



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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TRANSPORT GREEN PAPER TABLED IN LEGCO
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THE LONG-AWAITED GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT, WHICH SETS FORTH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AIMED AT PREVENTING TRAFFIC STAGNATION IN HONG KONG, WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE PAPER OUTLINES IN DETAIL THE THREE SUGGESTED PRINCIPLES - IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD SYSTEM= IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT= AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE ECONOMIC USE OF THE EXISTING ROAD SYSTEM.

IN TABLING THE GREEN PAPER, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. JAMES ROBSON, SAID THAT TO REALISE THE FIRST PRINCIPLE IT IS INTENDED TO SPEND AN AVERAGE OF \$350 MILLION IN EACH OF THE NEXT FOUR FINANCIAL YEARS, WITH MUCH OF THE MONEY GOING INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS AND GRADE SEPARATED INTERCHANGES IN AN ACCELERATED PROGRAMME FOR TRUNK ROUTES.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS PLANNED THAT MONEY WOULD ALSO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, SUCH AS AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL AND TELEVISION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

MORE EMPHASIS WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO SEPARATING PEDESTRIANS FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BY PROVIDING EXCLUSIVE FACILITIES SUCH AS ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN WAYS, HE SAID.

ON THE SECOND PRINCIPLE - IMPROVING AND EXPANDING THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM - MR. ROBSON SAID THAT IN ITS INITIAL STAGE, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, WHICH ALONE WILL CARRY ONE MILLION PASSENGERS A DAY, SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY 1980.

+BY UTILISING SPACE ABOVE AND BENEATH OUR CARRIAGEWAYS THE RAILWAY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO EASE CONGESTION ON THE ROADS.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE MAIN ELEMENT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BUSES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR REVITALISING BUS OPERATIONS WERE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN THE GREEN PAPER.

MR. ROBSON DESCRIBED THE THIRD PRINCIPLE OF ESTABLISHING A MORE ECONOMIC USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM AS +POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE+. HONG KONG HAS NEITHER THE +PHYSICAL SPACE NOR THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO REBUILD OUR CITIES IN SUCH A FORM THAT A LARGE PROPORTION OF JOURNEYS CAN BE MADE BY PRIVATE CAR.+

IT IS OBVIOUS, HE SAID, THAT CONTROL MUST BE EXERCISED ON THE USE OF ROADS TO +OBTAIN THEIR BEST USE IN THE GENERAL INTEREST+.

+THE FORMULATION OF A POLICY OF TRAFFIC RESTRAINT IS A PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED NOW. IT MUST HAVE AS ITS BASIS THE MAINTENANCE OF ECONOMIC STABILITY WITHIN THE CITIES AND THIS PRESUPPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIORITY AMONGST THE COMPETING CLASSES OF ROAD USERS.+

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE PRIORITY THE INEFFICIENT VEHICLE SHOULD GIVE WAY TO THE VEHICLE WHICH HAD THE BEST PASSENGER CARRYING CAPACITY IN TERMS OF ROAD SPACE.

/+MANY CITIES.....

+MANY CITIES IN THE WORLD HAVE NOW REACHED THE POSITION WHERE THEY HAVE TO DEVELOP A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON CARS ENTERING THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS.+

MR. ROBSON ADDED THAT BECAUSE TRANSPORT POLICY WAS KNOWN TO BE OF INTEREST TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IT WAS INTENDED TO INVITE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS FINALLY DETERMINED. THIS COULD BE DONE BY WRITING TO P.O. BOX 1899.

AS A FURTHER MEANS OF ASSESSING PUBLIC OPINION, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IS TO CONDUCT A SAMPLE SURVEY INVOLVING SOME 12,000 HOUSEHOLDERS. THESE HOUSEHOLDERS WILL BE SENT COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER AND WILL LATER BE ASKED TO SUPPLY ANSWERS TO A QUESTIONNAIRE.

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE, TOGETHER WITH THE WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS, WOULD BE COLLATED, ANALYSED AND TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL TRANSPORT POLICY.

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TREATMENT OF CANCER ADEQUATE
EARLY DETECTION DEPENDS BEST ON GENERAL AWARENESS
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ADEQUATE FACILITIES EXIST FOR THE TREATMENT OF CANCER IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, WHETHER MEDICAL, SURGICAL OR RADIOLOGICAL, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE HON. WILFRED WONG WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE SUFFICIENT FACILITIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM CANCER, AND WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO MAKE POSSIBLE AN EARLIER DIAGNOSIS OF THE DISEASE.

WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION, DR. CHOA SAID: +THE BEST WAY TO FACILITATE EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER CASES IS TO ENCOURAGE GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM, AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARLY MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DISEASE.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE HONG KONG ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY, A SUBVENTED ORGANISATION, HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN CARRYING OUT HEALTH EDUCATION ON CANCER PREVENTION, INCLUDING THE DISSEMINATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.

HE WAS SURE THAT THIS METHOD TO FACILITATE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF ALL FORMS OF CANCER WOULD BE +PURSUED VIGOROUSLY.+

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TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS ON THE WAY
UNOFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER DRUG ABUSE

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY CALLED FOR A NEW INITIATIVE TO COMBAT THE SCOURGE OF NARCOTICS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AT ALL LEVELS FORMING A UNITED FRONT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT A STRENGTHENED POLICING FORCE AND TOUGHER DETERRENT SENTENCES, COUPLED WITH A FULLSCALE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE CHILDREN AND THE PUBLIC ON THE EVILS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS BREAKING THE BACK OF THE PROBLEM.

AS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS PUT IT: +AN ALL-OUT WAR MUST NOW BE DECLARED BY THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS IN THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE.+

THE SUGGESTIONS WERE PUT FORWARD DURING A DEBATE ON A MOTION TO WELCOME THE WHITE PAPER ON THE PROBLEM OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, ANNOUNCED THAT DRAFT LEGISLATION WAS ALREADY IN HAND TO INCREASE THE FINES WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE COURTS ON OFFENDERS, AND A BILL WOULD BE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

ACTIVE PLANNING WAS ALSO UNDERWAY, HE SAID, TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW AID BY UREN TREATMENT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE MOST ECONOMIC MANNER AND IN A WAY WHICH IS MOST LIKELY TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS. THIS WOULD BE THE PRIME TASK OF THE NEWLY-CREATED NARCOTICS AND DRUGS DIVISION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS.

MR. DAVIES CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TASK WOULD BE FAR FROM SIMPLE, AND WHEN THE PLAN EMERGES, IT WAS LIKELY TO DEMAND CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES AND MONEY IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

+WE ARE PROCEEDING IN A DELIBERATE AND METHODOICAL MANNER, BECAUSE NOT ONLY DO WE WANT A TREATMENT PLAN WHICH WILL SUCCEED AND NOT CREATE PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN, BUT WE ALSO WANT ONE GIVING THE TAXPAYER THE BEST VALUE FOR HIS MONEY,+ HE SAID.

HE ASSURED COUNCIL THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION +TO PERSIST IN OUR DESIRE TO ERADICATE ADDICTION AND TO FIND A CURE TO ADDICTION AT A REASONABLE COST.+

IN HUMAN TERMS, MR. DAVIES SAID, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH ANY CERTAINTY HOW MANY ADDICTS THERE WERE AND THE FIGURE OF 100,000 STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS THE BEST THAT COULD BE PROVIDED.

/SINCE THE

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SINCE THE CENTRAL REGISTRY WAS ESTABLISHED TWO YEARS AGO, SOME 47,000 NAMES HAD BEEN REGISTERED.

MR. DAVIES ESTIMATED THAT ADDICTS' SPENDING ON DRUGS COULD AMOUNT TO \$520 MILLION A YEAR -- \$1.5 MILLION A DAY -- ASSUMING EACH OF THEM SPEND \$15 A DAY TO SUPPORT THE HABIT.

HE NOTED THAT OVER THE PAST YEARS MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO TACKLE THE VARIOUS FACETS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM BY THE GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS.

+OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FORWARD WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION AND VIGOUR BOTH IN THE FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS, AND A HIGH DEGREE OF ORIGINALITY AND NEW THINKING HAS BEEN EVIDENT.

+BUT AS THE WHITE PAPER STATES, WHAT HAS BEEN DONE HAS ONLY CONTAINED THE PROBLEM, NOT REDUCED IT.

+BUT THAT AT LEAST IS SOMETHING,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

REALISTIC TARGETS

IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN, SAID THE UNOFFICIALS WERE CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF COST BUT FELT THAT IF HONG KONG IS TO TAKE THE QUESTION SERIOUSLY AS THE WHITE PAPER ENVISAGES THEN +THE COSTS IN TERMS OF STAFF, FACILITIES AND CURATIVE METHODS MUST BE MET.

REALISTIC AND ADEQUATE TARGETS AND PROGRAMMES HAD TO BE DRAWN UP ON A COLONY-WIDE BASIS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, MR. WOO SAID, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER LEGISLATION IMPOSING HEAVIER SENTENCES WOULD BE ENOUGH.

+TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS, AS DISTINCT FROM MERE POSSESSION, SEEMS TO BE AN OFFENCE SO SERIOUS AND WITH SUCH AWFUL REPERCUSSIONS UPON OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS THAT SURELY WE MUST TAKE SPECIAL STEPS TO ENSURE SEVERE PUNISHMENT INCLUDING LONG DETERRENT PRISON SENTENCES AND, IN SUITABLE CASES, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.+

WHILE MR. WOO AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES WELCOMED THE STATEMENT OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT INTENT TO STOP ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ERADICATE DRUG ABUSE FROM THE COMMUNITY, HE REGARDED THE WHITE PAPER AS MORE OF A +STATEMENT OF INTENT+ AS IT DID NOT SPELL OUT IN DETAIL WHAT FURTHER STEPS WERE BEING PLANNED.

MORE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED, HE FELT, ON FUTURE PLANS, NEW INITIATIVES AND EDUCATION MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW HOW SOON LEGISLATION COULD BE PUT FORWARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROPER CONTROL OF FACTORY-MADE DRUGS.

/COMPULSORY.....

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

THE HON. WILSON WANG, IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION, OUTLINED HIS OWN MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

DRUG ADDICTS, HE SUGGESTED, SHOULD BE COMPELLED BY LAW TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AT THE CENTRAL REGISTRY WITHIN THREE MONTHS AND BE LAIBLE TO STRICT PUNISHMENT IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO.

HOWEVER, THOSE ADDICTS WHO WERE REGISTERED WOULD HAVE PRIORITY FOR TREATMENT AND BE GIVEN A REMISSION OF THEIR PENALTY. UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, DRUG ADDICTS ARE LIABLE TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000.

MR. WANG SAID: +IT WOULD ENCOURAGE ADDICTS TO REGISTER WITHOUT DELAY IF THIS ORDINANCE WERE AMENDED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PENALTY FOR REGISTERED DRUG ADDICTS COULD BE REMITTED WHILE THOSE WHO DO NOT COULD HAVE THE PENALTY INCREASED.+

ASIDE FROM THEIR PERSONAL PARTICULARS, ADDICTS REGISTERING WOULD HAVE TO STATE WHETHER THEY WOULD SEEK TREATMENT ON THEIR OWN OR WOULD PREFER TO WAIT THEIR TURN FOR TREATMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES, AND WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE TO HAVE THEIR CONDUCT OBSERVED BY AUTHORISED RELATIVES OR FRIENDS, OR BY OBSERVERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

MR. WANG ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE A PRIORITY LIST OF PERSONS FOR TREATMENT ON THE BASIS ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CENTRAL REGISTER AND OF REPORTS BY OBSERVERS.

+THIS WOULD ACHIEVE THE RESULT TWICE AS QUICKLY WITH ONLY HALF THE EFFORT,+ HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT IN VIEW OF THE EXISTING LIMITED TREATMENT FACILITIES HONG KONG COULD NOT EXPECT TO CATER FOR 100,000 ADDICTS WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD EVEN IF THE FACILITIES WERE GREATLY INCREASED.

TURNING TO THE NEED TO WIN THE CO-OPERATION OF CITIZENS, MR. WANG SUGGESTED A STEPPING UP IN PUBLICITY TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS, SCHOOL HEADS, AND THOSE IN CHARGE OF FACTORIES AND ORGANISATIONS TO REMIND CHILDREN OF THE EVILS OF DRUGS AND TO REPORT SUSPECTED ADDICTS, TRAFFICKERS AND DRUG MANUFACTURERS.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THOSE REPORTING TRAFFICKERS, AND CALLED FOR STRONGER POWER FOR THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE AND THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU TO TACKLE THE +EXCELLENT ORGANISATIONS+ OF TRAFFICKERS.

EDUCATION

TO MAKE EVERYONE AWARE OF THE EVILS OF DRUGS, THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS PROPOSED THAT A SPECIAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE DEvised TO EDUCATE THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

+PARENTS AND ALL WHO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRUGS AND BE READY TO OFFER YOUNG PEOPLEFRIENDLY ADVICE AND HELPFUL CO-OPERATION,+ SHE SAID.

THE COURTS ALSO HAD A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY, MRS. SYMONS ADDED AND SHE AGREED WITH A SUGGESTION MADE BY MR. OSWALD CHEUNG IN 1971 TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR LARGE SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING OF 30 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10 MILLION.

SHE FELT THAT IF MORE FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION AND IF REWARDS WERE LESS INADEQUATE +WE SHOULD NO DOUBT SEE MORE OF THE VERY LARGE SEIZURES MADE RECENTLY.+

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN CALLED FOR +ALL-OUT WAR+ AGAINST TRAFFICKERS AND SUGGESTED THAT LONGER PRISON SENTENCES AND HEAVIER FINES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF DEPORTATION WOULD HELP CUT DOWN AVAILABILITY AND SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS TO THE PUBLIC.

+IT SHOULD BE THE AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY TO BRING DOWN THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS FROM 100,000 TO 50,000 WITHIN THREE YEARS, WHICH WILL IN TURN REDUCE THE COST OF OPERATING OUR PRISONS, THUS MAKING MORE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS, YOUTH CENTRES, HOSPITALS AND OTHER SOCIAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES.+

THE MASS APPROACH SHOULD BE ADOPTED, HE SAID, TO MOBILIZE THE COMMUNITY -- FROM THE MULTI-STORY LEVEL TO THE STREET-CORNER LEVEL -- AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRADE AND +EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS OF ADDICTION SHOULD CONTINUE UNABATED AS A LONG-TERM EFFORT, AND WITH GREATER IMPACT.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF SEIZED HEROIN STOCKS COULD BE PUBLICLY BURNED TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE, AND CURED ADDICTS COULD BE RECRUITED TO HELP LOCATE OTHER ADDICTS AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DRUG DENS AND TRAFFICKERS.

WHILE HONG KONG'S TREATMENT FACILITIES WERE AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES; THEY WERE STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND WERE BADLY IN NEED OF EXPANSION.

IN ADDITION, HE FELT THAT METHADONE TREATMENT CENTRES SHOULD BE EXPANDED IN EACH CITY DISTRICT AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. AS THIS WOULD NOT BE CHEAP, HE SUGGESTED THAT METHADONE SHOULD BE DISPENSED ONLY TO THE ADULT CONFIRMED ADDICT.

THE UNOFFICIALS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION WAS A VITAL FACTOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRADE. APART FROM CONSTRUCTING A 'GREAT WALL' AROUND ITS COASTLINE, HONG KONG COULD DO LITTLE TO CURB THE IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

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POOR RESPONSE TO LOAN SCHEME FOR SMALL INDUSTRY
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THERE HAS BEEN NO OBSERVABLE INCREASE OF INTEREST IN THE LOAN SCHEME FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES DESPITE MODIFICATIONS TO THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. JIMMY MCGREGOR, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT SINCE THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TWO YEARS AGO 12 APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND NINE OF THESE HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,330,500.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE TWO BASIC REASONS FOR THE RATHER POOR RESPONSE SO FAR.

+THE FIRST IS THAT THERE WAS NOT UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE CASE FOR SUCH A SCHEME TO BEGIN WITH,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH INDUSTRIALISTS WERE CERTAIN THAT A SCHEME OF THIS TYPE WAS NEEDED, THE BANKS GENERALLY SAID THEY WERE ALREADY SUPPORTING INDUSTRY ADEQUATELY AND THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS, I MUST CONFESS, DIVIDED IN VIEW.

+I WAS PERSONALLY A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE SCHEME AND I AM THEREFORE DISAPPOINTED AT THE RESPONSE SO FAR. IT DOES SEEM LIKELY NOW THAT THE BANKS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT IN THEIR VIEW.+

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THE SECOND REASON FOR COMPARATIVE FAILURE WAS THAT THE NEED FOR LOAN FINANCE IN SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY IS PROBABLY MORE FOR WORKING CAPITAL RATHER THAN FOR PRODUCTIVE MACHINERY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LOAN SCHEME DID NOT, OF COURSE, CATER FOR WORKING CAPITAL, NOR COULD IT WITHOUT SUCH EXTENSIVE CHANGE AS TO COMPLETELY ALTER ITS CHARACTER.

MR. MCGREGOR STRESSED THAT THE SCHEME IS STILL OPERATIVE AND IS ASSISTING INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AND IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY EVEN IF ONLY TO A SMALL EXTENT.

+INDUSTRY IS WELL AWARE OF THE SCHEME AND THE WAY IT OPERATES AND IT IS MY HOPE THAT GRADUALLY THE SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIALIST WILL MAKE MORE USE OF IT,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MCGREGOR WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI WHO ASKED FOR A STATEMENT ON THE UP-TO-DATE SITUATION REGARDING THE LOAN SCHEME, AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO PROMOTE ITS UTILISATION.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE LOANS FOR SMALL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED SOON TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME AND TO SUGGEST ANY FURTHER MODIFICATION WHICH MAY SEEM DESIRABLE.

MR. MCGREGOR

MR. MCGREGOR RECALLED THAT THE SCHEME CAME INTO OPERATION IN JULY 1972 FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND SUBJECT TO A TOTAL LOAN COMMITMENT OF \$30 MILLION. IT WAS IN ESSENCE A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMERCIAL BANKING SECTOR.

ITS INTENTION WAS TO PROVIDE FOR MEDIUM TERM LOANS TO SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES WHICH HAVE A GOOD RECORD OF GROWTH, MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ABILITY.

THE LOANS CAN BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF PRODUCTIVE MACHINERY ONLY AND BEFORE A LOAN IS MADE BY THE COMMERCIAL BANK CONCERNED, THE APPLICANT FACTORY IS EXAMINED BY THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE WHICH SUBMITS A DETAILED REPORT TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON THE VIABILITY AND LIKELY EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED NEW MACHINERY ON THE FACTORY'S PRODUCTION, PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITS.

REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN IS OVER A PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE YEARS AT THE PRIME INTEREST RATE PLUS TWO PER CENT TO COVER THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE'S COSTS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RISK IN UNDERWRITING 50 PER CENT OF THE LOAN AMOUNT AGAINST FAILURE TO PAY. THE MAXIMUM LOAN THAT CAN BE MADE AT PRESENT IS \$250,000

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ETV FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS LIKELY BY 1976

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS, INDICATED TODAY THAT THE EXTENSION OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION INTO SECONDARY SECTOR IS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED BY SEPTEMBER 1976, POSSIBLY IN COLOUR PROGRAMMES.

HE HINTED THIS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS ON THE PROGRESS OF ETV EXPANSION.

HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING EXTENDING EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES INTO THE SECONDARY SECTOR, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME IT APPEARS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY SEPTEMBER 1975, SEPTEMBER 1976 IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED A MORE REALISTIC DATE.

+THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT COLOUR SHOULD BE USED IN SECONDARY LEVEL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AND THIS PROPOSAL IS NOW ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION.+

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**\$10 MILLION DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT
FOR AIRPORT DUTY-FREE SHOP EXPLAINED
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED TODAY THAT THE \$10 MILLION DEPOSIT REQUIRED FROM TENDERERS FOR THE DUTY-FREE SHOP CONCESSION AT THE AIRPORT WAS TO COVER THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST REVENUE LOSS SHOULD THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WITHDRAW HIS SERVICES DURING THE CURRENCY OF THE CONTRACT.

+THE REASON FOR FIXING UPON THIS SUM WAS THAT IT REPRESENTS TWO TO THREE MONTHS' REVENUE FROM THIS CONCESSION AT THE PRESENT RATE OF YIELD,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE TOLD COUNCIL WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IF THE SUCCESSFUL CONCESSIONAIRE WERE TO WITHDRAW HIS SERVICES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONTRACT, IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO INVITE TENDERS, TO PLACE A CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER CONCESSIONAIRE, AND FOR HIM TO ORGANISE HIS BUSINESS -- NOT AN INCONSIDERABLE TASK GIVEN THE CAPITAL REQUIRED, THE SIZE OF STOCKS THAT HAVE TO BE HELD, THE NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED, AND THE NEED TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES WHICH ENSURE PROMPT EXECUTION OF ORDERS.

+THE DEPOSIT IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST LOSS OF REVENUE DURING THIS PERIOD,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDED THAT BY DISCOURAGING THE CONCESSIONAIRE FROM WITHDRAWING, THE DEPOSIT ALSO HAD THE EFFECT OF ENSURING THAT HONG KONG DOES NOT FIND ITSELF IN A POSITION OF HAVING AN AIRPORT WITH NO FACILITIES FOR DUTY-FREE SALES.

IF, IN THE EVENT, THE SIZE OF THE PRESCRIBED DEPOSIT HAD THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTING THE RESPONSE TO THE TENDER INVITATION, THE CENTRAL BOARD WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE BEST TENDER OFFERED OR TO RE-ISSUE THE TENDER INVITATION, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

THE TENDERS WERE DUE IN ON JUNE 14 AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD ON JUNE 26.

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**POLICE STATEMENTS ALREADY TAKEN IN CHINESE
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THE GREAT MAJORITY OF STATEMENTS MADE AT POLICE STATIONS ARE ALREADY TAKEN DOWN IN CHINESE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO ALSO ASKED WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR COPIES OF THESE STATEMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED TO THOSE WHO MADE THEM AND WHO DID NOT UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, MR. DAVIES SAID: +ANYONE WHO REQUIRES A COPY OF A STATEMENT IS ENTITLED TO HAVE ONE ON REQUEST.

+AS MANY THOUSAND STATEMENTS ARE TAKEN EACH YEAR IN RESPECT OF CRIMINAL MATTERS ALONE, COPIES ARE NOT SUPPLIED AUTOMATICALLY,+ HE ADDED.

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ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO PRODUCTION CENSUS
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THERE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO A CURRENT CENSUS OF PRODUCTION IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY IN RESPECT OF LAST YEAR'S ACTIVITY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE CENSUS IS PART OF A LONG TERM PROGRAMME WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE FOR EACH SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY -- SUCH AS MANUFACTURING, PRIMARY PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND COMMERCE -- AN ESTIMATE OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AN ANALYSIS OF ITS OVERALL STRUCTURE, AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN ASPECTS OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE ECONOMY.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THIS WOULD ENABLE STATISTICAL INDICATORS TO BE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF A CONTINUING ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITY IN ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

IN ADDITION TO THE CENSUS, IT WAS ALSO INTENDED TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY ENQUIRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR BEGINNING IN 1975, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN.

+THESE WILL COVER SUCH MAIN AGGREGATES AS SALES, EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS, AND, ON THE BASIS OF THE FINDINGS OBTAINED, A REGULAR INDEX OF PRODUCTION WILL BE PREPARED.+

COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT CENSUS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID PROGRESS OF THE EXERCISE MUST BE, AT THIS STAGE, ASSESSED BY THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES SENT OUT AND THOSE RETURNED.

+SINCE THE END OF MARCH, 5,283 LONG FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING OVER 20 PERSONS, 4,686 SHORT FORMS TO THOSE EMPLOYING BETWEEN 10 - 19 PERSONS AND A FURTHER 2,000 OR SO SHORT FORMS TO A SAMPLE OF SOME 17,000 ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING UNDER 10 PERSONS.

+UP TO THE 15TH OF THIS MONTH, 1,164 LONG FORMS AND 1,540 SHORT FORMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND RETURNED, AND THIS RESPONSE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ENCOURAGING.+

HE SAID IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE AVAILABLE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THIS CENSUS. +INSTEAD, WHEN ALL THE FORMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND CHECKED, THEY WILL BE PREPARED FOR THE COMPUTER, A PROCESS WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

+THE RESULTS WILL THEN BE RELEASED IN SEVERAL VOLUMES, EACH ONE CONTAINING DETAILED ANALYSES IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN CLASSIFICATIONS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974.

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YAUMATI FERRY CO. TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICE
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED TWO RESOLUTIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE ITS SERVICES, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION A NEW VEHICULAR FERRY ROUTE BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND KWUN TONG FROM NEXT MONTH.

THE FIRST ONE MERELY SET JULY 1, 1974, AS THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF A NUMBER OF SERVICE EXPANSION PROPOSALS WHICH WERE APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON AUGUST 30, 1972.

THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDED THE NORTH POINT-KWUN TONG VEHICULAR ROUTE WHICH NOW GOES INTO OPERATION FROM JULY 1 WHEN THE COMPANY'S NORTH POINT TO KOWLOON CITY VEHICULAR SERVICE WILL TERMINATE ON THE SAME DAY.

THE COMPANY IS ALSO TO INTRODUCE A NEW VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN JUBILEE STREET AND TAI KOK TSUI. BUT IT IS NOT YET READY TO OPERATE THIS ROUTE UNTIL NEARLY NEXT YEAR WHEN THE COMPANY WILL COMBINE THIS WITH ITS PRESENT PASSENGER SERVICE INTO ONE FOR BOTH VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS.

IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT DEMAND AT A LATER DATE, THE COMPANY MAY INTRODUCE SEPARATE PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR SERVICES ON THIS ROUTE.

THE SECOND RESOLUTION PERMITS THE COMPANY TO CHARGE A FLAT FARE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE FOR ITS +DE LUXE CLASS+ FERRY ACCOMMODATION ON ANY TYPE OF VESSEL BEING OPERATED, THAT IS, 66 SEATER WATER TAXIS, 261 SEATER WATER BUSES AND 1,000 SEATER TRIPLE-DECKER FERRIES.

THE APPROVED FLAT RATE FARE IS \$1 PER PERSON FOR CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES, AND \$4 PER PERSON FOR SERVICES OUTSIDE THE HARBOUR TO OUTLYING ISLANDS.

AT PRESENT, A MAXIMUM DE LUXE CLASS FARE OF \$4 PER ADULT AND \$2 PER CHILD UNDER 16 YEARS IS CHARGED FOR SERVICES OUTSIDE THE HARBOUR.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED, WHILE MOVING THE MOTION, THAT THE COMPANY PROPOSED THE NEW FLAT FARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPOSALS TO EXPAND ITS VARIOUS DE LUXE CLASS SERVICES.

+TO CATER FOR AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR DE LUXE ACCOMMODATION, THE COMPANY PROPOSES TO SWITCH THE 66 SEATER WATER TAXIS TO ITS EXISTING SCHEDULED SERVICES TO OPERATE IN ADDITION TO THE 1ST AND 3RD CLASS FERRIES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HALF FARES TO CHILDREN.

+THE COMPANY IS ALSO CONSIDERING PROVIDING DE LUXE CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON ITS WATER BUSES, WHICH CARRY 261 PASSENGERS.+

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THESE STANDARD RATES OF DE LUXE CLASS FARES SHOULD BE ADOPTED ON ALL SERVICES AS THEY WOULD ENABLE THE COMPANY TO OPERATE VESSELS HAVING THIS ACCOMMODATION WHENEVER THEY ARE AVAILABLE AND WHEN THE TRAFFIC WARRANTS IT.

+THE FARES PROPOSED HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME ON CERTAIN NON-SCHEDULED SERVICES AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE OTHER THAN REASONABLE IN TERMS OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATING ACCOUNT, OR THAT THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC.

+INDEED, GIVEN THE RECENT VERY SHARP INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF FUEL OIL WHICH HAS SIGNIFICANTLY RAISED THE COMPANY'S OPERATING COSTS, I BELIEVE THEY ARE VERY REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

UNDER THE RESOLUTION, THE COMPANY NEEDS ONLY TO APPLY FROM THE GOVERNOR, INSTEAD OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, FOR PERMISSION TO USE PIERS FOR EXCURSION TRIPS, NIGHTBLUB CRUISES AND OTHER NON-SCHEDULED TRIPS.

THIS SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE WILL ENABLE THE COMPANY TO ARRANGE, AT SHORT NOTICE, TRIPS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TOURIST AND SEASONAL TRAFFIC.

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LACK OF SUITABLE CANDIDATE
HOLDS UP ANTIQUITIES ORDINANCE
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A SENIOR SERVING OFFICER MAY BE SECONDED AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD SO THAT THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE CAN BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHEN THE ORDINANCE WOULD COME INTO FORCE.

MR. BRAY EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE ORDINANCE HAD NOT YET TO COME INTO EFFECT.

+THIS IS BECAUSE ALL OUR EFFORTS TO RECRUIT A FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WITH THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDINANCE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE ONLY PRACTICAL COURSE NOW SEEMED TO BE TO SECOND A SENIOR SERVING OFFICER TO FILL THE POST, HE ADDED.

+AS SOON AS A SUITABLE OFFICER CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE, THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE WILL BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE.+

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974

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SAFETY ON TRAMS ASSURED
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THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TODAY ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT IT IS SAFE TO TRAVEL BY TRAMS.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON PASSENGERS' SAFETY IN TRAMCARS, MR. ROBSON STRESSED THAT THE HONG KONG TRAMWAY COMPANY HAD A VERY GOOD RECORD OF SAFETY.

+UNDER SECTION 32 OF THE TRAMWAY ORDINANCE, EVERY TRAMCAR AND TRAILER MUST BE SO CONSTRUCTED AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS.+ HE POINTED OUT.

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT ALL THE WINDOWS ON TRAMCARS HAD BEEN FABRICATED FROM PLATE GLASS SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, AND THERE WAS NO RECORD OF PASSENGERS HAVING SUFFERED INJURY AS A RESULT OF THIS PRACTICE.

ON THE USE OF SAFETY GLASS, WHICH WAS USED ORIGINALLY IN TRAM TRAILERS, HE NOTED THAT EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT THIS TYPE OF GLASS CRACKED AND HAD TO BE FREQUENTLY REPLACED, LARGELY BECAUSE PASSENGERS ALLOWED THE WINDOWS IN THE TRAILERS TO DROP WITH A BANG.

ON A PROPOSAL OF AFFIXING GUARDRAILS TO SEATS ON THE UPPER DECK NEAR A STAIRCASE, MR. ROBSON SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT A PASSENGER ON THE UPPER DECK WOULD BE DISLODGED FROM HIS SEAT BECAUSE THE MEANS OF PROPULSION EMPLOYED IN THE TRAMCAR NORMALLY ENSURED SMOOTH STARTING AND STOPPING.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SEATS FACING THE TOP OF THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE AT THE REAR OF THE TRAMCAR WERE ALREADY PARTIALLY PROVIDED WITH RAILS TO PREVENT PASSENGERS FROM FALLING DOWN THE STAIRS.

IN ADDITION, THE EXISTING SECOND STAIRCASE AT THE FRONT NEAR SIDE OF THE TRAM IS ALSO SEPARATED FROM THE SEATS FACING IT BY A RAILING.

REFERRING TO LEAKAGE OF WATER THROUGH THE ROOF INTO ELECTRIC LIGHTS HOLDERS, MR. ROBSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT DURING THE COURSE OF REGULAR INSPECTIONS, THE ROOFS OF TRAMS WERE ALWAYS CHECKED FOR LEAKS AND THERE WAS NO RECORD OF PASSENGERS RECEIVING ELECTRIC SHOCK FROM SUCH A SOURCE.

FINALLY, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE TWO ELECTRICAL CABLES RUNNING BETWEEN THE TRAMCAR AND THE UPPER PART OF THE TRAILER WERE BOTH CONSIDERED TO BE SAFE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CABLE LINKING THE BELL IS ACTUATED BY SMALL BATTERIES AND SO CAUSES NO RISK TO PASSENGERS WHILE THE LIGHTING CABLE IS VERY WELL INSULATED, BOTH WHERE IT LEAVES THE TRAMCAR AND WHERE IT ENTERS THE TRAILERS, THE TWO DANGER POINTS, HE EXPLAINED.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974.

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BETTER MEAL FACILITIES PLANNED
FOR WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE SOME PROMISING MEAL FACILITIES FOR WORKERS IN THE NEWLY DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL AREAS AND ON SITES WHICH MAY BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE OLDER AREAS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS, SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, IN HIS REPLY TO THE HON. ROGER LOBO WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE AT PRESENT ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR MEALS FOR WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS SUCH AS KWUN TONG AND SAN PO KONG.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT FROM THE VIEW OF QUANTITY THERE WERE ADEQUATE MEAL FACILITIES FOR FACTORY WORKERS IN THE MAIN INDUSTRIAL AREAS, BUT NOT SO IN TERMS OF QUALITY, COMFORT AND HYGIENE.

HE ADDED THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN SPACE FOR ONE COOKED FOOD STALL FOR EVERY 500 WORKERS. DESPITE THIS, HE SAID, SOME OF THE OLDER INDUSTRIAL AREAS WERE SO HEAVILY DEVELOPED THAT IT WAS PROVING DIFFICULT WITH THE RESULT THAT THERE WERE MANY ILLEGAL COOKED FOOD HAWKERS OPERATING IN BACK LANES OR ON THE STREETS.

THE GOVERNMENT IS TACKLING THE PROBLEM FOR THE FUTURE ON SEVERAL FRONTS. +IN THE NEWLY PLANNED INDUSTRIAL AREAS, IT AIMS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SITES PLACED AT STRATEGIC POINTS WITHIN INDUSTRIAL AREAS TO MEET THE TARGET OF ONE COOKED FOOD STALL FOR EVERY 500 WORKERS AND IN ADDITION WILL PROVIDE SOME COMMERCIAL SITES SUITABLE FOR ACCOMMODATING RESTAURANTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMMODATING PERMANENT COOKED FOOD STALL FACILITIES ON SPECIALLY DESIGNED GROUND FLOORS OF MULTI-USER BUILDINGS BUILT AND OPERATED EITHER BY THE GOVERNMENT OR POSSIBLY BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

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LOANS TO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SCHEMES

SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND - AMOUNTING TO NEARLY \$10 MILLION - ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET OUTSTANDING LOAN APPLICATIONS FROM THREE CIVIL SERVANTS' CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE FINANCE WILL BE DONE TO HELP THE THREE SOCIETIES TO COMPLETE THEIR SCHEMES.

ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT LOANS WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO MEET THE MAJOR PART OF THE COST OF THE SCHEMES, HE SAID, RISING BUILDING COSTS HAVE OBLIGED SOME SOCIETIES TO SEEK EXTRA FUNDS THROUGH BANK LOANS.

TO HELP THE SOCIETIES TO COPE WITH FINANCING PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS THEM TO DEFER THE SERVICING OF THEIR LOANS UNTIL THEY HAVE REPAID THEIR BANK LOANS, WHICH ARE NORMALLY REPAYABLE WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

OF THE THREE APPLICATIONS STILL OUTSTANDING, ONE SOCIETY HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A GOVERNMENT LOAN AND HAS OBTAINED A BANK LOAN.

THE EXACT AMOUNT OF LOAN REQUIRED BY THE REMAINING TWO COULD NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL THE COST OF THEIR SCHEMES HAS BEEN FINALLY SETTLED, MR. LIGHTBODY EXPLAINED, BUT THE AVAILABLE BALANCE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW STANDARD LOANS TO BE MADE TO THEM.

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SEPARATE COURT OF APPEAL UNDER WAY

HONG KONG IS TO HAVE A SEPARATE COURT OF APPEAL.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON CREATING A SEPARATE COURT OF APPEAL FOR HONG KONG.

MR. HOBLEY SAID: +IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD BE RECONSTITUTED SO AS TO CONSIST OF A HIGH COURT, AND A COURT OF APPEAL COMPOSED OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF APPEAL.+

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974.

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FEE REVISION AFTER 24 YEARS
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THE FEES FOR A NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF UNITED KINGDOM PATENTS ORDINANCE WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR 24 YEARS ARE TO BE DOUBLED WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

THE NEW FEES, DESIGNED TO RECOVER THE FULL COST OF THESE SERVICES, WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN IT PASSED A MOTION MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE TO INCREASE FROM \$60 TO \$120 THE FEE FOR CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION OF PATENTS, TO RAISE FROM \$3 TO \$5 THE FEE FOR EVERY HALF HOUR'S SEARCH OF THE REGISTER, TO RAISE FROM \$10 TO \$20 THE FEE FOR CERTIFYING OFFICE COPIES AND TO RAISE FROM \$20 TO \$40 THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OF DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MOST OF THE EXISTING FEES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1950 AND HAVE SINCE REMAINED UNCHANGED.

+AS PART OF THE OVERALL REVISION OF FEES AND CHARGES TO WHICH I MADE REFERENCE IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH, THE FINANCE BRANCH HAS UNDERTAKEN A COST STUDY OF THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND HAS FOUND THAT, AT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FEES, THE REGISTRY HAS BEEN RUNNING AT A LOSS AND THERE ARE NO GOOD REASONS WHY IT SHOULD BE SUBSIDISED BY THE GENERAL TAXPAYER.+

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POWERS OF NOTE-ISSUING BANKS EXTENDED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND FOR ANOTHER YEAR THE POWERS OF NOTE-ISSUING BANKS IN HONG KONG.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID WHILE MOVING THE MOTION THAT THE BANK NOTES ISSUE ORDINANCE LAID DOWN THAT THE POWERS OF THESE BANKS WOULD LAPSE AUTOMATICALLY UNLESS RENEWED BY THE COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME.

+THE PRESENT POWERS OF THESE BANKS EXPIRE ON JULY 12, 1974. IT IS PROPOSED IN THIS MOTION THAT THESE POWERS SHOULD BE RENEWED FOR THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974

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TEMPORARY SITES FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS COMPILING A LIST OF AVAILABLE SITES, WHICH ARE RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROJECTS, FOR DEVELOPMENT AS TEMPORARY SITTING OUT AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT TO AVOID WASTE OF FUNDS AND EFFORT, SITES THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST TWO OR THREE YEARS ARE PREFERRED.

MR. ROBSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE AS SITTING OUT AREAS AS MANY AVAILABLE SITES AS POSSIBLE THAT ARE EARMARKED FOR FUTURE PROJECTS BUT WHICH WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR SOME TIME.

+THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY COMPILING A LIST OF SUCH SITES FOR FUTURE ALLOCATION AS TEMPORARY OPEN SPACES, AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SITES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED ON THIS BASIS,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

THE POLICY FOR TEMPORARY ALLOCATION OF SUCH SITES HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME YEARS, HE ADDED. EITHER SUITABLE SITES WERE OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, OR THE COUNCIL WOULD ASK THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SUCH A SITE.

SPECIAL EFFORTS WERE ALSO MADE TO IDENTIFY SITES SUITABLE FOR THIS SORT OF TEMPORARY USE AS PART OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN BOTH IN THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. ROBSON SAID.

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NO MORE LANGUAGE BARRIER IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN GOVERNMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU.

MR. BRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN CASES WHERE MOST OF THE PROCEEDINGS WERE IN CANTONESE AS IN THE CONSUMER COUNCIL INTERPRETATION WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR NON-CANTONESE SPEAKERS.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974.

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TOUTING AT KAI TAK
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AN AVERAGE OF 15 ARRESTS ARE MADE EACH MONTH IN THE PREVENTION OF TOUTING AT KAI TAK AIRPORT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU, HE SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTING TOUTING AT THE AIRPORT RESTED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE POLICE, BOTH OF WHICH HAD OFFICERS AT THE AIRPORT ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THIS SORT OF THING.

THE TWO DEPARTMENTS, HE ADDED, AND LIKEWISE THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, WERE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND WERE DOING THEIR BEST TO SOLVE IT.

AS REGARDS OVERCHARGING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CASE OF PUBLIC CARS, THERE WERE NO FIXED FARES PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

+IT IS UP TO EACH HIRER TO AGREE THE FARE BEFOREHAND WITH THE DRIVER OR OPERATOR,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE CASE OF TAXIS, A PASSENGER IS REQUIRED TO PAY ONLY THE FARE SHOWN ON THE METER, PLUS ANY PRESCRIBED SURCHARGE FOR BAGGAGE OR CROSSING THE HARBOUR,+ HE SAID.

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BILLS IN LEGCO
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SIX NEW BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY FOR THEIR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THESE WERE: THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC) BILL, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE WATERWORKS BILL.

DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THREE OTHER BILLS -- THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL -- PASSED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READING TO BECOME LAW.

THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG AND THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR 1972/73 WERE TABLED IN COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974

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COMMUNITY CENTRE CELEBRATES 14TH ANNIVERSARY

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY CENTRE IN WONG TAI SIN CELEBRATES ITS 14TH ANNIVERSARY TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.

THE CELEBRATIONS WILL START WITH THE OPENING AT 4 P.M. OF AN EXHIBITION ON WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WELFARE AGENCIES IN THE CENTRE.

OFFICIATING WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRACTICAL TRAINING CENTRE OF THE CHURCHES, THE CHINESE Y.M.C.A., THE SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION UNDER WHICH THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IS OPERATED.

ON SATURDAY EVENING A COMBINED VARIETY SHOW AND AWARD PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 8 TO 10 P.M. THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR WONG TAI SIN, MRS. HENRIETTA CHEN, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE HELPED OUT IN THE CENTRE'S VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (SUNDAY), ANOTHER VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD, THIS TIME ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE'S MEMBERS THEMSELVES, FROM 8 TO 10 P.M. IT WILL INCLUDE PROGRAMMES OF HARMONICA PERFORMANCE, FOLK SONGS, FOLK DANCES, DRAMAS AND COMEDY SKITS.

THE FINAL CELEBRATION PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (JUNE 29) WHEN THERE WILL BE A CONCERT OF CANTONESE SONGS ORGANISED BY THE CANTONESE SONG CLUB IN THE CENTRE.

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PRESS VISIT TO SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE VISIT TO SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21.

ON THAT DAY, A LAUNCH WILL TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO SILVERMINE BAY FROM WHERE THEY WILL TRAVEL BY VEHICLES PROVIDED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT TO THE CENTRE.

DUE TO LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE LAUNCH, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO WERE NOMINATED FOR THE ORIGINAL VISIT SET FOR JUNE 7, BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO BAD WEATHER.

THEY ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT QUEEN'S PIER, CENTRAL DISTRICT, NO LATER THAN 8.55 A.M. ON JUNE 21 WHEN G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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INTERRUPTION OF WATER SUPPLY

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SHORT PERIODS SEPARATELY DURING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY TO FACILITATE VARIOUS WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

IN YAU MA TEI, SEVEN STREETS WILL HAVE THEIR SUPPLY CUT OFF FOR TEN HOURS BEGINNING FROM 8 P.M. ON FRIDAY (JUNE 21). THE AREAS AFFECTED WILL BE MAN CHEUNG STREET, MAN WUI STREET, MAN WAI STREET, MAN YUEN STREET, MAN YING STREET, MAN SHING STREET AND THE SOUTH SIDE OF FERRY STREET.

AND IN TSIM SHA TSUI, THE AREA BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD, KIMBERLEY ROAD AND CARNARVON ROAD WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR FIVE HOURS BEGINNING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

ACROSS THE HARBOUR, SUPPLY TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY ELECTRIC ROAD, LAU SIN STREET, HING FAT STREET AND THE SEA FRONT, INCLUDING THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY, VICTORIA PARK AND THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC POWER STATION, NORTH POINT, WILL ALSO BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

ANOTHER LEAKAGE TEST WILL AFFECT THE SUPPLY FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (JUNE 22) IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY WESTERN MARKET, BONHAM STRAND WEST, WING LOK STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, SUTHERLAND STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND MORRISON STREET.

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LEASE-SIGNING CEREMONY

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN FIRM OF DOW CHEMICAL PACIFIC LTD. TO SET UP A POLYSTYRENE MANUFACTURING PLANT WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SIGNING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE 35 MM THEATRE OF G.I.S. BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5/F AT 11.30 A.M.

SIGNING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MR. I.F.C. MACPHERSON, ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND ON BEHALF OF DOW CHEMICAL PACIFIC LTD. WILL BE MR. R.W. LUNDEEN, DOW'S PACIFIC MANAGING DIRECTOR.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE
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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (MONDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE CICE 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

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) MODE
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.26
S.C.JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	--	--
CHU CHO	--	--
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	--	--
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.93
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.77
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.57
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.85
<u>U.S. RICE</u>		
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>		
	GOOD	1.91
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>		
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>		

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	LIMITED	4.30	2.80	3.60
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.30	0.60	1.60
SQUID	LIMITED	7.50	2.40	4.50
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.20	0.70	1.40
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.30	1.20	2.00
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.50	0.70	1.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.00	1.20	1.60
MELON COAT	--	--	--	--
BREAMS	SCARCE	4.50	2.50	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	2.00	0.50	1.30
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.50	2.80	3.50
RED GOAT FISH	--	--	--	--
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.30	0.50	1.10
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.50	3.20	4.50
MELON SEED	GOOD	2.40	0.90	1.80
POMFRETS	--	--	--	--
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	11.00	7.00	9.50
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	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.00	0.40	0.70
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	1.40	0.30	0.80
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.00	0.40	0.80
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.70
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.60	1.20	2.00

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