, MR. LI RECALLED THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO THIS SUGGESTION WERE FULLY EXPLAINED BY HIS PREDECESSOR IN THE COUNCIL LAST YEAR.

/+I SEE NO .....

- 19 -

+I SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE THE BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT PLANNING, THAT IS, SERVICES RELATED TO FUNCTIONS= FOR EXAMPLE, HOUSING, EDUCATION, RECREATION RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF SERVICES FOR AGE-GROUPS.

+SOME SERVICES ARE, OF COURSE, SPECIALLY RELATED TO ONE AGE GROUP, HENCE THE PROGRAMMES FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUTH= BUT GENERALLY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

+PARKS, HOSPITALS, ROADS, FLATS, SWIMMING POOLS, BUSES -- ALL THESE SERVE THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, THOUGH THEY ALSO OBVIOUSLY BENEFIT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

MR. LI ADDED THAT IF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES WERE TO BE SET UP, AS ADVOCATED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE SOME DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND THIS MIGHT INDEED CREATE CONFUSION.

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CROWN RIGHTS (RE-ENTRY AND VESTING  
REMEDIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977  
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THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 5,000 DEFAULT CASES INVOLVING MORE THAN \$1 MILLION SINCE THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN DECEMBER, 1973.

THIS WAS STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES.

MR. JONES, WHO WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CROWN RIGHTS (RE-ENTRY AND VESTING REMEDIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR CASES OF DEFAULT IN PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT IN RESPECT OF LEASES RENEWED UNDER THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER CROWN RENT DEFAULT CASES.

MR. JONES SAID A BREACH OF LEASE CONDITIONS OCCURRED WHERE CROWN RENT WAS NOT PAID AND THE THREAT OF RE-ENTRY OR VESTING COULD BE USED TO SECURE PAYMENT. HE SAID RE-ENTRY WAS USED WHERE CROWN RENT HAD NOT BEEN PAID FOR A WHOLE LOT OR WHOLE SECTION AND VESTING APPLIED WHERE IT HAD NOT BEEN PAID FOR A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN A LOT OR SECTION.

+ALTHOUGH SECTION 8 OF THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE PROVIDES A REMEDY BY WAY OF RE-ENTRY FOR DEFAULT IN THE PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT, RE-ENTRY WOULD HAVE TO BE UPON THE WHOLE LOT OR SECTION,+ MR. JONES SAID.

/+WHERE THE .....

+WHERE THE DEFAULT IS ONLY IN RESPECT OF A PARTICULAR INTEREST, HOWEVER, SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD INVOLVE INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO FAULT.+ IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO VEST THE PARTICULAR INTEREST ONLY= BUT, AT PRESENT, THERE WAS SOME DOUBT WHETHER THE LAW AS IT STOOD ALLOWED VESTING ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THESE CASES.

+THE AMENDING BILL BEFORE COUNCIL TODAY IS THEREFORE INTENDED TO PUT THIS QUESTION BEYOND ANY DOUBT AND TO PROVIDE FOR DEFAULT CASES OF THIS TYPE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME WAY AS ALL OTHERS,+ SAID MR. JONES.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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THREE BILLS PASSED  
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THREE BILLS PASSED THEIR SECOND AND THIRD READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON AND BECAME LAW.

THEY ARE THE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1977.

TWO OTHER BILLS RECEIVED THEIR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE CROWN RIGHTS (RE-ENTRY AND VESTING REMEDIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS BILL 1977. THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 ALSO RECEIVED ITS SECOND READING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY  
TO BE RELEASED TOMORROW  
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) CONCERNING A GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN HONG KONG.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE DR. PATRICK WONG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING) OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT= MRS. ROSE GOODSTADT, SENIOR PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN-CHARGE OF REHABILITATION DIVISION AND MRS. LOUISE WONG, SECRETARY TO THE WORKING GROUP ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

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### MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRISON WORK DISPELLED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. T.G. GARNER THIS AFTERNOON DISPELLED SOME MISCONCEPTIONS THAT STILL PREVAIL TODAY ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SERVICE DESPITE THE MANY CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE PAST YEARS.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR. GARNER SAID THAT WHEN HONG KONG CAME INTO BEING IN 1841, IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON IN THOSE DAYS FOR PRISONERS TO BE FLOGGED AND SOMETIMES RECEIVING AS MANY AS 100 LASHES.

+THE CHAIN GANG WAS VERY MUCH IN EXISTENCE BUT DESPITE THIS, THE PRISON POPULATION GREW AND IN 1863 DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION THE HULK OF A SHIP, THE 'ROYAL SAXON', WAS BOUGHT AND MOORED OFF STONECUTTERS ISLAND TO HOUSE SOME 280 MEN.

+VERY SOON AFTER 38 PRISONERS DROWNED WHEN A BOAT CAPSIZED ALONGSIDE THE HULK AND IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR THERE WAS A MASS ESCAPE BY 100 PRISONERS.

+NEEDLESS TO SAY, THAT SPILT THE END OF THAT METHOD OF ACCOMMODATING PRISONERS WHICH IN ANY CASE MUST HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE FOR THE STAFF.+

THE COMMISSIONER THEN STRESSED THAT TODAY'S PRISON SERVICE IS A FAR CRY FROM THAT OF YESTERYEARS. NEVERTHELESS, HE STATED THAT THE SERVICE STILL HAS ITS GOOD AND ITS BAD STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION.

+THIS IS NO DIFFERENT TO ANY OTHER PRISON SERVICE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD INCLUDING THAT OF MANY OF THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.+

HE EXPLAINED: +IN THE NEWER INSTITUTIONS WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, WE HAVE THE GOOD; IN THE OLDER LIKE VICTORIA RECEPTION CENTRE AND MA HANG PRISON, WE HAVE THE BAD, AND WHILE IN THE LATTER INSTITUTIONS ONE CAN SAY THAT CONDITIONS ARE TOLERABLE.

+NEVERTHELESS, THEY LEAVE VERY MUCH TO BE DESIRED BOTH FOR PRISONERS AND STAFF AND THE PRISON SERVICE IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF SUCH CONDITIONS.+

DISPELLING THE POPULAR MISCONCEPTION THAT THE STANDARDS OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS ARE BUILT TOO HIGH, MR. GARNER STRESSED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG CONFUSE CLEANLINESS FOR LUXURY, FOR, WITHOUT DOUBT, HE ADDED, PRISONS IN HONG KONG ARE CLEAN AND ARE PROBABLY THE CLEANEST IN THE WORLD.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT ALL FACILITIES IN OUR INSTITUTIONS ARE BASIC AND IN SOME AREAS SPARSE.

ANOTHER MISCONCEPTION WAS THE TERM +PRISONS DEPARTMENT+ WHICH, MR. GARNER SAID, APPARENTLY GIVES RISE TO THE IMPRESSION THAT EVERY INSTITUTION WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT IS A PRISON.

/+I WISH TO .....

+I WISH TO STRESS THAT THIS IS INCORRECT AND OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, ONLY NINE ARE PRISONS COMPARED TO NINE OTHER TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS (DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES, TRAINING CENTRES AND DETENTION CENTRES).+

CLARIFYING YET ANOTHER MISUNDERSTANDING THAT NON-CHINESE PRISONERS GET BETTER TREATMENT, MR. GARNER EMPHASISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD LONG SINCE DROPPED THE TERM 'EUROPEAN PRISONER' REPLACING IT WITH 'OTHER NATIONALS'.

+THIS INCLUDES NOT ONLY A EUROPEAN BUT ALSO AN INDIAN, THAI, JAPANESE, FILIPINO, MALAY, PAKISTANI ETC., IN OTHER WORDS, ANYONE WHO IS NON-CHINESE.

+THE DIET SCALE PROVIDES FOR THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DIET; THESE ARE INDIAN, CHINESE AND EUROPEAN AND, IN ADDITION, PRISONERS WHO ARE USED TO A WESTERN WAY OF LIFE MAY BE ISSUED WITH A MATTRESS, BED SHEETS AND AN ORDINARY PILLOW.

+WHILE THE GREATER MAJORITY WHO RECEIVE SUCH AN ISSUE (AND I DO NOT REFER TO IT AS A PRIVILEGE) ARE IN FACT OTHER NATIONALS AND MAINLY EUROPEANS; NEVERTHELESS, THE SAME CAN APPLY TO A CHINESE PARTICULARLY A CHINESE WHO IS USED TO A WESTERN WAY OF LIFE.

+THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE QUESTION OF DIET. IF A PERSON (AND THIS CAN ALSO INCLUDE A CHINESE) IS NOT NORMALLY USED TO A CHINESE DIET, THEN THE ALTERNATIVE IS A EUROPEAN OR INDIAN DIET.

+RECENTLY THERE WAS SOME REFERENCE IN THE PRESS TO A DIET OF STEAK BY A PARTICULAR PRISONER AND COMMENTS THAT HE HAD PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. SUCH COMMENTS ARE NOT ONLY RUBBISH BUT THEY TEND TO CAST DOUBT ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE PRISON SERVICE WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATION WHATSOEVER.+

AS TO THE MYTH THAT PRISONS ARE RUN BY TRIADS, MR. GARNER SAID: +NOW NO ONE IN THE PRISON SERVICE WILL DENY THAT WE HAVE JUST ABOUT EVERY TRIAD SOCIETY AND GANG YOU CAN FIND REPRESENTED WITHIN THE PRISONER POPULATION. WE ALSO HAVE MANY OFFICE BEARERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND MANY ORDINARY MEMBERS WHO WERE VERY ACTIVE PRIOR TO ADMISSION.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF YOU HAVE SUCH A MOTLEY ASSORTMENT AS THIS AND INDEED IN 1976 MORE THAN 67 PER CENT CONFESSED TO BEING TRIAD MEMBERS ON ADMISSION (WE BELIEVE THE FIGURE TO BE NEARER 100 PER CENT), WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY ALL THE INGREDIENTS AVAILABLE FOR TRIAD ACTIVITY AND WE KNOW THAT SOME MAY TRY; HOWEVER, THOSE THAT TRY ARE PUNISHED AND PART OF THE PUNISHMENT IS SEGREGATION.

+IN FACT, MANY KNOWN OFFICE BEARERS ON ADMISSION TO PRISON ARE SEGREGATED FOR THE GOOD OF THE PRISONER POPULATION SO THAT IT WILL PREVENT JUST THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENING.+

MR. GARNER SAID ACTIVE STEPS ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TRIAD ACTIVITY DOES NOT GO ON IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS. +IT IS THE STAFF THAT RUN THE PRISONS AND OTHER PENAL INSTITUTIONS, LET US MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT.+

ON OTHER MATTERS, MR. GARNER SAID THAT IT WAS PROBABLY TRUE TO SAY THAT THE PUBLIC IN HONG KONG KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN PRISONS HERE THAN IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES AS THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT MAINTAIN A WALL OF SECRECY.

+FROM TIME TO TIME, WE OPEN THE GATES OF INSTITUTIONS TO THE PRESS AND DO SO, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, MUCH MORE THAN OTHER PRISON SERVICE IN THE WORLD.+

MR. GARNER ALSO REVEALED THAT IN 1976, JUSTICES OF THE PEACE WHO VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTES RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 186 REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY.

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UNIQUE YOUTH HOBBIES EXHIBITION OPENING TOMORROW  
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THE UNIQUE YOUTH HOBBIES EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OPENS TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR. E. I. LEE= CITY DISTRICT OFFICER OF SHAM SHUI PO, DR. PATRICK HASE AND SENIOR PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR. HENRY AU WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE EXHIBITION IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG DESIGNED TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TO SHOW THEM ALL THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

MORE THAN 200 PIECES OF HOME-MADE HANDICRAFTS AND ARTEFACTS, MANY OF THEM MADE OF WASTE MATERIALS WILL BE DISPLAYED.

ALL THE EXHIBITS WERE CHOSEN FROM OVER 300 ENTRIES SUBMITTED BY ABOUT 30 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES INCLUDING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FACTORY AND OFFICE WORKERS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE HUNDREDS OF COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND MODELS TO ILLUSTRATE A WIDE RANGE OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY VARIOUS COMMUNITY CENTRES, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIAL WORK AGENCIES IN SHAM SHUI PO.

AN INFORMATION COUNTER WILL BE SET UP AT THE EXHIBITION SITE TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES OF HOW TO JOIN THESE ACTIVITIES.

ANOTHER SECTION OF THE EXHIBITION WILL COMPRISE PICTURES AND MODELS SHOWING THE DANGERS OF TRYING HEROIN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE EXHIBITION WILL OPEN AT THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TONG YAM STREET AT 3.30 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND WILL CONTINUE ON SATURDAY BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 10 P.M., AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE MOVED TO THE CHAN SHU KUI MEMORIAL SCHOOL AT 70 TAIPO ROAD FOR SHOWING ON NOVEMBER 13 AND 14 AND THEN MOVED AGAIN TO THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND FOR SHOWING ON NOVEMBER 20.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER THE CEREMONY AND THE EXHIBITION.

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