



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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\$20 M SPENT ON IMPROVING LICENSED AREAS

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS SPENT ABOUT \$20 MILLION OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IN IMPROVING THE OLDER LICENSED AREAS AND BUILDING NEW ONES TO MUCH HIGHER STANDARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE, HE SAID THAT OF THE 25 OLD-STYLE LICENSED AREAS, 15 HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A PROPER ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, LEAVING TEN OLD AREAS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN A SUPPLY UP TO NOW BECAUSE IT WAS HOPED THAT SUFFICIENT PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO REHOUSE THE OCCUPANTS IN THE COMING YEAR.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS CONSTANTLY CONSIDERING WHAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT REASONABLY BE PROVIDED IN LICENSED AREAS AND WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDERING THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING MAINS WATER FLUSHING IN THE TOILET BLOCKS IN THESE AREAS.

AS TO THE HONG NING ROAD LICENSED AREA, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID IT WAS ONE OF THE TEN MARK I AREAS TO BE CLEARED INTO PUBLIC HOUSING DURING THE COMING YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE EXACT TIMETABLE MUST DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S OTHER COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING CLEARANCES FOR PUBLIC WORKS WHICH MUST HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY.

+AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT THESE PLANS CAN BE UPSET BY SUDDEN EMERGENCIES WHICH MIGHT LEAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF FAMILIES IN NEED OF HOUSING AT SHORT NOTICE.+

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THAT SUBJECT TO THESE RESERVATIONS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD SHORTLY BE ASKED TO AGREE THE CLEARANCE OF THESE MARK I LICENSED AREAS NEXT YEAR.

ONCE THE TIMETABLE HAD BEEN FINALISED LATER THIS YEAR, HE ADDED, EACH LICENSED AREA WOULD BE GIVEN THREE MONTHS' NOTICE OF CLEARANCE.

BUT HE EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD PRACTICE TO SUGGEST CLEARANCE DATES TOO FAR IN ADVANCE, SINCE ALL SORTS OF FACTORS COULD INTERVENE TO UPSET SUCH CALCULATIONS.

MR. LIGHTBODY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE COULD BE NO GUARANTEE THAT RESIDENTS OF THE NEW-STYLE LICENSED AREAS COULD NECESSARILY EXPECT TO BE ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING AFTER ANY PARTICULAR NUMBER OF YEARS' RESIDENCE.

/EARLIER,

EARLIER, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING ALL THE OLDER TYPE LICENSED AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE MARK I TYPE, UP TO THE SAME STANDARDS AS THOSE MORE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED.

IN MAKING THE CALL, DR. CHUNG SAID HE VISITED THE HONG NING ROAD LICENSED AREA, KWUN TONG THE DAY BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE LIVING CONDITIONS AND THE LACK OF ANY FIRM NEWS REGARDING THEIR DATE OF REHOUSING.

HE SAID THE RESIDENTS HAD BEEN THERE SINCE MAY 1972.

AS THE NORMAL PERIOD FOR THE RESIDENTS OF A LICENSED AREA TO BE REHOUSED WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS, IT SEEMED UNSATISFACTORY THAT THEY STILL DID NOT KNOW WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT THE FUTURE HELD IN STORE FOR THEM, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA, DR. CHUNG SAID THAT APART FROM THE DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF THE STRUCTURES THERE AND THE LACK OF AUTHORISED ELECTRICITY AND RETICULATED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, IT ALSO CAME TO HIS ATTENTION DURING HIS VISIT THAT THE PROVISION OF LATRINE AND WASHING FACILITIES WAS MINIMAL.

DR. CHUNG SAID HE HAD BEEN TO SOME OF THE OTHER MARK I LICENSED AREAS SUCH AS MA TSAI HANG, EX-RIFLE RANGE AND KOWLOON BAY EAST BUT ADDED THAT THE CONDITIONS OF THOSE AREAS WERE AS BAD AS THOSE IN THE HONG NING ROAD AREA.

+IT SEEMS DEPLORABLE IN THIS DAY AND AGE THAT CAMPS MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT TO ACCOMMODATE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE SO PRIMITIVE. THEY ARE AN AFFRONT TO HUMAN DIGNITY AND THEY FALL FAR SHORT OF EVEN THE MINIMUM STANDARDS WHICH COULD PROPERLY BE EXPECTED,+ HE SAID.

JOINING HER SENIOR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUE IN HIS APPEAL, THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH SAID THAT DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE HONG NING ROAD LICENSED AREA SHE FOUND THERE WERE ONLY 16 LATRINES AND THE SAME NUMBER OF BATHROOMS FOR 320 FAMILIES, COMPRISING 1,433 PEOPLE.

SHE SAID THIS PROVED TO BE VERY UNCOMFORTABLE AND INCONVENIENT TO THE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY DURING THE +RUSH HOURS.+

ON FIRE RISKS, MISS KO SAID THERE WERE ONLY THREE FIRE HYDRANTS IN THE ENTIRE AREA.

SHE HOPED THAT FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES WOULD SOON BE IMPROVED AS THERE WAS AN AVERAGE OF 30 SMALL FIRES EACH MONTH, MAINLY BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL ELECTRICAL WIRING AND HIGH LOAD OF VOLTAGE.

MISS KO ALSO MENTIONED +A SERIOUS LACK OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES+ IN LICENSED AREAS.

SHE URGED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO RENDER MORE SERVICES TO THESE AREAS, ESPECIALLY THE OLD TYPE AREAS, ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS.

MISS KO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE THE AGENCIES MORE SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE.

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TALK ABOUT +RIVAL+ POLICE FORCE REFUTED

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, TODAY REFUTED RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ORDINANCE WOULD CREATE A +SECOND+ OR +RIVAL+ POLICE FORCE.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, HE SAID THE ICAC HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS AND SOME EXPERIENCE OF ITS PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS WAS GAINED.

MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT THE AMENDMENTS EMBODIED IN THE BILL WERE SIMPLY THE RESULTS OF THAT EXPERIENCE.

+THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY OF A ROUTINE AND PRACTICAL NATURE. THERE IS NOTHING EXCEPTIONAL OR UNPRECEDENTED ABOUT THEM,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT THE COMMISSION'S CHARTER REQUIRED IT TO INVESTIGATE CASES OF CORRUPTION. THIS WAS ITS ONLY TARGET.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF SOME LOOSE TALK ABOUT A +SECOND+ OR +RIVAL+ POLICE FORCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL EMPHASISED WHAT HE CALLED A SOMEWHAT OBVIOUS POINT THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NOT INITIATED, AND IT WOULD NOT IN FUTURE INITIATE, AN INVESTIGATION UNLESS AT THE OUTSET THERE WAS REASONABLE GROUND TO SUSPECT CORRUPTION.

TURNING TO THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION AT THIS POINT IN TIME WAS TO DO NO MORE THAN MAKE SUCH LIMITED PROVISION AS SEEMED NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED EFFECTIVE, INDEPENDENT OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION.

+A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THE PROPOSAL THAT OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE ABLE THEMSELVES TO RELEASE AN ARRESTED PERSON ON BAIL WHERE FURTHER INQUIRIES ARE NECESSARY, INSTEAD OF TAKING HIM, AS THEY NOW MUST, TO A POLICE STATION SO THAT HE MAY BE PLACED ON POLICE BAIL,+ HE SAID.

+ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE PROPOSED POWER TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AND FINGERPRINTS OF PEOPLE ARRESTED BY OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION.+

THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCED THREE NEW OFFENCES — RESISTING OR OBSTRUCTING AN ICAC OFFICER IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY— KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE REPORT TO AN ICAC OFFICER OR MISLEADING HIM BY FALSE INFORMATION OR STATEMENTS, AND FALSELY PRETENDING TO BE, OR TO HAVE THE POWERS OF AN ICAC OFFICER.

/MR. HOBLEY

MR. HOBLEY SAID THE SUCCESSFUL INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF A CORRUPTION OFFENCE OFTEN INVOLVED INQUIRING INTO OTHER OFFENCES WHICH PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION.

HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD, HOWEVER, NEVER PURSUE ITS INQUIRY INTO RELATED OFFENCES TO ANY GREATER EXTENT THAN WAS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE CROWN TO PUT BEFORE THE COURTS THE FULL PICTURE OF THE CORRUPTION INVOLVED IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 DESIGNED MORE EFFECTIVELY TO PREVENT CORRUPT OFFICERS FROM MAKING OFF WITH THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.

UNDER THE BILL IT WAS PROPOSED THAT A NOTICE OR ORDER UNDER THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE RESTRAINING A SUSPECT OR A THIRD PARTY FROM DEALING WITH PROPERTY MAY BE SERVED IN ANY WAY AUTHORISED BY THE DISTRICT COURT.

IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT ALL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A MAGISTRATE IN RELATION TO THE SURRENDER OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BE HEARD IN CHAMBERS.

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POLICY ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES STATED
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SITES IN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES ARE MAINLY INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT OPERATE IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS AND WHICH HAVE THEREFORE FOUND IT EITHER VERY DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID : +IT IS EXPECTED THAT SUCH INDUSTRIES WILL IN MOST CASES BE NEW TO HONG KONG, MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE, AND TECHNOLOGICALLY MORE ADVANCED THAN SOME OF OUR EXISTING INDUSTRIES.+

FIRMS WISHING TO TAKE UP SITES IN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, HE ADDED, WOULD HAVE TO CONFORM WITH THE USUAL REQUIREMENTS WITH REGARD TO SUCH MATTERS AS THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, FIRE SAFETY AND POLLUTION.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT INTENTION TO LAY DOWN A LIST OF SPECIFIED PRIORITY INDUSTRIES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE +OF MOST IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG+.

HE SAID OF COURSE CERTAIN TYPES OF INDUSTRY MIGHT BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE THEY WERE DANGEROUS OR OBNOXIOUS. IF THE ESTATES WERE OVER-SUBSCRIBED, +SOME METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF SITES WILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT.+

+IN THAT CASE, I DO NOT IMAGINE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXCLUDE THE USE OF SOME FORM OF RESTRICTED USER TENDERING PROCEDURE,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

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ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS WELL LOOKED AFTER

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE, HOME AFFAIRS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH OVER THE NEEDS OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS AND TO RENDER HELP UNTIL THEY ARE RESETTLED PERMANENTLY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. F.K. LI, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. LI SAID THAT ABOUT 3,200 PEOPLE FROM 580 FAMILIES WERE REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THE FIRE AT ALDRICH BAY ON FEBRUARY 1.

HE SAID THAT STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE, HOME AFFAIRS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENTS WERE AT THE SCENE SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT TO ASSIST WITH EMERGENCY FEEDING AND ACCOMMODATION.

+BLANKETS, QUILTS, WARM CLOTHING, COOKING AND EATING UTENSILS AND TOILET ARTICLES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE VICTIMS, HOT MEALS PROVIDED AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED AT THE SALESIAN SCHOOL WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE HEADMASTER,+ MR. LI SAID.

CASH ASSISTANCE OF \$20 PER PERSON WAS IMMEDIATELY MADE TO THE VICTIMS FROM THE SING TAO FAT CHOI FUND. THE COMMUNITY YOUTH OFFICER MOBILISED VOLUNTEERS TO ORGANISE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUNG VICTIMS DURING THEIR BRIEF STAY AT THE SCHOOL.

MR. LI SAID: +THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MEALS TO THOSE WHO ARE AWAITING COMPLETION OF THE HING WAH ESTATE AND WHO ARE BEING ACCOMMODATED TEMPORARILY AT THE CHATHAM ROAD CAMP, THE CHAI WAN TRANSIT CENTRE, AND THE PREMISES OF THE SHAUKIWAN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION.+

UP TO YESTERDAY, HE SAID, A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$4 MILLION HAD BEEN RAISED.

DONATIONS SO FAR RECEIVED BY THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND FOR THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT HALF A MILLION DOLLARS.

MR. LI SAID THAT EACH VICTIM WAS GIVEN \$100 ON FEBRUARY 5 OUT OF THE DONATIONS THEN RECEIVED.

IN ADDITION ABOUT \$170,000 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR GRANTS TO COVER RE-ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER INCIDENTAL EXPENSES UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

HE SAID THAT SOME SPONSORS AND DONORS PREFERRED TO MAKE PAYMENTS DIRECT TO THE FIRE VICTIMS, INSTEAD OF THROUGH THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, AND \$300 PER PERSON WAS SO DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY.

/FURTHER CASH

FURTHER CASH DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MISS KO ON REHOUSING THE FIRE VICTIMS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, SAID ALL THE ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN WAS BEING TAKEN TO REHOUSE THE VICTIMS WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY.

HE SAID THE GREAT MAJORITY (ALMOST 400 FAMILIES) HAD EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE NEW HING WAH ESTATE, WHICH IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAD SELECTED TWO BLOCKS OF FLATS FOR EARLY COMPLETION, WITH WORK PROCEEDING ON AN OVERTIME BASIS.

+IF ALL GOES WELL, AND NO UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES EMERGE (REMEMBERING THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS CUTTING MANY CORNERS IN THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION), PRE-LETTING INTERVIEWS WITH APPLICANTS WILL START ON FEBRUARY 23 AND ALL SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS,+ MR. LIGHTBODY SAID.

REFERRING TO THE VICTIMS, HE SAID ALMOST 40 FAMILIES HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED PUBLIC FLATS IN KOWLOON AND KWAI CHUNG, AND 70-ODD FAMILIES HAD BEEN ALLOCATED SPACE AT THE NEW CHAI WAN LICENSED AREA, WHERE PART-BUILT STRUCTURES WERE PROVIDED.

ENQUIRIES ARE STILL PROCEEDING INTO ABOUT 20 CASES, WHILE 30-ODD FAMILIES WHICH WERE REGISTERED INITIALLY HAVE SINCE FAILED TO APPEAR.

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CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN LAI CHI KOK ROAD
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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN LAI CHI KOK ROAD BETWEEN TONG MI ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AT 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 13).

NO VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. AND 7 P.M. ON THIS STRETCH OF ROAD, INCLUDING PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS OR LOADING AND UNLOADING GOODS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO SHOW WHERE THE CLEARWAY BEGINS AND ENDS.

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TRADE GROUPS URGED TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN TRAINING

MAJOR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WERE TODAY URGED TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE TRAINING OF SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDED TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS IN THE WORLD MARKET.

MR. HORACE KNIGHT, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (INDUSTRIAL TRAINING), SAID THAT INDUSTRY-WIDE APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHEMES WERE NECESSARY IF HONG KONG'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES WERE TO BE ASSURED OF AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED MANPOWER.

HE WAS ADDRESSING 30 TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES, THEIR GUARDIANS AND EMPLOYERS AT A CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY HELD AT THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ELECTROPLATING TRADE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION. ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN, MR. AU WAH, THE CHAIRMAN, MR. LEE FOON, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

MR. KNIGHT SAID THAT THE PRESENT SCHEME WAS THE RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION, THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+ITS OBJECTIVE IS NOT ONLY TO ALLEVIATE THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS IN THE ELECTROPLATING INDUSTRY BUT ALSO, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO TRAIN A NEW GENERATION OF TECHNICIANS WELL VERSED IN BOTH THEORY AND PRACTICE.

+BY TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO WORK WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE POLYTECHNIC IN IMPROVING THE EXISTING SITUATION THE ASSOCIATION HAS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW,+ HE SAID.

THIS SCHEME WILL ENABLE THE APPRENTICES TO RECEIVE BOTH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN THE WORK SITUATION AND RELATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN ELECTROPLATING TECHNOLOGY ON A PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE BASIS AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

HE TOLD THE APPRENTICES THAT THE ELECTROPLATING INDUSTRY WAS A VITALLY IMPORTANT SERVICE INDUSTRY ON WHICH MANY OTHER INDUSTRIES DEPENDED.

— ON COMPLETING THEIR TRAINING, THEY WOULD BECOME TECHNICIANS — WELL ABLE TO KEEP ABREAST WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES.

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AMENDMENTS TO BILLS TO BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT CHANGES WOULD BE INTRODUCED IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE PROPOSED COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS TO BILLS READILY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. T.S. LO WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER REVISING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO A BILL, THUS ALLOWING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THOSE AMENDMENTS BEFORE THE AMENDED BILL WAS PASSED.

+THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES COPIES OF ALL NOTICES OF COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS AND THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE NEWS MEDIA.

+COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE, AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE, AT HIS OFFICE FOR ANY INTERESTED MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

MR. HOBLEY EXPLAINED THAT NOTICE OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS WAS GENERALLY GIVEN FIVE OR SIX DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT WHICH THEY WERE TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT SHORTER NOTICE HAD SOMETIMES TO BE GIVEN.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT PROCEDURES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR DEALING WITH AMENDMENTS TO BILLS OUGHT NOT TO BE CHANGED.

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OTHER USES FOR TUBERCULOSIS BEDS

AS A RESULT OF THE STEADY DECLINE IN THE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS, +IT WOULD SEEM INEVITABLE THAT SOME TUBERCULOSIS BEDS WILL BE USED FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSES,+ THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, HE SAID: +GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ACQUIRING BEDS IN THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL ON A SUBVENTION BASIS OF PAYING THE COST PER BED PER DAY SO AS TO GIVE FREE TREATMENT TO TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

+IT THUS FOLLOWS THAT SOME OTHER SUBVENTION METHOD WILL HAVE TO BE APPLIED IF THE BEDS ARE TO BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

+HOWEVER IT IS PREMATURE TO PREDICT WHETHER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE CHANGED OR NOT AND WHEN WILL THE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS BE INTRODUCED.+

HE SAID TWO EXPERTS FROM BRITAIN HAD COMPLETED A REPORT ON THE PLANNING AND METHODS OF CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS IN HONG KONG AND A WORKING PARTY WAS NOW STUDYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM DR. FANG, DR. CHOA SAID THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT IN THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL WAS AT PRESENT NOT MAINTAINING ITS TARGET NUMBER OF 16 BEDS BECAUSE OF STAFF SHORTAGES.

AT ONE TIME, THE UNIT COULD PROVIDE ALL THE BEDS BECAUSE ADDITIONAL NURSES FROM PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WERE POSTED IN BATCHES TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL FOR TRAINING.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOSPITAL, SOME OF THESE SUPERNUMERARY NURSES WERE TRANSFERRED TO THAT HOSPITAL WHERE THEY WERE URGENTLY REQUIRED, SO THAT PRESENTLY THE NUMBER OF BEDS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WAS 12, DR. CHOA SAID.

+THE NEED TO OPEN ALL THE BEDS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WILL BE FULLY BORNE IN MIND AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAINST DESERVING CLAIMS FROM OTHER AREAS OF THE DEPARTMENT WHEN ADDITIONAL STAFF BECOME AVAILABLE EITHER BY RECRUITMENT OR BY REDEPLOYMENT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

+HOWEVER IT IS HOPED THAT THE NUMBER OF BEDS IN THE UNIT WILL BE BROUGHT UP TO 16 AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

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NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL: AGREEMENT IN SIGHT

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL ARE EXPECTED TO BE AGREED ON SOON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND A PRIVATE DEVELOPER.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE HON. ROGER LOBO ASKED THE QUESTION ON BEHALF OF MR. CHEUNG, WHO WAS ABSENT.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY IN BROAD AGREEMENT WITH THE DEVELOPER REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TERMINAL, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT A COMMERCIAL BUILDING ABOVE IT.

+IT IS, HOWEVER, A COMPLICATED PROJECT WHICH HAS TO BE DESIGNED SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE FLOW OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THROUGH THE TERMINAL, THEIR RAPID CLEARANCE THROUGH IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FORMALITIES, AND THE BERTHING OF THE VESSELS, CAN CONTINUE WITH MINIMUM INTERFERENCE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.+

THE BASIC PLAN WAS THEREFORE TAKING SOME TIME TO PRODUCE, AND ONLY WHEN IT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS BEING OPERATIONALLY VIABLE WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR A FORMAL AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE COMPANY, MR. ROBSON SAID.

THE LATEST PLANS PRODUCED BY THE COMPANY, HE ADDED, WERE VERY PROMISING AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

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MAC'S ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE PATROLS

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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROL UNITS IS TO ENCOURAGE MAC'S TO DEVELOP PATROLS AT THEIR OWN PACE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING SUPERVISION AND TRAINING, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. DAVIS SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE POSITIVE AND USEFUL ROLE PLAYED BY NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY PATROLS OPERATED BY MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME. TO PLAY THEIR PART THESE PATROLS REQUIRE TO BE WELL DISCIPLINED AND SOUNDLY ORGANISED. TO THIS END THE PATROLS ARE REGISTERED WITH CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND MAINTAIN RECORDS ON LINES ADVISED BY THE POLICE.

+THE POLICE AND THEIR COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS AND CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE PATROLS AND OFFER ADVICE, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION. THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT RUNS COURSES AIMED AT INSTRUCTING MAC AND PATROL MEMBERS IN THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.+

HE DISCLOSED THAT THERE WERE 155 SUCH PATROLS WHICH CONFINED THEMSELVES MAINLY TO PATROLLING IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS, GENERALLY IN THE INTERNAL CORRIDORS AND STAIRCASES.

THEY PROVIDED A DETERRENT, PARTICULARLY DURING THEIR MAIN HOURS OF OPERATIONS AT NIGHT, AND THEY ALSO HELPED TO MAKE ARRESTS AND APPREHEND SUSPECTS, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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CENTRAL CONTROL OF REVENUE-EARNING DEPARTMENTS FAVOURED
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CENTRAL CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE-EARNING ESTABLISHMENTS ALLOWS FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF LIMITED FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, AND KEEPS THE OVERHEADS OF THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED LOW, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ALEX WU WHO WANTED TO KNOW THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING AS SEPARATE CORPORATIONS ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY, KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE WATERWORKS OFFICE.

+BASICALLY THE SMALL SIZE OF HONG KONG AND ITS CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE DO NOT DICTATE DECENTRALISATION,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

TO SPLIT OFF THE ESTABLISHMENTS AND TO PLACE THEM UNDER STATUTORY BODIES WITH THEIR OWN SOURCES OF REVENUE WOULD ONLY REDUCE THE FLEXIBILITY AND INCREASE THEIR OVERHEADS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +THE OTHER ADVANTAGES OF MAINTAINING A CENTRALISED SYSTEM ARE: FIRST, THAT IT ENABLES THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG TO BE PLANNED AS A WHOLE- SECOND, THAT OVERALL PRIORITIES CAN BE PROPERLY DETERMINED AND THIRD, THAT IT ENSURES THE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF STANDARDS.+

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FACTORIES IN NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS : GOV'T WINS SUPPORT

LEGISLATION THAT GENERALLY PROHIBITS THE SETTING UP OF FACTORIES IN NEW NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE UNOFFICIALS ALSO AGREED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PHASED PROGRAMME TO REMOVE ALL DANGEROUS AND OBNOXIOUS FACTORIES FROM EXISTING NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS. EXCEPT WHERE THE RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY IS INTOLERABLE, THIS PROGRAMME ALLOWS FOR A GRACE PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FOR SUCH UNDERTAKINGS TO FIND SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE PREMISES.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIALS IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, THE HON. JAMES WU SAID THAT FOR INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WHICH WERE NEITHER DANGEROUS NOR OBNOXIOUS, THE UNOFFICIALS CONSIDERED THAT NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL THE OVERALL PROBLEM HAD BEEN FULLY IDENTIFIED AND THEY HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

THE UNOFFICIALS ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE A SIMPLE GLOSSARY OF THE DEFINITIONS AND TERMS USED IN THE LEGISLATION, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

MR. WU SAID THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT INCURRED A COST, +THERE IS LITTLE WISDOM TO GO FOR EXTREMES OR ABSOLUTISM AT COSTS THAT WE CAN ILL-AFFORD.+

+THE LOGICAL AND EXPEDIENT SOLUTION WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO WEIGH THE GAINS OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE COST, BEARING IN MIND THE OVERALL PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE NEED TO WIN PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING IF NOT AUSPICES.

+GOVERNMENT IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON FOLLOWING THIS APPROACH,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD BEEN SPARED THE MORE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS, CONSIDERING ITS FANTASTIC INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AS THE ACTIVITIES HERE WERE MAINLY LIGHT INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RISKS AND EFFECTS OF FIRE AND ANY POLLUTION WERE VERY MUCH MAGNIFIED DUE TO CONGESTION AND PROXIMITY OF FACTORIES TO RESIDENTIAL PREMISES.

+GIVEN IMAGINATION, ENTERPRISE AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, I FEEL SURE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WILL BE FORTHCOMING,+ HE SAID.

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO ANALYSE THE PROBLEM CAREFULLY, TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL, PROGRESSIVE APPROACH WITHOUT DISRUPTING THE ECONOMY, AND NOT TO TAKE ANY PREMATURE OR PRECIPITATE ACTION.

+ONE STEP THAT GOVERNMENT CAN CONSIDER NOW IS THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN THE URBAN AREAS FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPE OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS NOW OPERATING IN EXISTING NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS. SUCH ACCOMMODATION COULD BE BUILT EITHER BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE OR, IF NECESSARY, BY GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD QUANTIFIED THE PROBLEM AND WHAT COULD AND WOULD HAPPEN AFTER THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROGRAMME WAS COMPLETED.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID FUTURE ACTION AGAINST INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN EXISTING NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER REASONABLE MEANS COULD BE FOUND BY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL UNDERTAKINGS COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT +NO PREMATURE OR PRECIPITATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT UNTIL THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN CAREFULLY ANALYSED AND A PRACTICABLE APPROACH HAS BEEN WORKED OUT.+

REFERRING TO THE NEED TO PUBLICISE THE RULES AND DEFINITIONS TO WHICH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE WORKING DURING STAGE ONE OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION, MR. ROBSON SAID A PAMPHLET HAD BEEN PRODUCED.

COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREA AND DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

COPIES OF THE CHINESE VERSION ARE IN THE COURSE OF PRODUCTION AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST IN DISTRICT OFFICES WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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NEW RATE SET FOR TRAINING LEVY

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION SETTING THE RATE OF LEVY UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE 1975 AT 30 CENTS FOR EVERY \$1,000, OR PART THEREOF, OF THE F.O.B. (FREE ON BOARD) VALUE OF THE CLOTHING ITEMS EXPORTED.

IT ALSO APPROVED THE CANCELLATION OF A PREVIOUS RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING THE RATE OF LEVY AS 0.03 PER CENT OF THE F.O.B. VALUE.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN, SAID THAT THE PREVIOUS RATE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, IT WAS NOT MADE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR TO THE AUTHORITY BY THE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING THE LEVY THAT THIS RATE OF 0.03 PER CENT WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

MR. TIEN SAID THAT THE AD VALOREM CHARGES IMPOSED UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS WERE CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF SO MUCH PER \$1,000 OR PART THEREOF.

+IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE CONVENIENT IF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING LEVY, WHICH IS IN FACT COLLECTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE AD VALOREM CHARGES ON CLOTHING EXPORTS, WAS EXPRESSED IN A SIMILAR MANNER,+ HE ADDED.

MR. TIEN SAID IT WAS MUCH SIMPLER AND THEREFORE QUICKER, FOR THE SHROFFS TO MAKE THE CALCULATION AT 30 CENTS PER \$1,000 AND ALSO LESS CONFUSING TO THE PUBLIC WHICH WAS ACCUSTOMED TO THIS FORM OF CALCULATION.

+AND BECAUSE CALCULATION OF THE LEVY IS SIMPLIFIED, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF ITS COLLECTION, WHICH ARE DEBITED TO THE AUTHORITY, ARE MINIMISED, THEREBY ENSURING THAT AS GREAT A PART AS POSSIBLE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LEVY CAN BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FOR WHICH THEY ARE INTENDED,+ HE ADDED.

+FURTHERMORE, AND EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT, THE PUBLIC WILL SPEND LESS TIME QUEUING AT THE COLLECTION COUNTERS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY BUSY AS TRADE IMPROVES.+

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REVISED FARES FOR FERRY SERVICES TO
OUTLYING DISTRICTS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION ENABLING THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO INTRODUCE A REVISED FARE STRUCTURE FOR ITS PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES TO VARIOUS OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THE REVISION AROSE FROM A RE-ORGANISATION OF CERTAIN EXISTING SERVICES.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID THE COMPANY'S PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES TO VARIOUS ISLANDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES PROVIDED THE MAJOR FORM OF TRANSPORT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

IN EARLY 1975, HE SAID, THE COMPANY WAS ASKED TO INCLUDE HEI LING CHAU IN ITS INTER-ISLAND FERRY SERVICE TO SERVE THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE THERE.

IN AGREEING TO THIS, MR. ROBSON SAID, THE COMPANY PROPOSED A RE-ORGANISATION OF ITS OUTLYING DISTRICT SERVICES.

UNDER THE RE-ORGANISATION, SOME DIRECT SERVICES WILL BE COMBINED INTO AN INDIRECT SERVICE. FARES ON SOME ROUTES WILL BE INCREASED TO MAKE THE EXPANDED SERVICE VIABLE.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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MTR : CEILING OF LOAN GUARANTEE INCREASED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A MOTION RAISING TO \$470 MILLION THE CEILING OF A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR A LOAN OF \$420 MILLION TO FINANCE LOCAL CONTRACTS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EMPHASISED THAT THE INCREASED GUARANTEE REQUESTED DID NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT AN INCREASE IN THE ESTIMATED COST, EITHER OF THIS ONE CONTRACT OR OF THE MASS TRANSIT PROJECT AS A WHOLE.

+IT SIMPLY MEANS,+ HE SAID, +THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IS CONTINUING ITS POLICY OF FINANCING LOCAL CONTRACTS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BY LOCAL BORROWING IN HONG KONG DOLLARS.+

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY RECALLED THAT ON OCTOBER 23 LAST YEAR HE WAS AUTHORISED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL TO GRANT CERTAIN GUARANTEES IN RESPECT OF THE REPAYMENT OF LOANS AND OTHER INDEBTEDNESS INCURRED BY THE MTR CORPORATION.

SINCE THEN, HE SAID, THE CORPORATION HAD LET ELEVEN OUT OF A TOTAL OF 25 CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM.

ON OCTOBER 22 HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE TOTAL SUM HE WAS SEEKING AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE WAS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT PRICES WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACCEPTED BY THE CORPORATION AFTER COMPLETION OF THE TENDER PROCEDURE.

HE EXPLAINED THEN THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS NOT YET KNOWN WHICH FIRMS FROM WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD ACTUALLY BE AWARDED CONTRACTS.

AMONG THE GUARANTEES AUTHORISED AT THAT TIME WAS ONE FOR A LOAN OF HK\$420 MILLION TO FINANCE LOCAL CONTRACTS.

+LOCAL CONTRACTS TO APPROXIMATELY THAT SUM HAVE NOW BEEN LET AND, IN ORDER TO FINANCE TWO FURTHER LOCAL CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF KOWLOON BAY STATION AND LINE SECTION AND A UTILITIES JETTY AT TSIM SHA TSUI, A FURTHER GUARANTEE WILL BE NEEDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL LOAN OF HK\$50 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

MR. HADDON-CAVE GAVE A WARNING THAT ON MARCH 1, THE CORPORATION INTENDED TO LET A FURTHER SEVEN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS AND THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT AT THAT STAGE IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE NECESSARY FURTHER TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 23, 1975 IN RESPECT OF INCREASED GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIER CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS.

/HE WOULD

HE WOULD PROPOSE, THEREFORE, TO INTRODUCE A FURTHER MOTION INTO THE COUNCIL ON MARCH 10 TO EFFECT THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE ARISING FROM THE LETTING OF THESE CONTRACTS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY RE-EMPHASISED THAT ANY SUCH CHANGES WOULD NOT INVOLVE ANY INCREASE IN THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM.

+INDEED, QUITE THE CONTRARY, AS I AM INFORMED BY THE CORPORATION THAT THE TOTAL COST OF THE CONTRACTS SO FAR LET REMAINS NICELY WITHIN THE ESTIMATES ASSUMED WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE IN SEPTEMBER LAST TO PROCEED WITH THE LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

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REGULATIONS ON PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY
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REGULATIONS WILL BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY AS A WHOLE, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE HON. GERALD CHOA, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. ALEX WU, WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO SPECIFY THE QUALITY OF CONTACT LENSES AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THOSE WHO FIT THEM.

DR. CHOA SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT REGULATIONS WERE BEING PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SEVEN PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE.

IT WAS HOPED THE REGULATIONS, WHEN IN COMPLETE FORM, WOULD PROVIDE A PATTERN ON WHICH THE REGULATIONS FOR THE OTHER PROFESSIONS COULD BE BASED.

+IT IS THE INTENTION TO PREPARED SEPARATE REGULATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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D C AND I OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR TALKS
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THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN AND MR. PETER TSAO, LEAVE FOR LONDON THIS WEEK TO ATTEND A LIAISON MEETING WITH HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVES OVERSEAS.

THE MEETING IS A ROUTINE ONE, AND THE DISCUSSIONS WILL COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS WHICH FALL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES. OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE MR. CLAUDE BURGESS OF THE BRUSSELS OFFICE, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS AND MR. GERRY PEARSON OF THE GENEVA OFFICE, MR. S.T. KIDD, THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER AND MR. STEWART WEBB-JOHNSON OF THE LONDON OFFICE.

MR. ALEC HERMANN, WHO REPRESENTS HONG KONG IN WASHINGTON AND WHO IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN LONDON, WILL ALSO ATTEND.

MR. JORDAN WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS VISIT TO HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS FROM THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY.

IN ADDITION TO ATTENDING THE LONDON MEETING, MR. TSAO WILL HAVE TALKS WITH EUROPEAN IMPORTING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING NORWAY AND AUSTRIA, TO FINALISE CERTAIN TEXTILE RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH WERE STARTED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

FROM LONDON MR. TSAO WILL GO TO OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WITH THE OFFICIALS THERE OUTSTANDING ISSUES CONCERNING EXPORTS OF MAN-MADE FIBRE FABRICS TO CANADA, AND T-SHIRTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

MR. TSAO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON THIS LATTER LEG OF HIS TRIP BY MR. BRIAN CHAU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF REGIONS OTHER THAN EUROPE.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1976

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\$230,000 RAISED FOR SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORY
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A SINGLE-STOREY GENERAL SCIENCE LABORATORY IS TO BE BUILT AT SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SCHOOL, SOO KUN PO, WITH \$230,000 RAISED BY THE HONG KONG INDIAN WOMEN'S CLUB.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE \$60,000 FOR FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.

A CHEQUE FOR THE CAPITAL COST OF THE BUILDING WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN WOMEN'S CLUB, MRS. KAMLA KAPAH, AT THIS GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 17 AT 4.30 P.M.

DURING THE CEREMONY, LADY KADOORIE WILL UNVEIL A PLAQUE FOR THE LABORATORY PROJECT.

SIR LAWRENCE KADOORIE WILL BE AMONG THE GUESTS INVITED BY THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SCHOOL GUARDIANS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

THE SCHOOL, ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAS DEVELOPED UP TO JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL WITH 23 CLASSES.

AT PRESENT IT HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 593 PRIMARY PUPILS AND 159 SECONDARY PUPILS.

IN THE PAST, THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN GIVEN THE USE OF THE LABORATORY FACILITIES AT THE NEARBY HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT AT THE SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 17 AT 4.30 P.M.

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BILLS PASSED
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THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE APPRENTICESHIP BILL 1976 PASSED THROUGH ALL STAGES AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANOTHER BILL WHICH WAS PASSED WAS THE PLANT (IMPORTATION AND PEST CONTROL) BILL 1976.

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING : THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

DEBATE ON THEIR SECOND READING WAS ADJOURNED.

AMONG THE MOTIONS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL WERE ONE ON REVISING THE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES UNDER THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE AND ONE SETTING A RATE OF LEVY UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE.

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