



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1978

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1978

INFLATIONARY THREAT VERY REAL - SAYS FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY THERE WAS A VERY REAL THREAT THAT AN INFLATIONARY SITUATION WAS NOW DEVELOPING IN HONG KONG.

WINDING UP THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE INFLATIONARY THREAT WAS DUE FIRST TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM HAD BEEN OPERATING THROUGH THE DEPRECIATION OF THE EXCHANGE RATE- AND SECONDLY, TO AN IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPPLY OF, AND DEMAND FOR, REAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN SECTORS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST 20 MONTHS OF BETWEEN 18 AND 19 PER CENT HAD HELPED THE EXPORT SECTOR TO IMPROVE ITS COMPETITIVENESS, BUT THE DOMESTIC PRICE INCREASES WE HAVE SO FAR EXPERIENCED HAD BEEN REALLY VERY MODEST.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE RATE OF INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES AND THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT INCREASES IN IMPORT PRICES MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE MATCHED IN FULL BY INCREASES AT THE RETAIL LEVEL.

+NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ASSUME THAT AN ADJUSTMENT PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN RELYING HEAVILY ON A DEPRECIATION OF THE EXCHANGE RATE CAN GO ON WORKING RELATIVELY PAINLESSLY.

+THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN DOMESTIC SECTOR ACTIVITY IS SO STRONG THAT OFFSETTING COST INCREASES ARE ALLIED WITH A DIVERSION OF RESOURCES AWAY FROM THE EXPORT SECTOR TO MEET DOMESTIC DEMAND AT A TIME WHEN EXPORTS ARE BECOMING MORE COMPETITIVE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TERMS,+ HE SAID.

+BUT WHAT IS REALLY WORRYING ME, AND OBVIOUSLY SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS TOO, IS THE PRESENT IMBALANCE IN THE SUPPLY OF, AND DEMAND FOR, REAL DOMESTIC RESOURCES OF LAND, LABOUR AND CAPITAL.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT DEMAND WAS OUT-RUNNING AVAILABLE SUPPLY WITH THE RESULT THAT PRICES WERE BEING COMPETITIVELY BID UP AND RETAINED IMPORTS WERE GROWING TWICE AS FAST AS DOMESTIC EXPORTS. THE IMBALANCE WAS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN THE CASE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, AS THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR DEMAND FOR NEW PROPERTY WAS YET BEING SATISFIED.

MR SAID

HE SAID CONSENTS TO DEVELOPERS TO COMMENCE WORK WERE 16 PER CENT HIGHER IN TERMS OF FLOOR AREA IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE LABOUR AND MATERIAL COST INDEX WAS ACCELERATING AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S TENDER PRICE INDEX HAD BEEN PUSHED UP 23 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS THIS YEAR BY DEMANDS ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS NOW TAKING ABOUT HALF THE TOTAL OUTPUT OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, COMPARED WITH 42 PER CENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR AND AN AVERAGE OF 39 PER CENT OVER THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD 1973 TO 1976.

HE SAID AN EXCESS OF DEMAND FOR OVER SUPPLY OF REAL RESOURCES WAS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGH GROWTH RATE OF THOSE COMPONENTS OF G.D.P. CATERING FOR DOMESTIC DEMAND, NAMELY, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE AND GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION.

+HOWEVER, WITH THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE ENJOYING DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, IT IS INESCAPABLE THAT THE RELATIVELY HIGHER GROWTH RATES IN THOSE SECTORS MUST SLOW DOWN SO THAT RESOURCES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EXPORT SECTOR AND THE SEVERITY OF THE ADVERSE TRADE BALANCE (LIKELY TO BE OF THE ORDER OF \$7 BILLION IN 1978) CAN BE DIMINISHED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT FOR AS LONG AS INTEREST RATES REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW AND THE BANKS AND DEPOSITS-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO ACCOMMODATE THE DEMAND FOR LOANS, THE EXCESSIVE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND WAS BEING ENCOURAGED.

+IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE GROWTH OF THE MONEY SUPPLY HAS BEEN SUCH A MATTER OF CONCERN IN RECENT WEEKS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY OF WHICH THE BROADER DEFINITION INCLUDES CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION AND ALL BANK DEPOSITS IN THE HANDS OF THE PUBLIC RECENTLY HAD BEEN SO FAST AS TO INDICATE AN EXCESSIVE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, THE GROWTH RATE OF BANK LOANS TO MANUFACTURING FELL FROM 14.4 PER CENT TO 1.6 PER CENT, BUT IT INCREASED FROM 5.3 PER CENT TO 11.4 PER CENT FOR TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, FROM 14.1 PER CENT TO 20.6 PER CENT FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND FROM FIVE PER CENT TO 12.2 PER CENT TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE AND BUSINESS PURPOSES WHICH OBVIOUSLY IN PART FOR SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE STOCK AND PROPERTY MARKETS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE NOTED THAT THE BEST LENDING INTEREST RATES WERE ADJUSTED UPWARDS FOUR TIMES THIS YEAR AND THESE HIGHER INTEREST RATES WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT SITUATION.

HE EXPECTED THAT A DAMPENING DOWN OF THE DEMAND RESULTING FROM HIGHER INTEREST RATES WILL SLOW DOWN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY AND, IN DUE TIME, THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WILL STRENGTHEN.

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO PREDICTED THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX THIS YEAR WILL NOT EXCEED SIX PER CENT, WHILE THE INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF INVESTMENT GOODS THIS YEAR WILL BE ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT.

THE UNIT VALUE INDEX OF IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES WAS ONLY 1.1 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR WHILE THE NOMINAL DAILY WAGE RATES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS WERE EIGHT PER CENT HIGHER IN MARCH THIS YEAR THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1977.

ON OTHER MATTERS, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A HONG KONG RESEARCH COUNCIL SHOULD BE LEFT TO BE EXAMINED BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE ON WHETHER THE EXTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING INVOLVEMENT IN ASSISTING HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE WIDENED AND ENHANCED, HOW THIS WAS TO BE ACHIEVED, AND THE COSTS AND BENEFITS INVOLVED.

+THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE ENCOMPASS AN EXAMINATION OF THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATED RESEARCH AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN IT,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO WARNED THAT AN UPDATING AND RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE ON WATER CHARGES WAS INEVITABLE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW WORKING ON THE FINAL DETAILS OF A NEW AND VERY CAREFULLY DESIGNED TARIFF WHICH SOUGHT TO RECONCILE FISCAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AND WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED SOME TIME NEXT YEAR.

CONCLUDING THE DEBATE MR. HADDON-CAVE PAID TRIBUTE TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THE TIME AND ENERGY THEY DEVOTE, AND THE WISDOM THEY BRING TO, THE DISCHARGE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS AND THE CARE WITH WHICH THEY HANDLE COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND HELP THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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NEW STANDING BODY TO REVIEW CIVIL SERVICE

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, ANNOUNCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO SET UP WITHOUT DELAY A REVIEW BODY, OR SOME FORM OF COMMISSION, ON A STANDING BASIS TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE CLASS STRUCTURE AND SALARY SCALES OF THE WHOLE CIVIL SERVICE, EXCEPTING DIRECTORATE POSTS.

MR. ROWLANDS SAID THE NEW MACHINERY NEEDED TO BE SET UP QUICKLY, AND TO BE CONTINUOUSLY AVAILABLE. +IT SHOULD PROVIDE CLEAR AND AGREED CHANNELS FOR THE STAFF SIDE TO PRESENT AND ARGUE THEIR VIEWS,+ HE SAID.

+ITS ADVICE SHOULD BE EXPERT AND IMPARTIAL, AND SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.+

MR. ROWLANDS SAID THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WOULD BE CONSULTED SHORTLY ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW STANDING BODY, ADDING: +I HOPE THAT IT WILL THEN BE POSSIBLE TO PUT FIRM PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.+

HE BELIEVED THAT WITH GOODWILL ALL ROUND THE NEW STANDING BODY WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF KEEPING SALARY SCALES AND CLASS STRUCTURES UNDER REVIEW AND OF RECOMMENDING CHANGES WHENEVER THE NEED AROSE.

IN SETTING UP THIS NEW BODY, HE SAID, WE WOULD HAVE TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING STAFF RELATIONS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE - FOR PRACTICALLY ALL MAJOR DISPUTES, AND CERTAINLY ALL DISPUTES INVOLVING INDUSTRIAL ACTION, HAD CONCERNED THOSE PAY AND STRUCTURE MATTERS WHICH IT WAS PROPOSED TO INCLUDE IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

+HOWEVER, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE ARE NOW SUCH THAT A THOROUGH REVIEW WILL NECESSARILY TAKE TIME.+

MR. ROWLANDS SAID THE PRESENT CLASS STRUCTURE AND SALARY SCALES WERE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1971 SALARIES COMMISSION. THESE HAD SERVED US WELL BUT INEVITABLY AS THE YEARS PASSED AND CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED THE NEED TO REVIEW THEM GREW STRONGER.

HE SAID AS DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG HAD POINTED OUT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SETTLING PAY AND STRUCTURE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE WERE NO LONGER EFFECTIVE. +THEY MAY WELL HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE WHEN THE SERVICE WAS SMALLER AND LESS COMPLEX, WHEN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WERE FEWER AND LESS ACTIVE, AND WHEN MANAGEMENT WAS STILL ABLE TO TAKE MOST DECISIONS WITH LITTLE OR NO CONSULTATION WITH STAFF,+ MR. ROWLANDS SAID.

/+BUT MOST PEOPLE

+BUT MOST PEOPLE WOULD AGREE THAT THESE DAYS ARE GONE FOREVER, AND THAT OUR PRESENT AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS NEED TO BE REPLACED QUICKLY BY COMPREHENSIVE MACHINERY INCORPORATING AGREED PROCEDURES FOR THE HANDLING OF PAY AND RELATED CLAIMS.+

MR. ROWLANDS SAID IT WAS THOSE STAFF WHO THREATENED OR TOOK INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHO ATTRACTED ATTENTION. THE PUBLIC HEARD LITTLE OF ALL THE OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS, SOME 115,000 OR SO, WHO WERE NOT CURRENTLY PRESSING A PAY CLAIM, NOR THREATENING THE COMMUNITY WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTION.

+I AM SURE IT WILL BE AGREED THAT WE MUST LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THIS GREAT SILENT MAJORITY, SOME OF WHOM ARE DELIBERATELY REFRAINING FROM ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT EMBARRASS THE COMMUNITY IN THE EXPECTATION THAT WE SHALL NOT OVERLOOK THEIR NEEDS.

+THIS MEANS, I SUGGEST, THAT WE SHOULD NOT REVIEW THE SALARY SCALES OF STAFF WHO ARE THREATENING INDUSTRIAL ACTION WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME BEING PREPARED TO REVIEW THE SALARY SCALES OF THE SILENT MAJORITY.+

ON THE CURRENT REVIEW OF POLICIES FOR THE HOUSING OF CIVIL SERVANTS, MR. ROWLANDS SAID WORK ON THE REVIEW ITSELF WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE. HOWEVER, THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW WAS TO FORM A BASIS FOR CONSIDERING IMPROVED FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SERVANTS AND THIS HAD REGRETTABLY PROVED A MORE DIFFICULT TASK THAN EXPECTED, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE UPWARD TREND IN PROPERTY COSTS AND MORE RECENTLY IN INTEREST RATES.

+INEVITABLY, THIS HAS HAD A BIG IMPACT ON THE ARITHMETIC OF POSSIBLE SCHEMES OF ASSISTANCE AND WHILE WE ARE CONTINUING TO SEARCH FOR APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS I MUST WARN THAT THE WAY AHEAD MAY BE NEITHER QUICK NOR EASY.+

ON THE SUBJECT OF STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS, MR. ROWLANDS BELIEVED THE AIM SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP THEM INTO MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS FOR RESOLVING MATTERS WHICH WERE WITHIN THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORITY.

ON GOOD STAFF MANAGEMENT HE SAID THERE WAS CLEARLY MUCH THAT REQUIRED TO BE DONE +AND DONE WITH DESPATCH+. SOME OF THE MEASURES NOW BEING STUDIED WOULD NECESSARILY BE MEDIUM OR LONG TERM IN THEIR EFFECT, BUT THERE WERE THREE PARTICULAR MEASURES WHICH WE COULD AND SHOULD ADOPT NOW:

- * +FIRST, WE SHOULD ATTACH MUCH GREATER WEIGHT TO SKILLS IN STAFF MANAGEMENT WHEN ASSESSING AN OFFICER'S SUITABILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT TO ANY POST OR RANK HAVING MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. I PROPOSE TO IMPLEMENT THIS FORTHWITH.
- * +SECOND, WE SHOULD GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO THE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY WHEN CONSIDERING THE DEPARTMENTAL PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION OR REORGANISATION.
- * +THIRD, GREATER WEIGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SUBJECT OF STAFF MANAGEMENT IN ALL RELEVANT DEPARTMENTAL AND CENTRAL TRAINING COURSES.+

THESE THREE MEASURES, MR. ROWLANDS SAID, SHOULD BETWEEN THEM HAVE A CONSIDERABLE AND EARLY IMPACT THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE.

MR. ROWLANDS SAID DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THE BURDEN OF WORK FALLING ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE HAD EXPANDED ENORMOUSLY AS WE CARRIED THROUGH THE MULTIFARIOUS PROGRAMMES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND MEETING RISING AND RIGHTFUL EXPECTATIONS.

HE SAID: +WHILE THIS EXPANSION AND THESE AIMS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY AND RIGHT AND HAVE ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT THEY HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY PUT A VERY SEVERE STRAIN ON THE MIDDLE AND UPPER MANAGEMENT LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT GOOD STAFF RELATIONS AND GOOD MAN-MANAGEMENT HAVE SOMETIMES SUFFERED.+

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GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC
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THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS BETWEEN IT AND THE PUBLIC AND HAS PUT MUCH TIME AND EFFORT INTO THIS AREA OF ACTIVITY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED POLICY DEBATE, MR. LI SAID THAT THERE CAN BE NO COMPLACENCY IN THIS FIELD AND THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

+INDEED, AN IMPORTANT AND CONTINUING TASK MUST BE TO KEEP OUR PERFORMANCE UNDER REVIEW: CONSTANTLY TO SEEK AND TO IMPLEMENT WAYS OF IMPROVING OUR PRESENT SYSTEM SO THAT WE MAY ACHIEVE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS AND RIGHTFUL ASPIRATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY, IN ORDER THAT THESE MAY BE PROPERLY GAUGED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE DECISIONS VITALLY AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY'S WELL-BEING, ARE TAKEN,+ MR. LI SAID.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT ONLY ARE, BUT ARE SEEN TO BE, A GOVERNMENT WHICH CARES,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TASKS IN THE COMING MONTHS WILL BE TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ADVISORY BODIES, TO WIDEN REPRESENTATION ON THESE COMMITTEES, TO BRING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND TRY TO INVOLVE MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

IN REPLY TO THE HON. WONG LAM'S REMARK THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES ONLY SUPERFICIAL IMPORTANCE TO ANYTHING WRITTEN IN CHINESE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CORRESPONDENCE COLUMNS OF NEWSPAPERS, MR. LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND GOES TO A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE TO MINIMISE IT.

+THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDIA IN HONG KONG, AND ESPECIALLY THE CHINESE MEDIA, IS WELL UNDERSTOOD: IT IS, OF COURSE, VITAL TO ANY ENDEAVOUR TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE PROMOTION OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING,+ MR. LI SAID.

TOUCHING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN HONG KONG, MR. LI SAID THAT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS PLAN TO BUILD SOME 70 PUBLIC SQUASH COURTS, 31 IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 39 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE CIVIL AID SERVICE CADET CORPS ARE PLANNING TO SET UP TWO WATER ACTIVITIES CENTRES IN SAI KUNG AND A PROJECT IS BEING PLANNED AT TAI MEI TUK IN TOLO HARBOUR TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE WATER SPORTS CENTRE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES CATERING FOR ALL KINDS OF WATER SPORTS, HE SAID.

+IF FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE SOON, ALL THREE CENTRES SHOULD BE READY FOR USE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

TURNING TO ACTIVITIES, MR. LI POINTED OUT THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IS NOT AN ISOLATED EVENT BUT IS THE CULMINATION OF A CONTINUING YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME.

HE SAID: +BOTH GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES RUN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, TO ENABLE BOTH YOUNG AND OLD TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME JOYFULLY AND FRUITFULLY.+

MR. LI ALSO REVEALED THAT THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH RECREATION INTENDS TO ORGANISE A SERIES OF RECREATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE SECOND TIME DURING THE NEXT CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. +IF IT AGAIN PROVES TO BE A SUCCESS, WE SHALL INCORPORATE IT INTO THE YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES AS A SECOND HIGHLIGHT TO THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.+

MR. LI ADDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BRANCH IS CONDUCTING A MANAGEMENT STUDY OF THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH WITH A VIEW TO STREAMLINING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANY SPHERES OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY.

IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, MR. LI SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO EXPANDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERING GIVING GREATER ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY BODIES ENGAGED IN THE PROMOTION OF MUSIC AND ITS APPRECIATION SUCH AS THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

MR. LI AGREED WITH THE HON. ALEX WU'S VIEW THAT THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THIS FIELD AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO HIS PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS COUNCIL.

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MASSIVE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, TODAY OUTLINED A MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE COMPLETION OF FOUR MAJOR HOSPITALS WITH 1,200 TO 1,400 BEDS EACH DURING THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS WERE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE THREE EXISTING REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND OTHER HOSPITALS IN THE WHOLE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

DR. THONG SAID THESE PROJECTS WOULD INCUR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING \$2,200 MILLION WITH THE SUBSEQUENT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN \$1,600 MILLION BY 1987 AT PRESENT DAY PRICES.

IN REPLY TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTION FOR A PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL, DR. THONG POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE ALREADY SPECIALIST PAEDIATRIC UNITS ATTACHED TO THE THREE REGIONAL HOSPITALS -- QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRINCESS MARGARET.

THESE SPECIALIST FACILITIES, HE SAID, WERE PROVIDING A GOOD AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHICH TO A LARGE EXTENT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO VERY LOW INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY RATES, AND COMPARED VERY FAVOURABLY WITH THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

DR. THONG SAID THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN SOON IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSAL TO UPDATE PAEDIATRIC AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

PLANS FOR A MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE PAEDIATRIC UNIT HAS ALSO BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE NEW SHA TIN HOSPITAL, HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GENERAL TREND IN MEDICINE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF SPECIALIST FACILITIES BEING ATTACHED TO GENERAL HOSPITALS RATHER THAN TO CATER FOR SUCH SERVICES IN SEPARATE SPECIALIST HOSPITALS.

ON THE PROVISION OF MORE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EAST KOWLOON MENTIONED BY THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, DR. THONG SAID THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY ENDORSED THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING A MAJOR HOSPITAL IN JORDON VALLEY.

THIS HOSPITAL IS ENVISAGED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MID-1980S SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS.

/IN THE MEANTIME,

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IN THE MEANTIME, VARIOUS PROJECTS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES IN EAST KOWLOON ARE IN THE PIPELINE. THESE INCLUDE A LARGE CLINIC CATERING FOR DAY PATIENTS IN 1980, A \$45 MILLION HEALTH CENTRE BY 1981/82, A POLYCLINIC AT HAMMERHILL ROAD IN THE SAME YEAR, A GENERAL CLINIC AT LAM TIN IN 1982 TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER POLYCLINIC AT KWUN TONG LATER.

+WITH ALL THESE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES,+ SAID DR. THONG, +I AM CONFIDENT THAT MEDICAL AND HEALTH NEEDS IN THIS AREA WILL BE MET SATISFACTORILY.+

TURNING TO THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS, THE DIRECTOR SAID APART FROM THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AUGMENTING THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY'S OUTPUT, THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION SCHEME FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS WILL PROVIDE A FURTHER SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

HE SAID THAT SO FAR 150 CANDIDATES HAVE PASSED THE PRESCRIBED EXAMINATIONS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR EXTERNSHIP NEXT YEAR.

HE ADDED THAT RECENT MEASURES ON HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR DOCTORS AND THE CREATION OF MORE SENIOR POSTS TO RECOGNISE HIGHER LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE MEDICAL OFFICERS TO STAY LONGER IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER SUGGESTION BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN TO TURN THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME INTO A FREE AND COMPULSORY ONE, DR. THONG SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD HELP ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME.

HE SAID IF THE SCHEME WERE TO BE MADE COMPULSORY IT WAS QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT THE ENROLMENT MAY BE INCREASED ON PAPER BUT IT DID NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT THE ACTUAL ATTENDANCE AT DOCTORS CLINIC WILL PROPORTIONATELY INCREASE.

+THE MERE INCREASE IN ENROLMENT WITHOUT ACTUAL PARTICIPATION BY THE STUDENTS WOULD APPEAR TO DEFEAT THE OBJECTIVE, NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT PUBLIC FUNDS MAY BE EXPENDED FOR SERVICES NOT ACTUALLY RENDERED,+ HE SAID.

+I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THE \$5 CONTRIBUTION FOR A WHOLE YEAR IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG TODAY CANNOT BE BY ITSELF A PROHIBITIVE FACTOR IN INFLUENCING THOSE PARENTS OR CHILDREN WHO WOULD WISH TO JOIN THE SCHEME,+ HE ADDED.

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REGIONALISATION OF SWD WILL NOT AFFECT
GOVERNMENT-VOLUNTARY SECTOR RELATIONSHIP

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TODAY STRESSED THAT THE FORTHCOMING REGIONALISATION OF HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE EXISTING VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID IT WOULD ONLY ENTAIL CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONAL SIDE, WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUBVENTIONS, AS WELL AS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CENTRALISED IN ITS HEADQUARTERS.

MR. LEE SAID REGIONALISATION WAS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF A GENERAL RE-STRUCTURING OF THE DEPARTMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE OPERATIONAL ARM OF THE DEPARTMENT IS DIVIDED INTO SIX CENTRALISED DIVISIONS COVERING THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF SERVICES.

UPON REGIONALISATION FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR, RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION IN ALL THESE FIELDS WILL BE DECENTRALISED TO 11 DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO FOUR REGIONAL OFFICERS, HE SAID.

THE REGIONAL OFFICERS WILL LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OPERATING IN THEIR REGIONS, WHILE THERE WILL BE STAFF IN EACH DISTRICT OFFICE SPECIFICALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON AND EVALUATION WORK IN VARIOUS FIELDS, HE SAID.

WITH THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDING INCREASING SOCIAL WELFARE SUBVENTIONS EACH YEAR, MR. LEE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PROPER SPENDING OF THIS MONEY, AND PROCEDURES ALREADY EXIST FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF SUBVENTED WELFARE SERVICES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUBVENTIONS WILL NOT BE REGIONALISED, THE MAIN CHANGE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE THAT REPORTS MADE ON INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTARY CENTRES BY FIELD STAFF WILL BE CHANNELLED THROUGH REGIONAL OFFICERS RATHER THAN, AS NOW, THROUGH DIVISIONAL HEADS IN HEADQUARTERS.

+IN OTHER WORDS, AFTER REGIONALISATION WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MONITOR MORE EFFECTIVELY THE USE THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAKE OF FUNDS THAT ARE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME ITSELF THAT WILL UNDERMINE THE VERY VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP THAT EXISTS AT PRESENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

ON THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE FOUR REGIONS AND 11 DISTRICTS, HE SAID THE DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS INTO WHICH URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE DIVIDED.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO MANPOWER PLANNING IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, MR. LEE SAID STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF TRAINED WORKERS AND TO DEPLOY TRAINED PERSONNEL ONLY IN JOBS REQUIRING SOCIAL WORK SKILLS, WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE PRESENT SHORTFALL.

OPPORTUNITIES IN TRAINING WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE PROGRESSION FROM ONE CAREER STREAM TO ANOTHER, HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS, MR. LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE MANY VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE PROPOSED RELAXATION OF THESE QUALIFICATIONS.

+IT SHARES THE VIEW OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT FORM III IS A REALISTIC LEVEL WHICH WOULD EASE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN RECRUITING, AND ESPECIALLY IN RETAINING STAFF WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE NEED FOR CHILDREN TO BE ADEQUATELY LOOKED AFTER,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE FORM III SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO ARE TRULY INTERESTED IN CHILD CARE TO HAVE A CAREER IN THIS FIELD AFTER SUITABLE TRAINING, HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, MR. LEE STRESSED THAT FORM III IS PROPOSED TO BE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND THAT ANY CHILD CARE CENTRE WOULD BE AT LIBERTY TO EMPLOY EXCLUSIVELY PERSONS WITH FORM V ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO CALCULATE THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBVENTIONS ON THE BASIS OF USING FORM V GRADUATES FOR THIS WORK, HE ADDED.

ON CAREER PROSPECTS FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS, HE SAID IF THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED, TRAINING COURSES WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE WITH FORM III QUALIFICATIONS, WHICH, TOGETHER WITH A SUITABLE PERIOD OF WORKING EXPERIENCE, COULD BE DEEMED TO BE EQUIVALENT TO FORM V EDUCATION, THUS ENABLING SUITABLE CHILD CARE WORKERS TO BECOME SUPERVISORS IN DUE COURSE.

AS REGARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR THE DISABLED, MR. LEE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE SYSTEM IN OPERATION BY 1978-79 AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED, BUT THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE IT BECOMES FUNCTIONAL WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD EXAMINED THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL NUMBER OF RECORDS INVOLVED, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXPLORE THE USE OF A COMPUTER.

ANY PROPOSAL TO USE A COMPUTER NECESSARILY INVOLVES CAREFUL INVESTIGATION TO ENSURE THAT THE NEED CAN BE DEMONSTRATED AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE SYSTEM CAN BE DEvised, AND THIS WILL INEVITABLY TAKE TIME, HE SAID.

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MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT AGE REQUIREMENT TO BE EXTENDED
TO NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

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PREPARATORY WORK ON LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT AGE OF 14 TO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IS WELL IN HAND AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ENACT IT NEXT YEAR, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY. THIS, HE ADDED, WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION BY HONG KONG TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE, MR. HENDERSON SAID THIS MOVE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE RAISING OF THE MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT AGE IN ALL SECTORS TO 15 IN LATE 1980. IT WOULD BE MADE POSSIBLE BY DEVELOPMENTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION MAKING NINE YEARS OF EDUCATION COMPULSORY.

TURNING TO OTHER ITEMS OF LEGISLATION, MR. HENDERSON SAID WORK IS IN PROGRESS TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FROM \$2,000 A MONTH TO \$5,000, ALTHOUGH A LOWER FIGURE WOULD APPLY FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE MAXIMUM FIGURE FOR SEVERANCE PAY.

+THIS+ HE SAID, +WILL EXTEND THE PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THIS ORDINANCE TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF HONG KONG'S WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS.+

REFERRING TO THE ANNUAL LEAVE LEGISLATION BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, MR. HENDERSON SAID ON THE WHOLE IT HAD WORKED WELL AND ALREADY HAD A HIGHER DEGREE OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE THAN HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE SOME AMBIGUITIES WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN PRACTICE AND SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE PROPOSED FOR ENACTMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

WITH REGARD TO WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE WORKING PARTY THAT WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR TO REVIEW THE ORDINANCE HAD NEARLY FINISHED ITS TASK AND WOULD BE SUBMITTING ITS REPORT NEXT MONTH.

ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE LIKELY TO INCLUDE THE EXTENSION OF THE ORDINANCE TO COVER ALL EMPLOYEES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE.

SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ASSESSING COMPENSATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSESSING AN INJURED EMPLOYEE'S LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY WERE ALSO ENVISAGED.

/TWO OTHER

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TWO OTHER LIKELY PROPOSALS WERE THAT AGE SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE MAXIMUM LIMITS OF COMPENSATION.

+WHETHER ALL THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PROCEEDED WITH DEPENDS ON FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION, BUT I WOULD HOPE TO BRING AT LEAST SOME OF THEM TO THIS COUNCIL NEXT YEAR,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

ON THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME, HE SAID UNFORESEEN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN DRAWING UP THE NECESSARY STATUTORY REGULATIONS AND IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO PROPOSE FURTHER AMENDMENTS, THOUGH IT WOULD IN NO WAY ALTER THE OBJECTIVES OF COMPENSATING SILICOTIC CASES UNDER THE TERMS OUTLINED WHEN HE INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION.

REFERRING TO THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, MR. HENDERSON REVEALED THAT, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TRAINING COUNCIL'S BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD AND THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY, IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE TRAINING COUNCIL WOULD RECOMMEND THE DESIGNATION OF SEVERAL MORE TRADES WHICH WERE COMMON TO BOTH INDUSTRIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SINCE 1977, HE SAID, THE NUMBER OF APPRENTICES REGISTERED UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE HAS RISEN FROM ABOUT 3,500 TO ABOUT 6,000 THIS YEAR.

HE HOPED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF FURTHER TRAINING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES TO CATER FOR THE TRAINING NEEDS OF THE COMMERCIAL AND SERVICE SECTORS WOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1979.

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STUDENT PHYSIOTHERAPISTS GRADUATE

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. S.F. LAM, TODAY URGED GRADUATES OF THE GOVERNMENT PHYSIOTHERAPIST TRAINING SCHOOL TO RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS AND HELP BUILD UP A MEDICAL SERVICE WHICH IS CATERED TO THE NEEDS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

+THE GRASS IN YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S PASTURE IS NOT ALWAYS GREENER,+ HE TOLD THOSE WHO MIGHT BE THINKING OF GOING OVERSEAS AFTER GRADUATION.

DR. LAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE 12TH PHYSIOTHERAPISTS' GRADUATION CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON. LATER HE PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO 10 GRADUATES -- SIX FROM GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, ONE FROM THE BRITISH RED CROSS, ONE FROM POK OI HOSPITAL AND TWO FROM THE DUCHESS OF KENT CHILDREN'S ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.

HE SAID THE TREND UP TO 1974 WAS THAT SOME 30 TO 50 PER CENT OF OUR TRAINED THERAPISTS LEFT HONG KONG ANNUALLY TO LOOK FOR GREENER PASTURE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

HOWEVER, SINCE 1976 MOST OF THE GRADUATES OF THE GOVERNMENT PHYSIOTHERAPIST TRAINING SCHOOL HAVE ELECTED TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR IN THE SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS WHICH SPONSORED THEIR TRAINING, HE SAID.

+THUS TODAY HONG KONG IS BEGINNING TO REAP THE BENEFITS FROM THE SETTING UP OF ITS OWN TRAINING SCHOOL,+ DR. LAM SAID.

HE SAID TODAY'S GRADUATION CEREMONY WAS A RATHER SPECIAL OCCASION IN THAT IT MARKED THE CHANGEOVER OF THE TRAINING FROM THE SCHOOL TO THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE.

THOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION AND ACADEMIC TEACHING HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE POLYTECHNIC, SAID DR. LAM, GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, BOTH ITS STAFF AND FACILITIES, WERE STILL VERY CLOSELY LINKED WITH THEIR TRAINING.

+FOR IT IS IN OUR GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS THAT THE STUDENTS WILL GET THE GREATER PART OF THEIR PRACTICAL CLINICAL TRAINING,+ HE SAID.

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PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS FOR CAUSEWAY BAY
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANS TO BUILD A SYSTEM OF PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS AT THE JUNCTION OF YEE WO STREET, PENNINGTON STREET AND SUGAR STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE SUBWAYS AIM TO PROMOTE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ELIMINATE THE DISRUPTION TO VEHICULAR FLOW CAUSED BY PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS.+

THE MOVE FOLLOWS RECENT TRAFFIC SURVEYS WHICH INDICATE THAT SERIOUS PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC CONFLICT EXISTS AT THE ROAD JUNCTION.

THE PROPOSED SUBWAYS WILL EXTEND ACROSS SUGAR STREET, YEE WO STREET AND PENNINGTON STREET. PARTS OF THE ALIGNMENTS AND WIDTHS OF THE THREE STREETS WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED.

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED UNDERTAKING WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. THE CLOSING DATE FOR OBJECTION WILL BE DECEMBER 17, 1978 AND ANY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION MUST BE LODGED BY JANUARY 17, 1979.

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CROWN LAND SALE
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THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE AT AN AUCTION IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON DECEMBER 11 AT 11 A.M.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE SITUATED IN KOWLOON WHILE THE THIRD ONE IS ON THE ISLAND. ALL THREE LOTS ARE INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

IN KOWLOON, THE TWO LOTS TO BE SOLD ARE LOCATED AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND 287-289 RECLAMATION STREET, MEASURING 2,350 SQUARE METRES AND 156 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THE ISLAND LOT IS AT QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL WITH AN AREA OF 861 SQUARE METRES.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG AND AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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**WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND TAI HANG WILL BE STOPPED FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 18) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY 12-70 AND 17-55 LAI TAK TSUEN ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD, YIK KWAN AVENUE, LI KWAN AVENUE AND FUK KWAN AVENUE, INCLUDING TIGER BALM GARDEN, CHUN FAI TERRACE AND LAI SING BUILDING.

IN ADDITION, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO, CHEUNG SHA WAN, MONG KOK, AND YAU MA TEI DISTRICTS BOUNDED BY JORDAN ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD AND WEST OF KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY LINE WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 1 P.M. ON SATURDAY TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAY.

THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IS TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF INTAKE CULVERT EXTENSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHEUNG SHA WAN RECLAMATION, STAGE I.

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