HK GIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1975

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A DECENT HOME FOR EVERYONE, SAYS ACTING GOVERNOR

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THE STANDARD OF PUBLIC HOUSING WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPROVED TO THE LIMITS OF GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE OI MAN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX THIS AFTERNOON.

SIR DENYS ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF A DECENT LIVING PLACE TO THE AVERAGE MAN AND WOULD PURSUE WITH +DETERMINATION AND ENTHUSIASM+ TO PROVIDE EVERYONE WITH DIGNIFIED DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION.

OI MAN ESTATE, SITUATED AT HO MAN TIN IN KOWLOON, IS NOW FULLY OCCUPIED AND HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 42,000.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE OI MAN ESTATE WAS IN MANY WAYS DIFFERENT FROM THE EARLIEST FORMS OF PUBLIC HOUSING. THE ESTATE, HE SAID, PROVIDED A STANDARD OF COMFORT AND SPACIOUSNESS FAR BEYOND THAT OF THE SIMPLE BLOCKS OF 15 YEARS AGO.

+EACH OF ITS 6,000 OR SO FLATS IS SELF-CONTAINED, WITH A LIVING/DINING ROOM, A KITCHEN, A TOILET AND A PRIVATE BALCONY. THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF FLATS RANGE FROM OVER 350 SQUARE FEET TO ALMOST 600 SQUARE FEET, AT RENTS FAR BELOW WHAT WOULD BE CHARGED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR SIMILAR ACCOMMODATION,+ HE SAID.

SIR DENYS SAID THAT PLANNERS OF MODERN ESTATES DID NOT MERELY SEEK TO CONSTRUCT LIVING QUARTERS IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THEY STROVE TO CREATE A VIGOROUS SOCIAL COMMUNITY, WHICH WOULD IN TIME DEVELOP A LOCAL IDENTITY OF ITS OWN.

THE ARCHITECTS OF OI MAN HAVE THEREFORE INCLUDED SHOPS, MARKETS, RESTAURANTS, A LIBRARY, WELFARE PREMISES, CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACES, BANKS, COOKED FOOD STALLS, CAR PARKS AND A COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

WITHIN THE AIR-CONDITIONED INTERIOR OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, THERE ARE 90 SHOPS, THREE BANKS, TWO LARGE RESTAURANTS, A SUPERMARKET, A DEPARTMENT STORE, A CAFE AND THE ESTATE OFFICE.

THE CENTRE, SIR DENYS SAID, WOULD NOT ONLY MEET THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF OI MAN, BUT IT WOULD ALSO ACT AS A DISTRICT SHOPPING CENTRE FOR THE HO MAN TIN AREA, AN EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COULD SATISFY BOTH LOCAL NEEDS AND WIDER COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR THEN PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE OI MAN ESTATE INCLUDING THE PREVIOUS HOUSING AUTHORITY WHICH SETTLED ITS BASIC DESIGN IN 1969= THE NEW AUTHORITY AND ITS OFFICERS= THE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT= THE CONTRACTORS= THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES.

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AUSTRALIAN FIRMS SEEK HONG KONG PARTNERS

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YET MORE AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES ARE LOOKING FOR HONG KONG PARTNERS TO SET UP JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES HERE.

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED ENQUIRIES FROM MORE THAN 100 AUSTRALIAN FIRMS WISHING TO CONTACT SUITABLE LOCAL MANUFACTURERS INTERESTED IN ENTERING INTO JOINT VENTURES AND, OR, LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS TO PRODUCE A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

THESE ENQUIRIES COME IN THE WAKE OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION TOURS CARRIED OUT IN AUSTRALIA EARLY THIS YEAR BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THINGS WHICH THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD LIKE TO PRODUCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HONG KONG INCLUDE CLOTHING, PLASTICS, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, FURNITURE, CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, FOOD -STUFF, MACHINERY AND ENGINEERING PRODUCTS, METAL FABRICATION, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS AND WOODEN PRODUCTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE D.C. AND I. SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS IN TOUCH WITH THESE AUSTRALIAN FIRMS AND WAS SEEKING MORE DETAILS FROM THEM REGARDING THEIR PROPOSALS.

IN THE MEAN TIME, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL.

THE SPOKESMAN ASKED INTERESTED HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS TO CONTACT MISS CHARLOTTE CHUNG (5-223481) OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ARE ALSO URGED TO CONTACT MISS CHUNG JUST IN CASE THERE MIGHT BE ENQUIRIES WHICH CONCERNED THEIR PARTICULAR LINE OF BUSINESS.

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FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE STRENGTHENED

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THE GOVERNMENT 'S FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE IS BEING STRENGTHENED WITH THE ADDITION OF SIX NEW MEMBERS TO BRING FRESH IDEAS, INITIATIVE AND IMPETUS TO THE FIGTH AGAINST CRIME IN HONG KONG. THEY WILL ALSO GATHER AND PASS ON SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME TO THE PUBLIC.

THE APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNOR WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY. THREE OF THEM, MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MISS KO SIU-WAH AND MR. ALEX WU, ARE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS. THE OTHER THREE ARE MR. CHAN LING-FUNG, MR. WONG LAM AND MRS. SELINA CHOW.

MR. CHAN IS CHAIRMAN OF THE KENNEDY TOWN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION AND KENNEDY TOWN/MOUNT DAVIS AREA COMMITTEE AND IS A PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADER IN WESTERN DISTRICT. HE IS ALSO A FORMER CHARIMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

MR. WONG STARTED AS A BUS CONDUCTOR AND IS NOW SUPERVISOR OF KMB'S KWUNG TONG BUS DEPOT. HE IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE WING YING MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE, AND HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN BOY SCOUTS, CLANSMEN AND COUNTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN ADDITION TO BEING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE KWUN TONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE HOI TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

MRS. SELINA CHOW IS PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR HKTVB AND HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN MARCH 1973 TO PLAN, ORGANISE AND CO-ORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE POLICE TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY THAT UP TO NOW MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO OFFICIALS, WITH HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN. THE OTHER OFFICIAL MEMBERS ARE THE SECRETARIES FOR SECURITY, THE NEW TERRITORIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF IMFORMATION SERVICES.

HE SAID THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE COMMITTEE TO BE STRENGTHENED BY THE ADDITION OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ABLE TO BRING WITH THEM +NEW IDEAS, INITIATIVE AND IMPETUS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AND WHO WILL HELP TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE.+

THE COMMITTEE HAS HELD OVER 50 MEETINGS SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND HAS CONSIDERED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING SUCH IMPORTANT ISSUES AS THE FORMATION OF MUTUAL AID AND AREA COMMITTEES, SIMPLIFYING POLICE REPORTING PROCEDURES, THE STUDY OF SOCIAL CAUSE OF CRIME, AND LEGISLATION AND ACTION ON THE CONTROL OF VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MR. BRAY SAID THE APPOINTMENTS REFLECT THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE WORK AND VALUE OF MUTUAL AID AND AREA COMMITTEES, AND ALSO THE NEED TO HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MEDIA.

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CONSULTANTS' REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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SOLUTIONS TO MANY OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL REQUIRE A +PLANNED AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TAKING ACCOUNT OF A WIDE VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS.+

THIS OBJECTIVE IS STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE FIRST INTERIM REPORT OF THE CONSULTANTS APPOINTED TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THE REPORT BY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES LIMITED, LONDON, IS BASED ON A YEAR-LONG ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND CONTAINS OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS COVERING WATER, NOISE, AIR AND SOLID WASTE POLLUTION.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ERL, MRS. FLORENCE FISHER, SAID TODAY HER FIRM BELIEVES THE OBJECTIVES CAN BEST BE MET THROUGH THE CREATION OF A CENTRAL CONTROL AUTHORITY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL AND ASSISTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS IN THESE FOUR KEY FIELDS.

SHE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S LEGISLATION RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL HAS GROWN UP PIECEMEAL OVER A PERIOD OF MANY YEARS.

+LIKE THAT OF MOST HIGHLY POPULATED INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, HONG KONG'S REGULATIONS HAVE NOT KEPT ABREAST OF THE CHANGING NATURE OF INDUSTRY, NOR OF THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND AMENITY SITING. THE INEVITABLE RESULTS ARE THAT SOME OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE UNSATISFACTORY AND OFTEN IN CONFLICT WITH ONE ANOTHER.+

THEREFORE, MRS. FISHER SAID, THE CONSULTANTS PROPOSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE, INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDINANCE WITH SECTIONS ON AIR, WATER, NOISE, SOLID WASTE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF LAND-USE PLANNING.

+OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY ERL, THOSE RELATING TO THE CENTRAL CONTROL UNIT AND THE REPLACEMENT OF HONG KONG'S PATCHWORK OF ANTI-POLLUTION REGULATIONS WITH A SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE ORDINANCE ARE AMONG THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL,+ MRS. FISHER ADDED.

THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND THE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF DISCHARGE INTO INLAND AND COASTAL WATERS= THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF NOISE REDUCTION= INCREASED MONITORING OF AIR POLLUTION= STRICTER CONTROLS OVER WASTE DISPOSAL AND EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE WASTE REDUCTION THROUGH RECLAMATION AND RECYCLING= AND THE INCORPORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED NEW TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING OFTEN CONFLICTING DEMANDS FROM INDUSTRY, TOURISM, RECREATION, AGRICULTURE, HOUSING AND WATER SUPPLY.

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COMMENTING ON THE CONSULTANTS' FINDINGS SO FAR, MRS. FISHER SAID THAT HONG KONG'S POLLUTION PROBLEMS ARE LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNTREATED WASTES DISCHARGED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WASTES FROM VARIOUS NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

THE SITUATION, SHE SAID, HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY GROWTH IN INDUSTRY AND POPULATION, INCLUDING GROWTH IN TOURISM.

MRS. FISHER ADDED THAT THE FIRST REPORT HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS PROVIDING THE GOVERNMENT WITH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR DECIDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESOURCES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AND HOW THESE COULD BE USED MOST EFFECTIVELY.

IT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL ENABLE ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING TO BECOME A FLEXIBLE AND CONTINUOUS PROCESS, RESPONSIVE TO CHANGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, NEW KNOWLEDGE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND HUMAN ASPIRATIONS TOWARDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

THE NEXT PHASE OF ERL'S WORK, TO BE COMPLETED IN 1976, WILL INVOLVE PREPARATION OF MORE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTROL AUTHORITIES AND SYSTEMS, DRAFTING OF SPECIFIC PROPOSED LAWS AND REGULATIONS, ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN INFORMING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME, AND ADVISING ON THE PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT IT.

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ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS METRICATION
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY TOOK A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS METRICATION WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FROM JANUARY 1 THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WILL ACCEPT BUILDING PLANS IN METRIC UNITS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR, MR. EDWARD KENNARD, SAID: +FROM THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR WE WILL ACCEPT PLANS IN EITHER METRIC OR IMPERIAL UNITS. THE NEXT STEP AFTER THAT WILL BE TO MAKE METRIC APPLICATIONS COMPULSORY, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN ON JANUARY 1, 1977 -- DEPENDENT ON THE ENACTMENT OF SUITABLE LEGISLATION.+

MR. KENNARD WENT ON TO SAY THAT TO HELP APPLICANTS PREPARE METRIC PLANS, A SPECIAL SCHEDULE HAD BEEN PREPARED SHOWING EXACT METRIC EQUIVALENTS FOR ALL THE IMPERIAL MEASUREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS.

COPIES OF THE SCHEDULE WERE NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PERSONS AUTHORISED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR APPROVAL (KNOWN AS AUTHORISED PERSONS).

MR. KENNARD SAID THE EXACT CONVERSIONS IN THE SCHEDULE COULD BE +ROUNDED OFF+ TO SUIT INDIVIDUAL PLANS, PROVIDED THE PLANS REMAINED WITHIN THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

+THE ISSUING OF THE SCHEDULE IS AN INTERIM MEASURE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEW LEGISLATION CAN BE ENACTED TO REPLACE THE IMPERIAL VALUES IN THE ORDINANCE BY SPECIFIC METRIC VALUES,+ MR. KENNARD SAID.

HE URGED ALL AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS WHO WERE NOT ALREADY DOING SO TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO TRAIN THEIR STAFF TO WORK IN THE METRIC SYSTEM.

+SEVERAL MAJOR FIRMS IN THIS FIELD HAVE ALREADY GONE METRIC,+ HE SAID, +BUT WE SUSPECT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE NOT YET STARTED TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS TOWARDS CHANGING OVER -- WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF METRIC EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUCTING STAFF ON THE APPLICATION OF THESE NEW UNITS.

+THESE FIRMS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM OF METRIC OR IMPERIAL APPLICATIONS BEING INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 1 IS ONLY TO APPLY FOR A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD LEADING TO COMPULSORY METRICATION, AND GIVES THEM THEIR FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO METRICATION.

/+ALTHOUGH THE .....

+ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO JANUARY 1977 AS THE DATE FOR MANDATORY METRICATION, ANY FIRM WHICH DOES NOT QUICKLY FACE UP TO THE PROBLEMS OF CONVERSION TO METRIC UNITS WILL FIND ITSELF IN DIFFICULTIES WHEN COMPULSORY METRIC SUBMISSIONS BECOME LAW.

+OF COURSE CONSIDERABLE WORK AND RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DONE WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND IF ANY FIRM HAS ANY PROBLEMS OR NEEDS FURTHER INFORMATION, THE METRICATION OFFICER OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WILL BE GLAD TO HELP.+

MR. KENNARD ADDED: +REGISTERED CONTRACTORS WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH A COPY OF THE SCHEDULE OF METRIC EQUIVALENTS WHEN THEY ARE APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED USING METRIC UNITS.

+EVERYBODY, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, MUST NOW START TO ''THINK METRIC''!+

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WATER CUT

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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 22) TO ALLOW A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY KIU KIANG STREET, PO ON ROAD, PRATAS STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TONKIN STREET, FUK WING STREET, CAMP STREET AND CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

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FOOD PRICES UP LAST MONTH
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FOODSTUFFS COST MORE LAST MONTH BECAUSE OF UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE APPROACH OF TYPHOONS, ACCORDING TO THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDICES ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS A RESULT OF A DROP IN SUPPLY, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH ADVANCED BY SIX PER CENT WHILE THAT OF FRESH VEGETABLES ROSE BY A SUBSTANTIAL 18 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE PRICE OF FRESH FRUITS DECLINED.

THE INCREASES PUSHED UP THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS BY TWO POINTS IN BOTH THE 'A' AND 'B' NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDICES, WHICH COVER HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF $400 - $1,499 AND $1,500 - $2,999, RESPECTIVELY.

OVERALL, THE 'A' INDEX ROSE BY TWO POINTS TO 111, WHILE THE 'B' INDEX STOOD AT 110 - ONE POINT HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

IN BOTH INDICES, THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ROSE BY THREE POINTS DUE TO AN INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES AND IN THE PRICES OF TEXTBOOKS.

IN THE 'B' INDEX, A RISE OF ONE POINT WAS RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT WHILE THAT FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS FELL BY ONE POINT.

OTHER MOVEMENTS IN THE INDICES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

BY COMPARISON, THE OLD CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER STOOD AT 200, SIX POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

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SPORTS MEET FOR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ABOUT 250 BOYS AND GIRLS FROM EIGHT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE 8TH INTER-INSTITUTION SPORTS MEET TO BE HELD AT THE PERTH STREET SPORTS GROUND TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 5.30 P.M.

THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS ARE THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, THE KWUN TONG HOSTEL, THE MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME AND THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND CHAK YAN CENTRE, THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE AND THE SHING TAK CENTRE OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE FUNCTION HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER INSTITUTIONAL CARE SO THAT THEY CAN LEARN FROM IT THE ESSENCE OF SPORTSMANSHIP, FAIR COMPETITION AND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING.

THE EVENTS OF THE DAY INCLUDE LONG AND SHORT DISTANCE RACES, RELAY RACES, SHOT-PUT AND TUG-OF-WAR.

THERE WILL ALSO BE INVITATION EVENTS FOR PEOPLE UNDER THE CARE OF PROBATION AND AFTER CARE OFFICERS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS.

MR. CHARLES YEUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING AFTER THE EVENTS AND MRS. YEUNG WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SPORTS MEET. THEY ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT THE SITE NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. AS ALL THE EVENTS SHOULD BE IN THEIR FINAL STAGES BY THEN. THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY IS TO BE HELD AT 4.45 P.M.

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HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

Speech by The Acting Governor, Sir Denys Roberts,
at the opening of Oi Man Commercial Complex
on Thursday, November 20, 1975

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the last three years I have paid several visits to Oi Man and have seen it develop steadily, from an area of bare hillside and rough squatter settlements into the fine estate of which the Housing Authority is so justifiably proud.

Anyone who walks through the handsome blocks which comprise it will realize how far public housing has come, in appearance, in design and in the standard of accommodation which is provided, since the first resettlement blocks, with their communal washing places and latrines and rudimentary social and commercial facilities, were built almost twenty years ago.

Our earliest public housing was primarily intended to satisfy the urgent needs of those who had lost their homes as a result of fire or natural disaster, or who had to move in order to make way for essential public projects; and it was successful in achieving these specific and limited objectives. But it was not long before the huge population growth of the nineteen fifties made it imperative for the Government to accept the main responsibility for housing the large numbers who existed in conditions which were an affront to a self respecting community.

For several years, the Government built resettlement estates and low cost housing while the Housing Authority built its own estates. Undoubtedly, substantial progress was made and a heavy debt is owed to those who strove so hard during this period to house those who needed it most.

/Nevertheless,

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Nevertheless, it became clear, when the Government reviewed progress about five years ago that we were not doing more than contain the problem and that new programmes and methods were essential if we were to reduce the huge waiting lists for public housing. In 1973, therefore, the new Housing Authority was formed, with enlarged responsibilities. These included the planning, building and managing of all public housing estates throughout Hong Kong, the execution of land clearances and the control and prevention of illegal squatting and the management of permitted areas.

The Government believed that it was essential to centralize in one body the duty of carrying through one ambitious housing programme, which has as its ultimate aim the provision of a decent home for every family in Hong Kong. Such a formidable task demands a unified and determined organisation equipped with substantial resources and professional skills. This Commercial Centre is one of the first achievements of this new Housing Authority.

In what ways then does Oi Man differ from the earliest forms of public housing? To begin with, each of its 6,000 or so flats is self-contained, with a living/dining room, a kitchen, a toilet and a private balcony. The total floor areas of flats range from over 350 square feet to almost 600 square feet, at rents far below what would be charged in the private sector for similar accommodation. A number of two-bedroom flats have been provided to enable the Authority to allocate this accommodation in a more flexible way to meet demand. Fittings and finishings, to which too little attention has been given (even in expensive housing) have been carefully designed.

A modern estate, however, should consist of much more than residential accommodation alone. For planners of imagination do not merely seek to construct living quarters in large quantities, they strive to create a vigorous social community, which will in time develop a local identity of its own.

The architects of Oi Man have therefore included shops, markets,

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restaurants, a library, welfare premises, children's play spaces, banks, cooked food stalls and car parks. In particular, they designed this magnificent Commercial Centre which is being officially opened today. Within its air-conditioned interior are 90 shops, 3 banks, 2 large restaurants, a supermarket, a department store, a cafe and the Estate Office. The Centre will not only meet the needs of residents of Oi Man, but it will also act as a district shopping centre for the Ho Man Tin area, an example of the way in which comprehensive planning can satisfy both local needs and wider community requirements.

Many have contributed to Oi Man Estate, a splendid achievement, which has been so warmly admired by the many visitors, including Her Majesty the Queen, who have come to see it. Among those who deserve recognition for their part in its success are the previous Housing Authority, which in 1969 settled the basic design, which has been developed in detail by the new Authority and its officers. Much credit must be given to the architects and engineers of the Housing Department, to the Contractors, to the Public Works Department and to the public utility companies. Everyone who has been concerned with Oi Man will, I am sure, share our pleasure at its completion, which is marked by the opening of this Commercial Centre.

Oi Man is a great improvement on its predecessors, providing a standard of comfort and spaciousness far beyond that of the simple blocks of fifteen years ago. I have no doubt that its standards will, in time, be superseded by higher ones, for it is the Government's objective to continue to improve public housing to the limits of our resources.

For the average man, life centres around his home. It is here that he finds the support and affection which transform a bare existence into a richer life; therefore, for the fulfillment of these basic and unchanging needs, he craves a decent place in which to live. I can assure you that the Government recognises this and will continue to pursue with determination and enthusiasm its ultimate aim which is to provide for all our inhabitants who

/need it, ...

need it, domestic accommodation of a standard which will enable them to live dignified lives, with the degree of privacy which is so dear to most of us.

Finally, may I convey my best wishes to the residents of Oi Man, who will now be able to enjoy the amenities of this fine development in peace, free from the noise of further building around them. May they achieve here a full and happy life, of a quality which will, I trust, one day be available to all who have made this remarkable city their home.

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