



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1980

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1980

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HK -- WORLD'S LEADING TOY EXPORTER

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S LEADING TOY EXPORTER.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH HONG KONG TOY AND GIFT FAIR ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR ALSO NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRY IS THE THIRD LARGEST COMPONENT OF OUR EXPORTS.

SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWTH HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL AND PROSPECTS EXCELLENT.

+OUR TOY EXPORTS INCREASED MORE THAN FOUR-FOLD IN THE LAST DECADE TO OVER \$5 000 MILLION LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT ALREADY THIS YEAR (FIRST SEVEN MONTHS) THE INDUSTRY SCORED A FURTHER 24 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

SIR MURRAY PRAISED THE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE SUCCESS.

+UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SIR Y.K. KAN THE COUNCIL'S COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF TRADE PROMOTION HAS TAKEN OUR PRODUCTS TO BUYERS' DOORSTEPS ALL OVER THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO COME TO THE HONG KONG TOY AND GIFT FAIR AND TO FIND ONESELF AMONGST HARD-NOSED BUSINESSMEN WHOSE TRADE MUST BE THE ENVY OF EVERY CHILD.

+THE TOY INDUSTRY IS ONE OF HONG KONG'S MANY SUCCESS STORIES. IT IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AND ADAPTABILITY WHICH HAS STOOD US IN SUCH GOOD STEAD OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES.

+WHAT STARTED AS AN UNLIKELY OFF-SHOOT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, HAS PROGRESSED TO BECOME THE THIRD LARGEST COMPONENT OF OUR EXPORT INDUSTRY. MORE THAN THIS, HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S LEADING TOY EXPORTER AND THIS IS A POSITION WE INTEND TO RETAIN.

+GROWTH HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL AND PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT. OUR TOY EXPORTS INCREASED MORE THAN FOUR-FOLD IN THE LAST DECADE TO OVER FIVE THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR.

+ALREADY THIS YEAR (FIRST SEVEN MONTHS) THE INDUSTRY HAS SCORED A FURTHER 24 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR. A LARGE PART OF THIS SUCCESS COMES FROM THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TOY MANUFACTURERS AND THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WITH INCREASING SOPHISTICATION THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL BECOME EVEN CLOSER.

/+THE PLAY

+THE PLAY THINGS WE SEE HERE TODAY ARE THE PRODUCTS OF AN IMAGINATIVE AND INNOVATIVE INDUSTRY AND A SKILLED WORKFORCE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY AND DURABILITY.

+IT IS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG THAT THIS WILL IMPLANT AMONGST TOMORROW'S ADULTS, OR THE PARENTS OF TODAY'S CHILDREN, CAN ONLY BE ONE OF A PLACE WHERE QUALITY COUNTS AND WHEN INNOVATION IS REWARDED.

+THE INDUSTRY HAS ADAPTED ITSELF TO AN INCREASINGLY DISCERNING MARKET AND AT THE SAME TIME HAS KEPT A CAREFUL EYE ON ENSURING THAT THE TOYS WE MAKE ARE SAFE. THIS READINESS TO CHANGE, AND THIS EMPHASIS ON QUALITY AND SAFETY OWE MUCH TO THE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

+UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SIR Y.K. KAN THE COUNCIL'S COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF TRADE PROMOTION HAS TAKEN OUR PRODUCTS TO BUYERS' DOORSTEPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

+THE TOY INDUSTRY HAS SERVED AS AN EXCELLENT AMBASSADOR FOR HONG KONG. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SALUTE THE INDUSTRY AND TO WELCOME THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELLED FAR TO VISIT THE FAIR. I AM CONFIDENT THEY WILL FIND WHAT THEY WANT.

+AND NOW LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME UPSTAIRS IN THE CHUNG SHAN HALL WHERE I WILL DECLARE THE SIXTH HONG KONG TOY AND GIFT FAIR OFFICIALLY OPEN.+

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1979 CLOTHING EXPORTS HIT \$20 131 MILLION
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THE TOTAL VALUE OF CLOTHING EXPORTS GREW BY 28 PER CENT IN 1979, REACHING A RECORD \$20 131 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 22 PER CENT IN UNIT VALUE AND FIVE PER CENT IN VOLUME OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DR THE HON FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN SAID THIS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN TABLING THE 1979 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY.

THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY REMAINED THE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF EXPORT VALUE AND LABOUR FORCE, HE ADDED.

DR TIEN, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, REPORTED THAT DURING 1979 THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE WAS ABLE TO EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY.

NEW COURSES IN PATTERN MAKING FOR TECHNICIAN TRAINEES AND COURSES IN KNITWEAR PROCESSING AND QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTION FOR SERVING PERSONNEL WERE STARTED DURING THE YEAR.

/A TOTAL

A TOTAL OF 3 799 TRAINEES COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING IN VARIOUS COURSES AND WERE NOW WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY, HELPING TO UNDERPIN FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

DR TIEN SAID THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD ANOTHER BUOYANT YEAR IN 1979 AND THE NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS GREW FROM 74 000 TO 82 000, AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1977, SOME 1 200 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HAD COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING AT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE AND ENTERED THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHERE THEY ACQUIRED MORE ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE BEFORE BECOMING FULLY QUALIFIED CRAFTSMEN.

THE TRAINEES FROM BOTH CENTRES WERE HIGHLY REGARDED BY THEIR INDUSTRIES AND OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT FAR EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF TRAINEES AVAILABLE.

TO MEET THE DEMAND OF THE INDUSTRY, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY WAS PLANNING TO BUILD A SECOND TRAINING CENTRE SOON, DR TIEN ADDED.

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INOCULATE YOUR DOG AGAINST RABIES

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THE BEST METHOD OF PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF RABIES IS FOR ALL DOG OWNERS TO HAVE THEIR DOGS INOCULATED AGAINST THE DISEASE, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRY HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT SINCE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RABIES CASE ON OCTOBER 4, 1 864 DOGS HAD BEEN INOCULATED.

HE SAID THAT DOG CONTROL TEAMS HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED THAT SAME AFTERNOON IN THE AREA WHERE THE CASE OCCURRED TO EXAMINE EVERY DOG AND DESTROY ALL THOSE NOT INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND TO ENSURE THAT ALL DOGS WERE UNDER PROPER CONTROL.

+THIS ACTION IS CONTINUING AND UP TO YESTERDAY 400 DOGS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. ADDITIONALLY AN AREA OF ROUGHLY 20 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF SURROUNDING COUNTRY TOGETHER WITH THE WHOLE CLOSED AREA OF THE BORDER WAS DECLARED AN AREA WHERE NO DOG, OTHER THAN POLICE AND ARMY DOGS, COULD BE MOVED INTO OR OUT EXCEPT WITH A PERMIT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.+

TWENTY ADDITIONAL DOG CONTROL UNITS HAVE NOW BEEN FORMED AND A FURTHER 30 WOULD SHORTLY BECOME OPERATIONAL.

+THESE UNITS WILL BE DEPLOYED TERRITORY-WIDE BUT WILL CONCENTRATE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON AREAS CLOSE TO THE AFFECTED AREA AND OTHER AREAS OF HIGH PRIORITY INCLUDING AREAS SUCH AS FISH MARKETS WHERE JUNKS CONCENTRATE.+

/THE UNITS

THE UNITS WILL CATCH AND ELIMINATE ALL STRAY DOGS AND WILL ALSO BE EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INOCULATION SERVICES TO DOG OWNERS OUTSIDE THE AFFECTED AREA WHO HAVE NOT AS YET HAD THEIR DOGS INOCULATED.

+TO ENCOURAGE DOG OWNERS TO BRING FORWARD THEIR DOGS FOR INOCULATION THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL YESTERDAY ABOLISHED DOG LICENCE FEES,+ HE SAID.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT SINCE AUGUST 450 STRAY DOGS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT AND ELIMINATED AS A RESULT OF A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN. THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO 1 300 STRAY DOGS CAUGHT DURING THE DEPARTMENT'S NORMAL DOG CONTROL AND INOCULATION ACTIVITIES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER THE SPECIAL CAMPAIGN WAS CONCENTRATED MAINLY IN THE CLOSED AREA OF THE BORDER AND THE AREAS CLOSELY ADJACENT- THE LAU FAU SHAN AREA AND THE FISH MARKETS WHERE JUNKS WERE CONCENTRATED.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LOCALISED PUBLICITY, AND DOG CONTROL UNITS INOCULATED ANY UNINOCULATED DOGS AGAINST RABIES AS WELL AS ELIMINATING STRAYS.

AS A RESULT OF THIS CAMPAIGN, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID, 541 DOGS INCLUDING 172 ON JUNKS, WERE INOCULATED IN THESE AREAS BY MOBILE TEAMS. DURING THE SAME PERIOD 2 100 DOGS WERE INOCULATED AT OTHER CENTRES. AT THE SAME TIME PLANS WERE MADE TO DEAL WITH ANY OUTBREAK OF RABIES.

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RAIL ACCIDENT COMPENSATION UNDER CONSIDERATION

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GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING PROVIDING BENEFITS TO VICTIMS OF ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCUR ON THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE PEAK TRAM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON JOHN TODD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE EXISTING SCHEME TO FUND SUCH COMPENSATION, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO.

+THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN EXTENDING A SCHEME BASED ON ROAD TRANSPORT CONDITIONS TO RAIL OPERATIONS WHERE THE CONSIDERATIONS ARE IN MANY WAYS DISSIMILAR,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+THESE PROBLEMS ARE BEING STUDIED BY THE DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES CONCERNED SO THAT FIRM PROPOSALS CAN BE PUT FORWARD,+ MR TODD ADDED.

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CLINIC EXEMPTION EXTENDED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND FOR THREE YEARS FROM JANUARY 1, 1981, THE EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CLINICS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO BE UNDER THE CHARGE OF A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT 304 EXEMPTED CLINICS EMPLOYING 261 UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

HE SAID THERE WERE 321 EXEMPTED CLINICS WITH 289 UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN 1977.

DR THONG SAID THESE CLINICS HAD BEEN REVIEWED AND WAS NOT FOUND TO HAVE CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY.

+THESE CLINICS ARE PROVIDING A USEFUL SERVICE TO MANY AT REASONABLY LOW COST AND THEIR CLOSURE WILL NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE SAID.

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BILL ON RECOVERY OF ILL-GOTTEN GAINS
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THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1980 WAS PASSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH, IN EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT CROWN SERVANTS AND FORMER CROWN SERVANTS COULD BE ORDERED TO DISGORGE ILL-GOTTEN GAINS IN RESPECT OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BEFORE 1974 AND ALSO TO VALIDATE EXISTING COURT ORDERS.

HE SAID THAT UNTIL THIS YEAR IT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL, INCLUDING THE COURTS, THAT THE ORDER TO PAY TO THE CROWN A SUM NOT EXCEEDING THE VALUE OF THE UNEXPLAINED ASSETS, APPLIED NO LESS TO PRE-1974 OFFENCES, THAN TO POST 1974 OFFENCES.

+INDEED SOME 14 ORDERS HAVE SINCE 1974 BEEN MADE BY THE COURTS OF PRE-1974 OFFENCES, REQUIRING THE PAYMENT TO THE CROWN OF APPROXIMATELY \$30 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

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RETIRING AGE TO REMAIN AT 55

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY KEEPING 55 AS THE NORMAL RETIRING AGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROWLANDS POINTED OUT THAT CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS WERE REVISED IN 1975 TO PERMIT, MORE FREELY THAN IN THE PAST, EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE BEYOND THE AGE OF 55 TO OFFICERS +WHO ARE EFFICIENT AND ARE NEEDED.+

HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW RULES HAS GROWN STEADILY AND ABOUT HALF OF ALL THOSE REACHING 55 ARE CURRENTLY BEING GRANTED EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE, IN MANY CASES UNTIL ABOUT 60.

MR ROWLANDS EXPLAINED THAT THE QUESTION OF INCREASING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF CIVIL SERVANTS FROM 55 TO 60 HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AT GREAT LENGTH AFTER BEING RAISED IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN 1965.

HE SAID THAT IN 1974 A PACKAGE WAS PROPOSED BY THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WHEREBY THE NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE WOULD BE EXTENDED FROM 55 TO 60, BUT THAT OFFICERS WISHING TO RETIRE PREMATURELY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO FREELY FROM THE AGE OF 45 ONWARDS, INSTEAD OF FROM 50.

HOWEVER, THE PACKAGE WAS NOT ACCEPTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR TWO MAIN REASONS.

+FIRST,+ HE EXPLAINED, +IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE LED TO AN UNACCEPTABLE LOSS OF EXPERIENCED OFFICERS THROUGH PREMATURE RETIREMENT. SECOND, IT WOULD HAVE LED TO THE RETENTION IN THE SERVICE OF OLDER OFFICERS WHO WERE NO LONGER PULLING THEIR WEIGHT.+

MR ROWLANDS SAID DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE WITH THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL.

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EVIDENCE POINTS TO DECLINE IN STANDARDS OF SERVICE TO TOURISTS

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THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE OF A DECLINE IN THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE TO TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TREATMENT GIVEN TO VISITORS FROM THIS REGION WHO MAKE UP SOME 65 PER CENT OF TOTAL ARRIVALS IN HONG KONG, THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE HAD MENTIONED LAST YEAR THE NECESSITY TO MONITOR VERY CAREFULLY THE REACTIONS OF VISITORS TO THE PRODUCT OFFERED IN HONG KONG AND, PARTICULARLY, TO THE PRICES IN SHOPS WHICH STILL FORMED THE BACKBONE OF THE INDUSTRY, MEASURED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF VISITORS' EXPENDITURE.

/+I SHOULD

+I SHOULD AGAIN RE-EMPHASISE THE NECESSITY TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE AND THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT TO OFFER THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF COURTESY AND SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

MR NEWBIGGING WAS SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE 1979-80 REPORT OF THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

BUT HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE HOTELS, THE CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING BOARD SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE DELIBERATIONS WERE LEADING TO IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS FOR THE FUTURE STAFFING OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IN HONG KONG.

HE NOTED THAT THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW WAS A RECORD FOR HONG KONG'S TOURIST INDUSTRY.

THE TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE OF VISITORS HAD INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT OVER THE 1978-79 FIGURE TO \$6.4 BILLION, ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VISITORS SLOWED DOWN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WOULD MAINTAIN ITS POLICY OF +TRADING UP+ IN TERMS OF CONCENTRATING ON PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE RATHER THAN ON SHEER NUMBERS OF VISITORS, +SINCE WE ARE CONVINCED THIS IS CORRECT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S TRAVEL INDUSTRY.+

ON THE VALUE OF TOURISM TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR NEWBIGGING SAID THE TOURISM SURPLUS ALONE, WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$2.57 BILLION DURING THE YEAR, HELPED TO OFFSET 27 PER CENT OF THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT, AFTER TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS TRAVELLING ABROAD.

THIS FIGURE WAS REVISED DOWNWARDS BY AS MUCH AS 50 PER CENT AS A RESULT OF THE MORE SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A STUDY OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL OF THE COMPARATIVE ADDED VALUE PERFORMANCE OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY (ABOUT 45 PER CENT) AND OTHER KEY HONG KONG INDUSTRIES ALSO INDICATED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF INWARD TOURISM TO THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.

HOWEVER, MR NEWBIGGING SAID, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION WAS NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE HARD WORK THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S POSITION IN THE COMING YEAR.

+AND, OF COURSE, WE SHALL BE GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE NEW HOTEL ROOMS COMING ON STREAM IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS AND IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIRLINES SERVING HONG KONG WILL ALSO BE HELPFUL.

+FURTHERMORE, ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IN HONG KONG TOGETHER WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN THE ISLANDS, ALL PROVIDE US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF OUR PROMOTIONS AND TO DIVERSIFY OUR PRODUCT,+ MR NEWBIGGING ADDED.

+POOLING+ SYSTEM ON ASSETS PROPOSED
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ATTENTION WAS DRAWN IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH TO THE COMMENT BY THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE THAT THE NEED TO KEEP TRACK OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING A BALANCING ALLOWANCE OR CHARGE IN THE EVENT OF A DISPOSAL RESULTED IN RELATIVELY HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO 4) BILL 1980 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE PROPOSED THAT A +POOLING+ SYSTEM SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

SIR PHILIP SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL FROM APRIL 1, 1980 BY SUBSTITUTING FOR THE CURRENT SYSTEM FOR GRANTING ALLOWANCES AND IMPOSING CHARGES, THE PROVISIONS TO GRANT ALLOWANCES AND IMPOSE CHARGES ON +POOLS+ OF ASSETS, DEFINED IN THE BILL AS +CLASSES OF MACHINERY OR PLANT.+

PROVISION WOULD BE MADE FOR THE EXISTING SYSTEM TO CONTINUE TO APPLY IN ANY CASE WHERE THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE POOLING SYSTEM WAS IMPRACTICABLE OR INEQUITABLE, HE SAID.

BUT SHORT OF A DIRECTION FROM THE COMMISSIONER, THE APPLICATION OF THE POOLING SYSTEM WOULD BE MANDATORY.

HE SAID THAT IN CONSIDERING COMMENTS FROM THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, IT HAD BECOME APPARENT THAT THE LIMITATIONS INTENDED TO BE APPLIED TO RESTRICT SALES AND OTHER DISPOSAL PROCEEDS TO THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE ASSETS DISPOSED OF, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CALCULATION OF BALANCING CHARGES AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE REDUCING VALUE OF A +POOL+, WERE NOT ADEQUATELY PROVIDED FOR IN THE NEW PROVISION.

AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED, SIR PHILIP SAID IT WOULD ONLY COVER THE POSITION WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A DISPOSAL OF A WHOLE CLASS OF ASSETS AT ONE TIME FOR A SINGLE PRICE.

+IT WOULD NOT COVER A LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ONE ASSET INCURRED DURING THE SAME BASIS PERIOD AS A PROFIT AROSE ON ANOTHER- NOR A SITUATION IN WHICH A BALANCING CHARGE MAY ARISE IN RESPECT OF A 'POOL' FOLLOWING THE DISPOSAL OF ONE OR MORE ASSETS OUT OF THE 'POOL' WHILE OTHERS ARE RETAINED IN USE,+ HE SAID.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL WILL BE MOVED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE SO THAT THESE TWO SITUATIONS WOULD BE COVERED, HE ADDED.

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ARCHITECT OF HK'S MODERN SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DESCRIBED THE RETIRING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR THOMAS LEE, AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE MODERN SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

SIR MURRAY PARTICULARLY NOTED THAT THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WORK TRAINING WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1973 UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT. THIS MARKED A MILESTONE IN THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL WORK TRAINING IN HONG KONG AND OWED MUCH TO THE PERSONAL DEDICATION AND IMAGINATIVE APPROACH TO PROBLEMS BY MR LEE.

MR LEE WOULD BE RETIRING AFTER FOUR YEARS MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND 28 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE LAST SIX AS DIRECTOR.

SIR MURRAY COMMENDED MR LEE FOR HIS ASSOCIATION WITH MANY OF THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, NOTABLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES, THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME, AND THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER SCHEME.

AS A PLANNER, SIR MURRAY SAID, MR LEE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY REMEMBERED FOR HIS WORK IN INTRODUCING THE REGIONALISATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

+ I AM SURE ALL MEMBERS WILL JOIN ME IN THANKING MR LEE FOR ALL HIS VALUABLE SERVICE TO HONG KONG, AND IN WISHING HIM AND HIS WIFE A LONG AND HAPPY RETIREMENT, + THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, THE HON ROGER LOBO SPOKE TO ASSOCIATE THE UNOFFICIALS WITH THE TRIBUTE THE GOVERNOR PAID TO MR LEE.

BILL TO INCORPORATE EVIDENCE (HEARSAY) RULES
IN RULES OF SUPREME COURT

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RULES RELATING TO HEARSAY AND EXPERT EVIDENCE APPEAR IN THE ENGLISH RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT AS PRACTISED IN ENGLAND, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

+ THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS PROPOSED THAT A SIMILAR PRACTICE BE ADOPTED HERE, + MR NAZARETH SAID IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

HE SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE THAT THE HONG KONG RULES ON HEARSAY EVIDENCE, BASED ON THEIR ENGLISH COUNTERPARTS, SHOULD APPEAR IN THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE.

/THIS, MR

THIS, MR NAZARETH POINTED OUT, WOULD ASSIST PRACTITIONERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH THE LAW, WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO REFER TO THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR VIRTUALLY ALL MATTERS RELATING TO CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

AT THE MOMENT THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR THE ADMISSIBILITY OF HEARSAY AND EXPERT EVIDENCE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS TO BE REGULATED BY RULES MADE UNDER THIS ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

THE BILL, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD REPEAL OR AMEND THE EXISTING RULE MAKING POWERS IN THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE SO THAT THE ADMISSIBILITY OF HEARSAY AND EXPERT EVIDENCE COULD BE PROVIDED FOR IN THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

+IF THE BILL IS PASSED, THE EXISTING EVIDENCE (HEARSAY) RULES WILL BE REVOKED AND APPROPRIATE PROVISION WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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NEW DEFINITION OF SHIP PROPOSED

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A BILL SEEKING TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION OF THE PART OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE DEALING WITH SHIPPING CASUALTIES INVOLVING LOCAL VESSELS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THAT PART VIII OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR THE HOLDING OF A MARINE COURT TO INVESTIGATE CASUALTIES AFFECTING SHIPS AND TO INQUIRE INTO CHARGES OF INCOMPETENCY OR MISCONDUCT.

HE SAID IF THE MASTERS, MATES OR ENGINEERS OF THE SHIPS CONCERNED WERE FOUND INCOMPETENT OR GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT BY THE COURT THEIR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY MAY BE CANCELLED OR SUSPENDED.

BUT UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISION THE DEFINITION OF SHIP SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED JUNKS AND MARINE COURTS COULD NOT BE APPOINTED WHEN JUNKS WERE INVOLVED IN A SHIPPING ACCIDENT, MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT.

+HENCE, THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY OF MASTERS OF ANY OF THE VESSELS INVOLVED CANNOT BE CANCELLED BY A COURT,+ HE SAID.

TO RECTIFY THIS DEFICIENCY, HE CONTINUED, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WOULD PROVIDE A NEW DEFINITION OF +SHIP+ TO INCLUDE EVERY TYPE OF VESSEL USED IN NAVIGATION.

/THE BILL

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THE BILL WOULD ALSO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF +CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY+ TO INCLUDE THOSE ISSUED FOR LOCAL VESSELS UNDER THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, A MARINE COURT WAS EMPOWERED ONLY TO CANCEL OR SUSPEND CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY ISSUED UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE TO MASTERS, MATES AND ENGINEERS OF OCEAN GOING VESSELS, HE ADDED.

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CHINESE UNIVERSITY (VALIDATION) BILL
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THE PURPOSE OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' BILL, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (VALIDATION) BILL 1980, IS TO VALIDATE THE CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS HONORIS CAUSA BY THE UNIVERSITY, THE HON ROGER LOBO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LOBO, MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, NOTED THAT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY HAD FROM TIME TO TIME CONFERRED THIS DEGREE ON PEOPLE WHO IT HAD WISHED TO HONOUR SINCE 1964.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SIX ENTRIES
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SIX STUDENTS FROM GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ENTERED THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION IN 1979-80.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT.

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SHORT TERM TENANCY TENDERS
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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION.

THE 2 438-SQUARE METRE SITE IS FOR STORAGE OF GOODS AND VEHICLES, AND/OR CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT.

THE TENANCY IS INITIALLY FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

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TENDERS FORMS, TOGETHER WITH THE NOTICE AND CONDITIONS OF TENANCY, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICES IN MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, 19TH FLOOR AND IN THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE TWO PLACES.

ALL TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOON ON OCTOBER 24.

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2 HOUSES LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DECLARED NOS. 1 AND 3 HUNG SHING STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THE TWO-STOREY VILLAGE TYPE STRUCTURES ON AP LEI CHAU HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE 1972.

A DETAILED INSPECTION HAD BEEN MADE FOLLOWING THE RECENT SUDDEN COLLAPSE OF THE FIRST FLOOR WOODEN KITCHEN FLOOR OF NO 5 HUNG SHING STREET WHICH HAD TO BE CLOSED UNDER AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER.

IT WAS NOTED THAT BOTH PREMISES WERE VERY DILAPIDATED AND THAT THE STRUCTURAL TIMBER HAD DETERIORATED TO A POINT WHERE IT COULD FAIL AT ANY TIME.

FRACTURES AND STRUCTURAL CRACKS WERE ALSO FOUND IN THE LOADBEARING WALLS WITH PATCHES OF BRICKWORK ERODED AND CRUMBLING.

IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE STABILITY OF BOTH PREMISES WOULD BE DOUBTFUL AFTER THE DEMOLITION OF NO 5 HUNG SHING STREET.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON NOVEMBER 5 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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MUSIC OFFICE INSTRUCTORS TO PERFORM
WITH PAN ASIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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THE INSTRUCTORS' ORCHESTRA OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE, ON INVITATION OF THE PAN ASIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, IS GIVING A CONCERT AT THE CITY HALL THIS SATURDAY.

THE GUEST CONDUCTOR WILL BE MR THOMAS WANG WHILE MR LUI KI-LING WILL BE THE CELLO SOLOIST.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE +LA SCALA DI SETA OVERTURE+ BY ROSSINI, +CONCERTO FOR CELLO AND ORCHESTRA OP 104 IN B MINOR+ BY DVORAK, +PRELUDE AND DANCE+ AND +BO BO GO+ BY YIP WAI HONG, AND +ROMEO AND JULIET+ AND +FANTASY OVERTURE+ BY TSCHAIKOVSKY.

TICKETS AT \$20, \$15, \$10 AND \$5 ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CITY HALL BOX OFFICE, TOM LEE PIANO CO AND BRANCHES, ALL THE SUB-OFFICES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, KARLSEN PIANO AND THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 3-380522.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, NGA TSIN LONG ROAD, CARPENTER ROAD AND GRAMPAN ROAD INCLUDING JUNCTION ROAD, FUK LO TSUN ROAD, LION ROCK ROAD, HAU WONG ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1980

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.,

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG TOY FAIR ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

It is always a pleasure to come to the Hong Kong Toy and Gift Fair and to find oneself amongst hard-nosed businessmen whose trade must be the envy of every child.

The toy industry is one of Hong Kong's many success stories. It is a shining example of the spirit of enterprise and adaptability which has stood us in such good stead over the last two decades.

What started as an unlikely off-shoot of the plastics industry, has progressed to become the third largest component of our export industry. More than this, Hong Kong has become the world's leading toy exporter and this is a position we intend to retain.

Growth has been phenomenal and prospects are excellent. Our toy exports increased more than four-fold in the last decade to over five thousand million dollars last year.

Already this year (first seven months) the industry has scored a further 24 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year.

A large part of this success comes from the close collaboration between our toy manufacturers and the electronics industry. I have no doubt that with increasing sophistication this relationship will become even closer.

The play things we see here today are the products of an imaginative and innovative industry and a skilled workforce fully aware

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of the importance of quality and durability.

It is of some significance that the image of Hong Kong that this will implant amongst tomorrow's adults, or the parents of today's children, can only be one of a place where quality counts and when innovation is rewarded.

The industry has adapted itself to an increasingly discerning market and at the same time has kept a careful eye on ensuring that the toys we make are safe. This readiness to change, and this emphasis on quality and safety owe much to the continued efforts of the Trade Development Council. Under the leadership of Sir Y.K. Kan the Council's comprehensive annual programme of trade promotion has taken our products to buyers' doorsteps all over the world.

The toy industry has served as an excellent ambassador for Hong Kong. I take this opportunity to salute the industry and to welcome those who have travelled far to visit the Fair. I am confident they will find what they want.

And now ladies and gentlemen I invite you to join me upstairs in the Chung Shan Hall where I will declare the Sixth Hong Kong Toy and Gift Fair officially open.

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