



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974

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NEW BRITISH PLEDGE TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST HONG KONG WELCOMED

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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JAMES MCGREGOR, TODAY WELCOMED THE NEW ASSURANCE GIVEN BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL SEEK SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN HONG KONG'S POSITION IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY'S GENERALISED PREFERENCE SCHEME.

MR. MCGREGOR MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

+THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE SOLID SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG INDICATED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, IN LUXEMBOURG YESTERDAY. THE STRONGLY WORDED ASSURANCE WHICH HE GAVE THAT THE HONG KONG CASE FOR REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG IN THE EEC GENERALISED PREFERENCE SCHEME WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY BRITAIN IS MOST WELCOME AT THIS TIME.

+THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN EVERY POSSIBLE STEP DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS TO SEEK REMOVAL OF THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OUR TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR IN THE EEC SCHEME,+ MR. MCGREGOR SAID.

+THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AT ALL LEVELS OF AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR DOWN. WE HAD AN ASSURANCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR OUR CASE LAST NOVEMBER WHEN MR. DAVIES, THEN CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER, TOLD THE EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT THE UK WOULD PRESS 'MOST RESOLUTELY' FOR THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG FROM 1975 ONWARDS. BUT THIS FURTHER STATEMENT BY MR. CALLAGHAN MUST BE VIEWED AS A FIRM DECLARATION OF INTENT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND AS SUCH IT SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY ALL HONG KONG TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

+THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT TASK FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT+ HE SAID, +AND WE MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT PROVIDES A BASIS FOR OPTIMISM.+

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT A CONSTANT DIALOGUE HAS BEEN MAINTAINED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP HONG KONG'S CASE FOR REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION.

IN APRIL, MR. DAVID JORDAN, THEN DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HAD FURTHER TALKS IN LONDON ON THE MATTER. HE SAID ON HIS RETURN TO HONG KONG:

+IT WAS USEFUL THAT WE HAD ARRANGED TO HAVE THESE DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON AT THIS TIME. WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORWARD AND EXPLAIN OUR BELIEF THAT THE EXCLUSION OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR IS NO LONGER -- IF IT EVER WAS -- JUSTIFIABLE OR NECESSARY WHEN JUDGED BY ANY OBJECTIVE CRITERIA.

+OUR FOOTWEAR EXPORTS ARE DECLINING AND IN TEXTILES WE HAVE NOT FILLED OUR QUOTAS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. IN OTHER PRODUCTS, ALTHOUGH IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG HAVE BEEN A LARGE PROPORTION OF TOTAL IMPORTS UNDER THE PREFERENCE SCHEME, THEY HAVE BEEN VERY SMALL IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL QUOTAS AVAILABLE.+

/QUESTIONED THIS

QUESTIONED THIS MORNING ABOUT MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. DEREK JONES, ALSO WARMLY WELCOMED THE INTENTION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SEEK A BETTER DEAL FOR HONG KONG IN THE EEC'S GENERALISED PREFERENCES ARRANGEMENT.

+I HOPE IT WILL BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID, +THAT WHAT WE ARE SEEKING, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IS NOT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL DISCRIMINATE IN HONG KONG'S FAVOUR, BUT RATHER THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF OUR CLOSE COMPETITORS WHICH IS ALREADY PROVING DAMAGING TO HONG KONG'S TRADE IN TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR TO THE COMMUNITY.+

+OUR POSITION,+ MR. JONES CONTINUED, +IS THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRADE ON FAIR AND EQUAL TERMS WITH ITS CLOSE COMPETITORS IN THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD. WE DO NOT ASK FOR SPECIAL FAVOURS. AND WE ACCEPT THAT SPECIAL TREATMENT IS ACCORDED TO COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THAT THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REQUIRE PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION. BUT WE DO NOT ACCEPT AS REASONABLE A POSITION IN WHICH BRITAIN IS REQUIRED BY COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCORD BETTER TREATMENT TO COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NO TIES WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND WHO ARE CLOSE COMPETITORS OF HONG KONG, THAN SHE IS PERMITTED TO EXTEND TO HONG KONG WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, HER OWN DEPENDENT TERRITORY.+

MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT WAS ALSO WELCOMED BY INDUSTRIAL LEADERS.

MR. LEN DUNNING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMENTED:

+THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS VERY HEARTENED BY MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG. THE T.D.C. HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR A REVIEW OF THIS INIQUITOUS SITUATION WHERE WE ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN OUR HOME COUNTRY. FRENCH EX-COLONIAL TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN WELL TREATED BY THE EEC AND, IN OUR VIEW, HONG KONG DESERVES NO LESS.

+THE ACTION COMMITTEE ON EEC GSP CONVENED BY THE T.D.C. HAS EXPRESSED GREAT RELIEF AND PLEASURE AT THE NEWS OF BRITAIN'S SUPPORT FOR OUR INDUSTRY.+

THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI, SPEAKING FOR THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND ALSO AS A TEXTILE INDUSTRIALIST, SAID:

+MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT IS MOST OPPORTUNE, AND WILL BE VERY WELL RECEIVED IN HONG KONG. I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL CLEARLY NEGOTIATE A BETTER DEAL FOR HONG KONG IN THE EEC. THE GRADUAL LOSS OF COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE AND THE APPLICATION OF A REVERSE PREFERENCE AGAINST OUR TEXTILES IN BRITAIN AND THE REST OF THE EEC IS ALREADY ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND TRADE. ANYTHING BRITAIN CAN DO TO REMOVE THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US IN EUROPE WILL DIRECTLY ASSIST OUR ECONOMY+.

MR. A. ISMAIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES. WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE NEWS.

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+THE FEDERATION HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AT THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG IN THE EEC GSP,+ HE SAID. +WE HAVE PRESSED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO BRING HOME THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER TO THE UK GOVERNMENT. THE EEC IS OUR SECOND LARGEST MARKET AND WE CANNOT ALLOW DISCRIMINATION TO CONTINUE AGAINST US THERE. THE EFFECT IS HIGHLY DAMAGING AND, IF IT CONTINUES IT WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST US. MR. CALLAGHAN'S SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG IS TIMELY AND I HOPE IT WILL BE EFFECTIVE+.

MR. J.P. LEE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CMA COMMENTED:

+MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION WILL BE VERY PLEASED WITH THIS NEWS. THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG BY THE EEC HAS BEEN MOST UNREASONABLE AND IS INCREASINGLY DAMAGING TO OUR TRADE. THE C.M.A. HAS STRONGLY URGED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SINCE 1971 TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE DISCRIMINATION REMOVED. MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOW NEGOTIATE A BETTER DEAL FOR HONG KONG+.

MR. LEE WAS OPTIMISTIC BUT ALSO CAUTIOUS. +THIS NEGOTIATION WILL NOT BE EASY AND WE MUST EXPECT STRONG RESISTANCE FROM FRANCE IN PARTICULAR WITHIN THE EEC GROUP+.

MR. J.B. KITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, H.K. GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SAID:

+THE CHAMBER IS DELIGHTED TO HEAR MR. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT AND PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT HE HAS REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG.

+THE CHAMBER HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR THIS KIND OF ACTION SINCE 1971 AND HAS LONG ADVOCATED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MATTER+.

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STAMP DUTY ON SHARE TRANSFER TRANSACTIONS
PETITION SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR
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MEMBERS OF THE FOUR RECOGNISED STOCK EXCHANGES AND OTHERS HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO REVIEW THE RATE OF STAMP DUTY ON CONTRACT NOTES IN RESPECT OF SHARE TRANSACTIONS AND TO RESTORE IT TO ITS FORMER LEVEL OF \$2 PER THOUSAND.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER REDUCING THE STAMP DUTY ON SHARE TRANSFER TRANSACTIONS.

MR. JORDAN SAID IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON THE ISSUE AT THIS STAGE IN VIEW OF THE PETITION.

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LABOUR TRIBUNAL BECOMES PERMANENT
THIRD TRIBUNAL IN KOWLOON PROPOSED
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HONG KONG'S LABOUR TRIBUNAL, WHICH WAS SET UP ON A TEMPORARY BASIS IN MARCH LAST YEAR, BECAME A PERMANENT FEATURE OF THE JUDICIARY TODAY AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE BILL WENT THROUGH ITS COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING WITH STRONG BACKING FROM THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI AND THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE UNOFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE OR EVEN TWO TRIBUNALS IN KOWLOON SINCE 75 PER CENT OF THE CASES EMANATED FROM THE PENINSULA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT TWO TRIBUNALS, ALL ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WHICH DEALT WITH ABOUT 1,500 MONETARY DISPUTES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS IN THE PAST 15 MONTHS.

THE UNOFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE INFORMAL, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS WERE CONDUCTED, AND THEY AGREED THAT IT WAS RIGHT TO PUT THE TRIBUNAL ON A PERMANENT FOOTING.

MR. ANN AND DR. CHUNG, BOTH AMONG A UMELCO GROUP THAT VISITED THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL IN PROCEEDINGS TWO WEEKS AGO, POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT HALF THE CASES HANDLED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN THE PAST 15 MONTHS INVOLVED DISPUTES OVER PAYMENT ON REDUNDANCY.

BOTH FELT THAT LEGISLATION IN THESE RESPECTS MIGHT YET BE INADEQUATE AND THEY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE THE LEGISLATION ON SEVERANCE PAY DUE TO REDUNDANCY ENACTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

DR. CHUNG ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER SECTION 9 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WITH A VIEW TO EITHER REMOVING OR, AT LEAST, EXTENDING THE SIX-MONTH TIME LIMIT IMPOSED ON THE JURISDICTION OF THE TRIBUNAL.

MR. ANN AND MR. CHEONG-LEEN HIGHLY COMMENDED THE USE OF CANTONESE IN THE TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS WHICH WOULD CREATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE IN ARRIVING AT FAIR SOLUTIONS.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE A LABOUR RELATIONS BILL IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE WORK OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ARBITRATION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS OR IN REGARD TO CERTAIN KEY AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT SUCH AS THE PUBLIC UTILITIES, WHICH HAVE A VITAL BEARING ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE TRIBUNAL BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. +THIS CO-OPERATION IS DEFINITELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS, AS WORKERS ARE IN PRACTICE GIVEN PRELIMINARY ADVICE THROUGH THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE ON THE LODGING OF THEIR CLAIMS.+

HE ADDED: +IT MAY BE POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL IS NOT ONLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF WORKERS. EMPLOYERS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE A REASONABLE CASE AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE CAN ALWAYS APPLY TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

+MAY I SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT GIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY ON THE SCOPE OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL AND HOW IT CAN ASSIST EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS EMPLOYERS.

+SO FAR, HONG KONG HAS BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN KEEPING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, STRIKES, ETC, WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. THIS IS MOST NECESSARY IF HONG KONG IS TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND A STABLE ECONOMY,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

IN REPLY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, STRESSED THAT THE POINTS RAISED BY THE THREE UNOFFICIALS WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED.

REFERRING TO THE LAW ON SEVERANCE PAYMENTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION DEALING WITH THIS MATTER DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

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PROPOSED LION ROCK ROPEWAY

RECOMMENDATION ON FRANCHISE SOON *****

TWO TENDERS TO BUILD THE LION ROCK CABLE ROPEWAY ARE BEING EXAMINED AND A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL SHORTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, MR. ROBSON SAID THAT ALTOGETHER THREE TENDERS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT LAST YEAR BUT NONE OF THEM WERE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE TENDER CONDITIONS.

+TWO, HOWEVER, MERITED FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF THE TWO SCHEMES AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS IS IN HAND BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AND THAT A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE WILL BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL SHORTLY THEREAFTER,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

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PERMITTED NOISE LEVEL OF CONTRACTORS' EQUIPMENT
MAY BE REVISED

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THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IS CONSIDERING REVISING THE EXISTING PERMITTED NOISE LEVEL FOR EQUIPMENT USED ON CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING SITES.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. H.M.G. FORSGATE AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF NOISE SUPPRESSION DEVICES ON CONTRACTORS' EQUIPMENT BY STIPULATING OR ENFORCING NOISE LIMITS ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

MR. ROBSON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT A STANDARD CLAUSE WAS ALREADY INCLUDED IN ALMOST ALL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY CONTRACTORS FOR USE ON THE WORKS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY SOUND REDUCED BY MEANS OF SILENCERS, MUFFLERS OR ACCOUSTIC LININGS TO A LEVEL OF 75 DECIBELS (DBA) MEASURED OUTSIDE THE NEAREST OCCUPIED PROPERTY.

+A GOOD DEAL OF CO-OPERATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM CONTRACTORS IN TRYING TO SATISFY THIS CLAUSE, BUT THE LEVEL OF 75 DECIBELS HAS PROVED IMPRACTICAL AS THE AMBIENT OF NOISE LEVEL IN HONG KONG IS OFTEN IN EXCESS OF THIS, + HE SAID.

IN CONSIDERING A MORE APPROPRIATE NOISE LEVEL, EPCOM HAD SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS TO HOW THEY TACKLED THE PROBLEM. +THE RESULTS SO FAR INDICATE THAT WHILE THERE IS OFTEN LEGISLATION ON THE STATUTE BOOK, THE ENFORCEMENT OF IT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, + MR. ROBSON EXPLAINED.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. FORSGATE, MR. ROBSON SAID THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF NECESSARY LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY LOOKED INTO BEFORE EPCOM'S RECOMMENDATION ON RESTRICTING THE USE OF NOISY CONTRACTORS' EQUIPMENT COULD BE INTRODUCED.

ON MAY 24 THIS YEAR, EPCOM RECOMMENDED THAT THE USE OF NOISY CONTRACTORS' EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE RESTRICTED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 P.M. AND 6 A.M. DAILY AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, EXCEPT FOR AUTHORISED EMERGENCY WORK.

+IT IS A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION WHICH I PERSONALLY FAVOUR VERY MUCH AND I HOPE IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AT AN EARLY DATE, + SAID MR. ROBSON.

HE HOPED THAT CONTRACTORS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS BAN ON THE USE OF COMPRESSORS, DRILLS, CONCRETE VIBRATORS AND MECHANICAL HAMMERS IN THE SAME WAY THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO REORGANISE THEIR WORK SCHEDULES TO ABSORB THE EFFECTS OF THE BAN ON PILE DRIVING.

+IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE NECESSARY TO GIVE DUE NOTICE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH LEGISLATION IN ORDER THAT CONTRACTORS CAN PREPARE AND PRICE THEIR TENDERS ACCORDINGLY, + HE ADDED.

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MEASURES TO CONTROL VEHICLE NOISE
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TODAY OUTLINED BOTH LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO CONTROL EXCESSIVE NOISE PRODUCED BY VEHICLES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. ROBSON INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OVERHAUL OF EXISTING LEGISLATION GOVERNING NOISE MADE BY VEHICLES.

AS AN IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL MEASURE, HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WOULD INTENSIFY THE INSPECTION OF NEW MODELS OF MOTOR CYCLES PRIOR TO LICENSING AND WARN IMPORTERS THAT THEY COULD EXPECT DIFFICULTIES IF THEY WERE TO IMPORT MODELS WITH POOR SOUND REDUCING QUALITIES.

MR. ROBSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE QUESTION OF MORE EFFECTIVE POWERS TO CONTROL VEHICLE NOISE WAS BEING EXAMINED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM).

+ALL MOTOR VEHICLES ARE ALREADY REQUIRED BY LAW TO HAVE PROPER SILENCERS, BUT THE LAW RELATING TO EXCESSIVE NOISE BY VEHICLES IS UNSATISFACTORY, IN THAT THERE IS NO DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES EXCESSIVE NOISE.

+IT IS, THEREFORE, DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE CONVINCING EVIDENCE IN COURT TO SUBSTANTIATE A CHARGE THAT EXCESSIVE NOISE WAS BEING MADE BY A PARTICULAR VEHICLE AT A PARTICULAR TIME AND AN OVERHAUL OF THE LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE POLICE ACTIVITY ON VEHICLE NOISE CONTROL CAN BE REALLY EFFECTIVE.+

HE SAID THAT EPCOM WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF A DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY LAYING DOWN THE NOISE LIMITS IN DECIBELS FOR VARIOUS CLASSES OF VEHICLE AND THE METHODS OF MEASURING THOSE LIMITS.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THE DIRECTIVE IS APPARENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REVISION AND IT MAY BE THE END OF THE YEAR BEFORE THE NEW LIMITS ARE AVAILABLE,+ MR. ROBSON ADDED.

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REHOUSING OF ALDRICH BAY SQUATTERS
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CLEARANCE OF SQUATTERS IN ALDRICH BAY IS EXPECTED TO START IN ABOUT TWO YEARS' TIME, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ABOUT THE REHOUSING OF THE SQUATTERS WHO, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID, ARE LIVING IN +SQUALID CONDITIONS+.

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID: +I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE A START ON THE LONG-AWAITED CLEARANCE OF THIS PARTICULARLY UNPLEASANT SQUATTER AREA IN MID-1976, WHEN NEW ESTATE ACCOMMODATION IN THE CHAI WAN AREA SHOULD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION.+

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REGULAR INSPECTION OF ALL VEHICLES PLANNED
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THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO CARRY OUT ANNUAL INSPECTION ON ALL VEHICLES ABOVE A CERTAIN AGE WHEN SUFFICIENT INSPECTION CENTRES MANNED BY QUALIFIED STAFF ARE AVAILABLE.

THIS WAS STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. SZETO WAI WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHEN LEGISLATION WOULD BE ENACTED TO PREVENT UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES FROM BEING ON THE ROADS.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ALREADY PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION OF VEHICLES BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BUT, DUE TO THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE, REGULAR INSPECTIONS WERE AT PRESENT LIMITED TO PUBLIC VEHICLES.

INSPECTIONS, HE SAID, ARE INTENDED TO ENSURE A VEHICLE'S ROAD WORTHINESS AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE EVENTUALLY TO INSPECT ALL VEHICLES ABOVE A CERTAIN AGE AT REGULAR PERIODS -- POSSIBLY AS OFTEN AS ONCE A YEAR, BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SUFFICIENT INSPECTION CENTRES, MANNED BY QUALIFIED STAFF, ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

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DISPLAY POSITION OF BUS ROUTE NUMBERS
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON SUGGESTED TODAY THAT ROUTE NUMBERS FOR BUSES MIGHT BE MORE USEFUL TO WAITING PASSENGERS IF DISPLAYED ON THE NEAR SIDE OF THE BUSES RATHER THAN AT THE BACK OF THE VEHICLES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM THE HON. JOYCE SYMONS AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ASK THE BUS COMPANIES TO DISPLAY THE NUMBER OF THE ROUTE ON THE BACK AS WELL AS THE FRONT OF BUSES.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION ALREADY REQUIRED THAT THE DRIVER AND THE CONDUCTOR OF A BUS DISPLAY THE ROUTE NUMBER BOTH AT THE FRONT AND THE BACK OF THE VEHICLE.

THE MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE TWO BUS COMPANIES, HE SAID, AND THE NEED FOR THIS LEGAL REQUIREMENT WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED, BEARING IN MIND THE WIDESPREAD INTRODUCTION OF ONE-MAN-OPERATED BUSES.

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ABANDONED VEHICLES
UNOFFICIALS CALL FOR SAFEGUARDS
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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY CALLED FOR ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM BEING TOWED AWAY AND CONFISCATED BY THE POLICE AS 'ABANDONED VEHICLES'.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG SAID THE UNOFFICIALS AGREED THAT ROAD SPACE SHOULD NOT SERVE AS A JUNKYARD FOR ABANDONED VEHICLES, BUT +THERE MUST BE INDICATIONS OF ABANDONMENT OTHER THAN THE BARE FACT THAT A VEHICLE HAS BEEN LYING ABOUT IN THE STREET, COVERED WITH DUST, FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.+

+THE POLICE,+ HE SAID, +OUGHT TO HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION EVIDENCE WHICH GAVE THEM REASONABLE CAUSE TO THINK THAT THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN ABANDONED, AND IF CALLED UPON TO DO SO, TO BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY HOW THEY CAME TO A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN ABANDONED,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID WHEN MOVING A MOTION TO AMEND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND USE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS WHICH WERE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 22 THIS YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, A VEHICLE MAY HAVE BEEN STOLEN AND ABANDONED AFTER ITS LICENCE PLATES HAD BEEN CHANGED SO THAT THE REPORT OF THE THEFT OF THE VEHICLE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO ITS IDENTIFICATION.

THE MOTION ALSO SOUGHT TO REQUIRE THE POLICE TO NOTIFY A VEHICLE OWNER BY REGISTERED MAIL IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT METHOD OF FIXING A NOTICE TO THE CAR. NOTICES SIMPLY FIXED TO A CAR, MR. CHEUNG SAID, +HAVE A GOOD PROSPECT OF NOT COMING TO THE NOTICE OF THE OWNER.+

MR. CHEUNG ALSO MOVED THAT THE OWNER'S RIGHTS TO RECLAIM HIS CAR SHOULD BE EXTENDED FROM THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED 21 DAYS TO ONE MONTH.

WHILE STORAGE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES MAY TAKE UP CROWN LAND, MR. CHEUNG SAID, HE AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES DID NOT THINK THAT THE OWNER'S RIGHTS SHOULD BE CUT OFF WITHOUT A REASONABLE PERIOD IN WHICH HE COULD MAKE A CLAIM ON IT.

+IT IS COMMONPLACE,+ HE ADDED, +FOR FOUR OR EVEN SEVEN DAYS TO ELAPSE BETWEEN THE DATE OF THE LETTER EMANATING FROM A GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND ITS RECEIPT BY THE ADDRESSEE.+

IN REPLY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MR. CHEUNG'S PROPOSALS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEY BOTH SUPPORTED THEM.

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RENTS OF CERTAIN ESTATES REVISED

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS REVISED THE RENTS OF SOME 11,500 VACANT DOMESTIC FLATS IN A NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES MOST OF WHICH WERE COMPLETED RECENTLY.

THE NEW RENTS RANGE FROM \$58 TO \$146 FOR A FIVE-PERSON FLAT AND FROM \$84 TO \$179 FOR A SEVEN-PERSON FLAT. THE \$58 FIVE-PERSON FLATS AND THE \$84 SEVEN-PERSON FLATS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT SAN FAT ESTATE IN CASTLE PEAK.

RENTS OF THE FLATS WERE FIXED, IN SOME CASES, AS FAR BACK AS 1968 WHEN THE FIRST BLOCK WAS COMPLETED, BUT NO PROVISION WAS MADE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RISING COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL AND LABOUR. COSTS OF MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THESE ESTATES HAVE ALSO RISEN IN RECENT YEARS.

THESE FLATS ARE TO CATER FOR PEOPLE FROM DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES, DANGEROUS BUILDINGS, VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTER AND OTHERS.

+EVEN WITH THE ADJUSTMENT THE RENTS WOULD BEAR NO RELATIONSHIP TO THOSE OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY, AS THEY ARE IN MOST CASES BELOW THE RENT ALLOWANCE GRANTED UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

+FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY PROFIT TO THE AUTHORITY AT ALL,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT EMPHASISED.

HE ADDED THAT IF THERE ARE GENUINE HARDSHIP CASES, HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF WOULD REFER THEM TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR INVESTIGATION AND ASSISTANCE.

+HOWEVER, IN CERTAIN CASES THEY MAY CHOOSE A LOWER RENT DOMESTIC FLAT IN AN OLDER ESTATE, IF AVAILABLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ONE MONTH TO PROCESS TAX REFUNDS

THE MINIMUM TIME REQUIRED TO PROCESS THE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD CLAIMS FOR REFUND OF SALARIES OR PROFITS TAX IS NORMALLY BETWEEN A MONTH AND SIX WEEKS.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO THE HON. WILFRED WONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE HAD NEVER ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE AN AVERAGE FOR THE TIME IT TOOK TO PROCESS CLAIMS FOR REFUND.

THE AMOUNT OF INVESTIGATION REQUIRED AND THE TIME TAKEN TO DO IT VARIED ENORMOUSLY, MR. JORDAN ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974

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STUDY TO IMPROVE TELEPHONE SERVICE
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IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE TELEPHONE SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A STUDY ON THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S FORECAST OF DEMAND FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES AND ITS CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND EXPANSION PROGRAMMES.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN REPLY TO THE HON. WILSON WANG WHO ASKED WHAT STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 16TH REPORT OF THE TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THE STUDY, BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE POST OFFICE TOGETHER WITH THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT, WAS FOLLOW UP ACTION ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY, HE SAID, WAS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. AND WHEN SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DERIVED FROM THIS STUDY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS WITH THE COMPANY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

HE ADDED THAT THE STUDY WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE WITH THE COMPANY ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION THAT REVENUE FROM PROFITABLE AREAS SHOULD SUBSIDISE THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF SERVICES TO UNPROFITABLE AREAS.

MR. JORDAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S LATEST REPORT WAS THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD REVIEW ITS POLICY OF PROVIDING TELEPHONE SERVICES TO AN AREA ONLY AFTER SUFFICIENT DEMAND HAD ARISEN.

+THE COMMITTEE REGARDS THIS POLICY, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE REFLECTED IN THE COMPANY'S EXPANSION PROGRAMME, AS UNDULY CONSERVATIVE,+ HE SAID.

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767 CONVICTED FOR POSSESSION OF
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS
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A TOTAL OF 876 ARRESTS WERE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFENCE OF POSSESSION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IN A PUBLIC PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 16, 1972 AND APRIL 1974, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. L.M. DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

OF THESE, HE ADDED, 767 PERSONS WERE CONVICTED.

MR. DAVIES GAVE THE FIGURES IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974.

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FITTING OUT WORK ACCELERATED
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THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DENYS ROBERTS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT WORK HAD GENERALLY BEEN ACCELERATED FOR FITTING OUT PROJECTS APPROVED BEFORE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR FOR OFFICE ACCOMMODATION LEASED FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, MR. ROBERTS SAID THAT SOME OF THE PROJECTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED WITHIN THE APPROVED PERIOD UNDER A NEW PROCEDURE, WHICH IS ABOUT 22 WEEKS FOR LARGER PREMISES.

THE NEW PROCEDURE WAS INTRODUCED LAST SEPTEMBER TO ENSURE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OCCUPATION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION NEWLY LEASED FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

MR. ROBERTS POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO ASSESS ACCURATELY HOW EFFECTIVE THE NEW PROCEDURES FOR FITTING OUT LEASED OFFICE ACCOMMODATION HAD PROVED TO BE.

+THIS IS BECAUSE ONLY A FEW LEASES HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973, AND BECAUSE THE FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS NECESSITATED A GENERAL RE-EXAMINATION OF LEASING PROPOSALS, WHICH HAS CAUSED DELAYS.+

HE NOTED THAT AN AVERAGE OF THE TIME BETWEEN LEASING DATES AND OCCUPATION DATES WOULD BE MISLEADING BECAUSE THE PERIOD WOULD RANGE FROM A MINIMUM OF A FEW WEEKS TO A MAXIMUM OF SEVERAL MONTHS, DEPENDING ON THE AREA AND TYPE OF SPACE TO BE FITTED OUT.

HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO REDUCE THE PERIOD BETWEEN LEASING AND OCCUPATION TO THE MINIMUM.

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RE-OPENING OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD SECTION
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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FROM WATERLOO ROAD TO KADOORIE AVENUE WHICH WAS CLOSED FOR RESURFACING WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC TRAVELLING ON WATERLOO ROAD WILL AGAIN BE ABLE TO TURN LEFT ONTO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FOR MONG KOK.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTINGS IN MONG KOK TO FACILITATE
ROAD WORKS

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A NUMBER OF STREETS IN THE MONG KOK AREA ARE TO BE RE-ROUTED WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JUNE 7).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE TRAFFIC RE-ARRANGEMENT WAS TO FACILITATE PILING AND ROAD WORKS IN THE SECTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD BETWEEN FA YUEN STREET AND YUEN NGAI STREET.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * PLAYING FIELD ROAD BETWEEN FA YUEN STREET AND SAI YEE STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND=
- * SAI YEE STREET BETWEEN PLAYING FIELD ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WILL BE OPENED FOR ONE-WAY THROUGH TRAFFIC SOUTHBOUND=
- * FLOWER MARKET ROAD BETWEEN SAI YEE STREET AND YUEN NGAI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND=
- * YUEN NGAI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND=
- * EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON FA YUEN STREET AT THE JUNCTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD/FA YUEN STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING LEFT= AND
- * EMBANKMENT ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

TRAFFIC AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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SWIMMING POOLS FOR NT RESIDENTS

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VARIOUS SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES ARE NOW EITHER IN THE CONSTRUCTION OR PLANNING STAGES TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID ALEXANDER, SAID TODAY IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT ONE POOL PROJECT WAS BEING BUILT IN TSUEN WAN, AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

FIVE OTHER POOLS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR THE YUEN LONG, KWAI CHUNG, SHATIN, TUEN MUN AND FANLING AREAS, ON THE PLANNING BASIS OF ONE POOL PER 250,000 PEOPLE.

+SITES FOR FOUR MORE POOL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EARMARKED AT SHATIN, TSING YI, TUEN MUN AND TAI PO,+ MR. ALEXANDER ADDED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN, WHO HAD ASKED WHAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO PROVIDE SWIMMING POOLS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH, GOVERNMENT
AND THE COMMUNITY

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THE CHURCH HAS A DUTY TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION AND TO PROVIDE LEADERS AND SPOKESMEN REFLECTING THIS OPINION ON MATTERS FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE, MR. DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, SAID TODAY.

THIS DUTY, HE SAID, HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN READILY ACCEPTED BY THE CHURCHES IN HONG KONG WHO HAD PROVIDED AND EXPRESSED COHERENTLY VIEWS ON MANY MATTERS OF POLICY, AND WHOSE LEADERS HAD BEEN FOUND ON PUBLIC BODIES APPOINTED TO EVOLVE POLICY.

MR. BRAY WAS SPEAKING ON THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CHURCH, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN COUNCIL HELD AT THE WARD MEMORIAL CHURCH IN WATERLOO ROAD.

+IN THE FIELD OF MORALS AND VICE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE DUTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHURCHES SEEMS TO ME TO BE ESSENTIAL IN MODERN SOCIETY WHERE BOTH CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT HAVE THEIR OWN VITAL ROLES,+ HE SAID.

ON ISSUES INVOLVING LAW AND MORALS HE FELT THAT IT IS NEVER EASY TO DECIDE ON THE RIGHT PLACE TO DRAW THE LINE AT THE EDGE OF CRIME.

HE THEREFORE URGED THE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER AT LEISURE JUST WHICH FACTORS SHOULD DETERMINE THE IMMORAL ACTS THAT SHOULD BE CRIMES AND THOSE WHICH SHOULD NOT.

MR. BRAY ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE CHURCH HAS THE UNENDING AND COMPARATIVELY MORE DIFFICULT TASK THAN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUIDING THE COMMUNITY AWAY FROM ACTS OF SIN EVEN THOUGH THE ACTS THEMSELVES MIGHT BREAK NO LAW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. BRAY'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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NEW BILLS IN LEGCO

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THREE BILLS - THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 -- WERE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE THREE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED ITS THIRD AND FINAL READING AT TODAY'S SITTING.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW		-
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	--	-
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	2.19
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	--	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.97
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.85
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.67
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.92
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.91
PAKISTAN RICE	--	-
TAIWAN RICE	--	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	305 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH
 (CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.00	2.50	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.50	0.80	2.20
SQUID	LIMITED	4.80	2.40	3.50
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.20	1.00	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.40	1.50	2.00
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.80	1.10	1.50
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	1.70	1.10	1.40
MELON COAT	--	-	-	-
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.50	3.00	4.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.60	0.60	1.00
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.50	3.00	3.50
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	0.50	0.30	0.40
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.00	0.60	0.70
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	6.00	3.00	5.00
MELON SEED	--	-	-	-
POMFRETS	LIMITED	8.00	7.50	7.70
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	6.50	4.50	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	--	-	-	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES
 (V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.60
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.70	0.20	0.50
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	0.50	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.35
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.00	0.40	0.60
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	0.90	0.20	0.60
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.70
SPINACH	--	-	-	-
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	0.80	0.30	0.50
LEAF MUSTARD	SCARCE	0.80	0.30	0.60
CABBAGE				
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.50	0.15	0.30
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.50	1.40	2.00

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