



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :

DEBATES MARKED WORKING STYLE OF LEGCO .....	1
'SATISFACTORY' RESPONSE TO GREEN PAPER .....	2
OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF RETIRING MEMBER COMMENDED .....	4
DUNN PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHEN .....	5
DUNN WINDS UP DEBATE .....	6
STEP BY STEP APPROACH TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE .....	6
DRASTIC CHANGES NOT FAVOURED .....	8
PRESENT SYSTEM WORKING WELL .....	9
COUNCILLORS MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP .....	11
HK FUTURE HINGES ON DIRECT ELECTION: LEE .....	14
CALL FOR PRUDENT CHANGES .....	17
HK NOT READY FOR DIRECT ELECTION .....	18
RESERVATIONS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 .....	20
SOHMEN SPEAKS AGAINST DIRECT ELECTIONS .....	22
DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988 TOO HASTY .....	26
CASH AID TO TAIKOO SHING EXPLOSION VICTIMS .....	28
\$181 M CONTRACT FOR NT CIRCULAR ROAD SECTION AWARDED .....	28
GOVERNOR TO BE PATRON OF SIR EDWARD YOUDE FUND .....	29
NEW SERVICE TO CURB RABIES OUTBREAKS .....	30
600 YOUTHS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS .....	31
DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICT TABULATIONS PUBLISHED .....	32
CARNIVAL FOR THOUSANDS ON SUNDAY .....	32
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS ON AGENDA .....	34
SEMINAR ON CAREERS IN FREIGHT INDUSTRY .....	34
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW .....	35
FOOTBRIDGE TO OPEN .....	35
PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE IN PAK SHA WAN .....	36

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 1 -

DEBATES MARKED WORKING STYLE OF LEGCO

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE WORKING STYLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS MARKED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEBATE AND IN THIS SESSION, THERE WAS A RECORD NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT DEBATES.

IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS OF THE 1986-87 SESSION, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT "IT IS THROUGH THIS PROCESS OF DEBATE, COMBINED WITH QUESTION TIME, THAT THIS COUNCIL PERFORMS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS, THAT OF QUESTIONING THE ADMINISTRATION ON ITS POLICIES; PUTTING FORWARD SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT; AND SUBJECTING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO CRITICAL EXAMINATION."

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH PUBLIC COMMENT ON SOME OF THE DIFFERING VIEWS WHICH HAD BEEN AIRED IN THE COUNCIL DURING THE SESSION, BUT HE DID NOT SEE DEBATES WITH DIFFERING VIEWS AS AN UNHEALTHY SIGN.

"IT IS RIGHT THAT THE DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN THIS COUNCIL AND THAT, HAVING DONE SO THE COUNCIL SHOULD, IF NECESSARY, VOTE ON THE POLICY TO BE ADOPTED.

"IT IS ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT SENSIBLE POLICIES, WHICH MEET THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, CAN BE DEvised," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE EVENTS OF THE SESSION HAD ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT, WHATEVER THEIR DIFFERENCES ABOUT MEANS, MEMBERS WERE AT ONE ABOUT THE DESIRED END: THAT OF SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND PROMOTING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY.

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WHO WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNTIL HIS DEATH IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS GRATEFUL TO MEMBERS FOR THEIR THOUGHTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.

"THESE HAVE DONE MUCH TO IMPROVE THE POLICIES AND BILLS THAT THE COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A PITY IF THE MORE PUBLIC EXCITEMENTS OF THIS SESSION WERE TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE MANY HUNDREDS OF HOURS THAT MEMBERS HAD SPENT IN THE COMMITTEES AND AD HOC GROUPS OF THE COUNCIL AS WELL AS OMELCO'S PANELS SCRUTINISING THE ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"SUCH WORK IS RARELY GLAMOROUS. IT IS SERIOUS AND DEMANDING. I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO MEMBERS FOR DEVOTING SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO IT. NOR WOULD I WISH TO OVERLOOK THE CONTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS AND OF OFFICIALS WHO ATTEND THE VARIOUS COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

/"AS THE .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 2 -

"AS THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL INCREASES, SO DOES THE BURDEN ON BOTH GROUPS. THEY HAVE SHOULDERED IT CHEERFULLY AND EFFICIENTLY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT HE WAS SURE MEMBERS WOULD WISH TO JOIN HIM IN PAYING WARM TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD WORKED WITH QUIET AND EFFICIENT DILIGENCE BEHIND THE SCENES TO SUSTAIN THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL, IN PARTICULAR THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HIS STAFF, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OMELCO AND HIS STAFF AND THE OFFICERS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION.

"THIS SESSION, IN WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS SAT FOR A RECORD OF ALMOST 126 HOURS, HAS GIVEN THEM A GREAT DEAL OF WORK. THEY HAVE CARRIED IT OUT WITH DEDICATION AND SKILL," HE NOTED.

IN CONCLUSION, SIR DAVID WISHED MEMBERS AND STAFF "AN ENJOYABLE, REFRESHING AND THOROUGHLY WELL DESERVED RECESS".

- - - - 0 - - - -

'SATISFACTORY' RESPONSE TO GREEN PAPER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SURVEY OFFICE HAS SO FAR RECEIVED OVER 1,500 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER OF WHICH THE MAJORITY HAVE COME FROM INDIVIDUALS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

WHILE NOTING THE RATE OF RESPONSE SO FAR HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY, MR FORD SAID VIEWS ON EACH AND EVERY ASPECT OF THE ISSUES IN THE GREEN PAPER WOULD BE WELCOMED AND RESPECTED.

"WHEN THE GOVERNMENT COMES TO CONSIDER THE DRAFTING OF THE WHITE PAPER AT THE END OF THE YEAR A CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT ALL THESE ASPECTS WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT IN HELPING US TO REACH DECISIONS WHICH ARE IN THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF HONG KONG," HE SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER.

NOTING THAT COMMENTS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE DEBATE SEEKING GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE WEIGHT WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN TO PUBLIC OPINION IN ASSESSING THE OPTIONS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER, MR FORD SAID FROM THE DAY THE PAPER WAS PUBLISHED THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT AND CLEAR AND REMAIN SO TODAY.

/"IN REACHING .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 3 -

"IN REACHING ITS CONCLUSION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC."

"AS WE HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR, OTHER FACTORS ARE RELEVANT," HE ADDED.

"A NUMBER OF MEMBERS HAVE SAID IN THEIR SPEECHES THAT ONE FACTOR WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IS THAT IT IS THE BASIC LAW, WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DRAFTED, WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION," HE SAID.

AS TO THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE REVIEW WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, MR FORD QUOTED PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE GREEN PAPER WHICH READ: "IT WILL BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HONG KONG'S EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. IT WILL ALSO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE TERMS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, WHICH PROVIDES FOR HONG KONG TO BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FROM JULY 1, 1997,"

"IT FOLLOWS THAT ALL THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER ARE IN OUR VIEW CONSISTENT WITH THAT FRAMEWORK AND ARE GENUINE OPTIONS," MR FORD SAID.

HE ADDED, THAT NONE OF THE OPTIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER WOULD, IF IMPLEMENTED, INVOLVE A BREACH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

MR FORD REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND THERE WAS NO PRE-DETERMINED OUTCOME.

"I BELIEVE THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO WEIGH ALL THE FACTORS MOST CAREFULLY AND TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL AT HEART."

MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT IF CONSULTATION ON THE GREEN PAPER WAS TO REVEAL A TRUE PICTURE OF THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT A FULL RANGE OF OPINIONS WAS EXPRESSED TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

"WE ARE LOOKING FOR ALL VIEWS, NOT ONLY THE VIEWS OF THOSE WHO MAY HAVE MADE UP THEIR MINDS BEFORE THE GREEN PAPER WAS PUBLISHED."

TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE PUBLIC TO LEARN ABOUT THE GREEN PAPER, MR FORD SAID RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG HAD PRODUCED A 12-PART SERIES OF FIVE-MINUTE TELEVISION PROGRAMMES CALLED THE "GREEN PAPER MADE EASY" WHICH WERE BEING SHOWN AT PEAK TIMES.

/HE CALLED .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 4 -

HE CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS, AND REMINDED THEM THAT VIEWS MIGHT ALSO BE EXPRESSED ORALLY TO THE STAFF AT THE OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHO WOULD RECORD THEM AND FORWARD TO THE SURVEY OFFICE.

"WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT AT THE END OF THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WE CONCLUDE BY DECIDING ON A WAY FORWARD WHICH WILL ENSURE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION, INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE AND HELP TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY WHICH IS SO FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF RETIRING MEMBER COMMENDED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING HON S.L. CHEN, WHO HAS SERVED NEARLY 11 YEARS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN A VALEDICTORY SPEECH, SIR DAVID SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD BE LOSING A MEMBER OF IMMENSE EXPERIENCE, WHO WOULD BE VERY HARD TO REPLACE.

SIR DAVID SAID MR CHEN WOULD ALSO BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION IN THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, HIS WORK IN DEVELOPING THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM AND, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC, IN DEVELOPING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"WHATEVER THE TASK, MR CHEN HAS ADDRESSED IT WITH THE PRECISION AND THOROUGHNESS OF AN ENGINEER AND WITH THE MODERATION, CALMNESS AND OBJECTIVITY WHICH HAVE BEEN HIS MARK AS A MAN," SIR DAVID SAID.

"I HOPE THAT, PERHAPS, MR CHEN WILL FORGIVE ME IF I REVEAL TODAY A SECRET, WHICH I'M TOLD, HAS HAUNTED HIM THROUGHOUT HIS TIME IN THIS COUNCIL -- AND THAT IS THAT ONE DAY THE LIGHTS MIGHT FAIL.

"TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED. AND IF SOME LUSTRE WILL BE MISSING FROM THIS CHAMBER WITH HIS DEPARTURE, THE LIGHTS WHICH ARE REPRESENTED BY THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO SHINE VERY BRIGHTLY."

SIR DAVID WISHED MR AND MRS CHEN A LONG, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS RETIREMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 5 -

DUNN PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHEN

\* \* \* \* \*

SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HON CHEN SHOU-LUM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. MR CHEN WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE COUNCIL AT THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF "AN OLD AND MUCH-LOVED FRIEND", MISS DUNN SAID MR CHEN'S WORK BEHIND THE SCENES WAS LESS KNOWN PUBLICLY.

SHE SAID MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD ESPECIALLY REMEMBER HIS THOROUGH AND DEDICATED WORK AS CONVENER OF THE OMELCO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS PANEL.

"THEIR REPORT AND THE FULL, THOUGHTFUL, AND WELL-RESEARCHED SPEECHES WE HAVE HEARD TODAY AND YESTERDAY OWE MUCH TO THAT PANEL'S DETERMINATION TO HEAR AND EXAMINE EVERY POINT OF VIEW WITH A RECEPTIVE AND SYMPATHETIC MIND," SHE SAID.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, MISS DUNN SAID MR CHEN AND SHE JOINED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE SAME DAY AND THEY HAD FOR 11 LONG SESSIONS BEEN THE HAPPIEST AND CLOSEST OF NEIGHBOURS.

"LIKE MANY PAST AND PRESENT COLLEAGUES, I HAVE COME TO RELY ON HIM FOR HIS WISE AND RELIABLE ADVICE AND FOR HIS NEVER FAILING CHEERFULNESS AND GOOD HUMOUR.

"NOR SHOULD I FORGET THAT WHEN LAST SUMMER THE DAYA BAY DEBATE THREATENED TO GET OVERHEATED, AND WHEN I HAD LONG BEFORE VANISHED TO COOLER CLIMES, MR CHEN REMAINED BEHIND IN MY PLACE, AND, WITH TACT AND UNDERSTANDING, PREVENTED A MELTDOWN," SHE SAID.

"WE SHALL MISS MR CHEN FOR HIS WARMTH AND SENSE OF HUMOUR AND FOR HIS MODESTY AND COURTESY; THESE QUALITIES WILL BE AS HARD TO REPLACE AS HIS WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE.

"WE WISH HIM AND HIS WIFE DORIS THE HAPPIEST AND HEALTHIEST OF RETIREMENTS," SHE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

DUNN WINDS UP DEBATE

\* \* \* \*

IN WINDING UP THE TWO-DAY DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY), THE SENIOR MEMBER, THE HON LYDIA DUNN, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MEMBERS, BY TAKING PART IN THE DEBATE, HAD STIMULATED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO SPEAK UP ON THE OPTIONS.

SHE SAID THE FACT THAT ALL 45 MEMBERS WHO WERE IN HONG KONG HAD SPOKEN IN THE DEBATE WAS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORY.

"I HOPE THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS COUNCIL WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE NOW TAKING PLACE," SHE SAID.

"THERE IS MUCH TO BE WORKED OUT AND ACCOMPLISHED IN THE YEARS AHEAD," SHE ADDED.

MISS DUNN CONCLUDED HER SPEECH BY REPEATING WHAT SHE HAD SAID IN THE DEBATE ON THE 1984 WHITE PAPER:

"AS WE CONSIDER THE POLITICAL CHANGE ENVISAGED IN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT AND AS WE EMBARK UPON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, WE SHOULD SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THIS NEW PHASE IN OUR HISTORY DOES NOT INVOLVE A SHARP BREAK WITH THE PAST. THAT IS TO SAY, WHATEVER MAY BE THE ULTIMATE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG, WE MUST PRESERVE THE HONG KONG STYLE AND THE HONG KONG SYSTEM INTACT."

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEP BY STEP APPROACH TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) HE PREFERRED A GRADUAL STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR LEE SAID INSTEAD OF INTRODUCING A LARGE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS IN 1992, WHY NOT START BY INTRODUCING FIRST IN 1988 A SMALLER NUMBER.

"THIS COULD BE DONE BY REPLACING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. WE SHALL THEN HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE BEFORE PLUNGING INTO A MUCH ENLARGED LEGISLATURE IN 1992," HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID WHEN HE SPOKE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 9, 1985, HE HAD ALREADY MADE IT KNOWN THAT IN PRINCIPLE, HE WAS IN FAVOUR AND IN SUPPORT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURE IN 1988.

/"IT HAS .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 7 -

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY BELIEF THAT AS A COMMUNITY DEVELOPS, THE PEOPLE WILL ASK FOR MORE PARTICIPATION."

"MY SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ELECTION IS TO ALLOW HONG KONG PEOPLE MORE PARTICIPATION. IT IS NOT CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE," HE ADDED.

MR LEE SAID DIRECT ELECTION WAS NOT SOMETHING NEW TO HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE HAD DIRECT ELECTION TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANY YEARS AND AFTER THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND REGIONAL COUNCIL WERE ESTABLISHED, WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN DIRECT ELECTION."

HE SAID THE ONLY NEW FACTOR WAS THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW, WHICH WAS IN PROGRESS, AND WHICH WOULD PRESCRIBE THE SHAPE OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AFTER 1997.

"I TOTALLY AGREE THAT WE MUST NOT INTRODUCE CHANGES WHICH MAY NOT CONVERGE WITH THE LEGISLATURE OF THE SAR AFTER 1997.

"BUT I HAVE STUDIED WITH CARE AND INTEREST, THE PRESENTATIONS MADE BY MANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BEING CONSULTED BY THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS IN THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ARE IN FAVOUR OF DIRECT ELECTIONS. THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF THESE GROUPS WHICH IS KNOWN WIDELY AS THE GROUP OF 73 OF THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, ARE IN SUPPORT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURE WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT HAPPEN IN 1992."

MR LEE SAID HE WAS ATTRACTED BY THEIR MODEL BUT QUERIED WHETHER ACCOMMODATING SUCH A TREMENDOUS CHANGE OF THE LEGISLATURE STARTING IN 1992 WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID HIS IDEA WAS A VARIATION OF THEIRS. "I FAVOUR A STEP-BY-STEP APPROX A SMALL STEP AT A TIME."

MR LEE ALSO ADDED THAT IN THE HONG KONG POLITICAL SYSTEM, CHANGES IN THE FUTURE WERE INEVITABLE AS STIPULATED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"I TOTALLY REJECT THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT DIRECT ELECTION IS A MEANS BY WHICH TO SHIELD HONG KONG FROM CHINESE INTERFERENCE IN THE FUTURE.

"CHINA WILL BE OUR SOVEREIGN STATE AFTER JUNE 30, 1997. WE MUST CO-OPERATE WITH CHINA AND FOSTER A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP.

/ "THIS DOES .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 8 -

"THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD NOT PUT OUR VIEWS FORWARD AND ARGUE OUR CASE. BUT I SUGGEST THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL TRUST, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL RESPECT."

MR LEE SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS UNIQUE IN ITS FORMATION.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE MEETINGS MIGHT BE GETTING LONGER, DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES MORE LENGTHY AND VIEWS MIGHT DIFFER, BUT THE COUNCIL TODAY WAS BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID AS HONG KONG CONTINUED TO DEVELOP, HE FELT THERE WAS STILL AN ELEMENT MISSING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"IT IS THE ELEMENT OF TRUE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND I HOPE TO SEE THIS HAPPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DRASTIC CHANGES NOT FAVOURED

\* \* \* \* \*

DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE WAS STRONG AGAINST ANY ABRUPT CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, DR CHIU SAID THE REASON WAS THAT ANY DRASTIC OR MAJOR CHANGE IN THOSE AREAS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE TO THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY.

BUT HE MAINTAINED THAT TO HAVE A REASONABLE PERCENTAGE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEAT PRODUCED FROM DIRECT ELECTION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS DRASTIC.

"IT IS JUST A NATURAL AND LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT HEADING TOWARDS A MORE OPEN, A MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE REGARDED THIS AS A SOLID GUARANTEE THAT AN ACCOUNTABLE LEGISLATURE IN THE EXISTING POLITICAL SYSTEM WOULD BE CARRIED OVER TO 1997 AND BEYOND.

"DEEP DOWN IN THEIR HEART, THEY TEND TO BELIEVE THAT A REASONABLE ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTION, TO A LARGE EXTENT, CONSOLIDATES 'ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS' WHICH HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US," HE SAID.

/DR CHIU .....

DR CHIU BELIEVED THAT IF AND WHEN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE SPOKE IN A LOUD AND CLEAR VOICE IN FAVOUR OF DIRECT ELECTION, THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE DEVELOPED ALONG THAT DIRECTION.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE WISHES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE SHALL BE RESPECTED GENUINELY," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, DR CHIU MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE VIEWS OF THE MEDICAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY WERE STILL BEING COLLECTED AND WOULD BE REFLECTED AT A LATER STAGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRESENT SYSTEM WORKING WELL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON THOMAS CLYDESDALE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S EXISTING SYSTEM IS WORKING VERY WELL AND SHOULD ONLY BE ALTERED TO THE EXTENT THAT WAS COMPLETELY NECESSARY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR CLYDESDALE SAID HE DID NOT EXPRESS ANY OPINION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS DURING THE DEBATE BECAUSE HIS CONSTITUENCY WAS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A DETAILED SURVEY TO OBTAIN MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER.

"I CAN HOWEVER MAKE SOME GENERAL REMARKS ON THE BASIS OF THE WORK DONE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WITHIN MY CONSTITUENCY," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT MOST BUSINESSMEN CERTAINLY FAVOURED A STEP BY STEP APPROACH TOWARDS FURTHER CHANGING AN ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN WHICH POLITICS HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO DOMINATE OR FRUSTRATE PROGRESS.

MANY BELIEVED THAT THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE EXECUTIVE-LED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD GUIDED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH OUTSTANDING SUCCESS FOR THE LAST FEW DECADES SHOULD BE RETAINED, HE SAID.

"IF IT TRANSPIRES THAT A SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF SUPPORT EXISTS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS, I BELIEVE THAT THE BULK OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD AGREE THAT POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE NO PLACE IN AN SAR GOVERNMENT OR INDEED IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION BEFORE 1997," HE SAID.

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT PERSONALLY THINK THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NECESSARILY MEANT THAT POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD BECOME INEVITABLE AND THAT CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICS MUST FOLLOW - ALTHOUGH WHAT WERE SEEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN RECENT WEEKS MIGHT LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY WERE ALREADY HERE.

"I THINK THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE CLAMOUR OF THE SO-CALLED PRESSURE GROUPS FOR POLITICAL REFORM AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND REGARDLESS OF THE LIKELY RESULTS ON PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM MAY BE GIVEN DISPROPORTIONATE CONSIDERATION IN THE MEDIA AND IN PUBLIC DEBATE AS OPPOSED TO THE VOICES WHICH CALL FOR THE LESS EXCITING BUT IN MY VIEW MORE REALISTIC POLICY OF GRADUAL CHANGE IF CHANGE IS PREFERRED," HE SAID.

HE SAID PRESSURE GROUPS WERE LEGITIMATE, INDEED ESSENTIAL VEHICLES FOR PUBLIC OPINION BUT PRESSURE GROUPS DID NOT NORMALLY REPRESENT A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF OPINION AND QUITE OFTEN DID NOT REPRESENT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. "I SUGGEST THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE CONSIDERED IN THAT LIGHT," MR CLYDESDALE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEVER BE A SOVEREIGN ENTITY AND HAD NEVER HAD A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, NOR INDEED HAD CHINA IN ALL ITS HISTORY.

YET HONG KONG HAD ENJOYED THE FRUITS OF A DETERMINED, ENLIGHTENED, EXPERIENCED AND NON-POLITICAL GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD CARED FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND WHICH HAD SUCCESSFULLY ENGINEERED THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC ENTITIES THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN, HE ADDED.

"I SUGGEST THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS SYSTEM IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO THE REAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAN THE INTRODUCTION OF A POLITICALLY ORIENTED SYSTEM THAT COULD DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY AGAINST ITSELF AND DIVERT RESOURCES, BOTH MATERIAL AND HUMAN, INTO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DIFFERING POLITICAL GROUPS," HE SAID.

MR CLYDESDALE ALSO URGED HONG KONG PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"WE MUST ALL HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO GET THE FORMULA RIGHT FIRST TIME.

"WE CANNOT AFFORD A HIT AND MISS METHOD NOR A SYSTEM THAT PROCEEDS BY TRIAL AND ERROR," HE SAID.

COUNCILLORS MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON RICHARD LAI SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, AS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY, MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR LAI SAID LEADERSHIP MEANT DIRECTION, NOT DICTATION.

HE SAID: "TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE PUBLIC IN THE HOPE OF INTIMIDATING THEM INTO MAKING A CHOICE THAT IS AGAINST THEIR INCLINATION IS NOT DIRECTION, BUT DICTATION.

" DIRECTION MEANS DISCERNING THE ASPIRATION OF THE PEOPLE, AND LEAD THEM IN ACHIEVING THE END. THAT IS DIRECTION. THAT IS LEADERSHIP."

POINTING OUT THAT THE NEED OF APPEARING BEFORE THE PUBLIC WITH NO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT THE REVIEW WAS APPRECIATED, MR LAI SAID HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN THE SURRENDERING OF THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD; IT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO REGRESS TO A STATE OF PHOBIA FOR SPEAKING OUT ON THE ISSUES THAT WARRANTED DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP.

HE NOTED THAT LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HAD SO FAR LAGGED BEHIND IN THE REVIEW, THAT THEY HAD BEEN AT THE REAR OF THE PEOPLE, AND THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN PROVIDING DIRECTION AS THEY SHOULD.

HE SAID: "WE MUST ASK A SOUL-SEARCHING QUESTION WHETHER WE ALL IDENTIFY WITH THE QUEST TO DEVELOP A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT, WHETHER DEMOCRACY IS A GOOD THING.

"IF WE DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE WILL TO ASSERT THAT DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY IS AN IDEAL TOWARDS WHICH WE SHOULD STRIDE, THEN WHAT DO WE STAND FOR ANYWAYS?

"IF WE AFFIRM THAT THEY ARE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL, THEN I THINK MAKING COMPROMISES TO INTEGRATE THE DYNAMICS OF POLITICAL REALITY IS ACCEPTABLE AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVING OUR FINAL END. POLITICS, AFTERALL, AS THE OVER-USED PHRASE SAYS, IS AN ART OF COMPROMISE."

NEVERTHELESS, MR LAI SAID EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY WERE THE PRINCIPLES THAT THEY COULD NOT SACRIFICE.

HE SAID: "NO MATTER WHAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE MAY BE, WE MUST KEEP THEM CLEARLY IN FOCUS. WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE A DETOUR WHEN THERE IS AN OBSTACLE UP AHEAD; WE MAY GO AROUND THE OBSTACLE, BUT WE MUST NOT GO AWAY FROM THE ULTIMATE GOAL. ONCE THIS PREMISE IS ESTABLISHED, THE REST FOLLOWS."

/MR LAI .....

MR LAI SAID THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WAS A GENUINE OPTION IN THE REVIEW AND THAT IT HAD ALSO BEEN CONFIRMED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD NOT CONTRAVENE THE JOINT DECLARATION.

"IF THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IS CORRECT AND POLITICAL REALITY IS RECEPTIVE TO THEM, IF THE SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE JUSTIFIES THEM, ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT PERMITS THEM, WHY CAN'T WE HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988?" MR LAI QUESTIONED.

HE SAID: "AFTERALL, INTRODUCTION OF A SMALL PORTION OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE IS CONDUCIVE TO A GRADUAL PROCESS OF POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997.

"MERE TECHNICAL DETAILS DO NOT CONSTITUTE ANY GROUNDS FOR DELAYING FURTHER OPENING UP OF THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE," HE SAID.

"THAT IS A SIMPLE ARGUMENT, ONE THAT IS FORMULATED TO CLARIFY, NOT TO CONFUSE, AND ONE THAT I TRUST IS AT THE HEART OF THE CURRENT DEBATE OF WHETHER TO HAVE DIRECT ELECTIONS AND HAVE THEM IN 1988. I SEE NO CHANCE ANYONE CAN PROVE THE CONTRARY.

"HAVING SAID ALL THAT, HAVING ESTABLISHED ALL THE PREMISES AND DERIVING ALL THE ARGUMENTS, WHY CAN'T WE STAND UP AND TAKE THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO POINT TO THE WAY OF DIRECT ELECTIONS AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE?" MR LAI ASKED.

HE STRESSED THAT COUNCILLORS COULD NO LONGER HIDE BEHIND THE SHELTER OF THE SO-CALLED "SILENT MAJORITY" AND SHOULD FOR ONCE TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

MR LAI SAID: "WE HAVE BEEN CRITICISED AS BEING DEAF TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, OUR CREDIBILITY TOOK A BEATING IN THE DAYA BAY EPISODE AND THE PUBLIC ORDER FIASCO."

"IF THE PUBLIC CLEARLY POINTS TO DIRECT ELECTIONS AND WE CANNOT EVEN FOLLOW THIS TIME, WE WILL LOSE THE RIGHT TO BE HERE, IN THIS CHAMBER EVEN AS FOLLOWERS OF THE COMMUNITY, LET ALONE ITS LEADERS," HE NOTED.

MR LAI SAID BEING A REALIST, HE WAS WILLING TO MAKE COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEED OF GRADUAL CHANGE.

WHILE DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY A MORE ADVANCE FORM OF PRACTISING DEMOCRACY AND ACHIEVING A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, HE THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO RETAIN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SYSTEMS, AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER TERM TO EFFECT A GRADUAL TRANSITION.

/HE THEN .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 13 -

HE THEN PROPOSED A CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEREIN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES, FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, DIRECT ELECTIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS ALL TOOK UP A QUARTER OF THE SEATS.

IN THE REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS, HE SAID SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE DEMAND MADE BY THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

IN LINE WITH HIS GRADUAL APPROACH TO POLITICAL CHANGE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THE TIME BEING, EVEN THOUGH HE AGREED THAT A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TWO-TIER SYSTEM IN WHICH THE DISTRICT LEVEL WOULD ALSO BE VESTED WITH SOME EXECUTIVE POWER.

MR LAI SAID CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO SEAT ALLOCATION TO ELECTORAL COLLEGES THAT COMPRISED MORE THAN ONE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

HE SAID: "FOR INSTANCE, MY CONSTITUENCY, NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH, COMPRISES OF HEAVY INDUSTRIAL AREAS LIKE KWAI CHUNG, TSING YI, TSUEN WAN, AND RURAL AREAS IN SAI KUNG AND THE ISLANDS. TO ENSURE THAT THEIR INTERESTS WILL BE FULLY REFLECTED, PERHAPS A REALLOCATION OR EXPANSION OF SEATS IS WARRANTED."

MR LAI SAID THE PRESENT THREE-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATURE MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR COUNCILLORS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PROPORTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS WAS INCREASING. HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE LENGTHENED TO FOUR YEARS.

HE SAID: "THE TIME AND EFFORTS NEEDED TO RUN AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN MAY DISTRACT MEMBERS FROM THE COURSE OF LEGCO BUSINESS.

"EXTENDING THE TERM TO FOUR YEARS WILL GIVE ELECTED MEMBERS MORE TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WORK OF THE OFFICE."

"MOREOVER, IF WE DECIDE TO START FOUR YEARS TERMS FROM 1988, WE WOULD NOT HAVE AN ELECTION YEAR IN 1997 WHEN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HONG KONG WILL BE RETURNED TO CHINA. THIS MAY HELP USHER IN A NEW ADMINISTRATION WITH THE MINIMUM DISRUPTION," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

HK FUTURE HINGES ON DIRECT ELECTION: LEE

\* \* \* \* \*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON MARTIN LEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) WARNED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT WHETHER OR NOT DIRECT ELECTION IS INTRODUCED IN 1988 WOULD MAKE OR BREAK FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR LEE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD TO DECIDE NOW WHETHER TO TAKE THE "APPARENTLY BROAD AND EASY ROAD" BY KEEPING THE PRESENT COLONIAL SET-UP, KNOWING THAT AT THE END OF THE ROAD WAS CERTAIN FAILURE OR TO TAKE THE "NARROW AND BUMPY ROAD" WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN THE GOVERNMENT AND A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS POLICY.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO WAKE UP FROM THEIR POLITICAL LETHARGY AND TAKE THEIR FUTURE IN THEIR OWN HANDS BY DEMANDING FOR A VOTE IN THE 1988 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION.

MR LEE SUGGESTED THAT BY 1988, 25 PER CENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE RETURNED BY DIRECT ELECTION; 25 PER CENT FROM FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES; 25 PER CENT FROM ELECTORAL COLLEGES; WITH THE REMAINING 25 PER CENT TO CONSIST OF APPOINTED MEMBERS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT DIRECT ELECTION WAS NOT AN END BUT A MEANS TO AN END. THE ULTIMATE AIM IS TO IMPLEMENT SUCCESSFULLY THE POLICY OF ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS, HE ADDED.

"IN ORDER TO DO THAT," HE SAID. "IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE HONG KONG SAR CAPITALIST SYSTEM SEPARATE FROM THE MAINLAND SOCIALIST SYSTEM. AND TO ACHIEVE THAT, THE SAR GOVERNMENT NEEDS A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WHICH HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US IN THE JOINT DECLARATION."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE KEY QUESTION WAS HOW TO ENSURE THAT THE SAR GOVERNMENT COULD ACTUALLY EXERCISE THAT HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

HIS ANSWER WAS THIS: "THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE MANDATE FROM AND THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE IT GOVERNS. IT IS THEREFORE VITAL TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE GIVEN A VOTE SO THAT THEY CAN CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS. AND IF THEY FIND THAT THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE ELECTED INTO OFFICE DO NOT PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS, THEN THEY WILL NOT RETURN THEM INTO OFFICE FOR ANOTHER TERM."

MR LEE ADMITTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988 COULD NOT IN ITSELF ACHIEVE THE ABOVE OBJECT. "BUT IT IS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION," HE SAID.

/IN EXPLAINING .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 15 -

IN EXPLAINING WHY HE BELIEVED DIRECT ELECTION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1988, MR LEE SAID, "DIRECT ELECTION HAS BECOME A PIECE OF LITMUS PAPER WHEREBY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN SEE WHETHER THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS ARE GENUINE IN THEIR INTENTIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION AND WHETHER THEY WILL TAKE HEED OF THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

HE PERCEIVED THIS AS A "POSITIVE MEASURE" TO ENSURE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997 WOULD BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE IT GOVERNED AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE THEIR SUPPORT AND WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IN REGAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF ITS PEOPLE BY DEMONSTRATING THAT IT WAS NOT A LAME-DUCK ADMINISTRATION AND THAT IT HAD BOTH THE WILL AND ABILITY TO GOVERN HONG KONG DURING THESE TEN YEARS.

THEN THE PEOPLE WOULD SEE THAT THERE WAS HOPE YET IN THE FUTURE AND WOULD BE PERSUADED TO STAY LONGER - PERHAPS EVEN BEYOND 1997, HE SAID.

MR LEE STRESSED THAT THE POLICY OF "HONG KONG PEOPLE ADMINISTERING HONG KONG" COULD NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT THE TRUE PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE IN HONG KONG.

"WE CANNOT CONSCIENTIOUSLY CONTINUE TO DENY 97.5 PER CENT OF OUR PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS," HE SAID.

MR LEE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO THINK THAT BECAUSE OF THE RECENT REMARKS BY CERTAIN CHINESE OFFICIALS, THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW DIRECT ELECTION TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1988.

HIS FIRST REASON WAS THAT TO DO SO IN 1988 WAS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG ACCORDING TO CLAUSE 4 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

SECONDLY, HE SAID THERE WAS NO STATEMENT BY ANY CHINESE OFFICIAL THAT WAS IRREVERSIBLE, IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED IT, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF STRONG PUBLIC OPINION.

HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO ASK FOR THE MAXIMUM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT DECLARATION UNDER WHICH THE SAR GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENJOY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

"AND THE HIGHER THAT AUTONOMY, THE BETTER IT IS FOR HONG KONG AND CHINA, BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO IMPLEMENT SUCCESSFULLY THE POLICY OF ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

/PEOPLE SHOULD .....

PEOPLE SHOULD TELL THE CHINESE LEADERS WHAT THEY WANTED AND NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR THE BEST FOR HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

"IN OUR DELIBERATIONS ON OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, IT IS WRONG TO ASSUME THAT CHINA HAS A BASE LINE FOR THE FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE SAR. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THE CHINESE LEADERS WHO CAN DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG KNOWS OUR SYSTEM WELL ENOUGH YET. INDEED THAT IS WHY THE CHINESE LEADERS WANT TO HEAR OUR VIEWS," HE SAID.

MR LEE DISMISSED AS TOTALLY UNCONVINCING THE ARGUMENT THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEVER ATTAIN TRUE DEMOCRACY BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A SOVEREIGN STATE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE JOINT DECLARATION SUGGESTING THAT THERE COULD NOT BE A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG; NOR WAS THERE ANYTHING TO SUGGEST THAT DIRECT ELECTION COULD NOT BE INTRODUCED IN 1988.

HE RECALLED VARIOUS OCCASIONS WHERE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD BEEN ASSURED OF A REPRESENTATIVE OR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BEFORE ITS RETURN TO THE PRC. THESE OCCASIONS INCLUDED SIR GEOFFERY HOWE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN APRIL 1984, FOLLOWED BY THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER IN JULY, THE DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION IN SEPTEMBER AND THE WHITE PAPER IN NOVEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR.

"MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE ENCOURAGED BY THESE PROMISES, AND THEY ACCEPTED THE JOINT DECLARATION BECAUSE OF THEM. MANY SAW THAT THERE IS HOPE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE TO BE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF DEMOCRACY," MR LEE SAID.

"NOBODY THEN SAID WE MUST NOT MAKE ANY CHANGE TO OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM UNTIL AFTER THE PROMULGATION OF THE BASIC LAW. INDEED, NOBODY THEN SEEMED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT 'CONVERGENCE' OR THE LACK OF IT."

BUT SINCE THEN, MR LEE SAID, CHINA'S STAND AND TONES HAD CHANGED. BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CHINA WOULD CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE BUT FOR THE OVER WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IN, OR TO "CONVERGE" WITH THE CHINESE.

IN MR LEE'S VIEW, THE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR HONG KONG TO HOLD BOTH THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHEREIN LAY PEOPLE'S ONLY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

"WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE JOINT DECLARATION TO BECOME A LITANY OF BROKEN PROMISES," HE SAID.

ON THE POINT OF 'CONVERGENCE' WITH THE BASIC LAW, MR LEE MENTIONED THAT OF THE SIX PROPOSALS RAISED AT THE RELEVANT SUB-GROUP OF THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE SAR, FIVE SUPPORTED DIRECT ELECTION AS BEING ONE OF THE MODES OF ELECTION IN THE FUTURE LEGISLATURE. LIKEWISE, THE GREAT PREPONDERANCE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO IN SUPPORT OF DIRECT ELECTION.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 17 -

HE, THEREFORE, COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT IF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS IN SUPPORT OF DIRECT ELECTION IN THE FUTURE SAR LEGISLATURE, THERE WOULD STILL BE NO PLACE FOR IT IN THE BASIC LAW.

"THE POSSIBILITY OF A LACK OF "CONVERGENCE" IN THIS REGARD IS THEREFORE EXTREMELY REMOTE," HE CONCLUDED.

TURNING TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTION IN THE AUTUMN OF 1988, MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY ASSURED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IF IT BE DECIDED THAT IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC OPINION DIRECT ELECTION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1988, THEN ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT TIME-TABLE, THERE WOULD BE AMPLE TIME FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION,

- - - - 0 - - - -

CALL FOR PRUDENT CHANGES

\* \* \* \* \*

SPEAKING TODAY (THURSDAY) IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, THE HON DAVID K.P. LI CAUTIONED THAT ANY CHANGES IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE MADE GRADUALLY AND PRUDENTLY SO AS NOT TO RISK DESTROYING THE SUCCESS THAT ITS PEOPLE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD.

"IN OUR SOCIETY, CHANGES ARE INEVITABLE IF WE ARE TO PROGRESS, AND WE MUST KEEP AN OPEN MIND TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESERVING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG MUST BE PARAMOUNT IN OUR MINDS," MR LI SAID.

"LET US NOT HAVE CHANGE MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING CHANGES."

HE POINTED OUT THAT MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL CONSTITUENCY WERE OF THE VIEW THAT PROPOSED CHANGES MUST BE EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESERVING A STABLE GOVERNMENT, LAW AND ORDER, AND CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

MR LI AND HIS CONSTITUENTS ALSO BELIEVED THAT SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO CREATE NEW CONSTITUENCIES, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS WOULD HAVE A STRONG CASE FOR REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR LI POINTED OUT THAT THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO CHART THE COURSE OF ITS DESTINY.

/ "WHAT MATTERS .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 18 -

"WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT WE MEET THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US THROUGH POSITIVE ACTION," HE SAID.

"NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST STAND UNITED, OR BE CONQUERED BY DIVISION AND DELUSION OF OUR OWN MAKING."

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO READ CAREFULLY AND DISCUSS COHERENTLY AND COHESIVELY THE OPTIONS CONTAINED IN THE GREEN PAPER; EVALUATE THEM RATIONALLY AND COOLLY; AND EVENTUALLY MAKE CHOICES FOR THE GOOD OF HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK NOT READY FOR DIRECT ELECTION

\* \* \* \*

THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT SAID THE SUGGESTION FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1988 IS OBVIOUSLY A RAPID CHANGE TO THE BASIS OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM WHEN CONDITIONS ARE NOT YET READY FOR IT.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR NGAI SAID THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG, BEING CHIEFLY EXPORT-ORIENTED, SMALL IN SIZE AND WEAK IN FOUNDATION, WAS VULNERABLE TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. IT WAS THEREFORE NOT DESIRABLE TO INTRODUCE ANY RASH POLITICAL REFORM.

"IF CHANGE IS REQUIRED, IT SHOULD BE MADE STEP BY STEP. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE CARRY OUT DRASTIC CHANGES TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO WHICH WE ARE SO USED AND UPON WHICH OUR PROSPERITY DEPENDS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE CONTROVERSY CONCERNING DIRECT ELECTIONS TO LEGCO NEXT YEAR IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS MEANT DEMOCRACY; AND THAT DEMOCRACY MEANT THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR FUTURE; AND THAT CONFIDENCE MEANT THAT A CONTINUED PROSPERITY WAS ENSURED. IT HAD ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IF DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE NOT INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR, THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE FOR HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HE FELT SORRY FOR THIS KIND OF RIDICULOUS LOGIC, WITH WHICH HE TOTALLY DISAGREED.

HE SAID THAT THE EFFICACY OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM AND ITS BENEFITS TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WERE SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH MANY ADVOCATES OF DIRECT ELECTIONS SAID NOTHING.

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WENT ABOUT SUBJECTIVELY POINTING OUT THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM BY VIRTUE OF A COUPLE OF SPECIOUS EXAMPLES. THEY DID SO IN A BIASED AND WILFUL MANNER WITH A VIEW TO ILLUSTRATING THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WAS A LAME DUCK GOVERNMENT.

"THEY CALL FOR IMMEDIATE DIRECT ELECTIONS BY MEANS OF FAR-FETCHED REASONS WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD TO THE IMPACT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS ON OUR SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND THE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE," HE SAID.

MR NGAI WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS A LONG-TERM AFFAIR AND PEOPLE SHOULD NOT FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ONLY ON THE QUESTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS.

"FOR THE SAKE OF OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS WE SHOULD WIDEN OUR VIEW INSTEAD AND DIRECT OUR ATTENTION TO THE SMOOTH CONVERGENCE OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH THE BASIC LAW WITHOUT CAUSING ANY SOCIAL TURMOIL," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT AFTER 1997 THE BASIC LAW, WHICH WOULD BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF THE RULE OF LAW. IN OTHER WORDS, THE BASIC LAW WOULD BECOME HONG KONG'S FUTURE CONSTITUTION ON WHICH ITS FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM WOULD BE BASED.

"SINCE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ATTACH SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW AND OUR FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT, IT FOLLOWS THAT ANY POLITICAL REFORM SHOULD CONVERGE WITH THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

MR NGAI ALSO SAID HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE OPTION THAT NO CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE IN THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"BUT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SEATS FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR ONE SEAT FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION FIELD IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION.

HE ADDED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS RETURNED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. REGARDING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE AGREED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, THAT WAS, THAT THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE ALSO ENDORSED THE VIEW IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE GOVERNOR WAS SYMBOLIC OF THE STATUS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND ADDED TO THE DIGNITY OF ITS PROCEEDINGS. THE GOVERNOR, AS PRESIDENT OF BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, PROVIDED A SYMBOLIC LINK BETWEEN THE TWO COUNCILS, HE ADDED.

/ "SINCE THE .....

"SINCE THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS OF SUCH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGE, AND NO DECISION SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SYSTEM OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, HE SAID THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE HAD BEEN SERVING HONG KONG WELL, AND THERE WAS NO URGENT NEED TO MAKE ANY MAJOR CHANGE TO THIS STRUCTURE.

HE SAID THE AUTHORITIES HAD ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR AT THE BEGINNING THAT DISTRICT BOARDS WERE PRIMARILY ADVISORY BODIES ON DISTRICT MATTERS.

"ANY CHANGE OR WIDENING OF THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL AFFECT THE ENTIRE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE AND THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE WILL LIKEWISE BE AFFECTED.

"SUCH CHANGE WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL TO THE EFFICIENCY OF HONG KONG'S ADMINISTRATION," HE STRESSED.

REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, HE FELT THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO CHANGE THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH ALL ELECTED MEMBERS WERE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF A DISTRICT BOARD, NOR SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF SEATS ON THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE STRUCTURE OF ITS COMMITTEES SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS TOTALITY AND INDEPENDENCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RESERVATIONS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988  
\* \* \* \* \*

PROFESSOR THE HON C.K. POON SAID HE SUPPORTS DIRECT ELECTIONS BUT HAS SOME RESERVATIONS REGARDING ITS HASTY INTRODUCTION IN 1988.

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY), PROFESSOR POON SAID DIRECT ELECTION WAS AN EXPRESSION OF AN IDEAL WHEREBY EVERY MAN EXERCISED HIS INALIENABLE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT HE DESIRED.

"IT IS AN IDEAL WHICH WE ALL STRIVE FOR AND WORK TOWARDS. HOWEVER, THE KEY ISSUE IS WHETHER HONG KONG IS READY TO IMPLEMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

/ "I BELIEVE .....

"I BELIEVE THAT ANY KIND OF POLITICAL CHANGE MUST BE PROCEEDED WITH CAUTIOUSLY AND IN STEPS.

"WE ALL RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE BASIC LAW AND CHANGES BEING INTRODUCED.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WILL CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE ELECTION PROCESSES TO THE LEGISLATURE IN THE BASIC LAW, THE CHANCE OF NOT HAVING DIRECT ELECTIONS IS NOT ABSOLUTELY ZERO.

"IF WE INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS INTO OUR LEGISLATURE NEXT YEAR, AHEAD OF CHANGES YET TO BE DRAFTED AND RECTIFIED BY THE BASIC LAW, WE MAY TAKE THE RISK - REMOTE PERHAPS, BUT NEVERTHELESS GRAVE ONE - OF INITIATING A PROCESS WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BRING TO A HALT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, WITHOUT CAUSING A GREAT DEAL OF DISRUPTION TO OUR STABILITY."

PROFESSOR POON SAID VOLATILE AS HONG KONG WAS, IT COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE ANY POLITICAL GAMBLE AS WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF A COMMUNITY OF WELL OVER FIVE MILLION PEOPLE.

"IT SEEMS TO ME MORE PRAGMATIC AND WISER TO TAKE A CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY POSTPONING DIRECT ELECTIONS UNTIL, SAY, 1991 OR 1992 SO THAT OUR EMBRYONIC DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION CAN HAVE TIME TO DEVELOP TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MATURITY BEFORE TAKING THIS BIG LEAP FORWARD," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT IF THE REPORT THE SURVEY OFFICE FINALLY PRODUCED SHOWED THAT A CLEAR MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG DID FAVOUR SOME FORM OF DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988, THEN HE WOULD AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE MAJORITY VIEW BECAUSE IT WOULD OTHERWISE BE LETTING HONG KONG PEOPLE DOWN IF THEIR OPINION WAS NOT IN ANY WAY RESPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH ASKED FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"IF DIRECT ELECTION IS TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1988, I SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION THAT IT SHOULD PREFERABLY BE INTRODUCED IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE TO REPLACE ITS PRESENT SYSTEM OF INDIRECT ELECTION."

ON OTHER OPTIONS, PROFESSOR POON SAID HE SUPPORTED SOME REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS IN 1988 BUT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO REDUCE FURTHER THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT TWO TO FOUR NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE CREATED WITH THEIR OWN SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"A NEW CONSTITUENCY FOR ACCOUNTANTS, AND AN EXTRA SEAT FOR THE ENGINEERS AND ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONS CONSTITUENCY SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION."

REGARDING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE GOVERNOR SHOULD REMAIN AS THE PRESIDENT BUT MIGHT APPOINT SOME OTHER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL TO PRESIDE IN HIS ABSENCE FOR SPECIFIC SITTINGS OR PARTS OF SITTINGS.

HE ALSO FAVOURED A CHANGE IN THE BASIC SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS TO ONE IN WHICH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION FOLLOWED THE DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ELEMENT OF "STAGGERING" BY HOLDING THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND ELECTORAL COLLEGE ELECTIONS IN DIFFERENT YEARS.

HE ALSO SAID THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE LENGTHENED TO FOUR YEARS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOHMEN SPEAKS AGAINST DIRECT ELECTIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

NEVER BEFORE IN HONG KONG HAVE SO MANY SAID SO MUCH TO EXPRESS SO LITTLE TO SO FEW, THE HON HELMUT SOHMEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR SOHMEN SAID IF THE QUESTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM WAS NOT SERIOUSLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US, ONE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO BE AMUSED BY SOME OF THE "CONVOLUTED REASONING BEING APPLIED BY ALL SIDES TO IMPRESS THE GULLIBLE".

"THE NAIVE ASSERTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY AND THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE WILL BE IMPERILLED IF WE DO NOT ACCEPT MORE RADICAL CHANGE AT AN EARLY STAGE ARE AS MISLEADING AS THE ARGUMENTS THAT ONLY DIRECT ELECTIONS MEAN DEMOCRACY, OR THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION'S REFERENCE TO AN 'ELECTED' LEGISLATURE COULD ONLY HAVE MEANT DIRECT ELECTIONS," HE SAID.

"IT THIS WAS THE CASE, THEN WHY DID THE JOINT DECLARATION NOT SAY SO AND WHY IS THERE AN ARGUMENT ABOUT INTERPRETATION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS?

"WHERE IS THE 'PRESSING SOCIAL NEED' NOW SO FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS A REASON FOR RUSHING INTO FURTHER REFORMS, AND WHAT REALLY ARE THE SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM, AND THE TANGIBLE ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW ONE?

/"WHICH GUARANTEES .....

"WHICH GUARANTEES CAN THE PROPONENTS OF MORE RADICAL REFORM OFFER THAT CHANGES TO OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE WILL MAKE THE TRANSITION TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 SMOOTHER RATHER THAN MORE DIFFICULT?

"AND IF IT WAS TRUE, AS SOME MAINTAIN, THAT THESE REFORMS WOULD NOT IN ANY EVENT DISTURB THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, OR COMMERCIAL EQUILIBRIUM IN HONG KONG, THEN WHY THE URGENCY TO EFFECT CHANGES BEFORE THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE LONGER-TERM FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY IS AGREED UPON?"

MR SOHMEN SAID: "IF THE REFORMERS TRULY BELIEVED THAT THE BASIC LAW WILL IN ANY EVENT PROVIDE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS, THEN WHY THE HASTE IN FORCING THE PACE NOW - DOES THIS PRESSURE NOT IN ITSELF IMPLY A MEASURE OF DOUBT THAT THE BASIC LAW COULD COME UP WITH A DIFFERENT SOLUTION, SO THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR?"

"OR ARE OUR POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AFRAID THAT IF THEY LOSE THE MOMENTUM NOW, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A PITCH AGAIN IN 1991 OR 1992? CLEARLY THEIR POLITICAL CREDIBILITY WOULD THEN SUFFER BUT IS THIS A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO ACCEPT SOLUTIONS THAT ARE NOW IN TUNE WITH THE PRESENT REALITIES GOVERNING THE HONG KONG SITUATION?"

HE SAID HONG KONG WOULD NEVER BE A SOVEREIGN ENTITY AND ANY EFFORTS TO PRETEND OTHERWISE WOULD BE DOOMED TO FAILURE.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD TO ACCEPT LEGAL CONSTRAINTS ON ITS SCOPE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN A DEMOCRATIC FASHION, INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE TOWARDS A FUTURE CENTRE OF POLITICAL POWER.

MR SOHMEN SAID THE CHIEF SECRETARY, IN INTRODUCING THE GREEN PAPER TO THE COUNCIL, HAD SAID THAT ALL OPTIONS CONTAINED WERE GENUINE AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PRE-CONCEIVED IDEAS AS TO THE MERITS OR DEMERITS OF EACH.

"THIS MANY WELL BE TRUE BUT HIDES THE FACT THAT THE OPTIONS THEMSELVES ARE LIMITED BECAUSE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS MUCH LESS ROOM TO MANOEUVRE IN 1987 THAN IT HAD IN 1984, WHEN EXPECTATIONS OF DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE FIRST RAISED.

"THERE IS NO MENTION AS TO WHERE CHANGES MADE IN 1988 TO THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WOULD ULTIMATELY LEAD. THERE IS CERTAINLY NO REFERENCE - AS THERE WAS IN THE 1984 GREEN PAPER - TO A GREATER REPRESENTATIVE ELEMENT IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, OR TO THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM WHICH - AS THE NOW SENIOR MEMBER SAID IN HER SPEECH IN THE 1984 DEBATE - SHOULD BE THE "LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVE" IN ORDER TO CONVINCCE PEOPLE THAT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WOULD HAVE REAL INFLUENCE.

/"WHAT IS .....

"WHAT IS THE PURPOSE THEN OF CREATING AN ODD ASSEMBLY OF APPOINTED, DIRECTLY-ELECTED, AND INDIRECTLY-ELECTED MEMBERS, IF ULTIMATELY THEY ARE ALL MEANT TO CARRY THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES AND HAVE THE SAME STATUS AND THE SAME VOTE?

"WHAT ELSE COULD DIFFERENTIATE THE DIRECTLY-ELECTED MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE KEPT IN THE MINORITY, FROM THEIR FELLOW-MEMBERS OTHER THAN THEIR CLAIM THAT ONLY THEY TRULY REPRESENTED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THEREFORE COULD INTRINSICALLY SPEAK WITH GREATER AUTHORITY AND WERE THUS ENTITLED TO MORE RESPECT FOR THEIR VIEWS?

"DOES THIS NOT SUGGEST THAT WE SHALL BE CREATING A PERMANENT OPPOSITION IN THIS COUNCIL WHOSE MEMBERS' ROLE AS FREQUENT OBJECTORS OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACTIONS AND OF MAJORITY DECISIONS WILL ALMOST BE THRUST UPON THEM SINCE THEY HAVE TO PROVE TO THE ELECTORATE THAT THEY, AND NOT THE MAJORITY, SPEAK FOR THE POPULATION?"

MR SOHMEN ASKED WOULD THE GOVERNMENT NOT THEN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DISREGARD OR OVERRULE THE VIEWS OF THE DIRECTLY-ELECTED MEMBERS WITHOUT RUNNING THE RISK OF BEING SEEN AS INSENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, ARE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CONVINCED THAT BY HAVING A DIRECTLY-ELECTED ELEMENT IN THIS COUNCIL AND THUS ALMOST BY DEFINITION A GROUP OF FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS, WE SHALL SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, OR HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID THE 'LAME DUCK' LABEL - IN OTHER WORDS, WILL DIRECT ELECTIONS INCREASE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL KUDOS?

"I DOUBT IT. ON THE CONTRARY, I BELIEVE THAT THE NEED FOR CONSTANT POLITICAL BARGAINING WITH THE POPULIST ELEMENTS TO MAINTAIN AN APPEARANCE OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WILL TEND TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY AND DECISION-MAKING FLEXIBILITY.

"THE TENDENCY WILL THEN BE TO BOLSTER ITS POSITION AGAIN BY CLOSING BUREAUCRATIC RANKS AND ALSO BY RELYING MORE ON CHINA TO SUPPORT ITS DWINDLING AUTHORITY IN DEALING WITH THE OPPOSITION," HE SAID.

"WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MOVE TOWARDS GREATER DEMOCRACY COULD THEREFORE TURN OUT TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF PROMPTING MORE AUTOCRATIC RULE."

"WISHING TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND RETAIN THEIR LEADERSHIP ASPIRATIONS, AND WANTING TO BE SEEN AS CREDIBLE AND OPEN-MINDED CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DEBATE HAVE PROMPTED A NUMBER OF MY HONOURABLE COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS SO-CALLED ESTABLISHMENT GROUPS TO WITHDRAW THEIR EARLIER RESERVATIONS AND TO ESPOUSE THE CONCEPT OF PARTIAL DIRECT ELECTIONS AS AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, SUBJECT ONLY TO TIMING.

/"AS A .....

"AS A MEMBER OF THE SO-CALLED ESTABLISHMENT I AM NATURALLY EXPECTED TO FALL IN LINE. BUT I CONTINUE TO REGARD THIS LIMITED ACCEPTANCE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS ONLY AS THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS AND NOT AS THE BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAT IS STILL AVAILABLE TO US?"

MR SOHMEN SAID THE REFORMERS BEYOND EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF "ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE", HAD YET TO DEMONSTRATE HOW A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE WOULD ALLOW US TO DO EVEN BETTER, WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO ATTRACT FUNDS AND COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY, WOULD STOP EMIGRATION, OR MAINTAIN THE HIGH LEVEL OF MOTIVATION OF HONG KONG'S WORKING POPULATION.

HE SAID HE STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY PARTIAL DIRECT ELECTIONS, WERE NOT THE BEST FORMAT TO ACHIEVE THIS REPRESENTATIVENESS AND AT THE SAME TIME CREATE A STRONG, UNIFIED AND RESPONSIBLE BODY.

"IT IS A GREAT PITY THAT THE ISSUE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS HAS BECOME SO EMOTIONAL, SO MUCH A MEASURE OF THE DEGREE OF FUTURE AUTONOMY AND SUCH A SYMBOL OF HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO RESIST ANY CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT OF INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"DIRECT ELECTIONS PROVIDE NO IMPROVED SAFEGUARDS FOR AUTONOMY BUT ON THE CONTRARY LEND THEMSELVES QUITE EASILY TO "PATRIOTIC FRONT" MOVEMENTS OF THE TYPE WE HAVE SEEN COMING TO POWER IN EASTERN EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER WORLD WAR II."

MR SOHMEN SAID: "IT SEEMS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN EXECUTIVE-LED GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997, AND THE GREEN PAPER CERTAINLY DOES NOT SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

"APART FROM LOCALISING THE CIVIL SERVICE, WE MUST UNDOUBTEDLY DEVELOP LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, BUT THIS CAN ALSO BE DONE WITHOUT A FUNDAMENTAL REFORM OF OUR CURRENT POLITICAL SYSTEM AND WITHOUT A FURTHER FRAGMENTATION OF POLITICAL POWER THROUGH THE CREATION OF ANOTHER CLASS OF DIRECTLY-ELECTED LEGISLATORS WITH UNTESTED PEDIGREES, LIMITED STAYING POWER, AND A TENDENCY TOWARDS RADICALISATION.

"THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG IS DISORGANISED AND SPLINTERED, ITS LEADERS ARE NOT UNITED. IN A SOCIETY AS PRAGMATIC AS HONG KONG'S, IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS WILL PRODUCE THE FUTURE LEADERS ACCEPTABLE TO A MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY TRY."

DIRECT ELECTION IN 1988 TOO HASTY

\* \* \* \* \*

DIRECT ELECTIONS FORM THE BASIS OF A GOOD ELECTORAL SYSTEM BUT IT MAY BE TOO HASTY TO INTRODUCE THEM IN 1988, THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR TAI EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR HIS RESERVATIONS.

"THE COUNCIL HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES JUST THREE YEARS AGO WHEN 24 MEMBERS WERE ELECTED FROM DIFFERENT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE FULL EXPERIENCES OF THESE CHANGES TO BE ABSORBED AND ASSESSED," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN MORE TIME TO ASSIMILATE THE CHANGE ALREADY MADE AS WELL AS THE PROSPECT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN EARLY 1992.

ANOTHER REASON PUT FORWARD BY MR TAI WAS THAT BY INTRODUCING DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988, IT WOULD NOT GIVE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PARTIES TO BE EFFECTIVELY FORMED AND GOOD CANDIDATES TO BE CHOSEN.

"PARTIES FORMED IN SUCH HASTE WOULD BE IMMATURE AND MAY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE DIRECT ELECTION SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MR TAI MENTIONED THAT SIX RURAL DISTRICTS IN HIS CONSTITUENCY (WEST NEW TERRITORIES ELECTORAL COLLEGE) HAD STRONG RESERVATIONS AGAINST INTRODUCING DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY VIEW WAS THAT THERE MUST BE DIRECT ELECTIONS BEFORE 1997 TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL EQUALITY.

TURNING TO THE THREE-TIER SYSTEM, MR TAI WAS SATISFIED THAT ITS OPERATION WAS BASICALLY SOUND AND HARMONIOUS.

"I SEE NO URGENT NEED TO CHANGE THIS ARRANGEMENT BUT FREQUENT REVIEWS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED," HE SAID.

MR TAI SAID THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS WAS SUPPORTED BY MOST RESIDENTS AND THE GENERAL OPINION WAS THAT THEIR PRESENT ROLE SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

BUT SOME PEOPLE FELT THAT THE EXTENT OF THEIR ADVISORY ROLE SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC AND DEFINITE AND THIS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE WORDING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE.

/MR TAI .....

MR TAI URGED THAT THE ADVICE OFFERED BY DISTRICT BOARDS TO THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED AND ACTED UPON WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

IF THE ADVICE COULD NOT BE ACTED UPON FOR ANY REASON, A REASONABLE EXPLANATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THEM, HE ADDED.

REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, HE SAID THE GENERAL CONCENSUS INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE NEED TO CHANGE ITS STRUCTURE, OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPOSITION.

HOWEVER, SOME RESIDENTS FELT THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN RESPECT OF SMALL LOCAL PROJECT WHILST THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN LARGER PROJECTS FOR THE BETTER UTILISATION OF RESOURCES.

MR TAI POINTED OUT THAT THE GREEN PAPER HAD PUT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"IF HONG KONG IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THEN THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED UPON WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

MR TAI PRAISED THE CONTRIBUTION BY THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID: "IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE CONSTITUENCY WHICH I REPRESENT, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER DISTRICTS, SUCH AS TAI PO, FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI, THAT THE KUK'S CONTRIBUTION DESERVES RECOGNITION BY THIS COUNCIL AND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY."

REGARDING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TAI SAID THERE WAS NO GREAT URGENCY FOR ANY CHANGE IN THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT.

"THERE DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO BE ANY BETTER ALTERNATIVE. PERHAPS THIS IMPORTANT STEP SHOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 28 -

CASH AID TO TAIKOO SHING EXPLOSION VICTIMS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID OUT A TOTAL OF \$13,095 OF INTERIM CASH ASSISTANCE FROM THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION (CLEIC) FUND TO VICTIMS WHO WERE INJURED IN AN EXPLOSION IN TAIKOO SHING EIGHT DAYS AGO.

OF THE 15 PEOPLE INJURED IN THE INCIDENT, EIGHT VICTIMS, COMPRISING FOUR WOMEN, TWO MEN AND TWO BOYS, WERE AWARDED INJURY GRANTS RANGING FROM \$960 TO \$1,680; AND TWO OF THEM WERE ADDITIONALLY AWARDED INTERIM ADJUSTMENT GRANTS OF \$375 EACH. BESIDES TWO APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE BEING PROCESSED, THE REMAINING WERE EITHER NOT QUALIFIED OR NOT INTERESTED IN CLAIMING COMPENSATION.

MEANWHILE, SEVEN VICTIMS ARE STILL IN QUEEN MARY HOPITAL WHERE TWO OF THEM ARE IN FAIR CONDITION AND THE REMAINING IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION.

IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL AID, THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND WORKERS FROM VARIOUS FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES WILL CONTINUE THEIR PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING COUNSELLING AND HOME HELP SERVICES, TO VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE CLEIC SCHEME AIMS AT PROVIDING CASH ASSISTANCE BOTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE INJURED, DISABLED OR KILLED AS A RESULT OF A CRIME OF VOLIENCE AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACCIDENTALLY INJURED, DISABLED OR KILLED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER USING A WEAPON IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY.

THE SCHEME IS NON-MEANS TESTED AND ONE OF THE QUALIFYING CONDITIONS IS THAT THE INJURY GAVE RISE TO AT LEAST THREE DAYS' LOSS OF EARNINGS OR WORKING CAPACITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$181 M CONTRACT FOR NT CIRCULAR ROAD SECTION AWARDED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$181 MILLION CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHINA FUJIAN CORPORATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNO-ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, MR HUANG XUNGENG.

IT COVERS A SECTION FROM MAI PO TO FAIRVIEW PARK AND FORMS THE THIRD PHASE OF A SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE HIGHWAY.

/THE SECTION .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 29 -

THE SECTION IS PART OF A 12-KILOMETRE-LONG HIGH-CAPACITY TRUNK ROAD FROM FAN KAM ROAD TO AU TAU, RUNNING ALONG THE ALIGNMENT OF THE EXISTING CASTLE PEAK ROAD THROUGH KWU TUNG, SAN TIN, MAI PO AND SAN WAI.

THE FIVE-PHASE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$1.3 BILLION.

PHASE I, FROM FAN KAM ROAD TO PAK SHEK AU, WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC LAST APRIL.

PHASE II, FROM PAK SHEK AU TO MAI PO, IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY LATE 1988.

WORK ON PHASE III WILL COMMENCE LATER THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1989.

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE IV, FROM FAIRVIEW PARK TO AU TAU, AND PHASE V, THE AU TAU BYPASS, ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN 1988 AND 1989 FOR COMPLETION BY EARLY 1990 AND LATER 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

UPON FULL COMPLETION, THE PROJECT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE CONGESTION ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND BECOME PART OF A DIRECT ROUTE FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA VIA THE BORDER CROSSING AT LOK MA CHAU. THIS IS NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AND IS DUE FOR COMPLETION AT THE SAME TIME AS PHASE II WORK.

PHASE III WILL INITIALLY BE A FOUR-KILOMETRE-LONG DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH A TWO-WAY SERVICE ROAD ON EACH SIDE. ADDITIONAL LANES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT A LATER DATE TO WIDEN THE CARRIAGEWAY TO DUAL THREE-LANE.

GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGES WILL BE BUILT AT SAN TIN, MAI PO AND FAIRVIEW PARK. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED AT WAI TSAI, YAU MEI SAN TSUEN, CHUK YUEN AND SAN WAI.

OTHER ASSOCIATED WORK WILL INCLUDE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, LANDSCAPING AND ROAD LIGHTING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR TO BE PATRON OF SIR EDWARD YOUDE FUND

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO BE THE PATRON OF THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND, MR PETER POON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FUND, MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL INVITED THE GOVERNOR TO BE THE FUND'S PATRON.

/MR POON .....

MR POON WAS SPEAKING AT A CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY THIS MORNING AT THE ANTE CHAMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, WHERE HE RECEIVED A DONATION OF \$50,000 FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG WATCH MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, MR GORDON CHOW.

HE THANKED MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FUND AS WELL AS ITS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATCH INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

MR POON NOTED THAT THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE FUND NOW STOOD AT \$84 MILLION INCLUDING INTEREST EARNED.

"THE BOARD STILL LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS, AND DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OR TREASURY OFFICE, AS WELL AS AT ANY BRANCHES OF THE HONG KONG BANK, THE HANG SENG BANK AND THE HANG LUNG BANK," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### NEW SERVICE TO CURB RABIES OUTBREAKS

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW "INOCULATION SERVICE ON WHEELS" WAS TODAY (THURSDAY) LAUNCHED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO REINFORCE ITS RABIES CONTROL WORK IN THE RABIES INFECTED AREA OF KAM TIN AND PAT HEUNG.

CONDUCTED BY SIX TRAINED INOCULATORS IN THREE TEAMS EQUIPPED WITH MOTORCYCLES, THE NEW MOBILE SERVICE WILL INITIALLY COVER VILLAGES ON THE OUTSKIRT OF THE RABIES INFECTED AREA.

IN TODAY'S INAUGURAL OPERATION, THE TEAMS VISITED TUNG SHING LEI, YEUNG UK TSUEN AND SHAM CHUNG TO BRING THE INOCULATION SERVICE TO THE DOOR STEPS OF VILLAGERS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER, DR NORMAN CHENG, SAID THIS WAS A NEW MEASURE AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AN IMMUNITY BARRIER AROUND THE RABIES INFECTED AREA TO PREVENT THE DISEASE FROM FURTHER SPREADING.

HE SAID THE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW SERVICE WAS ITS CAPABILITY TO PENETRATE REMOTE RURAL VILLAGES WHICH ARE OTHERWISE INACCESSIBLE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DOG VANS.

"WITH THE FULL SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE VILLAGERS, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO BOOST THE IMMUNITY OF DOGS AROUND THE RABIES INFECTED AREA.

"TOGETHER WITH OUR INTENSIFIED STRAY SWEEPING OPERATIONS AND HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR UNLICENSED ANIMALS, THERE IS EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PUT THE DISEASE WELL UNDER CONTROL," DR CHENG ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 31 -

600 YOUTHS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

\* \* \* \* \*

SOME 600 YOUTHS AND STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVING PROJECTS IN TSUEN WAN TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE PROJECTS AND SOME 400 ORGANISED ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME ARE GEARED TO THE THEME OF 'SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY'.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON THE PODIUM OF LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN NEAR TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AT 9.30 AM.

OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY INCLUDE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE 600-STRONG YOUTH WORKERS INCLUDING STUDENTS, SCOUTS AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS WILL CARRY OUT THEIR DESIGNATED SERVICE OF THE DAY.

THESE INCLUDE TENDING TO THE AGED AND THE HANDICAPPED, AND CLEANING AND BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE DAY'S PROJECT, THEY WILL GATHER FOR A REPORT BACK SESSION AND TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE ASSIGNMENTS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE TSUEN WAN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO BE HELD ON THE PODIUM OF LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN (NEAR THE LIU PO SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE) AT TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/32 .....

## DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICT TABULATIONS PUBLISHED

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING THE ISSUE, IN MAY 1987, OF THE THREE REPORTS ON THE 1986 BY-CENSUS PROVIDING SUMMARY TABLES OF CENSUS DATA AT THE TERTIARY PLANNING UNIT LEVEL, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED 19 FURTHER REPORTS, (ONE FOR EACH DISTRICT) GIVING DETAILED CROSS-TABULATIONS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

THESE REPORTS, ENTITLED "HONG KONG 1986 BY-CENSUS-DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICT TABULATIONS", DESCRIBE THE BROAD RANGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG.

THE CROSS-TABULATIONS CONTAINED IN EACH OF THE REPORTS COVER SUCH DETAILED INFORMATION AS HOUSEHOLD SIZE, HOUSEHOLD RENT, HOUSEHOLD INCOME, HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, AGE AND SEX, MARITAL STATUS, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITY STATUS. MAPS SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICTS ARE ATTACHED TO EACH OF THE REPORTS.

"THE DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICT TABULATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE USEFUL, COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE POPULATION OF EACH DISTRICT BOARD DISTRICT," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID.

"DETAILED ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE BY-CENSUS RESULTS ARE NOT ATTEMPTED IN THESE REPORTS. THIS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE MAIN REPORT ON THE BY-CENSUS TO BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR."

THE 19 REPORTS ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## CARNIVAL FOR THOUSANDS ON SUNDAY

\* \* \* \* \*

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL BE ENJOYING A FUN-CUM-CHARITY DAY AT THE VICTORIA PARK THIS SUNDAY (JULY 18).

THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND THE LIONS CLUB OF MOUNT CAMERON, HONG KONG, AS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY CURRENTLY UNDER WAY.

ANNOUNCING THE CARNIVAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ASSISTANT CHIEF POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, MR HARRY RAZACK, SAID VISITORS TO THE CARNIVAL WOULD BE ENTERTAINED TO A COMPREHENSIVE WHOLE-DAY PROGRAMME.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 33 -

"SOME 60 STALLS WILL BE ERECTED ON THE FOOTBALL PITCHES IN THE PARK FEATURING GAMES, DISPLAYS AND A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENTS.

"THE STALL GAMES ARE DESIGNED BY JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS, MANY OF WHICH CARRYING THE THEME OF FILIAL PIETY AND ATTRACTIVE PRIZES.

"DISC JOCKEYS FROM THE RADIO TELEVISION OF HONG KONG AND COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL HOST PLAY-ON-REQUEST CHARITY PROGRAMMES, AND THERE WILL ALSO BE LIVE PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR SINGERS.

"ANOTHER ATTRACTION WILL BE PALM-READING BY A FAMOUS FORTUNE-TELLER. ALSO, THERE WILL BE SOUVENIRS, T-SHIRTS, MAGAZINES AND OTHER PETTY ITEMS ON SALES. ALL ARE FOR CHARITY."

MR RAZACK SAID THE CARNIVAL FORMED THE SECOND PHASE OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE FILIAL PIETY CAMPAIGN. THE SINGING, DRAMA AND TALENT QUEST COMPETITIONS AMONG JPC SCHOOL CLUBS HAVE NOW ENTERED INTO THE FINAL STAGE; AND THE THIRD PHASE WOULD SEE THE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIOS TO OLD PEOPLE IN TIME FOR A CHINESE OPERATIC SONG NIGHT SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO SENIOR CITIZENS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

"MORE THAN 20 000 RADIOS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AND THE DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE, BY MEMBERS OF JPC AND THE LIONS CLUB OF MOUNT CAMERON, HONG KONG, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH."

AND THE MONEY RAISED IN THE CARNIVAL WOULD BE USED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS, HE SAID.

WHILE THANKING VARIOUS PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS LOCAL GROUPS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE CAMPAIGN, MR RAZACK CALLED ON YOUNG PEOPLE TO BRING THEIR PARENTS AND ELDERLY RELATIVES TO THE CARNIVAL TO HAVE A DAY OF FUN. ADMISSION IS FREE.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, MR TAM WING-KUN, ONE OF THE CAMPAIGN CHAIRMEN, SAID: "IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING BACKING BY THE COMMUNITY, WE ARE CONSIDERING EXTENDING THE CAMPAIGN BY HOLDING MORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ELDERLY PEOPLE."

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND THE LIONS CLUB OF MOUNT CAMERON, HONG KONG, WITH AN AIM TO ENHANCE THE AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARDS RESPECTING AND CARING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.

ALSO ATTENDING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE MR PETER LEUNG OF THE LIONS CLUB, MISS AGNES TANG OF RTHK, MR CHOW CHUNG OF COMMERCIAL RADIO, AND MR WILLIAM KWAN OF POLYGRAM RECORDS LIMITED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/34 .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 34 -

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS ON AGENDA  
\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE WORKS PROGRESS OF THE MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (MEI) PROJECT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED \$520,000 FOR CARRYING OUT MEI WORKS IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SITTING-OUT-AREAS AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES IN SQUATTER AREAS.

PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE INSTALLATION OF WATER SUPPLY TO WESTERN TSUEN WAN AND MA WAN WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION.

QUESTION ON IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE RAISED IN THE MEETING.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEMINAR ON CAREERS IN FREIGHT INDUSTRY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT AND PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A SEMINAR FOR CAREERS MASTERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON SATURDAY (JULY 18).

THE SEMINAR ON CAREERS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INDUSTRIES WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM AT ASSEMBLY HALL OF HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT 702 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, KOWLOON.

EXPERTS FROM THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY, AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY AND WAREHOUSING HAVE BEEN INVITED TO GIVE TALKS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRY. THERE WILL ALSO BE A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. ADMISSION TO THE SEMINAR IS FREE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 35 -

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

THEY INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF PLANTS IN THE FLOWER BEDS ADJACENT TO THE JORDAN ROAD VEHICULAR FERRY PIER, BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT THE RETAINING WALL OF KOWLOON PARK DRIVE AND PROVISION OF PROTOTYPE RAIN SHELTER IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE AN INFORMATION PAPER ON THE PRIVATE STREET RESUMPTION PROGRAMME TO BE CARRIED OUT IN YAU MA TEI IN 1987-88.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FOOTBRIDGE TO OPEN

\* \* \* \* \*

A COVERED FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM AT THE HEART OF WAN CHAI WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MRS PEGGY LAM AND MR ARTHUR CHAM, TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE FOOTBRIDGE, COSTING \$7.5 MILLION, SPANS QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND QUEENSWAY, AND GOES ACROSS ARSENAL STREET AND HENNESSY ROAD.

IT WILL PROMOTE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ALLOW UNINTERRUPTED TRAFFIC FLOW ALONG THESE ROADS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT MONMOUTH PARK AT THE JUNCTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND MONMOUTH PATH, WAN CHAI, AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/36 .....

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987

- 36 -

PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE IN PAK SHA WAN

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PAK SHA WAN CAR PARK OFF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 18).

NO PLB WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CAR PARK ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -