



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1975

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TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS INVITED
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TODAY INVITED TENDERS FOR A MAXIMUM OF \$250 MILLION NOMINAL BEARER BONDS IN DENOMINATIONS OF \$20,000. INTEREST ON THE BONDS WILL BE 6-1/2 PER CENT PER ANNUM.

FULL DETAILS OF THE TENDER WERE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE AND WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S ENGLISH AND CHINESE NEWSPAPERS.

TENDERS FOR THE BONDS MUST BE FOR A MINIMUM OF \$20,000 AND IN MULTIPLES OF \$20,000. THE LIST WILL OPEN AT 10 A.M. ON NOVEMBER 24 AND CLOSE AT 1 P.M. THE SAME DAY. LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

THE TENDERS WILL BE OPENED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSING TIME.

IN CONSIDERING TENDERS, THOSE WITH THE HIGHEST OFFERED PRICES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE AMOUNT OF BONDS ON OFFER IS ATTAINED. THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL TENDERS +IN WHOLE OR IN PART+.

NO TENDER WILL BE CONSIDERED WHERE THE PRICE OFFERED IS LESS THAN \$98 PER \$100. THE ISSUE PRICE WILL BE THE PRICE OF THE LOWEST TENDER OR TENDERS ACCEPTED.

IF, AFTER MAKING ALLOTMENTS TO APPLICANTS TENDERING HIGHER PRICES, TENDERS AT THE ISSUE PRICE EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF BONDS THEN AVAILABLE FOR ALLOTMENT, THE RESIDUE WILL BE ALLOTTED +IN SUCH MANNER AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THINKS FIT+.

INTEREST WILL BE PAID HALF YEARLY ON MAY 24 AND NOVEMBER 24 ON THE SURRENDER OF COUPONS AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE BONDS WILL BE REPAID AT PAR ON NOVEMBER 24, 1980 UNLESS PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED BY PURCHASE ON THE OPEN MARKET OR BY AGREEMENT, OR UNLESS THE PERIOD FOR WHICH THE BONDS ARE ISSUED IS EXTENDED.

AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE COMMITTEES OF HONG KONG'S FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES FOR PERMISSION TO DEAL IN AND FOR A QUOTATION FOR THE BONDS.

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THE PRINTED APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:-

- (I) THE TREASURY REVENUE BRANCH, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, HONG KONG.
- (II) THE CAUSEWAY BAY SUB-TREASURY, CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, ELECTRIC ROAD, HONG KONG.
- (III) THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, 4TH FLOOR, 405, NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON.
- (IV) THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY 1ST FLOOR, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 348-352, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE LAST GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUE, THE 3-1/2% REHABILITATION DOLLAR LOAN, WAS MADE IN 1948. IT IS DUE FOR REPAYMENT NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 1978.

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ACTING GOVERNOR OPENS OUTBOARD MARINE ENGINE PLANT
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, SAID TODAY THAT HONG KONG PROVIDES CONDITIONS WHICH OFFER VERY ATTRACTIVE TERMS TO INVESTORS AND ENABLE THEM TO MANAGE INDUSTRIES WHICH REMAIN COMPETITIVE AND VIABLE IN ALL CONDITIONS.

SIR DENYS, WHO WAS OPENING THE NEW OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FACTORY ON TSING YI ISLAND, SAID THAT IN PARTICULAR THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S LOW TAX STRUCTURE AND ITS FREE PORT BENEFITS.

+WE WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW FUNDS TO BE IMPORTED AND REMITTED FREELY. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME ENTERPRISING MEN FROM OVERSEAS WHO WISH TO ESTABLISH WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARIES, JOINT VENTURES OR LOCALLY CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS+.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP TECHNICAL EDUCATION, INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, AND THE OTHER SERVICES ON WHICH INDUSTRY RELIES IF IT IS TO IMPROVE ITS PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE.

CHANGES WHICH ARE MADE TO INDUSTRIAL POLICIES WILL BE AIMED AT ASSISTING INDUSTRY AND NOT AT RESTRICTING IT.

SIR DENYS SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMY RESTS HEAVILY ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED AIM TO MAINTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH WILL FOSTER ITS GROWTH AND SUCCESS.

+WE MUST GIVE INDUSTRY CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WILL NOT BE LIGHTLY ALTERED AND ABOVE ALL THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE MAKING OF PROFITS.

+OUR ECONOMY IS BUILT UPON THEM, OUR REVENUE RELIES HEAVILY ON THEM AND WITHOUT THEM, WE COULD NOT FINANCE THE EXTENSIVE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO OUR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

THE MAKING OF PROFITS, SIR DENYS ADDED, WAS BEST ACHIEVED BY LEAVING BUSINESS TO BUSINESSMEN AND BY IMPOSING THE MINIMUM OF INTERFERENCE WITH FREE COMPETITION.

THE NEW OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FACTORY ON TSING YI IS THE FIRST PLANT WHICH THE COMPANY HAS ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA AND THE FIRST LARGE PLANT OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES ITSELF.

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PROCESSING OF BUILDING PLANS TO BE SPEEDED UP

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED FOR 9 P.M. TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, ANNOUNCED THIS EVENING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO SLASH THE TIME REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF BUILDING PLANS.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WAS NOW FINALISING A SCHEME WHEREBY ALL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE APPROVAL OF BUILDING PROJECTS WOULD BE CO-ORDINATED THROUGH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE P.W.D., CUTTING THE ENTIRE PROCESS TO 60 DAYS OR LESS.

MR. MCDONALD TOLD THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE THE SYSTEM FINALISED, APPROVED AND PUT INTO OPERATION WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE HAD BEEN WORKING WELL BELOW ITS APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND AS A RESULT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROCESS PLANS FOR NEW BUILDINGS AS RAPIDLY AS EITHER IT OR THE DEVELOPERS WOULD HAVE WISHED.

HE SAID: +WE HAD, IN FACT, TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY PERIOD DURING WHICH PLANS OF NEW SUBMISSIONS HAD TO BE PROCESSED FROM 30 DAYS TO 60 DAYS IN ORDER TO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF OUR BUILDING SURVEYORS, MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FOR LONG PERIODS FROM THEIR ROUTINE DUTIES IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE URGENT NEED FOR INSPECTIONS OF PROPERTIES AND HILLSIDES AFTER THE 1972 RAINSTORMS.

+WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES THEY FOUND THAT A COLOSSAL BACKLOG OF SUBMISSIONS HAD DEVELOPED AND THE PROCESSING PROBLEM HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF A NIGHTMARE.

+FROM THE DEVELOPERS' POINT OF VIEW, THE EXTENSION OF THE STATUTORY PERIOD WAS NOT PARTICULARLY WELCOME AND WE SYMPATHIZED WITH THEIR VIEW, AS WE WERE WELL AWARE THAT THIS WAS YET ANOTHER DELAY IN THE LONG DRAWN-OUT PROCESS OF OBTAINING APPROVAL OF SCHEMES.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT BEFORE EVEN A FIRST SUBMISSION COULD BE MADE TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, PREVIOUS APPROVAL HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM SEVERAL OTHER OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE NOT CONTROLLED BY STATUTORY PROCESSING PERIODS AND THIS COULD TAKE MANY MONTHS.

THIS SITUATION

THIS SITUATION COULD HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS SATISFACTORY, AND SO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN WORKING ON WAYS TO REDUCE DRASTICALLY THE TIME REQUIRED TO OBTAIN APPROVALS.

MR. MCDONALD SAID: +THE PROPOSAL IS BASICALLY A SINGLE SUBMISSION SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE AUTHORIZED PERSON WILL, WHEN HE HAS COMPLETED HIS PLANS, SUBMIT SEVERAL COPIES DIRECTLY TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE WHICH WILL ACT AS CO-ORDINATOR, ISSUING DRAWINGS TO ALL THE VARIOUS INTERESTED GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS TO OBTAIN THEIR COMMENTS OR APPROVALS, AND CONCURRENTLY CARRYING OUT ITS OWN CHECKS.

+THE ENTIRE OPERATION WILL THEREFORE BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE STATUTORY 60-DAY PERIOD.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT AS A SEPARATE BUT LONGER-LASTING EXERCISE, THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING SURVEY ADVISER WAS CARRYING OUT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WITH A VIEW TO ITS COMPLETE REVISION.

+THE RECENTLY-INTRODUCED BUILDING (CONSTRUCTION) REGULATIONS 1975 HAVE PROVIDED HONG KONG WITH ITS OWN STRUCTURAL DESIGN STANDARDS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMULATED TO SUIT OUR RATHER UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARE A BIG STEP FORWARD IN UPDATING OUR BUILDING LAW,+ HE SAID.

A FURTHER POSITIVE STEP HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN IN DEALING WITH THE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL WORKS IN OCCUPIED BUILDINGS.

HE SAID, +THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME OF REGULARLY INSPECTING ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED AFTER 31ST JULY 1975, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS SURVEILLANCE WILL NOT ONLY PREVENT ILLEGAL WORKS FROM REACHING AN ADVANCED STAGE BUT WILL ALSO ACT AS A DETERRENT TO THOSE WHO MAY BE CONTEMPLATING SIMILAR ILLEGAL WORKS.+

MR. MCDONALD ADDED: +IT IS REALLY TOO EARLY TO REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME BUT I HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT, DESPITE THE MANY OBJECTIONS THAT WILL ARISE FROM ENFORCEMENT ACTION, THE SCHEME WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.+

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LEGAL BACKING FOR SKILLED MANPOWER TRAINING
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A BILL TO IMPROVE APPRENTICE TRAINING AND TO REGULATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF APPRENTICES IN CERTAIN TRADES IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID THAT HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING DEPENDED ON HER INDUSTRIES' ABILITY TO SURVIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE AND COMPLEX SITUATION. THIS LARGELY DEPENDED ON AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PROPERLY TRAINED SKILLED MANPOWER.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO HELP OUR INDUSTRIES REMAIN HEALTHY AND COMPETITIVE,+ HE WENT ON +IT DOES THIS BY PROVIDING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL BRING ORDER TO THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF SKILLED MANPOWER TRAINING AND ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CERTAIN +DESIGNATED TRADES+ RECEIVE CORRECT ON-THE-JOB PRACTICAL TRAINING AND THE NECESSARY RELATED THEORETICAL TRAINING IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTION.

THE BILL IS THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICESHIP ON WHICH ARE REPRESENTED WORKERS AND ALL MAJOR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, INCLUDING THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION.

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL APPLY TO ALL +YOUNG PERSONS AGED 14-16+ EMPLOYED IN DESIGNATED TRADES AND THEIR EMPLOYERS. THE COMMISSIONER IS EMPOWERED TO GRANT EXEMPTIONS IN CERTAIN CASES.

MR. PRICE SAID: +IT IS NOT THE INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A LARGE NUMBER OF TRADES TO BEGIN WITH. THIS WILL BE A GRADUAL PROCESS AND WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE ADVICE TENDERED BY THE TRAINING BOARDS. IN ADDITION THERE IS A PROVISION TO LATER RAISE THE AGE LIMIT TO 21 YEARS AND SO ULTIMATELY INCLUDE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES.+

UNDER THE BILL, WHICH, WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL :

- (I) ADVISE AND ASSIST EMPLOYERS IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OF APPRENTICES,
- (II) CO-OPERATE WITH TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN ENSURING THAT APPRENTICES OBTAIN THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF RELATED TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION,

/(III) GENERALLY

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(III) GENERALLY SUPERVISE THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF APPRENTICES,

(IV) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS FROM THE ENDEAVOUR TO SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND APPRENTICES

TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER TO CARRY OUT HIS FUNCTIONS, THE BILL EMPOWERS HIM TO : -

- (I) REQUIRE AN EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRAINING,
- (II) REQUIRE AN APPRENTICE TO ATTEND A COURSE OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION NECESSARY FOR HIS TRAINING,
- (III) REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO MAKE RETURNS AND REPORTS,
- (IV) SPECIFY THE PERIODS OF APPRENTICESHIP,
- (V) TO LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN THE PERIOD OF APPRENTICESHIP IN CERTAIN CASES.

CONTRACTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ATTESTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE RE-REGISTERED IF THE BILL BECOMES LAW.

THE BILL REQUIRES AN EMPLOYER TO GIVE A CERTIFICATE TO A REGISTERED APPRENTICE WHO HAS SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED HIS TRAINING. IT WILL CONTAIN A RECORD OF PRACTICAL WORK PERFORMED BY THE APPRENTICE AND THE TECHNICAL COURSE HE HAS TAKEN AND WILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PROVIDE EMPLOYERS WITH A YARDSTICK OF A WORKER'S SKILLS. THESE CERTIFICATES WHICH MUST BE COUNTERSIGNED BY THE COMMISSIONER WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN RAISING THE STATUS OF BLUE-COLLAR WORK.

MR. PRICE SAID: +THERE ARE SOME EMPLOYERS WHO CANNOT PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR PROPER TRAINING, BUT THE COMMISSIONER HAS THE POWER TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS IN CERTAIN CASES. ALL EMPLOYERS WILL BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE, IF NECESSARY, BY THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL WILL PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE SKILLED MANPOWER SCENE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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OVERCHARGING BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO BE STOPPED
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AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WILL BE ALLOWED TO CLAIM FROM A JOB SEEKER ONLY THE LEGALLY PRESCRIBED FEE AND COMMISSION, IF A BILL GAZETTED TODAY BECOMES LAW.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1975, WHICH SEEKS TO REMEDY A DEFICIENCY A RECENT COURT CASE BROUGHT TO LIGHT, WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD PREVENT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES FROM OVER-CHARGING JOB-SEEKERS BY WAY OF +EXPENSES+ AND WOULD PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION TO THEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS PRESCRIBE THE FEE AND COMMISSION WHICH CAN BE CHARGED BY AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

+ON FIRST REGISTRATION A JOB SEEKER NEED ONLY PAY TO AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY A MAXIMUM OF \$3 AS A FEE,+ HE SAID.

+ON RE-REGISTRATION AFTER 3 MONTHS, UP TO ANOTHER \$3 MAY BE PAYABLE. IN ADDITION THE MAXIMUM COMMISSION PAYABLE TO AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY BY A JOB-SEEKER IS 10% OF THE FIRST MONTH'S WAGES AFTER SECURING EMPLOYMENT. NO OTHER CHARGES ARE PAYABLE BY A JOB SEEKER.+

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY MAY CHARGE A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER A MUTUALLY AGREED COMMISSION.

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CONVENTION ON ARBITRATION AWARDS TO BE EXTENDED TO H.K.
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AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON FOREIGN ARBITRATION AWARDS IS TO BE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG UNDER A BILL PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE. IF APPROVED IT WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE CONVENTION - THE NEW YORK CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS - WILL BE APPLIED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WHEN THE ARBITRATION ACT 1975 COMES INTO EFFECT.

IT WAS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION IN JUNE 1958. THE CONVENTION PROVIDES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS WITH AN INTERNATIONAL ELEMENT - THE CONSEQUENT SUSPENSION OF COURT PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING DISPUTES WHICH SHOULD BE ARBITRATED - AND THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND DEPENDENT TERRITORIES TO WHICH IT IS EXTENDED, OF ARBITRAL AWARDS MADE IN OTHER COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE CONVENTION.

THE BILL PUBLISHED TODAY SEEKS TO AMEND THE ARBITRATION ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ACT. THIS WILL ENABLE THE U.K. TO MAKE A DECLARATION EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION TO HONG KONG.

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N.T. VILLAGE HOUSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM RATING
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VILLAGE HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM RATING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERTAKINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, UNDER AN AMENDING BILL PUBLISHED TODAY.

THE RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1975 ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND DWELLINGS WHICH ARE OCCUPIED IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURAL LAND.

IN CASES WHERE A PERSON OBJECTS TO AN ASSESSMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PREMISES SHOULD NOT BE RATEABLE BECAUSE IT IS A VILLAGE HOUSE, THE BILL REQUIRES THE COMMISSIONER FOR RATING AND VALUATION TO CONSULT THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF HIS VIEWS.

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DISCUSSIONS ON +MAN IN SOCIETY+ SUGGESTED

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL), MR. HO NGA-MING, TODAY MADE A SUGGESTION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT THEY SHOULD INTRODUCE A SCHEME OF INTELLIGENT DISCUSSIONS OF ONE HOUR A WEEK ON +MAN IN SOCIETY+ FOR THEIR SENIOR PUPILS.

MR. HO SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME WAS TO GIVE GUIDANCE IN APPROACHING THE CHIEF IDEAS OF OUR TIME, TO PROMOTE A THOUGHTFUL INTEREST IN LIFE IN ITS MANY ASPECTS, TO ENCOURAGE THE HABIT OF THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF A GROUP AND TO AFFORD SUBJECTS FOR ORAL, AND, AS THE TEACHER SAW FIT, WRITTEN COMPOSITION.

HE WAS ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE YING WA GIRLS' SCHOOL.

MR. HO GAVE SOME GENERAL HEADINGS ON THE CONTENT OF THIS SCHEME OF DISCUSSIONS - THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG= THE ARTS, OLD AND NEW= THE ART OF LIVING= ASPECTS OF DEMOCRACY= SCIENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING THE PUPILS SOME FREEDOM IN THEIR CHOICE OF QUESTIONS, SINCE THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO COVER MORE GROUND.

MR. HO MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ORGANISE AND CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCHEME AND SAID THAT NATURALLY, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE STANDARD, REGULAR TIMES SHOULD BE SET ASIDE.

+IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DOVETAIL THE DISCUSSION WORK INTO THE COMPOSITION WORK OF THE CLASS. PUPILS SHOULD HAVE AN EXERCISE BOOK IN WHICH THEY ENTER THEIR NOTES AND EXERCISES, OCCASIONAL ASSIGNMENTS BEING WRITTEN OUT MORE FORMALLY IN A SEPARATE BOOK.+

BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT GREAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO DEVOTE TOO MUCH TIME TO THE TECHNICALITIES OF COMPOSITION OTHERWISE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS ACTIVITY - STIMULATING INTELLIGENT DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICS RELATED TO MAN IN SOCIETY - WOULD BE DEFEATED.

MR. HO ALSO OUTLINED SOME SIMPLE DIRECTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CLASS REGARDING THE TECHNIQUE OF ADDRESSING AN AUDIENCE AND THE PROCEDURE IN A FORMAL DEBATE.

PUPILS SHOULD BE WARNED AGAINST SUCH MISTAKES AS: NOT KEEPING THEIR EYES ON THE AUDIENCE= LOOKING AT ONE INDIVIDUAL ONLY= TALKING TOO FAST= DROPPING THEIR VOICE TO THE POINT OF INAUDIBILITY.

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IN ADVOCATING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME OF DISCUSSIONS, MR. HO SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE HEAVY WORK-LOAD OF THE SENIOR PUPILS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS SUCH AS PREPARING FOR THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

+NEVERTHELESS, WHERE THE PUPILS ARE NOT TOO EXAMINATION-ORIENTED, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR SCHOOLS TO TRY IT OUT - IF NOT AS PART OF THEIR WEEKLY TIME-TABLE, AT LEAST AS A REGULAR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. HO WAS SURE THAT IF THE DISCUSSION PROGRAMME WAS WELL PLANNED AND WELL CONDUCTED AND THE PUPILS REGARDED IT AS AN +EYE-OPENER+, SUCCESS COULD EASILY BE ACHIEVED, PARTICULARLY AS NO TESTS OR EXAMINATIONS WERE INVOLVED.

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''BLITZ'' ON KWUN TONG FACTORIES BY FIRE OFFICERS
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OFFICERS OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU CARRIED OUT A ''BLITZ'' ON FACTORIES IN WAI YIP STREET, KWUN TONG, YESTERDAY AS PART OF THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE OPERATION WAS LED BY DIVISIONAL OFFICER, KEN HODGKINS. A TOTAL OF 310 FACTORIES WAS VISITED AND 108 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES ISSUED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE NOTICES REQUIRED THE FIRE HAZARDS TO BE PUT RIGHT WITHIN A STIPULATED PERIOD OR COURT ACTION MIGHT RESULT.

+THE FIRE HAZARDS WERE FOUND TO BE RELATED ENTIRELY TO BLOCKAGES OF STAIRCASES AND LIFT LOBBIES. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED FOR FACTORY MANAGERMENTS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES,+ HE SAID. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUBSTANTIAL FINES COULD BE IMPOSED IN CASES WHERE FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES ARE NOT OBEYED.

MORE ''BLITZES'' ARE PLANNED IN FACTORY AREAS IN THE COMING MONTHS, HE WARNED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS

AT THE OPENING OF THE OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FACTORY ON

14TH NOVEMBER, 1975

Mr. Evinrude, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Governor has asked me to say how sorry he is that he is unable to be here himself today to officiate at the opening of this factory, for he regards it as an important occasion.

Of course, scores of new factories open every year in Hong Kong. Most of them are small and many are designed to produce well tried, traditional goods. More and more of them, however, are seeking to break out of the industrial fetters of the past and to move from simple products to those which demand a higher level of technology. The Outboard Marine Corporation is not only a splendid example of this new enterprise, but it represents new policies for Hong Kong and for your distinguished company.

It is the first example of our special procedure for making land available for selected industries which, by their nature, cannot be located in tall buildings and which depend upon a high level of capital investment per worker and a more skilled labour force.

For the Outboard Marine Corporation, also, this factory involves a major change in policy. It is the first plant which you have established outside the United States, Europe and Australia, and the first large plant outside the United States itself. And it was more than a change in policy, it was an expression of faith, not only in your own judgment but in the future stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Generally speaking, I daresay that both the Hong Kong Government and the Outboard Marine Corporation prefer well-tried and proven policies. We do not believe in introducing changes until the advantages of doing so

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have been clearly demonstrated. But once a change of course has been shown to be necessary, we take the new road with vigour and determination. Perhaps it is the principle, more than any other, which has been the mainspring of the success of your company and of this territory.

The Hong Kong economy rests heavily on manufacturing industry. So it is the Government's declared aim to maintain conditions which will foster its growth and success. We must give industry confidence that the Government's policies will not be lightly altered and above all that we shall continue to encourage the making of profits.

Let me assure you, and all those who may be minded to launch new enterprises here, that we believe in profits. Our economy is built upon them, our revenue relies heavily on them, and without them we could not finance the extensive social programmes which are so essential to our future. We believe that the making of profits is best achieved by leaving business to businessmen and by imposing the minimum of interference with free competition.

In the past, it followed from these beliefs that industrial land should be sold by auction to the highest bidder. When your company informed us that you were interested in establishing a plant in Hong Kong, but only if you could put it on Tsing Yi Island and only if the price of the land was acceptable, we realized that we could only meet these requirements if our basic methods of land sales were changed, because other companies, able to operate from multi-storey buildings, would almost certainly have outbid you in an open auction, had they been allowed to compete. This involved a major alteration to past policies, which had generally served us well, and the acceptance of new principles which would permit private enterprise to bid for sites on a restricted user basis. It took us a long time to decide in favour of this new system and some times you may have felt that we were taking an inordinately long time to make up our minds. If this was a fair criticism, I nevertheless hope that you may have derived some reassurance from the care with which we considered the matter. This measured pace provides a guarantee that we do

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not lightly change any policy if the results might prejudice free enterprise, free trade and free competition.

We believe that Hong Kong provides conditions which offer very attractive terms to investors and will enable them to manage industries which remain competitive and viable in all conditions. In particular, the Government is determined to maintain our low tax structure and our free port benefits. We will continue to allow funds to be imported and remitted freely. And we will continue to welcome enterprising men from overseas who wish to establish wholly-owned subsidiaries, joint ventures or locally controlled corporations.

Perhaps I should make it clear that our disinclination to interfere with the conduct of business does not mean that we are unwilling to help. We shall continue to develop technical education, industrial training, and those other services on which industry relies, if it is to improve its productivity and performance. In the future, as in the past, changes which are made to our industrial policies will be aimed at assisting industry and not at restricting it.

I have no doubt Mr. Evinrude that your executives will maintain the close and friendly relationships which you have already established with the Government, and particularly with the Commerce and Industry Department. We are always ready to provide to industry whatever assistance is within our power. And when you do not need our help we will leave you alone to get on with the business of making marine engines, to our mutual advantage.

Your company is a welcome member of our cosmopolitan community. We will do our best to provide you with the skilled labour and services which you require. We shall continue to improve internal communications, technical education and the total environment within which you, and the rest of Hong Kong industry, can operate to the maximum effectiveness. Within such an environment, I am sure that Evinrude and Johnson outboard engines will be produced profitably, and at the same high level of quality which has made them famous throughout the world.

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We are delighted and privileged to count O.M.C, as your company has already become affectionately known here, as one of us. We welcome you to our community and hope that you will enjoy your share of the future success and prosperity of this remarkable place.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare this building open.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES**DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN
SUPPLEMENT**

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS
AT THE OPENING OF THE OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FACTORY ON
14TH NOVEMBER, 1975

Mr. Evinrude, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Governor has asked me to say how sorry he is that he is unable to be here himself today to officiate at the opening of this factory, for he regards it as an important occasion.

Of course, scores of new factories open every year in Hong Kong. Most of them are small and many are designed to produce well tried, traditional goods. More and more of them, however, are seeking to break out of the industrial fetters of the past and to move from simple products to those which demand a higher level of technology. The Outboard Marine Corporation is not only a splendid example of this new enterprise, but it represents new policies for Hong Kong and for your distinguished company.

It is the first example of our special procedure for making land available for selected industries which, by their nature, cannot be located in tall buildings and which depend upon a high level of capital investment per worker and a more skilled labour force.

For the Outboard Marine Corporation, also, this factory involves a major change in policy. It is the first plant which you have established outside the United States, Europe and Australia, and the first large plant outside the United States itself. And it was more than a change in policy, it was an expression of faith, not only in your own judgment but in the future stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Generally speaking, I daresay that both the Hong Kong Government and the Outboard Marine Corporation prefer well-tried and proven policies. We do not believe in introducing changes until the advantages of doing so

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have been clearly demonstrated. But once a change of course has been shown to be necessary, we take the new road with vigour and determination. Perhaps it is the principle, more than any other, which has been the mainspring of the success of your company and of this territory.

The Hong Kong economy rests heavily on manufacturing industry. So it is the Government's declared aim to maintain conditions which will foster its growth and success. We must give industry confidence that the Government's policies will not be lightly altered and above all that we shall continue to encourage the making of profits.

Let me assure you, and all those who may be minded to launch new enterprises here, that we believe in profits. Our economy is built upon them, our revenue relies heavily on them, and without them we could not finance the extensive social programmes which are so essential to our future. We believe that the making of profits is best achieved by leaving business to businessmen and by imposing the minimum of interference with free competition.

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