



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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SIR DENYS ATTENDS LAST
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

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SIR DENYS ROBERTS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING GOVERNOR TODAY DELIVERED A VALEDICTORY TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN A SPEECH SPRINKLED WITH HUMOUR, SIR DENYS RECOUNTED THE ROLE HE PLAYED AS CHIEF SECRETARY AND AS ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR 12 YEARS.

IN A MORE SERIOUS VEIN, HOWEVER, SIR DENYS EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE FRIENDLINESS, TOLERANCE AND WILLING ASSISTANCE WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED FROM ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL DURING HIS TENURE OF OFFICE.

HE SAID HE DEEPLY VALUED THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING SERVED FOR SO LONG IN THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAD PLAYED SUCH A VITAL ROLE IN THE ASTONISHING DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG IN THE PAST DECADE.

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VALEDICTORY TO SIR DENYS

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SENIOR UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, HAS MADE TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS DURING HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1962.

IN A VALEDICTORY TO THE ACTING GOVERNOR ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND HIMSELF AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN PRAISED HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS ACHIEVED DURING HIS TENURE OF OFFICE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL FROM 1966 TO 1973 AND AS CHIEF SECRETARY SINCE 1973.

REFERRING TO SIR DENYS' CAPACITY AS ATTORNEY GENERAL DURING THE SEVEN YEARS, SIR SZE-YUEN SAID HE WAS QUICK TO REALISE THAT HONG KONG HAD SHED ITS PAST AS AN ENTREPOT AND BECOME A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE AND TACKLED WITH ZEST THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF MAKING NEW AND COMPLEX LAWS ON THE ONE HAND AND UPDATING AND REVISING MANY OF OUR OUTMODED VICTORIAN LAWS ON THE OTHER.

ON SIR DENYS ACHIEVEMENTS AS CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR SZE-YUEN SAID: +NOT ONLY HAVE YOUR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HONG KONG'S SUCCESS HISTORY BUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND DEDICATION HAS ACTED AS A SPUR TO OUR OWN EFFORTS TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE IN.

+IN THIS COUNCIL YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR YOUR CLARITY, YOUR ELOQUENCE, YOUR WIT AND YOUR SAGACITY. THESE ATTRIBUTES, TOGETHER WITH YOUR PERSONAL CHARM AND UNFAILING GOOD MANNERS AND HUMOUR, HAVE FOUND EXPRESSION IN YOU AS ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS THAT THE UNOFFICIALS HAVE EVER HAD TO FACE IN DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL.+

SIR SZE-YUEN ALSO EXPRESSED FAITH THAT SIR DENYS WILL BRING THESE SAME OUTSTANDING QUALITIES TO BEAR IN HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF HONG KONG AND WISHED HIM EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE IN THAT HIGH OFFICE.

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LOOPHOLE IN PROFITS TAX CHARGE PLUGGED

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE CHARGE TO PROFITS TAX ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITH A VIEW TO PLACING THEM IN A SIMILAR POSITION TO OTHER BUSINESSES, WAS PASSED INTO LAW BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THAT TO THIS END, THE BILL SEEKS TO CHARGE TO PROFITS TAX INTEREST WHERE IT ARISES THROUGH, OR FROM, THE CARRYING ON BY A BANK OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF ITS BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TEST.

EXPLAINING THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE BILL, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE APPLICATION OF A CREDIT TEST, BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE WAS BASED ON THE PLACE WHERE THE CREDIT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BORROWER. THE PRESENT POSITION IS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT ALL MATERIAL OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG AND YET, PROVIDED THE CREDIT IS MADE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE HONG KONG, NO TAX IS PAYABLE. THIS HAS RESULTED IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING, IN PRACTICE, FAVOURABLE TREATMENT WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER BUSINESSES IN HONG KONG.

+WITHOUT THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL, THE EXISTING LOOPHOLE, THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TEST, WILL REMAIN UNPLUGGED AND THE LOSS OF LEGITIMATE REVENUE INVOLVED WILL BECOME PROGRESSIVELY LARGER AS THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY EXPANDS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THEN REPLIED TO POINTS RAISED IN THE COUNCIL LAST WEEK BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON THE BILL.

(1) ALLEGED INCONSISTENCY WITH THE TERRITORIAL SOURCE CONCEPT

MR. HADDON-CAVE STRESSED THE BILL IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERRITORIAL SOURCE CONCEPT IN THAT IT DOES NO MORE THAN CORRECT THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE REVENUE'S SOLE RELIANCE ON THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TEST.

+THE TOUCHSTONE OF THE LIABILITY TO CHARGE IS THE CARRYING ON OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG AND NOT THE TAXPAYER'S RESIDENCE. INDEED, NON-RESIDENTS AND RESIDENTS ARE TREATED ALIKE.+

(2) EXISTING LAW IS ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DISAGREED WITH THE ARGUMENTS THAT THE LOOPHOLE IS CAPABLE OF BEING PLUGGED WITHOUT AN AMENDING BILL AND THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE IS ENTITLED TO BRING THESE PROFITS TO CHARGE IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTRARY DECISION OF A HONG KONG COURT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TEST WHICH, IN THEIR VIEW, NEED NOT BE THE ONLY DETERMINING FACTOR.

+IF THE COMMISSIONER DECIDED TO IMPOSE A PROFITS TAX CHARGE BY SUDDENLY IGNORING THE LEGAL BASIS ON WHICH THE PROVISION OF CREDIT TEST IS FOUNDED THIS WOULD CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNACCEPTABLE UNCERTAINTY WHILE A TEST CASE WAS BEFORE THE COURT,+ HE SAID.

(3) ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF THE BILL

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO REJECTED THE VIEW THAT THE BILL, BECAUSE IT SINGLES OUT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, IS DISCRIMINATORY- AND, THEREFORE, THE DEEMING DEVICE IS INAPPROPRIATE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY REMINDED THAT THE POSITION OF A BANK OR A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY IS NOT ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A CORPORATION ENGAGED IN OTHER OPERATIONS.

HE SAID: +BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ARE ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF BORROWING AND LENDING AND THEY MAKE THEIR PROFITS BY BORROWING MORE CHEAPLY THAN THEY LEND.

+TO THE EXTENT THAT THE OPERATIONS INVOLVED IN THEIR BORROWING AND LENDING TRANSACTIONS TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG, IT IS ENTIRELY LOGICAL THAT THE PROFITS FROM SUCH TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE LIABLE TO HONG KONG TAX.+

(4) INCIDENCE OF TAX

REFERRING TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THE STATE OF OUR PUBLIC FINANCES IS SUCH THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO PLUG THE LOOPHOLE IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID: +THIS POINT OVERLOOKS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL WHICH IS TO IMPROVE THE YIELD FROM THE CHARGE TO HELP ME TO MAINTAIN THE RATE OF TAX ON CORPORATE PROFITS GENERALLY AT 17 PER CENT FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO THE UNDOUBTED BENEFIT OF THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY.+

HE SAID THE BILL IS ALSO A REFORM MEASURE AND AGREED WITH SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG THAT WE SHOULD SEEK +TO ENSURE THAT THE DIFFERENT SECTORS OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PUBLIC PURSE ON A MORE EQUITABLE BASIS+.

(5) ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE BILL

MR. HADDON-CAVE EXPRESSED DOUBT ON THE SUGGESTIONS OF A MASS MIGRATION OF BANKING BUSINESS FROM HONG KONG AND THAT +THE ULTIMATE DAMAGE+ FROM THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PROFITS TAX CHARGE COULD BE +ENORMOUS+.

HE ASKED: +WILL THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL DRIVE BUSINESS AWAY FROM HONG KONG TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT?+

/MR. HADDON-CAVE

MR. HADDON-CAVE EMPHASISED THAT THE TAX IS MERELY AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING AMBIT OF THE PROFITS TAX CHARGE. +IT IS NOT AN ENTIRELY NEW TAX- AND, AS SUCH, IT DOES NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THOSE DOING BUSINESS HERE, OR WISHING TO SET UP IN BUSINESS HERE.+

+PROVIDED WE RELENTLESSLY PURSUE BUDGETARY AND FISCAL AND ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICIES WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ADVANTAGES OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY, WILL REMAIN SELF-EVIDENT TO THOSE CONCERNED AND IN PARTICULAR I WOULD STRESS THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO MODIFY OUR GENERAL NON-DISCRIMINATORY APPROACH IN RESPONSE TO SPECIAL PLEADING FROM ANY QUARTER,+ HE SAID.

(6) IMPLEMENTATION DATE

ON THE ARGUMENT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF APRIL 1, 1978 IS RETROACTIVE BECAUSE THOSE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE ACCOUNTING PERIODS ENDING OTHER THAN AT MARCH 31 WILL BE LIABLE TO TAX ON PROFITS OF PERIODS ENDING PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 1978, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID: +THOSE AFFECTED BY THE BILL ARE IN NO WORSE POSITION THAN THE GENERALITY OF TAXPAYERS IN THAT THE LEVEL OR THE INCIDENCE OF ANY TAX MAY BE CHANGED AT RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE.+

(7) SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO OPPOSED TO THE VIEW OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS THAT THE EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROFITS TAX CHARGE NET ON BOTH POINTS OF PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON POINTS OF PRINCIPLES ARE:

- * THAT THE BILL IS TO TAX ALL PROFITS ARISING FROM BUSINESS CARRIED ON IN HONG KONG AND THIS OBJECTIVE, BASED AS IT IS ON THE TERRITORIAL SOURCE CONCEPT, WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IF AN-ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTION WERE-DRAWN BETWEEN INTEREST FROM ASSETS WHICH ARE CLAIMED TO REPRESENT +SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS+ AND THOSE WHICH DO NOT-
- * THAT THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE OF ANY CORPORATION -- BE IT A BANK OR A TRADING CORPORATION -- SHOULD NOT, IN ITSELF, BE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE QUESTION OF TAX LIABILITY. THUS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INTEREST EARNED ON SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND INTEREST EARNED ON OTHER FUNDS WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH RELY ON LOAN CAPITAL AS AGAINST SHARE CAPITAL-
- * THAT TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ASSETS REPRESENTING SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND ASSETS REPRESENTING DEPOSITORS' AND OTHER CREDITORS' FUNDS IS A LEGAL AND PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY- AND

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- * THAT THE POSITION OF A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SUCH AS A BANK IS NOT ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A MANUFACTURER. THE SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN CREATING A BANK'S PROFITS AND IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE BUSINESS OF BANKING WITHOUT WHICH A BANK WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTRACT DEPOSITS.

ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE FORESEES CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING DETAILS OF +SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS+, AND ENDLESS ARGUMENTS AS TO WHICH ASSETS REPRESENT +SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS+, UNLESS A STATUTORY, AND OF NECESSITY, ARBITRARY DEFINITION OR FORMULA WERE WRITTEN INTO THE ORDINANCE.

MOREOVER, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THERE IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING NON-RESIDENT HONG KONG BANKS TO FURNISH THEIR WORLD-WIDE ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING DETAILS OF HIDDEN RESERVES, TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER TO CALCULATE RELEVANT FIGURES OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE ON OTHER GROUNDS TO CALL FOR SUCH ACCOUNTS.

SPEAKING EARLIER AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE HON. ALEX WU EXPRESSED DOUBT ON THE ASSERTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO EXEMPT FROM THE TAX CHARGE NET SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS WHICH ARE EMPLOYED TO EARN INTEREST ABROAD WILL NOT FRIGHTEN AWAY FROM HONG KONG ANY FINANCIAL BUSINESS WORTH HAVING.

MR. WU ADDED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT YET DOING BUSINESS HERE.

HE PROPOSED THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD CONSIDER A LOWER RATE OF TAX UNDER THE BILL.

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REPORT OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP: MOST COMPLAINTS
MADE AGAINST POLICE NOT SUBSTANTIATED

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STATISTICS ON COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST POLICE DURING AN EIGHT-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 LAST YEAR SHOW THAT OF 456 CASES IN WHICH INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED 67.1 PER CENT OF ALLEGATIONS WERE NOT SUBSTANTIATED, A FURTHER 11.2 PER CENT WERE NOT PROVED, 1.8 PER CENT MALICIOUS AND 0.9 PER CENT UNRESOLVED. THE REMAINDER AMOUNTING TO 19 PER CENT WERE SUBSTANTIATED OR PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED.

THESE FIGURES ARE CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. IT COVERS THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1977 TO APRIL 30, 1978.

IN A LARGE NUMBER OF CASES, THE REPORT STATES, IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATIONS WHERE ONE POLICE OFFICER AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WERE INVOLVED. +IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE FACTS.+

THE REPORT REVEALS THAT A TOTAL OF 1,201 COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE WERE RECEIVED BY THE GROUP DURING THE PERIOD AND THAT ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN 649 OF THEM. THE REMAINING 552 CASES WERE OUTSTANDING AT THE TIME THE REPORT WAS COMPILED.

OF THE 649 CASES IN WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED, 306 WERE UNSUBSTANTIATED, 51 WERE NOT PROVED, EIGHT WERE MALICIOUS AND FOUR UNRESOLVED. A TOTAL OF 110 CASES WERE WITHDRAWN AND 83 NOT PURSUED.

CASES SUBSTANTIATED TOTALLED 47, 38 WERE PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED AND TWO CASES SUBSTANTIATED MISCONDUCT OTHER THAN THAT REPORTED.

MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE, 311 CASES, ALLEGED ASSAULT, WHILE 302 ALLEGED OVERBEARING OR IMPOLITE CONDUCT. UNNECESSARY USE OF AUTHORITY RESULTED IN 211 COMPLAINTS, NEGLECT OF DUTY OR FAILING TO TAKE ACTION 161, USE OF BAD LANGUAGE 53, POLICE PROCEDURE 38, THREAT OF ASSAULT 20, CRIME 16 AND THERE WERE 89 OTHER COMPLAINTS.

OF THE 87 SUBSTANTIATED OR PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATED CASES, CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WERE INSTITUTED IN THREE, TWO RESULTED IN DISMISSAL AND FOUR IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. IN 10 CASES WARNINGS WERE GIVEN WITH A DOSSIER ENTRY BEING MADE IN RECORDS OF SERVICE, IN 10 OTHERS WARNINGS WERE GIVEN WITHOUT A DOSSIER ENTRY BEING MADE, IN 37 INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO THE OFFICERS CONCERNED ON PROPER HANDLING OF SUCH INCIDENTS IN FUTURE, AND IN 21 NO ACTION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE NO MISCONDUCT BY POLICE OFFICERS WAS REVEALED, ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES POLICE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

/THE GROUP,

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THE GROUP, CONCERNED ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS WHICH WERE WITHDRAWN, WAS TRYING TO ENSURE THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS NOT MADE AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE, INTIMIDATION OR BEING UNNECESSARILY INCONVENIENCED.

MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP ARE SIR SYDNEY GORDON (CHAIRMAN), MR. T.K. ANN, MR. O.V. CHEUNG, MR. T.S. LO, THE REV. JOYCE M. BENNETT AND MR. WONG LAM.

THE GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

- * TO MONITOR AND, WHERE IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, TO REVIEW THE HANDLING BY THE POLICE OF COMPLAINTS BY THE PUBLIC=
- * TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW STATISTICS OF THE TYPES OF CONDUCT BY POLICE OFFICERS WHICH LEAD TO COMPLAINTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC=
- * TO IDENTIFY ANY FAULTS IN POLICE PROCEDURES WHICH LEAD OR MIGHT LEAD TO COMPLAINTS= AND
- * WHEN IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OR WHEN NECESSARY TO THE GOVERNOR.

THE GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1977, AND HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON OCTOBER 10. THE REPORT SAYS THAT A TOTAL OF 20 FORMAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE THIS DATE AND IN ADDITION PRIVATE DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE BETWEEN MEMBERS AND INDIVIDUAL CASE FILES ARE EXAMINED IN DEPTH.

ON WORKING PROCEDURES THE REPORT EXPLAINS THAT SINCE THE GROUP WAS BREAKING NEW GROUND IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEVISE PROCEDURES, SOMETIMES BY TRAIL AND ERROR.

IT SAYS THAT AFTER THE FIRST FEW MEETINGS IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR FURTHER CHECKING OF SOME CASES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY UMELCO STAFF.

THE REPORT COMMENTS THAT THE GROUP WAS CONCERNED FROM THE OUTSET THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT STAFF IN THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AS QUICKLY AND AS THOROUGHLY AS IT SHOULD DO, BUT THE GROUP WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT OFFICE WAS TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED SHORTLY.

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WORK OF UMELCO POLICE GROUP PRAISED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR ONE YEAR AGO TO MONITOR POLICE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, MR. DAVIES SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION OF THE VALUABLE AND NECESSARY SERVICE, TO BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE, PERFORMED BY THE GROUP.+

MR. DAVIES POINTED OUT THAT THE GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR SIDNEY GORDON, HAD PROVIDED A USEFUL FORUM IN WHICH AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION CAN BE MADE OF THE OUTCOME OF POLICE ENQUIRIES INTO INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS.

+AS SUCH IT IS MOST WELCOME AND GIVES GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT COMPLAINTS ARE EXAMINED IN DEPTH AND IN DETAIL,+ HE STRESSED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR WHICH HAD EMERGED FROM THIS NEW SCHEME WAS THE PROTECTION WHICH THE THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF COMPLAINTS OFFERED POLICE OFFICERS FROM MALICIOUS AND UNJUSTIFIED COMPLAINTS.

SINCE THE SYSTEM CAME INTO EFFECT THERE HAD BEEN TWO PROSECUTIONS FOR MAKING FALSE COMPLAINTS AND SIX FURTHER CASES ARE PENDING, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE GROUP ALSO INSTITUTED A SYSTEM WHEREBY A FURTHER CHECK OF CASES WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UMELCO STAFF.

MOST OF THESE CHECKS FOLLOWED COMPLAINTS OF A FRAME-UP, OF PLANTING OF EVIDENCE OR OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPLAINT.

COMMENTING ON THE NEED MENTIONED BY THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF TO THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE, MR. DAVIES SAID SUITABLY EXPERIENCE OFFICERS ARE BEING DEPLOYED TO FILL ADDITIONAL POSTS IN THE DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS WING OF THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS AFTER THESE POSTS WERE APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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QUERY ON STATEMENT BY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY THAT THE REMARKS MADE BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON JULY 24 THAT HONG KONG WORKERS WERE GROSSLY EXPLOITED SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A CONSIDERED STATEMENT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TO THE STATEMENT.

MR. HENDERSON WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY THAT HONG KONG WORKERS WERE GROSSLY EXPLOITED AND THAT HONG KONG HAD NEITHER HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK LEGISLATION NOR AN EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

MISS DUNN ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LODGE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE PROTEST WITH THE U.K. GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESS HONG KONG'S RESENTMENT OVER THE UNJUSTIFIABLE STATEMENT.

MR. HENDERSON IN HIS REPLY ALSO SAID THAT THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE DID NOT IN FACT SUGGEST THAT HONG KONG HAD NO HEALTH AND SAFETY OR EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION.

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UNOFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER STATEMENT
BY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY
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SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER A STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY THAT WORKERS IN HONG KONG ARE GROSSLY EXPLOITED AND HIS IMPLICATION THAT HONG KONG HAS NEITHER HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK LEGISLATION NOR AN EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

SIR SZE-YUEN SAID: +IT IS QUITE AMAZING AND IN FACT A PITY THAT SUCH A BASELESS AND UNJUSTIFIED STATEMENT AND IMPLICATION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF HMG ABOUT A DEPENDENT TERRITORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.+

HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN EARLIER THAT IT HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF HMG TO THE STATEMENT.

/HE EMPHASISED

HE EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG HAS, DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, INTRODUCED A SPATE OF LABOUR LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE WORKFORCE. IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS ALONE, NO LESS THAN SIX SETS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WERE APPROVED. THIS LEGISLATION IS ENFORCED BY A LARGE STAFF WHOSE DEDICATION TO WORK CAN BE EVIDENCED BY THE CONSIDERABLE GRUMBLING IN INDUSTRY ABOUT UNSYMPATHETIC FACTORY INSPECTORS.

SIR SZE-YUEN MADE THESE REMARKS DURING DEBATE ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEARS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1978 WHICH IF APPROVED WITHOUT MODIFICATION, HE SAID, WOULD BE THE MOST STRINGENT SAFETY LEGISLATION IN THE WORLD FOR THIS TYPE OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.

+THIS WOULD BE IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE BRITISH UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

UNDER THE REGULATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE SIZE OF THE LIFTING APPLIANCE AND THE NATURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING AS DEFINED IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE,

- * EACH CHAIN, ROPE AND LIFTING GEAR WILL HAVE TO BE INSPECTED BEFORE USE ON EACH OCCASION BY A COMPETENT PERSON=
- * EACH LIFTING APPLIANCE WILL HAVE TO BE OPERATED ONLY BY A COMPETENT PERSON= AND
- * WHEN A LOAD IS LEFT SUSPENDED FROM A LIFTING APPLIANCE, A COMPETENT PERSON WILL HAVE TO BE PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION.

+I AM SURE THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL AGREE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NEITHER PRACTICABLE NOR NECESSARY EXCEPT IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS SUCH AS DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARFS AND WAREHOUSES AND FOR CRANES AND LIFTING APPLIANCES EXCEEDING A CERTAIN SIZE,+ SIR SZE-YUEN SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE CUSTOMARY PRACTICE OF ALLOWING PEOPLE TO MAKE PREPARATION FOR COMPLYING WITH NEW FACTORY LAW WAS NOT FOLLOWED IN THE PRESENT CASE.

HE THEREFORE MOVED A RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL, TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL APPLY ONLY TO INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING (OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION WORK) AT A DOCK, QUAY, WHARF OR WAREHOUSE AND THAT THEY SHALL NOT COME INTO OPERATION UNTIL A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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NEW REGULATIONS ON LIFTING APPLIANCES SAFETY OPERATION

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NEW REGULATIONS STIPULATING CERTAIN SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE OPERATION OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEAR IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE REGULATIONS WERE PASSED WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG.

UNDER THE NEW FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEAR) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1978 OPERATORS OF LIFTING APPLIANCES IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES MUST NOW BE TRAINED PERSONS OR PERSONS UNDERGOING TRAINING AND UNDER SUPERVISION= SIGNALLING ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE USED WHEN A LIFT IS IN OPERATION= STEAM EMANATING FROM A CRANE MUST NOT OBSCURE A WORKPLACE WHERE WORKMEN ARE EMPLOYED= AND CHAINS, ROPES AND LIFTING GEAR USED IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES MUST BE INSPECTED BEFORE USE BY COMPETENT PERSONS.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL IS ALSO ADDED TO THE PROCEDURE FOR TESTING SHEAVE PULLEY BLOCKS.

THE NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT PROBABLY ON NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, WILL HOWEVER, NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF SIMILAR APPLIANCES AND GEAR ON CONSTRUCTION SITES WHICH IS ALREADY COVERED BY LAW PASSED IN 1973.

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PROSECUTIONS AGAINST TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATORS ON TUEN MUN ROAD

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ABOUT 2,000 PROSECUTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN OUT AGAINST MOTORISTS BREAKING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ON THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD SINCE IT OPENED ON MAY 6, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, MR. JONES SAID OF THESE PROSECUTIONS, 1,400 HAVE BEEN FOR SPEEDING AND 413 FOR DISOBEYING TRAFFIC SIGNS, MAINLY CROSSING THE DOUBLE WHITE LINE WHEN OVERTAKING.

MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO ENFORCE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ON THE NEW ROAD AS VIGOROUSLY AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE TEMPTATIONS IT PROVIDES FOR SPEEDING AND HAZARDOUS OVERTAKING.

+AN EIGHT-MAN POLICE UNIT HAS BEEN SPECIALLY ASSIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE, OPERATING ON THE ROAD BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 11 P.M. IN ADDITION, AT ALL TIMES, EMERGENCY POLICE UNITS AND NORMAL DIVISIONAL PATROLS CAN BE CALLED UP AT SHORT NOTICE,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES ALSO REITERATED THAT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ALONG THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD HAVE NOT BEEN MORE FREQUENT THAN ON ANY OTHER BUSY ROAD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 42 ACCIDENTS BETWEEN MAY 6 AND AUGUST 12, COMPARED WITH 1,015 ACCIDENTS IN THE REST OF THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

+PUT IN ANOTHER WAY,+ MR. JONES SAID, +THE ACCIDENT RATE ON THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD HAS SO FAR BEEN ONE ACCIDENT PER ONE MILLION VEHICULAR KILOMETRES, WHEREAS ON THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD THE RATE IS FOUR ACCIDENTS PER ONE MILLION KILOMETRES TRAVELLED.+

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IMPROVEMENTS TO CIVIL SERVICE BENEFITS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING IMPROVEMENTS IN REGARD TO HOUSING, CERTAIN ALLOWANCES AND RECREATION FACILITIES, NOT ONLY FOR THE POLICE FORCE BUT ALSO FOR OTHER STAFF IN CIVIL SERVICE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS REGARDS THE POLICE FORCE, MR. ROWLANDS SAID THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ARE AT PRESENT ABOUT RIGHT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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7,000 SMALL FACTORY UNITS IN THREE YEARS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL BUILD 7,000 SMALL FACTORY UNITS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. SCOTT ADDED INFORMATION ON THE RANGE OF SIZES OF FACTORY UNITS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS NOT COMPILED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE DEVELOPERS HAD A DEGREE OF DISCRETION TO CHANGE THE INTERNAL LAYOUT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

BUT HE REVEALED THAT THE HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPLY OF FLATTED FACTORY UNITS OF ALL SIZES COMPLETED IN 1977, TOTALLING 8.9 MILLION SQUARE FEET, WOULD CONTINUE AND GROW -- WITH FORECAST COMPLETIONS AT 9.9 MILLION SQUARE FEET IN 1978 AND 13 MILLION SQUARE FEET IN 1979.

REFERRING TO MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S SECOND QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH FACTORY UNITS WOULD FALL SHORT OF DEMAND, MR. SCOTT SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE ACTUAL DEMAND IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR.

HOWEVER, RECENT EXPERIENCE OF CLEARANCES INDICATED THAT THE AUTHORITY'S STOCK OF FACTORY UNITS WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET DEMAND IN THE FIRST PART OF THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1977 TO 1979.

FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MR. SCOTT SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORECAST ACCURATELY THE DEMAND BECAUSE IT DEPENDED ON SEVERAL FACTORS INCLUDING THE GENERAL STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE STATE OF SMALL INDUSTRIES, IN PARTICULAR, RENT LEVELS, LOCATIONS, ACCESS AND PROXIMITY TO ESSENTIAL FACILITIES AND SO ON.

+HOWEVER, WITH THE CONTINUING LARGE SUPPLY OF ALL TYPES OF FLATTED FACTORIES, IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE SPACE COMING ON STREAM WILL ADEQUATELY MEET LIKELY REQUIREMENT,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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US \$19.5 MILLION A.D.B. LOAN FOR
SHA TIN HOSPITAL-POLYCLINIC PROJECT
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD PROVIDE A LOAN EQUIVALENT TO US\$19.5 MILLION TO HONG KONG TO HELP FINANCE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COST OF THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL-POLYCLINIC PROJECT.

MOVING THE MOTION TO AMEND THE LOANS (ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK) ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE LOAN AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE LOAN WOULD BE REPAYABLE IN 13 YEARS AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 7.7 PER CENT PER ANNUM AND IT ATTRACTS A COMMITMENT CHARGE OF 0.75 PER CENT.

THIS IS THE FOURTH LOAN TO BE RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM A.D.B. FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS. THE OTHER THREE LOANS WERE US\$21.5 MILLION FOR LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT, US\$20 MILLION FOR SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECT AND US\$20.5 MILLION FOR SHA TIN URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAD INDICATED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GUARANTEE FOR THE LOAN AND FORMAL APPROVAL WAS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN ONCE THE LOAN HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANK.

HE ADDED THAT HE REGARDED THE TERMS OF THE LOAN AS SATISFACTORY AND THE LOAN AGREEMENT, WHEN SIGNED, WOULD BE LAID ON THE TABLE FOR INFORMATION OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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NEW GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR LANTAU
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A NEW 12-CLASSROOM GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL WOULD BE BUILT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF LANTAU ISLAND TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 1981, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. COLVYN HAYE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE THE GROWING STUDENT POPULATION ON LANTAU ISLAND WITH SUFFICIENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO SAVE THEM FROM TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOLS SITUATED ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR IN KOWLOON.

MR. HAYE SAID THAT THE NEW SCHOOL, ALONG WITH THE EXISTING AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL AT TAI O, WOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PLACES TO MEET THE ESTIMATED DEMAND FROM THE 12 TO 16 AGE GROUP ON LANTAU ISLAND FOR FORM 1 TO 5 PLACES BY 1983.

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10 YEAR DRIVING LICENCE ISSUE
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A FIXED FEE FOR A LICENCE VALID FOR 10 YEARS WOULD NEED EITHER TO BE VERY COSTLY OR IT WOULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN REVENUE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, MR. JONES ADDED THAT THE FEE CHARGED INCLUDES A SUBSTANTIAL TAX ELEMENT, THE ACTUAL COST OF PREPARING AND ISSUING LICENCES BEING ONLY ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF THE FEE.

HE SAID THE POLICY ON DRIVING LICENCES WAS DIFFERENT IN HONG KONG COMPARED TO THE U.K. AND IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED DESIRABLE TO EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF A DRIVING LICENCE HERE FROM THREE TO 10 YEARS ALTHOUGH DRIVING LICENCES ARE ISSUED TO A HOLDER IN U.K. UNTIL HE REACHES THE AGE OF 70.

MR. JONES NOTED U.K. DECIDED TO DO THIS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF ISSUING LICENCES AND THE SEVERE STRAIN ON THE COMPUTER SYSTEM AT THE CENTRALISED NATIONAL LICENSING OFFICE.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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BAN CONSIDERED ON LEARNER DRIVERS DURING
NO. 8 STORM SIGNAL
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A BAN ON LEARNER DRIVERS FROM THE ROADS AFTER THE NO. 8 TYPHOON SIGNAL IS HOISTED, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. JONES ADDED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG, THAT HE WILL ASK THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO CONTACT THE DRIVING INSTRUCTOR ASSOCIATIONS TO SEEK THEIR CO-OPERATION ON THESE OCCASIONS.

MR. JONES SAID THAT AT PRESENT, DRIVING TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY CANCELLED WHEN THE NO. 3 STORM SIGNAL IS HOISTED, BUT ALL TESTS ARE SUSPENDED ONCE THE NO. 8 SIGNAL GOES UP.

HE CONSIDERED THE SUGGESTION OF BANNING LEARNER DRIVERS FROM THE ROADS WHEN THE NO. 3 SIGNAL IS HOISTED AS +TOO DRASTIC+.

+IT IS REALLY A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE FOR DRIVING INSTRUCTORS TO KEEP THEIR PUPILS OFF THE ROADS WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE DANGEROUS,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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EFFORTS MADE TO KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING AT HAPPY VALLEY
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY THAT COMMENDABLE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING AT THE VARIOUS JUNCTIONS OF LEIGHTON ROAD WHICH HAS BEEN SLOWED DOWN BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELEVATED APPROACH ROADS TO THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. JONES SAID THE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA IS STILL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY OUTSIDE THE HEAVIEST PEAK HOURS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LEIGHTON ROAD - MORRISON HILL ROAD JUNCTION.

MR. JONES NOTED THAT LEARNER DRIVERS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO USING LEIGHTON, WONG NEI CHONG AND MORRISON HILL ROADS BECAUSE THEY ARE PREVENTED FROM USING THE GREATER PART OF CAROLINE HILL ROAD AND THE MAJOR ROADS AROUND TUNG LO WAN.

+THERE ARE NO ALTERNATIVE LEARNER ROUTES AND NO OFF-STREET DRIVING TRAINING CENTRES IN THIS AREA AND, GIVEN THE LIMITED LOCATIONS AVAILABLE TO LEARNER DRIVERS, I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SEE THEM BANNED FROM THESE ROADS ALTOGETHER,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHILD CARE STAFF

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO REDUCE TO A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS WHICH EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN HAVE BEEN PUT TOO HIGH, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. JIMMY SWEETMAN SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THE PROPOSALS WERE INTENDED TO EASE THE EXISTING DIFFICULTIES OF RECRUITMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WERE ADEQUATELY LOOKED AFTER.

HE SAID 62 CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS OUT OF 199 HAD ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED WHILE THE REMAINDER WERE ACADEMICALLY UNDER-QUALIFIED OR HAD LESS THAN THE REQUIRED FIVE YEARS' CHILD CARE EXPERIENCE.

+IN ORDER TO REDUCE TO THE MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF WAIVERS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS, IT IS PROPOSED TO REDUCE THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS FROM FORM 5 WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS TO TWO SUBJECTS AT GRADE E, AND THE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FROM FIVE YEARS TO THREE YEARS WITH A PROVISIO THAT SUPERVISORS MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OF AGE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE OLD ENOUGH TO SHOULDER SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES,+ HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO CHILD CARE WORKERS, MR. SWEETMAN SAID 452 OF THE 1,213 WERE QUALIFIED, WHILE 273 OF THE REMAINING 761 DID NOT HAVE THE BASIC EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF A FORM 5 CERTIFICATE WITH FIVE PASSES AT GRADE E.

THE REMAINING 488 OF THE 761 HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE NECESSARY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE, HE ADDED.

TO MEET THIS DIFFICULTY, HE SAID, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE NECESSARY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION FOR A CHILD CARE WORKER SHOULD EITHER BE TWO SUBJECTS AT GRADE E, OR COMPLETION OF FORM 3 EDUCATION.

THIS, HE SAID, WILL BE COMBINED WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PART-TIME COURSE WHICH IT IS HOPED CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO THE FIFTH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE NOW BEING BUILT IN KOWLOON TONG.

+THIS WILL ALLOW SUITABLE NON-ACADEMIC FORM 3 LEAVERS THE OPPORTUNITY OF LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

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MORE LITTER WARDENS DEPLOYED
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THERE ARE 132 LITTER WARDENS EMPLOYED IN THE URBAN AREA AND 50 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPARED WITH 106 AND 52 RESPECTIVELY 12 MONTHS AGO.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WILLIAMS ON LITTER OFFENCES, ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID THERE WERE 29,844 PROSECUTIONS FOR LITTER OFFENCES BETWEEN JULY 1, 1976 AND JUNE 30, 1977. THE FIGURE WAS 29,450 BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1977 AND JUNE 30 THIS YEAR.

MR. HOBLEY SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE THE NUMBERS OF LITTER OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THE PAST 24 MONTHS.

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SUSPENSION OF COACH SERVICES
BETWEEN STAR FERRY AND BEACON HILL EXPLAINED
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CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO OPERATING COACH SERVICES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BETWEEN THE STAR FERRY AND THE AREAS OF BEACON HILL AND BROADCAST DRIVE IF AND WHEN THE DEMAND JUSTIFIES IT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU, MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE SUSPENSION OF THESE ROUTES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WAS DUE TO THE LIMITED NUMBER OF COACHES OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY.

AS A RESULT, HE SAID, THE COMPANY NATURALLY DEPLOYED THEM IN A WAY WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE TRAVEL DEMANDS OF THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

+ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THERE IS A HEAVY AND GROWING DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL SERVICES TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND A NUMBER OF COACHES WHICH OPERATE IN URBAN KOWLOON DURING WEEKDAYS ARE DIVERTED TO THESE SERVICES,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+THESE INCLUDE COACHES ON THE BEACON HILL AND BROADCAST DRIVE ROUTES,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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AMENITY AND SITTING OUT AREAS UNDER FLYOVER
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED THE SPACE UNDERNEATH SOME OF THE FLYOVERS FOR USE AS AMENITY OR SITTING OUT AREAS AND CAR PARKING, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID : +CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO REQUESTS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND MINI-SPORTS CENTRE FOR VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL AND BADMINTON, TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY FACILITIES.+

MR. BELL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF LIMITED LAND RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS, SOME SELECTIVE USES COULD, IN SOME INSTANCES, BE PUT TO THE SPACE MADE AVAILABLE UNDERNEATH FLYOVERS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE PHRASE +SELECTIVE USES+ SINCE THERE WERE LIMITATIONS AND EACH INDIVIDUAL SITE HAD TO BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS.

+POLICIES ON PERMITTED USES WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR LIKELY EFFECTS ON THE FLYOVER STRUCTURES, THE ADJACENT GROUND LEVEL CONDITIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT GENERALLY HAVE BEEN FORMULATED,+ MR. BELL SAID.

+IN GENERAL, USES WHICH MIGHT GIVE RISE TO ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO THE SUPPORTING PIERS, OR WHICH MIGHT CONSTITUTE A FIRE HAZARD, OR GENERATE AN UNACCEPTABLY HIGH VEHICULAR OR PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY CONFLICTING WITH THROUGH TRAFFIC, ARE EXCLUDED.+

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. BELL SAID THAT THE INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE LAND UNDERNEATH FLYOVERS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN THE URBAN AREA, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FOLLOWING THE ALLOCATION OF THE LAND FOR A SPECIFIC USE, HE ADDED, IT WOULD THEN BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USER DEPARTMENT OR THE PRIVATE ORGANISATION CONCERNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS LAID DOWN.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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SPEECH THERAPY REPORT STUDIED

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RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A BRITISH EXPERT FOR AN IMPROVED TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS AND SPEECH THERAPISTS FOR CANTONESE CHILDREN WITH DELAYED OR DISORDERED SPEECH ARE BEING STUDIED.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. COLVYN HAYE, REVEALED THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION PUT BY THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT.

MISS BENNETT HAD ASKED WHAT ACTION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH THERAPY TRAINING IN HONG KONG BY MR. BOB FAWCUS AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION.

MR. HAYE SAID THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION WOULD DEPEND ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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ONE LANE TRAFFIC ON SAN PO KONG FLYOVER

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THE SAN PO KONG FLYOVER LEADING FROM CHOI HUNG ROAD TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE REDUCED FROM TWO LANES TO ONE LANE BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 6 P.M. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-SKID MATERIAL ON THE FLYOVER.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE CAREFULLY ON THE FLYOVER DURING THE WORK PERIOD.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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SCHOOLS DANCE TEAM RETURNS TOMORROW
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THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS CHINESE DANCE TEAM WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO CANADA.

DURING THE VISIT, THE TEAM STAGED A SERIES OF PERFORMANCES AT THE COMMONWEALTH CARNIVAL IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS CHINESE DANCE TEAM WILL RETURN BY CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES, FLIGHT CP 401 (ETA : 7.25 P.M.) TOMORROW. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE TEAM'S RETURN AT THE AIRPORT'S PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE PASSENGERS TERMINAL BUILDING.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1978

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TEMPORARY WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON CITY AND WAN CHAI WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 18) NIGHT TO THE NEXT MORNING TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 P.M. ON FRIDAY. IT IS BOUNDED BY KOWLOON CITY ROAD, TO KWA WAN ROAD, MA TAU KOK ROAD, SUNG WONG TOI ROAD AND MOK CHEONG STREET INCLUDING LUNG TO STREET, FUNG YI STREET, LUK MING STREET, LUN CHEUNG STREET, YING YEUNG STREET, PANG CHING STREET, HUNG WAN STREET, SHIM LEUN STREET, YIN ON STREET, TSUN FAT STREET AND HOK LING STREET.

IN KOWLOON CITY, THE AREA BOUNDED BY BOUNDARY STREET, LA SALLE ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, DUMBARTON ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD INCLUDING GRAMPAN ROAD, SAU CHUK YUEN ROAD, COLLEGE ROAD AND LAI CHI YUEN WILL HAVE NO WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT FRIDAY TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

ON THE ISLAND, FRESH WATER TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY EAST OF CANAL ROAD, SOUTH OF HENNESSY ROAD, WEST OF PERCIVAL STREET AND LEIGHTON ROAD INCLUDING TANG LUNG STREET, RUSSELL STREET, MATHESON STREET, SHARP STREET EAST, YIU WA STREET AND SPORTS ROAD.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE AT TAI HANG TUNG
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS IN TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR SIX DAYS FROM AUGUST 23 TO 25 AND FROM AUGUST 29 TO 31.

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. ON THESE DAYS.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN AND WARDS BETWEEN 11 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

PERSONS LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND TO REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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