



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

| <u>CONTENTS</u> | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| GOVERNOR SEES BETTER TIMES AHEAD | 1 |
| POLICE FORCE TO BE STRENGTHENED | 3 |
| ICAC MAKES ITSELF FELT | 5 |
| DETENTION CENTRES EFFECTIVE | 7 |
| NEW EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TREATMENT CLINICS TO OPEN SOON | 8 |
| SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL TO BE SET UP | 9 |
| MORE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MEASURES ON THE WAY | 10 |
| GOVERNOR SEES HAWKING AS A LONG TERM PROBLEM | 12 |
| NEW TERRITORIES COMPENSATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW TOWNS ... | 13 |
| RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE MAKES HEADWAY | 14 |
| MTR WILL BRING IMMEDIATE BENEFITS, SAYS THE GOVERNOR | 16 |
| HK IN GOOD POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY | 17 |
| HIGHER DEFENCE COST UNAVOIDABLE | 19 |
| GOVERNOR CALLS FOR WIDER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS | 20 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 21 |
| OVER 1,800 NEW HOSPITAL BEDS EXPECTED | 22 |
| MORE TO RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE | 24 |
| SECONDARY EDUCATION: INTERIM GOALS REACHED | 25 |
| HOUSING FOR 100,000 EXPECTED IN 1975/76 | 27 |
| INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR RESUMPTION OF N.T. LAND | 29 |
| WATER CUT | 29 |
| CAREERS EXHIBITION DRAWS CROWDS | 30 |
| INDUSTRY URGED TO CONSIDER TRAINING NEEDS | 31 |

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 1 -

BETTER TIMES AHEAD
GOVERNOR SEES RECOVERY IN ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, VIEWING THE COMING YEAR TODAY FORESAW BETTER TIMES AHEAD FOR HONG KONG AMID INDICATIONS OF A SLOW IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC PROSPECTS.

+I SEE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL,+ SIR MURRAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, +THOUGH I DO NOT THINK THE ECONOMIC WORLD INTO WHICH WE ARE EMERGING WILL BE QUITE THE SAME AS THE ONE WE LEFT BEHIND AT THE END OF 1973.+

HE ADDED : +BUT IT IS ONE IN WHICH WE CAN CERTAINLY BE ASSURED THAT THE RELATIVE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FAR EASTERN AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL GROW, AND HONG KONG OCCUPIES A CENTRAL POSITION IN THAT AREA AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JAPAN ITSELF, HAS UNRIVALLED FACILITIES OF INDUSTRY, FINANCE, AND COMMUNICATIONS.+

IF HONG KONG APPROACHED THE NEW SITUATION WITH ITS CHARACTERISTIC VIGOUR, HE SAID, +THERE IS A FAIR PROSPECT OF A RETURN TO GROWTH CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG, WITH IMPROVED INCOMES AND PROFITS.+

THE GOVERNOR CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE RECOVERY WHICH WAS SLOWLY DEVELOPING COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE PATCHY AND SPASMODIC IN EACH OF HONG KONG'S MARKETS, OFFERING SUDDEN AND GROWING OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO DISAPPOINTMENTS AND FRUSTRATIONS.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS BECAUSE THE FINANCIAL BLOWS SUSTAINED BY THE WORLD HAD BEEN HEAVY AND THE ECONOMIES OF THE COUNTRIES OF HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL MARKETS WERE STILL OVERSHADOWED BY UNSOLVED PROBLEMS THAT WERE LIKELY TO INHIBIT EITHER VERY RAPID OR SUSTAINED GROWTH. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH LIQUIDITY HAD GREATLY IMPROVED IN MOST OF HONG KONG'S MARKETS, THE CONFIDENCE TO USE IT BOLDLY HAD YET TO RETURN.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD STRAINED EVERY EFFORT TO HOLD FAST TO ITS VISION OF A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DESPITE THE BAD TIMES.

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGH STRINGENT ECONOMIES ON THE ONE HAND AND PROVISION OF NEW RESOURCES ON THE OTHER.

INEVITABLY, THE ACHIEVEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN AS GREAT IN MANY AREAS AS HE WOULD HAVE WISHED BECAUSE ASPIRATIONS WERE GREATER THAN RESOURCES WOULD ALLOW.

/HE NOTED THAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 2 -

HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS STILL A LONG LIST OF HIGHLY DESIRABLE SERVICES AND PROJECTS THAT HAD TO BE POSTPONED OR REPHASED AND HE WAS MOST IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION, RECREATION AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, SOME ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, WHICH HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY LACK OF RESOURCES.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE ALSO ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUING REORGANISATION AND BUILD-UP OF THE POLICE, THE EXPANSION OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND THE EXPANSION OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION TO FULL STRENGTH. +WE ALSO HAVE TO FACE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCE,+ HE ADDED, INVITING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PONDER ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FACTORS.

IN THE DIFFICULT YEAR THAT PASSED, HE SAID, HONG KONG HAD SHOWN ITS METTLE AND EARNED WIDESPREAD ADMIRATION FOR THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT HAD FACED THE PROBLEMS THAT BESET IT. THE EXCELLENT STATE OF ANGLO/CHINESE RELATIONS AND THE FRIENDLY AND PRACTICAL WAY IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH ANY MATTERS AFFECTING HONG KONG HAD CONTRIBUTED TO STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE.

THE YEAR WAS MADE MEMORABLE, SIR MURRAY SAID, BY THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH. HONG KONG WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THIS MARK OF CONFIDENCE AND INTEREST, HE SAID.

----- 0 -----

13

POLICE FORCE TO BE STRENGTHENED

X X X X X

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE POLICE FORCE BY 1,430 AS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO FIGHT CRIME, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE TOLD COUNCIL THAT BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IT WAS PROPOSED TO RELAX THE RECRUITMENT LIMIT OF 930 IMPOSED EARLIER ON THE FORCE AS PART OF THE MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE GROWTH OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THE STEEP INCREASE IN CRIME OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HAD BEGUN TO LEVEL OFF AND THE NUMBER OF REPORTED SERIOUS CRIMES HAD FALLEN SLIGHTLY.

THIS ONLY MEANT, HOWEVER, THAT A SITUATION WHICH HAD BECOME INTOLERABLE HAD NOT GROWN WORSE, HE SAID. NEVERTHELESS, THE SLOW-DOWN SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE WIDESPREAD MEASURES TAKEN TO FIGHT CRIME WERE CORRECT AND WERE BEGINNING TO TAKE EFFECT. +WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO BUILD ON THEM,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM WAS TO REDUCE CRIME DRASTICALLY.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT CRIME WITH EVERY MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL, THE GOVERNOR SAID, BUT +IT IS THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AND SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC THAT IN THE END WILL BE DECISIVE.+

+ONE OF THE MOST ENCOURAGING FEATURES OF THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN THE GROWING EXTENT TO WHICH THESE HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING,+ HE ADDED.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE TIME HAD COME TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY MORE DIRECTLY IN THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATION OF THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME AND HE PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE AN UNOFFICIAL ELEMENT IN THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE TO BRING NEW IDEAS TO THE ANTI-CRIME DRIVE AND TO HELP SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THE WORK BEING DONE.

AT PRESENT THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE, SET UP IN 1973, CONSISTS ONLY OF OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, SIR MURRAY CONTINUED, HAD PROVED THAT THEY FILLED A NEED WITH THE PUBLIC AND THAT THEY WERE OF REAL VALUE TO THE POLICE. THE GOVERNMENT HAD THEREFORE BEGUN AN EXPANSION OF MAC'S AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WAS BEING PROVIDED WITH THE RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT THE BACK-UP AND SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR THE NEW COMMITTEES WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

/IN VIEW OF

IN VIEW OF THE REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION THAT HAD OCCURED, COUPLED WITH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS THE POLICE FORCE HAD TO FACE, A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE POLICE ESTABLISHMENT HAD BEEN PUT IN HAND, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE POLICE CADET SCHOOL, WHICH STARTED AS AN EXPERIMENT TWO YEARS AGO, HAD PROVED VERY SUCCESSFUL AND IT WOULD BE EXPANDED AS SOON AS FUNDS PERMITTED.

IN A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE AUXILIARIES, THE GOVERNOR THANKED THEM FOR THEIR ADMIRABLE WORK AND SAID THAT AS THE STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR POLICE FORCE INCREASES THE AUXILIARIES WOULD BE FULFILLING A VITAL ROLE OF THEIR OWN AS A LINK BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE REGULARS, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPANSION OF POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD UNITS.

SIR MURRAY SAID IMMENSE EFFORT HAD BEEN PUT INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE-PRONGED ATTACK AGAINST CRIME BY THE POLICE, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES AND KAIFONGS.

THE THREE MAIN LINES OF THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN : EXPANSION OF THE POLICE FORCE AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF ITS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE= A THOROUGH OVERHAUL OF POLICE ORGANISATION, TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES AND DEPLOYMENT, AND PARTICULARLY OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC= AND THE MOBILISING AND ORGANISING OF PEOPLE IN NEIGHBOURHOODS TO HELP EACH OTHER AND THE POLICE TO DETER CRIME.

FROM THE START OF THE RECRUITMENT PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER 1973 UNTIL THE END OF MARCH 1976, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THE NET STRENGTH OF THE FORCE WILL HAVE INCREASED BY 3,450 MEN AND WOMEN. THIS INCLUDES 541 CIVILIANS WHOSE RECRUITMENT RELEASES TRAINED POLICEMEN FOR MORE ACTIVE DUTIES.

EIGHT MORE STATIONS HAD BEEN OPENED TO MAKE THE POLICE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AND IN ADDITION 47 REPORTING CENTRES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. A START HAD ALSO BEEN MADE WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS OF WHICH THERE ARE 11. THERE ARE ALSO OVER 1,600 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND 90 AREA COMMITTEES.

NONE OF THESE, THE GOVERNOR NOTED, EXISTED AT ALL TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO.

SIR MURRAY WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EASY OR QUICK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AND HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME WOULD REQUIRE CLOSE PUBLIC CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNITY-WIDE SUPPORT.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

ICAC MAKES ITSELF FELT
X X X X

THE I.C.A.C. HAS ALREADY MADE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT SINCE ITS EXISTENCE FOR JUST OVER 1-1/2 YEARS, THE GOVERNOR SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD WISH HIM TO ASSURE THE I.C.A.C. OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY FOR +WE ALL WISH TO REMOVE THE TAIN OF CORRUPTION FROM PUBLIC SERVICES.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE ABILITY TO DETECT AND BRING TO JUSTICE THE CORRUPT AT ALL LEVELS IS THE FIRST TASK OF THE COMMISSION.

+UNTIL THIS CAPABILITY EXISTS, AND IS SEEN TO EXIST, NEITHER THE CORRUPT NOR THOSE ON WHOM THEY PREY WILL TAKE THE COMMISSION SERIOUSLY. BUT ONCE IT IS REALISED THAT THIS CAPABILITY EXISTS OR IS BEING CREATED WITH DETERMINATION, CREDIBILITY OF THE COMMISSION IS THUS ESTABLISHED, THE WAY IS OPEN FOR IT TO USE OTHER AND MORE POSITIVE MEASURES AIMED AT THE DISCOURAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION RATHER THAN AT ITS PUNISHMENT, AND TO DO SO WITH SOME PROSPECT OF SUCCESS,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT IS URGENT THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO ENABLE IT TO DEVELOP THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS ALONG THE LINES THAT HON. MEMBERS HAD APPROVED.

+THIS CLEANSING OF PUBLIC LIFE IS SOMETHING OVER WHICH WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOITER. MOMENTUM MUST BE STEADILY BUILT UP AND MAINTAINED UNTIL THE BACK OF THE PROBLEM IS BROKEN,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION'S OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HAS HAD FIRST CALL ON RESOURCES, AND RECRUITMENT, AND THE TRAINING OF ITS STAFF BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH ALL POSSIBLE URGENCY. AN IMPORTANT ADDITION HAS BEEN THE ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICERS FROM BRITAIN; THE FIRST RECRUITS FROM THIS GROUP OF 40 ARE ALREADY IN POST AND THE REMAINDER WILL BE ARRIVING OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE OPERATIONS ARM OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD APPROACH A STRENGTH OF 450 BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR DISCOUNTED ALLEGED EFFECTS OF THE I.C.A.C. ON THE MORALE OF THE POLICE FORCE, WHICH HE SAID +HAS RESPONDED IN A MATURE AND SENSIBLE WAY TO I.C.A.C. INVESTIGATIONS, AND FAR FROM BEING DEMORALISED, IS STEADILY BECOMING MORE EFFECTIVE, MORE PROFESSIONALLY EFFICIENT AND ON BETTER TERMS WITH THE PUBLIC AND WITH ITSELF.+

/+THOSE WHO ARE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 6 -

+THOSE WHO ARE CORRUPT ARE NO DOUBT WORRIED ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT AND A VERY GOOD THING TOO. BUT THIS IS QUITE A DIFFERENT THING TO ALLEGING THAT THE FORCE AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN DEMORALISED BY I.C.A.C. ACTIVITIES TO ROOT THEM OUT,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR EXTREME CARE IN THE EXERCISE OF THE WIDE POWERS GIVEN TO THE I.C.A.C., JUST AS HE WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE NEED TO USE THOSE POWERS IF THE COMMISSION IS TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS EXPECTED OF IT.

HE SAID, +I HAVE APPOINTED MEN OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE, EXPERIENCE AND INTEGRITY TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION AND I HAVE COMPLETE TRUST IN THEIR JUDGEMENT AND DISCRETION. I HAVE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THEM UNOFFICIALS OF THE HIGHEST STANDING AND EXPERIENCE WHO ARE CONSULTED ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATIONS.

+THIS IS OBVIOUSLY OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE BECAUSE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT A MAN IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION COULD WELL HAVE WIDER REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM, EVEN IF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, WITH WHOM RESTS THE AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE, DECIDES NOT TO DO SO.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE IS WELL SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS THE COMMISSION HAS MADE, WHICH IS GREATLY TO THE CREDIT OF ITS OFFICERS.

+THEIRS IS A VITAL TASK, BUT LET NO ONE SUPPOSE IT IS A PLEASANT ONE,+ HE ADDED.

----- 0 -----

/7

DETENTION CENTRES EFFECTIVE

X X X X X

DETENTION CENTRES HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVE MOST EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY.

SINCE THE FIRST ONE WAS OPENED IN JUNE 1972, SIR MURRAY SAID, 1,660 YOUNG MALE OFFENDERS, MOST OF THEM CONVICTED OF CRIMES INVOLVING VIOLENCE, HAVE PASSED THROUGH THEM.

THE SUCCESS RATE SO FAR OF 87 PER CENT INDICATED THAT IT WAS PLANNED AND ADMINISTERED ON SOUND LINES, HE ADDED.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF OFFENDERS UNDER 21 AT THE TIME OF CONVICTION HAS DROPPED FROM AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 27 PER CENT IN 1973-74 TO 19 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISION (PAROLE) WAS BEING LOOKED INTO.

+THERE IS MERIT AS WELL AS DANGER IN SUCH A SCHEME, BUT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSED SYSTEM FROM EVERY ANGLE BEFORE ARRIVING AT A FIRM RECOMMENDATION,+ HE SAID.

THE TOTAL PRISON POPULATION AT PRESENT HAS INCREASED BY 44 PER CENT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS AND BY SEVEN PER CENT IN THE PAST YEAR, AND NOW STANDS AT 8,140 IN ALL OUR 15 PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

+THE PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN TACKLING THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH STEM FROM THE INCREASE IN THE PRISONER POPULATION. BUT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CONCERNED AT OVER-CROWDING AND ALL THAT IT IMPLIES, PARTICULARLY AT STANLEY,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THE PROVISION OF HEI LING CHAU FOR USE AS A NEW DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE HAS ENABLED THE PRISON SERVICE TO EXPAND ITS TREATMENT FACILITIES AND ALSO TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN SENT TO PRISON.

WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF DETENTION CENTRE TREATMENT AT SHA TSUI, HE ADDED, TONG FUK DETENTION CENTRE HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE PRISON SERVICE HAS WON INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS PIONEERING APPROACH TO THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION.

+THE SUCCESS RATE, OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FOLLOWING TREATMENT, OF 42 PER CENT IS A CREDIT TO THEIR EFFORTS AND IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST SUCCESS RATES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HEROIN ADDICTS ACHIEVED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 8 -

NEW EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TREATMENT CLINICS TO OPEN SOON
X X X X X

THE FIRST OF A NUMBER OF DETOXIFICATION CLINICS IS EXPECTED TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID THIS AFTERNOON.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE CLINICS, FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE MAINTAINED ON METHADONE, IS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF DR. NEWMAN, AN AMERICAN EXPERT IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS, WHO VISITED HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

SIR MURRAY ALSO DISCLOSED THAT A WORKING PARTY IS NOW EXAMINING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CURRENT METHODS OF DEALING WITH MINOR DRUG OFFENDERS BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, AND WILL REPORT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. OTHER INITIATIVES STEMMING FROM THE NEWMAN REPORT ARE ALSO BEING PURSUED. HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SUCCESSES IN OUR WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS IN THE PAST YEAR, WITH MAJOR SEIZURES OF DRUGS AND NOTABLE ARRESTS. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, SO LONG AS THE DEMAND PERSISTS AND THE POTENTIAL PROFITS ARE SO VAST, THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRIMINALS WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK OF ARRANGING IMPORTS. THE NEW TRAFFICKING ORGANISATIONS ARE SMALLER, MORE SECURITY-CONSCIOUS AND MORE DISPERSED, AND THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO NEW PROBLEMS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

+THIS IS A LONG SLOW FIGHT AND ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME OUTSTANDING SUCCESS DURING THE YEAR THE PROBLEM IS STILL WITH US,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+IT CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY RELENTLESS PRESSURE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY, ON THE CRIMINAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK HERE, AND BY THE PROVISION OF A CHEAP AND CONVENIENT CURE AND REHABILITATION FOR ADDICTS.

+ON ALL THESE FRONTS YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL PERSEVERE.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 9 -

SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL TO BE SET UP
X X X X X

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL FOR THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS OF NOT MORE THAN \$3,000 WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS WEEK AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, DISCLOSED THIS IN HIS SPEECH AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REVIEWING THE SUCCESS THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL HAD HAD SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

+ITS SIMPLE PROCEDURE AND INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE HAVE MADE IT A POPULAR FORUM FOR DEALING WITH WAGE CLAIMS AND CLAIMS FOR SEVERANCE PAY USUALLY FOR RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR SOME TIME THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SIMILAR TRIBUNAL FOR THE RECOVERY OF SMALL DEBTS, ARISING FROM CONTRACT OR TORT.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE MOST VOCIFEROUS DEMAND FOR A SIMPLE, INEXPENSIVE AND QUICK-ACTING FORUM CAME FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WHICH EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN RECOVERING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CO-OWNERS AND OTHERS TOWARDS COMMON COSTS.

HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE NEW TRIBUNAL WOULD FILL THIS LONG FELT NEED.

----- 0 -----

/10

MORE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MEASURES ON THE WAY

X X X X X

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED IN HIS REVIEW OF LABOUR MATTERS TODAY.

THE NEW MEASURES INCLUDE REGULATIONS TO PROTECT INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FROM CERTAIN DANGEROUS PROCESSES SUCH AS MANUFACTURING DRY BATTERIES AND USING INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS FOR SPRAYING, AS WELL AS EXTRA SAFETY MEASURES RELATING TO THE USE OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS TOOLS AND GOODS LIFTS IN FACTORIES.

+WITH WORK ABOUT TO START ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SPECIAL REGULATIONS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF WORKERS IN COMPRESSED AIR DURING TUNNELLING OPERATIONS,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY RECOGNISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AN OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S LABOUR FORCE WAS APPROPRIATELY CARED FOR AND PROTECTED, AND SAID THAT THE LABOUR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME WOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD IN THE COMING SESSION.

LOOKING BACK AT THE ITEMS OF LEGISLATION THAT WERE PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT SHOULD BE THE LABOUR RELATIONS ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES FOR, INTER ALIA, THE IMPOSITION OF A COOLING-OFF PERIOD IF NECESSARY.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED: +HONG KONG HAS A GOOD RECORD OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BUT I BELIEVE THAT IN DEALING WITH ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT DO ARISE, THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND HIS CONCILIATION SERVICES WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE.+

+IT ALSO SEES AN END TO THE OLD TRADE DISPUTES ORDINANCE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE ILLEGAL STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS ORDINANCE WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG BEEN BOTH UNUSED AND A TARGET OF CRITICISM,+ HE SAID.

HE THEN RECALLED THAT FURTHER AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT WORKERS WHO WERE LAID OFF IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WERE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A SUM EQUIVALENT TO THEIR WAGES FOR THE STATUTORY PERIOD OF THEIR NOTICE.

THE PERMISSIBLE ANNUAL OVERTIME FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 17) WAS REDUCED FROM JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR FROM 300 TO A MAXIMUM OF 250 HOURS.

/THE GOVERNOR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 11 -

THE GOVERNOR DISCLOSED THAT FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR, THIS PERMISSIBLE ANNUAL OVERTIME WOULD BE FURTHER REDUCED TO 30 HOURS.

COMMENTING ON THE TWO INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ORDINANCES FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, SIR MURRAY SAID, +THEY REPRESENT A NEW DEPARTURE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE AND WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS WILL START WORKING.+

IN THE SPHERE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT STEPPED UP REGULATIONS HAD BEEN ENFORCED TO CONTROL THE USE OF ABRASIVE WHEELS AND FOR THE SAFER HANDLING OF CARGO.

IN ADDITION, THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE HAD BEEN AMENDED TO BRING THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG SUBJECT TO STATUTORY SMOKE CONTROL MEASURES, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR HOPED THAT THREE ITEMS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION, WHICH HAD PROVED UNEXPECTEDLY COMPLICATED, WOULD BE SUBMITTED SOON FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION.

THESE ARE A BILL TO REGULATE CONDITIONS OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN VARIOUS TRADES, LEGISLATION RELATING TO COMPENSATION OF WORKMEN AFFECTED BY SILICOSIS, AND REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR THE GUARDING OF DANGEROUS PARTS OF POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY IN FACTORIES.

----- 0 -----

/12

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

GOVERNOR SEES HAWKING AS A LONG TERM PROBLEM

* * * * *

THE HAWKER PERMITTED AREA SCHEME WAS A REALISTIC MOVE TO PROVIDE MORE AND MORE CONCENTRATED FACILITIES FOR HAWKING, THE GOVERNOR SAID IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

ITS ADMINISTRATION HOWEVER WAS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY ITS COINCIDENCE WITH THE RECESSION AND THE GREATLY INCREASED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE COMPELLED TO SEEK A LIVING BY HAWKING, HE SAID.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN ONE AREA, WHICH ARE AT THE MOMENT BEING CONTAINED, THE SCHEME HAS BEEN A USEFUL EXPERIMENT FROM WHICH MUCH HAS BEEN LEARNED, HE SAID.

HE DESCRIBED HAWKING AS A LONG TERM PROBLEM WHICH COULD ONLY BE SOLVED BY RISING PROSPERITY WHICH OFFERED BETTER ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND BY THE PROGRESSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF OFF-STREET FACILITIES.

IN OTHER AREAS OF URBAN COUNCIL WORK, SIR MURRAY NOTED VAST IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CLEANLINESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY ON THE BEACHES, AND IN THE CLEANSING SERVICES THEMSELVES. BUT THERE WAS STILL ROOM FOR CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF LITTER CARELESS PEOPLE DROPPED IN THE STREETS.

SIR MURRAY WAS DELIGHTED BY THE STEADY ENCOURAGEMENT THE COUNCIL WAS GIVING TO THE ARTS AND BY THE BREADTH AND IMAGINATION OF ITS APPROACH. WITH ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT BY PRIVATE PEOPLE AND FIRMS, HE SAID, IT WAS NOW POSSIBLE TO BEGIN TO THINK OF HONG KONG AS AN ARTISTIC CENTRE.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT A FULL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK, +BUT IT IS EVOLVING ITS OWN PERSONALITY AND STYLE, AND IS TACKLING ITS MANY-SIDED JOB WITH A VIGOUR AND DISTINCTION FROM WHICH HONG KONG HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 13 -

NEW TERRITORIES COMPENSATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW TOWNS
X X X X X X X

THE GOVERNOR TODAY EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT FAIR AND REASONABLE COMPENSATION BE OFFERED WHEN LANDS WERE ACQUIRED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE DISCLOSED THAT 55 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FOUR MILLION SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING LAND WOULD HAVE TO BE RESUMED TO COMPLETE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS.

HE SAID, +THE DISTURBANCE TO EXISTING RIGHTS IS GREAT AND IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT FAIR AND REASONABLE COMPENSATION BE OFFERED WHEN THESE LANDS ARE ACQUIRED.+

THE GOVERNOR RECALLED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE BUDGET DEBATE THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD SPOKEN OF THE WORK WHICH WAS IN PROGRESS TO REVIEW COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF LAND WITHIN THE NEW TOWNS AND OF THE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HELD WITH MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

SINCE THEN, HE SAID, CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD SHORTLY MAKE PUBLIC THE DETAILS OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

+THE CHANGES NOW APPROVED WILL, I TRUST, PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE AND REMOVE THE PRESENT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EXCHANGE SYSTEM.+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT IF THE NEW TOWNS WERE TO BECOME WELL BALANCED COMMUNITIES WITH A FULL AND VARIED LIFE OF THEIR OWN, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DEVISE SOME MEANS OF INVOLVING THEIR RESIDENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE FACILITIES WHICH WERE BEING PROVIDED.

+TSUEN WAN IN PARTICULAR HAS ALREADY REACHED THE STAGE WHERE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ASSOCIATE LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH THE PROCESS OF PLANNING THE DETAILS OF AMENITIES SUCH AS PARKS, AND PLAYGROUNDS, SWIMMING POOLS AND OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES, AND WITH THE ORGANISATION OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THEM,+ HE NOTED.

THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTED THAT A COMMITTEE BE SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER WHICH WOULD BRING TOGETHER LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH A GENUINE INTEREST IN, AND KNOWLEDGE OF, THESE MATTERS, TOGETHER WITH THE OFFICIALS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

+THIS IDEA STILL HAS TO BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING ON THESE LINES IS NECESSARY IF TSUEN WAN AND THE OTHER NEW TOWNS ARE TO BECOME WELL BALANCED COMMUNITIES WITH A FULL AND VARIED LIFE OF THEIR OWN,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 14 -

RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE MAKES HEADWAY

X X X X X

PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE SCHEME INTRODUCED LAST OCTOBER DESPITE THE RECESSION, AND LINES ALONG WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCEED HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TESTED, THE GOVERNOR SAID TODAY.

HE NOTED THAT OVER 100,000 PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAD PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICERS UP TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1975.

IN ADDITION, OVER 3,000 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HAD BEEN TRAINED AS REFEREES, COACHES, GUIDES AND LEADERS FORMING A CORPS OF VOLUNTEER RECREATION LEADERS.

SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT EXTENSIVE PROGRAMMES, RANGING FROM SPORTS COMPETITIONS, COACHING AND KEEP-FIT CLASSES TO COUNTRYSIDE EXCURSIONS AND DANCE CONTESTS, WERE PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT AS AN EXPERIMENT IN SIX DISTRICTS BY RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICERS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR TEENS OR EARLY TWENTIES BUT THE PROGRAMMES OFFERED SOMETHING TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE HANDICAPPED.

SIR MURRAY WAS CONVINCED THAT ORGANISED PARTICIPATION AND SUPERVISION THROUGH CALLING ON THE ENTHUSIASM AND PUBLIC SPIRIT OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WAS THE RIGHT APPROACH.

+THE PRIME DUTY OF THE SPORTS OFFICERS MUST BE TO MOBILISE, INSTRUCT AND HELP THE PUBLIC TO ORGANISE THE SUPERVISION OF RECREATION,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS PLANNED, HE SAID, TO DEVELOP THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE SCHEME IN THREE PHASES.

PHASE I WAS IMPLEMENTED IN OCTOBER 1974.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT HAD BEEN HOPED TO INTRODUCE PHASE II IN 1975/76 WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICERS IN SEVEN MORE DISTRICTS AND THEN MOVE ON TO PHASE III IN 1976/77 TO COVER THE REMAINING DISTRICTS IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. BUT DUE TO COMPETITION FOR FUNDS FROM SO MANY ESSENTIAL ITEMS, FUNDS HAD ONLY RUN TO A MODIFIED PHASE II PROGRAMME PERMITTING THE COVERAGE OF ONLY TWO MORE DISTRICTS.

HE STRESSED THAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 15 -

HE STRESSED THAT ORGANISED RECREATION IN THE HOUSING CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAKING AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO ACHIEVE MORE GENERAL AND DECISIVE RESULTS.

+BUT OF COURSE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID, +THE FINEST RECREATIONAL FACILITY THAT HONG KONG POSSESSES IS ITS OWN COUNTRYSIDE.+

GOOD PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE IN CONSTRUCTING PICNIC AND BARBECUE SPOTS, NATURE TRAILS, FOOTPATHS AND TRACKS AND THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO THESE FACILITIES HAD PROVED HOW RIGHT THE PROGRAMME WAS AND HOW MUCH IT WAS NEEDED.

BUT THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE HAD BROUGHT A REAL DANGER OF BEAUTY SPOTS BEING SWAMPED AND THE COUNTRYSIDE BEING DESTROYED BY LITTER OR FIRES STARTED BY CARELESS PEOPLE, AND THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE BOTH TO PRESERVE THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO ENCOURAGE ITS PROPER USE, SIR MURRAY SAID.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO DESIGNATE SELECTED AREAS AS COUNTRY PARKS. LEGISLATION FOR THIS WAS ALREADY IN DRAFT AND INCLUDES PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUTHORITY TO MANAGE THE PARKS AND FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT BY THE CREATION OF A COUNTRY PARKS BOARD.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE PLANS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK WHICH SUPPORTED THEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/16

MTR WILL BRING IMMEDIATE BENEFITS, SAYS GOVERNOR

X X X X X X X

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TODAY STRESSED THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WILL BRING SOME IMMEDIATE BENEFITS TO HONG KONG IN ADDITION TO A VERY BADLY NEEDED UNDERGROUND TRANSPORT SYSTEM SERVING THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED PARTS OF HONG KONG OR FOR THAT MATTER OF THE WORLD.

HE SAID THIS IN HIS REVIEW OF THE YEAR AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PROJECT, HE SAID, WOULD CERTAINLY STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN HONG KONG AND ENHANCE ITS REPUTATION, BESIDES PROVIDING DIRECT EMPLOYMENT FOR AT LEAST 4,500 PEOPLE AND INDIRECTLY FOR MANY MORE AT COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS IRONIC THAT THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS TRANSPORT FACILITY WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL DISRUPTION OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND MUCH INCONVENIENCE.

+THIS IS A SHORT-TERM PRICE WHICH WE CANNOT AVOID PAYING FOR AN EVENTUALLY GREATLY IMPROVED TRANSPORT SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR GAVE ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT WITHOUT BEING SATISFIED THAT IT COULD BE PAID FOR WITHOUT ANY CHARGE TO GENERAL REVENUE EXCEPT THE \$800 MILLION OF EQUITY ALREADY VOTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO COMPETITION OR CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS PROJECT AND OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES.

THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED : +THE GREATER PART OF THE MONEY FOR THE RAILWAY WILL BE BORROWED AND IT WILL BE REPAID FROM THE FARES AND OTHER REVENUE WHICH THE RAILWAY ITSELF WILL GENERATE.

+ALTHOUGH SOME OF OUR OTHER PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY OR THE AIRPORT OR THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, MAY BE SIMILARLY SELF-LIQUIDATING, THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE NOT,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID, +NECESSARY AS OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES ARE FOR THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY, THEY WILL NEED TO BE PAID FOR FROM GENERAL REVENUE OR LOAN FINANCE TO BE SERVICED OUT OF GENERAL REVENUE.

+THUS THE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES ARE A CHARGE ON THE REVENUE, WHILE THE RAILWAY IS NOT, AND IT IS ONLY BECAUSE IT IS NOT THAT HONG KONG IS ABLE TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH A COMMITMENT.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HONG KONG IS NOW ALMOST READY TO LET THE FIRST CONTRACTS FOR THE RAILWAY AND COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION.

+ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE TIED TOGETHER AND FOR A MOTION TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL TO AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES FOR THE MONEY TO BE BORROWED,+ HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 17 -

H.K. IN GOOD POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HONG KONG IS AT THE CENTRE OF THAT PART OF THE WORLD IN WHICH PROBABLY THE MOST RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IS TO BE EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT DECADE OR SO AND IN WHICH CONSIDERABLE NEW INVESTMENT IS LIKELY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THIS AFTERNOON.

SIR MURRAY SAID THIS IS NOT A SITUATION IN WHICH WE SHOULD SIT BACK AND HOPE THAT BENEFITS WOULD FALL INTO HONG KONG'S LAPS RATHER THAN THE LAPS OF OUR COMPETITORS.

HE SAID WE MUST ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT FROM OVERSEAS, AND PROVIDE MORE REASONABLY PRICED INDUSTRIAL LAND TO ACCOMMODATE NEW STYLE INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMICALLY TO HONG KONG AND TO GIVE MORE ELBOW-ROOM FOR CONVENTIONAL INDUSTRY.

FOR THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, SIR MURRAY SAID HE HAD RECENTLY SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMITTEE TO CO-ORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHICH HAS RECENTLY SET UP A NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO FINANCE EFFORTS TO BRING MORE NEW INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG.

AS FOR PROVIDING MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND, SIR MURRAY RECALLED THAT IT WAS A PRUDENT ACT OF CONFIDENCE TO HAVE PRESSED ON WITH BUILDING THE NEW TUEN MUN HIGHWAY DURING THE DARK UNCERTAIN PERIOD LAST YEAR. HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ANNOUNCE SOMETHING DEFINITE AFTER NEXT MONTH'S MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD COMMUNICATIONS WITH TAIPO.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO PRESSING ON WITH THE EXPERIMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND THE FIRST PART OF THE FIRST OF THE ESTATES SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TAIPO BY THE END OF 1977. THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR ESTATES NEAR YUEN LONG AND ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE ALSO BEING INVESTIGATED.

SIR MURRAY EMPHASISED THAT THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH WE MUST PREPARE TO MOVE FAST IF AND WHEN THE DEMAND IS PROVED, OTHERWISE, WE MAY LOSE NEW INDUSTRIES AND TECHNOLOGY TO OUR COMPETITORS.

HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS CIRCLES ARE MOST LIKELY TO MAKE THE RAPID PROGRESS BY ACTING IN CONCERT AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY BE PUTTING PROPOSALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS TO HOW A START MIGHT BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION.

/ON HONG KONG'S

HVBD-215

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 18 -

ON HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS, SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS IN PRACTICE COMPLETE AUTONOMY WHEN DEALING WITH MATTERS AT ISSUE, IN THE WAY IT BELIEVES TO BE IN HONG KONG'S BEST TRADING INTERESTS, WHILE BRITISH EMBASSIES AND DELEGATIONS GIVE INVARIABLE AND INVALUABLE HELP.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAS IN THE CURRENT YEAR FOCUSED ITS PROGRAMMES ON THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, EASTERN EUROPE AND FRANCE WHICH ARE AREAS OF POTENTIAL TRADE GROWTH. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN, THE COUNCIL'S OUT-GOING CHAIRMAN, FOR HIS NOTABLE PERSONAL SUCCESS IN FRANCE.

AS TO THE ROLE OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG'S GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TRADING RELATIONS, SIR MURRAY SAID IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AS OUR TRADE EXPANDED AND HAS BEEN MADE INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT BY THE WORLD RECESSION.

SINCE HONG KONG BELIEVES IN FREE TRADE, SIR MURRAY SAID, THERE IS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, NO SUCH THING AS A GOOD AGREEMENT, BECAUSE ALL THE AGREEMENTS WE ARE OBLIGED TO NEGOTIATE ARE RESTRICTIVE.

HE SAID THAT HOWEVER ON THE WHOLE HONG KONG HAS SUCCEEDED IN SECURING UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS GROWING ACCESS TO A FAIR SHARE OF THE MARKET AND HE THOUGHT THAT +WHEN THE DUST HAS SETTLED+, HONG KONG'S AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WILL BE RECOGNISED TO REPRESENT NOT SUCH A BAD DEAL AFTER ALL.

SIR MURRAY SAID HE WANTED TO RECORD HIS ADMIRATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN OUR INDUSTRY AND FINANCIAL SERVICES FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO THE MEN AND WOMEN ON THE PRODUCTION LINE AND THE CLERKS IN THE OFFICE, FOR THEIR ENTERPRISE, RESOURCEFULNESS, EFFICIENCY AND PLAIN HARD WORK ON WHICH OUR PROSPERITY WILL ALWAYS DEPEND.

----- 0 -----

/19

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 19 -

HIGHER DEFENCE COST UNAVOIDABLE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY SAID THAT IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE THAT EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCE WOULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY NEXT YEAR.

HE DISCLOSED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT THE SIZE OF THE GARRISON SHOULD BE IN FUTURE AND WHAT PART OF THE COSTS SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

HE STATED THAT HE COULD NOT PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS BUT HE ADDED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS WELL AWARE OF THE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DEFENCE COSTS AND HAD PRESENTED THESE PROBLEMS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

THE CURRENT DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED FIVE YEARS AGO AND WILL RUN OUT AT THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/20

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR WIDER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT MAJOR ISSUES AFFECTING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE OPENLY DEBATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SO THAT GENUINE DIFFERENCES COULD BE CLEARLY STATED AND CONSIDERED BEFORE DECISIONS ARE MADE.

HE NOTED THAT, DUE TO HONG KONG'S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT HERE HAD BEEN ONE OF GOVERNMENT BY CONSENSUS AND HE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

IN THIS REGARD, HE PERSONALLY GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE NEW AND GROWING NUMBER OF BODIES SUCH AS THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES CATERING FOR THIS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS.

THESE WERE DOING A GREAT DEAL OF PRACTICAL GOOD, HE SAID. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN AND WOMEN, NOT PREVIOUSLY IN MUCH CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE OR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, TO PLAY A PART AND GAIN EXPERIENCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO ADVISORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND BODIES OF GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

GIVEN TIME, THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND THE WILL, HE ADDED, +THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR CHANGE WHILE RETAINING THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF THIS COUNCIL, AND SUBJECT OF COURSE TO THE OVERRIDING REQUIREMENT OF MEMBERS HAVING SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AND ABILITY, TO CARRY A FAIR SHARE OF THE EXACTING TASKS THAT HAVE TO BE SHOULDERED BY UMELCO.+

IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC VIEWS IN MANY WAYS -- THROUGH REPRESENTATIONS TO UMELCO, THE WIDE USE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, GREEN PAPERS, THE PERCEPTION OF CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND THEIR EVER WIDENING CONTACTS WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES AND KAIFONGS.

THE PRESS AND THE MEDIA ALSO PLAYED A VITAL ROLE, AND IN SOME CASES BILLS WERE DELIBERATELY PUBLISHED EARLY OR THEIR DISCUSSION DELAYED IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FULLER PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

SIR MURRAY PAID WARM TRIBUTE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH THE MANNER IT CARRIED OUT ITS DIFFICULT TASK AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY PUBLIC OR INTERESTED OPINION MADE ITSELF FELT THROUGH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO HAD EFFECTED MANY AMENDMENTS TO CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT LEGISLATION AND SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED THEM.

+LACKING, AS IS UNAVOIDABLE, ANY ELECTORAL MANDATE, MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO THINK AND PLAN AND SPEAK FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AS THEY SEE IT, AND NOT, AS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER, FOR THE NARROW INTERESTS OF A PARTY, A GROUP, A PROFESSION, AN AREA OR A CLASS.

+BUT I BELIEVE IT ASSISTS THIS GENERAL REQUIREMENT IF MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO SPEAK FROM AS WIDE A SPREAD AS POSSIBLE NOT ONLY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO OF SOCIAL BACKGROUND.

+THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH LIKE HONG KONG ITSELF, HAS EVOLVED AND IS EVOLVING AND CAN EVOLVE FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 21 -

EMPLOYMENT

* * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND HARDSHIP PERSIST, THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE SENSE OF RELIEF THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY THAT THE WORST IS NOW BEHIND US.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT WHICH FOLLOWED THE WORLDWIDE RECESSION HAD BROUGHT REAL HARDSHIP TO A NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND THIS HAD BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE OVER THE YEARS HAD HELPED TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN SOME FIELDS, HE SAID, AND HE WAS THANKFUL THAT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS THERE TO ALLEVIATE DISTRESS OF FAMILIES.

HOWEVER, A MORE FAVOURABLE TIDE COULD BE FELT, HE SAID.

+THE TREND OF OUR TRADE FIGURES IS IMPROVING AND THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JULY WAS ONLY TWO PER CENT LESS THAN THOSE FOR JULY LAST YEAR.

+EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURE INCREASED BY FOUR PER CENT BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE AND THE INDICATIONS ARE THE INCREASE HAS CONTINUED, AND REPORTS FROM INDUSTRY CONTINUE TO SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF FIRMS HAVE RESUMED A FULL WORKING WEEK, HAVE INCREASED SHIFT WORKING AND HAVE TAKEN BACK PREVIOUSLY RETRENCHED WORKERS.

+IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING THAT THE NUMBER OF PLANS FOR NEW BUILDINGS HAS STEADILY INCREASED AND THAT THE PROPERTY MARKET IS SHOWING SIGNS OF MORE ACTIVITY,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/22

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 22 -

OVER 1,800 NEW HOSPITAL BEDS EXPECTED
X X X X X

THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WILL RECEIVE A BOOST WITH THE OPENING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL THIS MONTH AND OTHER HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL FACILITIES SOON AFTER.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY HE EXPECTED THE NUMBER OF EXTRA HOSPITAL BEDS BROUGHT INTO USE SINCE MARCH LAST YEAR TO EXCEED 1,800 BY EARLY NEXT YEAR WHEN ONE THOUSAND BEDS AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WILL BE IN USE.

BY THAT TIME, HE HOPED THAT THE TUNG WAH CENTENARY BUILDING AT THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL WILL ALSO HAVE BEEN OPENED.

THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, WHICH WILL RECEIVE ITS FIRST PATIENTS THIS MONTH, WILL PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION TO HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTH AND WEST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHILE THE TUNG WAH CENTENARY BUILDING WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO MEDICAL SERVICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MORE SPECIALIST CLINICS WOULD OPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR IN TSUEN WAN/KWAI CHUNG AND AT MORRISON HILL AND, LATER IN THE YEAR, HE EXPECTED THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT FACILITIES AT KOWLOON EAST POLYCLINIC TO COME INTO OPERATION.

THESE CLINICS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THOSE OPENED LAST YEAR AT TSE WAN SHAN AND SHA TAU KOK.

+WE ARE NOW APPROACHING A SITUATION IN WHICH IT CAN BE CLAIMED THERE IS A RANGE OF GENERAL AND SPECIALIST CLINICS WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF ALMOST EVERY PART OF HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HAD GENERALLY BEEN MAINTAINED.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND SUBVENTIONS HAD RISEN BY 35 PER CENT FROM \$412 MILLION IN 1973/74 TO \$557 MILLION IN THE CURRENT YEAR.

+INCREASED EXPENDITURE TO THIS DEGREE IN THE TIME OF DEEP RECESSION IS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THESE SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

/THE TOTAL

64 MILL
HARD SIZED
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 23 -

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO NEARLY 111,000 - AN INCREASE OF 8.5 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, HE NOTED, WHILE ATTENDANCES AT OUTPATIENT CLINICS REACHED 5.2 MILLION DURING THE SAME PERIOD - REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 5.5 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

ON FAMILY PLANNING, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ABSORPTION OF THE 32 FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINICS IN GOVERNMENT PREMISES HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

IN ADDITION, 16 NEW CLINICS HAD BEEN OPENED. THE NUMBER OF NEW PATIENTS MAKING USE OF THE CLINICS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN 1974 AND IS BEING MAINTAINED THIS YEAR.

SIR MURRAY STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE FPA TO ENSURE THAT THE AVAILABILITY AND BENEFITS OF THE SERVICES ARE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED BY ALL.

IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS, SIR MURRAY SAID THIS HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR YEARS, AND HE THANKED THE WORKING PARTY UNDER SIR RONALD HOLMES FOR POINTING THE WAY AHEAD THROUGH A COMPLEX AND DELICATE SUBJECT.

ON THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SIR MURRAY SAID PLANNING WAS GOING AHEAD. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE UNIVERSITY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE U.P.G.C., WOULD HAVE APPOINTED A MEDICAL ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

THIS COMMITTEE WILL SEE THAT THE DETAILED AND COMPLEX PLANNING INVOLVED IS CARRIED OUT AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE. THE PLANS ENVISAGE COMPLETION OF THE NEW HOSPITAL AND POLYCLINIC AT SHATIN IN THE EARLY 80'S.

- - - 0 - - - -

/24 ...

MORE TO RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

X X X X X

MORE PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE HELP UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME.

IN HIS REVIEW OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COST OF THESE FORMS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WAS EXPECTED TO RISE FROM \$71 MILLION IN 1973/74 TO ABOUT \$260 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR - AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 265 PER CENT IN TWO YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF THOSE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HAD RISEN FROM 42,000 AT THE END OF 1974 TO OVER 52,000 AT THE END OF JULY THIS YEAR, AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE 65,000 BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING HELP UNDER THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME WAS LIKELY TO RISE ABOVE 70,000 BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, COMPARED WITH THE 60,000 AT THE END OF JULY.

+TAKEN TOGETHER WITH FREE OR HEAVILY SUBSIDISED EDUCATION AND NEARLY FREE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND HEAVILY SUBSIDISED HOUSING, THESE SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES REPRESENT A LARGE PART OF THE HONG KONG SOCIAL SECURITY NET,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

+THE GREATLY INCREASED EXPENDITURE THEREFORE INDICATES THAT THE MACHINERY YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS DEVISED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THIS COUNCIL HAS WORKED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS INTENDED TO MEET,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE HEAVIER EXPENDITURE ON THESE RELIEF MEASURES, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS WITH ITEMS IN THE FIVE-YEAR SOCIAL WELFARE PLAN.

THESE INCLUDED THE OPENING OF THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, A YOUTH CENTRE, YOUTH HOSTELS, THE NEW EMERGENCY RELIEF KITCHEN IN KOWLOON CAPABLE OF FEEDING OVER 35,000 PEOPLE A DAY, CAMPS AND MORE PLACES TO REHABILITATE THE HANDICAPPED, AND HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY AS WELL AS 530 NEW SUBVENTED PLACES IN DAY CARE CENTRES.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER PLANS HAD HAD TO BE DEFERRED NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE REDUCED SUMS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE PRIVATE SOURCES WERE IN DIFFICULTIES TOO.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THESE ITEMS COULD BE PURSUED IN 1976/77, +BUT WE HAVE TO FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES MAY INCREASE FURTHER IN THAT YEAR.

+IF IT DOES, THIS WILL RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO EXPAND IN OTHER DIRECTIONS UNLESS NEW RESOURCES ARE FORTHCOMING.+

SECONDARY EDUCATION: INTERIM GOALS REACHED
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED ITS INTERIM GOALS OF EXPANDING SECONDARY EDUCATION AHEAD OF TIME WITH 158,000 PLACES IN FORMS 1-3 AND 40,000 PLACES IN FORMS 4-5 IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE 158,000 PLACES IN FORMS 1-3 REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 30,000 PLACES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND PROVIDED JUST OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE 1975 SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (SSEE) CANDIDATURE WITH FORM 1 PLACES FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLANNED.

THE 40,000 PLACES IN FORMS 4 AND 5 ENABLED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ALLOCATE FIVE-YEAR PLACES TO 19.5 PER CENT OF THE 1975 SSEE CANDIDATURE.

THIS REPRESENTED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND WAS ALL THAT WAS POSSIBLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNISED THAT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH AND THAT IT INVOLVED A ONE-YEAR DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST YEAR'S PHASE OF THE 1974 WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION.

THE FIRST PHASE INVOLVED THREE OBJECTIVES:

- * BUYING AN ADDITIONAL 10,600 JUNIOR SECONDARY PLACES=
- * CREATING A FURTHER 9,300 PLACES THROUGH FLOATING ADDITIONAL CLASSES IN EXISTING SCHOOLS= AND
- * ENTERING INTO THE SECOND STAGE OF AN APPROVED PROGRAMME TO CONVERT 36 ASSISTED PRIVATE SCHOOLS INTO FULLY-AIDED SCHOOLS WHICH WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE 7,200 EXTRA FORM 1 PLACES FOR SSEE ALLOCATION.

THESE ADDITIONAL 27,100 PLACES WOULD ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO ALLOCATE FORM 1 PLACES FOR 74.3 PER CENT OF THE 1976 SSEE CANDIDATURE.

THE GOVERNOR WARNED THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE EASY TO FIND THE MONEY FOR ALL OF THIS IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS NEEDED TO FINANCE SCHOOLS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PLACES REQUIRED FOR PROMOTIONS FROM LOWER TO HIGHER FORMS.

TO FULFIL THE TOTAL WHITE PAPER PROGRAMME, SIR MURRAY SAID, THERE IS A BALANCE OF 150 SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT AT A COST OF \$5 MILLION EACH AT PRESENT DAY PRICES.

+SO IN SECONDARY EDUCATION THE RECESSION AND THE MANY OTHER PRIORITY CALLS ON PUBLIC FINANCES ARE RESULTING IN US MAKING CONSIDERABLY LESS PROGRESS THAN WE WOULD HAVE WISHED OR CAN REGARD AS PRUDENT,+ HE SAID.

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, SIR MURRAY SAID: +THOUGH THE RATE OF BUILD UP HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT AFFECTED BY OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION, I AM SATISFIED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE EXPANSION OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IS PROGRESSING REASONABLY WELL.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE THREE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES NOW IN OPERATION HAD A TOTAL ENROLMENT OF 2,300 AND THIS WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 3,350 IN 1976/77 AND EVENTUALLY TO 4,050.

HE SAID TENDERS HAD BEEN CALLED FOR A FOURTH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN AND, IF ALL GOES WELL, CLASSES WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 1977.

A FIFTH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PLANNED AT SAN PO KONG IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1979.

TURNING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, SIR MURRAY SAID SO FAR 8,900 PLACES HAD BEEN PROVIDED AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HOPED TO EXCEED THE 10,000 MARK BY SEPTEMBER 1976.

ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR SAID PROGRESS AT THE POLYTECHNIC HAD BEEN VERY HEARTENING.

HE NOTED THAT WORK ON EXPANDING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC IN HUNG HOM HAD GONE AHEAD VERY RAPIDLY. THE NEW WORKSHOPS AND LECTURE ROOMS WOULD BE READY NEXT JULY WHILE THE LIBRARY FULLY EQUIPPED A LITTLE LATER.

+THIS WILL MEAN,+ HE SAID, +THAT THE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS AT PRESENT USING TEMPORARY PREMISES AT TAIKOO DOCKS, SHAU KEI WAN, WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HUNG HOM CAMPUS.

+IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC COMPUTER CENTRE TO MOVE INTO THE NEW ACCOMODATION THERE.+

SIR MURRAY SAID PLANNING FOR PHASE II OF THE POLYTECHNIC'S DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TEACHING SPACE AND FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF WAS WELL ADVANCED.

IN THE CASE OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE GOVERNOR SAID PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MAINTAINING THE GROWTH OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES.

+EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS MEANT THAT THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME HAS HAD TO BE REPHASED, I AM SURE THAT THIS PRIORITY WAS RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 27 -

HOUSING FOR 100,000 EXPECTED IN 1975/76

X X X X X

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS PURSUING THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE HOUSING CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG WITH CONSIDERABLE THRUST AND A NEW GENERATION OF ESTATES INCORPORATING THE CONCEPT OF COMPREHENSIVELY PLANNED COMMUNITIES IS NOW FAST BECOMING A REALITY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IN HIS REVIEW OF THE HOUSING SITUATION.

HE SAID PRODUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING HAD INCREASED FROM FLATS FOR 47,000 PERSONS FOR 1973/74 TO 65,000 FOR 1974/75 AND TO AN EXPECTED 100,000 FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

+THEREAFTER,+ HE SAID, +THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSING WILL CONTINUE AT THE LEVEL OF 100,000 MORE A YEAR FOR TWO YEARS AND ONLY IN 1978/79 IS A FURTHER STEADY INCREASE PLANNED TO RECOMMENCE WITH ABOUT 127,000 IN THAT YEAR, 148,000 IN THE NEXT YEAR AND 190,000 IN 1980/81.+

HE SAID THE PAUSE AT THE INCREASE LEVEL OF 100,000 FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS REFLECTED THE UNAVOIDABLE RESTRAINTS IMPOSED BY BUDGETTING IN TIME OF RECESSION FOR THE MANY COMPETING CLAIMS ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET OUT TO SOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN THE SHORTEST TIME HONG KONG'S RESOURCES PERMITTED, AND HONG KONG COULD JUSTIFIABLY POINT WITH PRIDE TO THE STEADILY INCREASING NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH PERMANENT HOMES IN GREATLY IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTS.

+I DO NOT THINK MORE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE LAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS OR FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 1977/78. NOR DO I THINK THAT THE HOUSING ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG CAN BE MATCHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR COMMENDED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR ITS VIGOUR, DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM.

+BUT WE MUST ALSO FACE THE FACT THAT UNLESS THE AUTHORITY CAN ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES FROM RENTS AND LOANS TO ACHIEVE A RAPID INCREASE IN FINISHED HOMES FROM 1978 ONWARDS, THE RESULTS WILL BE MUCH LESS THAN THE SITUATION DEMANDS OR THE COMMUNITY EXPECTS,+ HE ADDED. A GOOD START HAD BEEN MADE AND THIS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED THROUGH.

/ON THE SQUATTER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 28 -

ON THE SQUATTER PROBLEM, SIR MURRAY SAID +IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE DEGREE OF THE HOUSING SHORTAGE THAT THE NUMBERS OF SQUATTERS HAVE RISEN NOTICEABLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS PROBABLY INFLATED BOTH BY NEW ARRIVALS FROM CHINA AND BY THE HIGH RENTS CHARGED IN PRIVATE HOUSING.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY PROVIDED A SIMPLE FORM OF HOUSING IN LICENSED AREAS FOR THOSE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE NO OTHER WAY OF MEETING THEIR HOUSING NEEDS.

+ADMITTEDLY, THESE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS DO BRING RELIEF TO MANY.

+IT IS A SOBERING THOUGHT THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A FURTHER 25,000 PERSONS A YEAR INTO LICENSED AREAS FOR THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

+ONLY THEN, AND ASSUMING THAT RESOURCES ARE FORTHCOMING, WILL THE PRODUCTION OF PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING REACH A POINT AT WHICH THEY CAN START TO BE RUN DOWN,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/29

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 29 -

INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR RESUMPTION OF N.T. LAND
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO INCREASE COMPENSATION IN FUTURE RESUMPTION CASES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH FALL WITHIN THE LAYOUT AREAS WHERE LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ARE ISSUED.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSALS, LAND OWNERS WILL BE OFFERED THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSED UNDER THE CROWN LAND RESUMPTION ORDINANCE PLUS AN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY: +LAND OWNERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO ACCEPT A CASH OFFER OF \$10 A SQUARE FOOT ON SURRENDER OF THE LAND OR THEY MAY TAKE UP AN OFFER OF AN EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT BASED ON A RESTRICTED VALUE OF \$10 A SQUARE FOOT AS A DEDUCTION FROM THE PREMIA FOR FUTURE BUILDING LAND.

----- 0 -----

WATER CUT
* * *

A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 10) TO ALLOW LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, PRATAS STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, WING LUNG STREET AND UN CHAU STREET.

----- 0 -----

/30

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 30 -

CAREERS EXHIBITION
DRAWS CROWDS

STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FLOCKED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FIRST CAREERS ON WHEELS EXHIBITION STAGED AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KOWLOON.

THE FOUR-DAY MINIATURE EXHIBITION -- THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS STAGED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE -- PROVIDES CAREERS INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS.

THE DISPLAY FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS AND CHARTS ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE SECTORS.

BESIDES A SOUND-ON-SLIDE SHOW FEATURING APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHEMES, THERE WERE GRAPHICS AND PHOTOGRAPHS GIVING GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CHOOSE A CAREER WISELY.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. DAILY AND CLOSES AT 1 P.M. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11. STAFF OF THE YEAS ARE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WHO DONATED THE TRUCK WHICH, WHEN FULLY EXTENDED, CAN PROVIDE A MAXIMUM DISPLAY AREA OF SOME 500 SQUARE FEET.

THE VEHICLE WAS SPECIALLY BUILT SO THAT MINI-EXHIBITIONS COULD BE HELD IN DENSELY-POPULATED URBAN AREAS OR REMOTE SPOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THREE TRIAL EXHIBITIONS HAD BEEN HELD IN THE NGAU TAU KOK, KWUN TONG AND CAUSEWAY BAY AREAS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, AND HAD ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENDANCE BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

- - - 40 - - -

SAID
AND RE
M

/31.....

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 31 -

INDUSTRY URGED TO CONSIDER TRAINING NEEDS

* * * * *

NOW IS THE TIME FOR INDUSTRY TO CONSIDER TRAINING NEEDS CAREFULLY AS BUSINESS IS STARTING TO PICK UP, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. DANIEL WATERS SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KWUN TONG, MR. WATERS STATED THAT IT TOOK AROUND THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO TRAIN A CRAFTSMAN OR A TECHNICIAN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING WAS PROVIDED BY INDUSTRY, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF FORMAL APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING, AS ADVOCATED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WAS PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSES WHICH PROVIDED RELATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

AT PRESENT THERE WERE ABOUT 2,200 PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE STUDENTS IN THE THREE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES COMPARED WITH 500 WHEN SUCH COURSES STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1970.

BUT MR. WATERS SAID THE NUMBERS SHOULD BE INCREASED STILL MORE RAPIDLY.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP BILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE THIS FORM OF TRAINING WOULD BECOME MORE POPULAR WITH INDUSTRIALISTS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAID: +WHILE THE MAIN TASK OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IS TO PROVIDE RELATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL NEVERTHELESS WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF BROADENING THE EDUCATIONAL BASE SO THAT MORE SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY BIASED COURSES ARE RUN.+

AT PRESENT A TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME WAS BEING DRAWN UP.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO DEVELOP TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND HAD GIVEN A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF PRIORITY TO THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROGRAMME.

+THE OVERALL PLAN,+ HE SAID, +HAS BEEN DRAWN UP IN DETAIL AND IS BASED ON THE SURVEYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BY ITS SUCCESSOR, THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL.+

THE TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AT KWAI CHUNG AND KWUN TONG WERE BUILT AND EQUIPPED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE AND, AS WITH THE FIRST INSTITUTE AT MORRISON HILL, THE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE WAS ALSO BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

/+IN TURN,

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1975

- 32 -

+IN TURN, STUDENTS FEES ARE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BUT IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO AFFORD THESE HE IS ABLE TO OBTAIN A FREE PLACE,+ THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAID.

PILING WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS FOR THE FOURTH INSTITUTE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN AND CLASSES SHOULD COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1977.

+THE SAN PO KONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE SHOULD BE COMPLETED LATER IN THE PRESENT DECADE. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRE-PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE FOR INSTITUTES SIX, SEVEN AND EIGHT WHICH WILL BE SITUATED IN SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN,+ MR. WATERS SAID.

----- 0 -----