



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

GOVT REMAINS COMMITTED TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT .	1
+A RESPONSIVE AND CARING GOVERNMENT+	2
FOLLOW-UP TALKS ON FUTURE STARTED	3
HONG KONG'S EXPORTS POISED TO CAPITALISE ON WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY	4
MEASURES FOR MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE .	5
N-POWER PLANT PROJECT KEPT UNDER REVIEW	6
LEGCO STANDING ORDERS TO BE REVIEWED	8
CONCEPT OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO BE STUDIED	9
STUDIES ON DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS EXPECTED TO BE READY WITHIN A YEAR	11
PRIVATE HOUSING FLATS FOR ELDERLY	12
2.2 MILLION LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING	13
THE PROBLEM OF SQUATTERS	15
MAJOR EXPANSION FOR HOSPITAL FACILITIES	15

/BIG GROWTH



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

BIG GROWTH IN TERTIARY EDUCATION PLANNED	17
260 000 GET WELFARE CASH	18
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY SEVERANCE PAY	19
POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY	20
POLICE CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS SHOW 13% DROP	21
NEW ID CARDS TO BE ISSUED IN MAY	22
'CROSS HARBOUR BRIDGE LIKELY'	23
CIVIL SERVICE GROWTH SET AT FOUR TO FIVE PER CENT	25
NATIONALITY ACT AND STUDENT FEES IN UK	26
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	26
ARTS AND RECREATION	27
UNOFFICIAL THANKED FOR SERVICE	28
INVITATION TO GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS	29
AIRPORT TUNNEL COMES INTO FULL USE ON FRIDAY	29
LABOUR DEPARTMENT OPENS NEW BRANCH OFFICE	30
THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND SOLD	30
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO	31
PEAK TRAM SERVICES CURTALED ON THURSDAY	31

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 1 -

GOVT REMAINS COMMITTED TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND FIRM INTENTION IS TO CONTINUE TO INVEST VIGOROUSLY IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE.

AND NO-ONE SHOULD DOUBT THAT, HE SAID IN WINDING UP HIS ANNUAL REVIEW AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

SIR EDWARD SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO SPECULATE ON THE CAUSES OF THE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND STOCK MARKETS IN RECENT DAYS.

+THE CAUSATIVE FACTORS AT WORK, BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC, ARE MANY AND COMPLEX.

+BUT WE HAVE A RESILIENT ECONOMY WHICH ADJUSTS EFFICIENTLY, SOUND GOVERNMENT AND A GROWTH RATE WHICH IS STILL POSITIVE,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT OUR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES REMAIN IMAGINATIVE, AMBITIOUS AND FORWARD LOOKING, AND CITED A RANGE OF AREAS OF CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT.

- * NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING ESTATES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.
- * THE AGED AND THE DISADVANTAGED WILL BE CARED FOR WITH A GROWING SENSE OF COMPASSION.
- * MODERN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WILL SERVE THE NEED OF THE SICK.
- * OUR EXPANDING EDUCATION SYSTEM AT ALL LEVELS WILL EDUCATE MORE OF OUR YOUTH IN THE SKILLS OF THE MODERN WORLD.
- * OUR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND FACILITIES WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.
- * MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS WILL IMPROVE AND ENLARGE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THIS TERRITORY.

+IN PURSUING THESE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, AND IN SETTING OUR PRIORITIES, WE SHALL BE PRUDENT IN OUR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FOR WE MUST NOT LIVE BEYOND OUR MEANS,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 2 -

+A RESPONSIVE AND CARING GOVERNMENT+

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, OPENED THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY REAFFIRMING THE GOVERNMENT'S AIMS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC WILL AND TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

SETTING THE THEME OF HIS FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES REMAIN UNCHANGED, +EVEN IF WE ARE HAVING TO PURSUE THEM, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, IN A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CLIMATE.+

IN ITS AIM TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC WILL, THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THOSE PUBLIC BODIES WHICH GIVE EXPRESSION TO THAT WILL, HE SAID.

+IT AIMS TO LEAVE THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS FREE AND UNFETTERED TO COMPETE IN DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS, REGULATING ONLY WHERE THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF BUSINESS, FAIR TREATMENT OF THE WORK FORCE AND THE GOOD NAME OF HONG KONG SO REQUIRE.+

MORE POSITIVELY, HE ADDED, IT AIMS TO PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH MODERN TECHNIQUES AND GOOD INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CAN FLOURISH AND INITIATIVE AND HARD WORK BRING THEIR REWARDS.

+ONLY THUS CAN OUR ECONOMY ADJUST CONTINUOUSLY TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO AIMED TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNOR SAID +IT SEEKS TO PROVIDE WITHIN THE RESOURCES ON WHICH WE CAN REASONABLY CALL, SERVICES SUCH AS HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND RECREATION SO ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS; AND ALL THIS IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL ARE RESPECTED AND LAW AND ORDER CAN PREVAIL.+

TO THESE ENDS, SIR EDWARD SAID, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO USE AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE THE MANPOWER AND MONEY WHICH ARE ENTRUSTED TO IT.

SIR EDWARD ALSO EXPRESSED A DEEP SENSE OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG MADE BY LORD MACLEHOSE AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD WORKED WITH HIM.

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13

- 3 -

FOLLOW-UP TALKS ON FUTURE STARTED

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MEETINGS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG HAVE BEGUN IN PEKING TO FOLLOW UP PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER'S VISIT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE ANNOUNCED AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION TODAY.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS MUST NECESSARILY REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL, HE SAID, BUT THE AIM WILL BE TO COMPLETE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY USEFUL FORECAST AS TO WHEN THAT WOULD BE.

+THERE ARE COMPLEX ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED, AND THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WHICH MUST BE RECONCILED.

+SO STEADY NERVES WILL BE NEEDED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID HE SHARED MRS THATCHER'S BELIEF THAT, GIVEN THE COMMON OBJECTIVE, THE DIFFERENCES COULD BE RECONCILED AND AN AGREEMENT REACHED WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO CHINA AND BRITAIN AND WHICH WILL BE WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

AS FAR AS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, IN THE LIGHT OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMON OBJECTIVE FROM THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AND THE COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG OF THE UK GOVERNMENT, +WE SHALL GO FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE OUR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO THEIR CONCLUSION AND TO PROJECT THEM INTO THE FUTURE,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD GIVEN A CLEAR ASSURANCE THAT IN CONDUCTING THE TALKS SHE WOULD SPEAK NOT ONLY FOR BRITAIN BUT FOR HONG KONG.

THE UK GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG HAD NEVER BEEN IN DOUBT, HE SAID, BUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHRIGHT REAFFIRMATION OF IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE TIMELY.

+NOR IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION HMG WILL TAKE THE VIEWS AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.+

AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEGUN WAS THE VISIT TO LONDON BY THE GROUP OF UMELCO MEMBERS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM THERE LAST MONTH.

+THE PROCESS WILL BE A CONTINUOUS ONE AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WILL NOW BE GIVEN TO HOW THIS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS CAN BEST BE PURSUED,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR MRS THATCHER'S CONCERN AND UNDERSTANDING, AND FOR HER REAFFIRMATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HONG KONG'S EXPORTS POISED TO CAPITALISE ON
WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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THE STABLE AND +VERY COMPETITIVE+ PRICES OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS WILL ENABLE THIS SECTOR TO CAPITALISE QUICKLY ON ANY ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

+TO THE EXTENT THAT A CONCENSUS CAN BE DETECTED, IT IS THAT THINGS ARE LIKELY TO BE BETTER IN 1983 THAN IN 1982,+ HE REMARKED.

HOPEFULLY, IMPROVED GROWTH IN SEVERAL ECONOMIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY, MIGHT BRING ABOUT SOME RECOVERY IN WORLD TRADE, SIR EDWARD SAID, ADDING THAT HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS SECTOR WITH ITS COMPETITIVE PRICES WOULD BE ABLE TO BENEFIT QUICKLY FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT.

REVIEWING HONG KONG'S ECONOMY FOR THIS YEAR, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE GROWTH IN ITS GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IS NOW EXPECTED TO BE IN THE ORDER OF ONLY FOUR PER CENT.

THE MAIN CAUSE OF THIS SLOWDOWN, HE SAID, WAS THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR WERE, IN REAL TERM, THREE PER CENT LESS THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981.

+ALTHOUGH SOME RECOVERY IS EXPECTED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS SEEM LIKELY TO BE DOWN BY TWO PER CENT FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE.

+IN TERMS OF EXPERIENCE IN RECENT YEARS SUCH AN OUTCOME IS DISAPPOINTING,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUING GROWTH EVEN AT A REDUCED RATE HAD MEANT THAT HONG KONG APPEARED TO BE AVOIDING SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MARCH WAS ONLY 3.5 PER CENT, SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE 4.1 PER CENT RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER, WHILE WAGES AND SALARIES HAD INCREASED ALL ROUND IN REAL TERMS, PARTLY DUE TO A SLOWER INFLATION RATE, SIR EDWARD NOTED.

INFLATION IS NOW RUNNING AT ABOUT 11 PER CENT PER ANNUM IN TERMS OF CONSUMER PRICES, AFTER REMAINING AT AROUND 15 PER CENT FOR TWO YEARS.

+WHILE THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY HAVE DEVELOPED RAPIDLY OUR MANUFACTURING SECTOR, STILL THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY AND THE MAIN EMPLOYER, HAS ALSO GROWN, ALBEIT AT A SLOWER RATE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

/HONG KONG'S

HONG KONG'S ENTREPRENEURS AND INDUSTRIALISTS WERE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULT TIMES, HE ACKNOWLEDGED, BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY AND INTERFERE WITH MARKET FORCES.

BUT SIR EDWARD ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT +SEEKS TO PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE TRAINING OF SKILLED MANPOWER AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH GROWTH WITH STABILITY CAN BE ACHIEVED.+

ON THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, HE SAID, +YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE HAVE BEEN RESOLUTE IN DEFENDING HONG KONG'S INTEREST AND IN BRINGING HOME, BOTH TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO HMG, THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO US.+

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MEASURES FOR MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE TODAY OUTLINED A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FOR MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND THE PROMOTION OF HONG KONG AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE.

ON PUBLIC FINANCE, SIR EDWARD SAID A PUBLIC FINANCE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY BACKING TO OUR SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION WHICH WILL ENABLE FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES TO BE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED.

SIR EDWARD HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROPORTIONATELY GREATER SHARE WHICH THE PUBLIC SECTOR WILL COMMAND OF THE ECONOMY'S RESOURCE BECAUSE OF THE DOWNWARD REVISION OF THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND BECAUSE OF INCREASED PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

+IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE SPENT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER,+ HE SAID.

IN THE RECENT YEARS, HE ADDED, SEVERAL IMPORTANT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TOWARDS IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AUDIT, INCLUDING THE DESIGN OF A COMPUTER-BASED FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH IS WELL ADVANCED AND WILL, FROM NEXT YEAR, PROVIDE THE DATA NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE COST OF SERVICES, THEREBY ASSISTING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND PROVIDING A FACILITY FOR KEEPING FEES AND CHARGES UP-TO-DATE.

SIR EDWARD SAID REVENUE COLLECTIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE NOT REACHED EXPECTATIONS, DUE LARGELY TO SHORTFALLS IN THE YIELDS FROM LAND SALES, AND EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAX. TOTAL EXPENDITURE IS HIGHER THAN ESTIMATED DUE PARTLY TO THE PURCHASE OF MORE LAND THAN EXPECTED AND OTHER UNAVOIDABLE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUT MAINLY TO THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO CIVIL SERVICE PAY.

/+IT NOW

+IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THIS YEAR THE BUDGETTED SURPLUS OF \$2.3 BILLION WILL BE ACHIEVED, AND PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS YEAR'S ACCOUNTS WILL ONLY BREAK EVEN.+

ON TERTIARY SERVICES, SIR EDWARD SAID THE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL, PREPARED AFTER LENGTHY CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY AND PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN MAY THIS YEAR, WILL HOPEFULLY BE ENACTED WITHIN THIS SESSION.

HE SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL ARE TWOFOLD: TO PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION TO POLICYHOLDERS AND TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S STANDING AS AN INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE CENTRE WITHOUT STIFLING COMPETITION IN THE MARKET. COMMENTS ON THE BILL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE INDUSTRY AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS AND THEY ARE NOW BEING EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

THE COMPANIES BILLS, AIMED TO MODERNISE OUR COMPANY LAW AND FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1980 FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMENT, IS BEING REDRAFTED IN THE LIGHT OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND CONSULTATIONS WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS SESSION.

SIR EDWARD SAID HONG KONG HAS EMERGED AS AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AND THAT BOTH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THAT CENTRE CAN FLOURISH.

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N-POWER PLANT PROJECT KEPT UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT IN GUANGDONG WOULD BE OTHER THAN RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR ATTITUDE TO THE SAFETY OF THE PLANT BOTH IN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, SIR EDWARD ASSURED MEMBERS THAT, IN SO FAR AS THE PLANT WAS LIKELY TO AFFECT HONG KONG, THE MATTER WOULD BE KEPT UNDER +CLOSE AND CAREFUL REVIEW+.

+SHOULD THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO BUILD THE PLANT NEAR HONG KONG WE SHOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN IT, NOT ONLY AS A SOURCE OF POWER, BUT IN ITS SAFETY,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND COMPANIES WITH AN INTEREST IN THE PLANT WERE STILL CONTINUING.

- 7 -

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO HONG KONG TAKING POWER FROM CHINA PROVIDED THAT THE COST WAS NO GREATER THAN IT WOULD BE IF WE PROVIDED THE NECESSARY FOSSIL FUEL BASED GENERATING PLANT IN HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SPOKE ABOUT OUR TRADE AND OTHER LINKS WITH CHINA.

IN TERMS OF TRADE, CHINA HAD MOVED UP FROM BEING THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS TO BEING THE LARGEST, OVERTAKING JAPAN BY A SMALL MARGIN, AND HAD BECOME THE FOURTH LARGEST MARKET FOR OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

+CHINA HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE LARGEST SOURCE OF RE-EXPORTS THROUGH HONG KONG, NOW IT IS THE LARGEST MARKET FOR SUCH RE-EXPORTS,+ HE SAID.

OUTSIDE THE TRADE FIELD, SIR EDWARD SAID, HONG KONG ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA EXTENDS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES.

+YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE AGREEMENTS WE HAVE REACHED WITH THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES FOR AN INCREASED LONG-TERM SUPPLY OF WATER TO HONG KONG WHICH IS PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG.

+THESE AGREEMENTS HAVE REQUIRED MAJOR WORKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, WITH CHINA-BASED CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WINNING SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS IN HONG KONG.+

SIR EDWARD SAID HE HAD SEEN AT FIRST HAND SOME OF THE INVESTMENTS IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN SHENZHEN AND ALSO IN GUANGZHOU= ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN WAS THE STEADILY GROWING INVESTMENT BY CHINA-BASED COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

+IN PARTICULAR, I WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHINA RESOURCES COMPANY IN THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT AND THE DECISION OF THE BANK OF CHINA TO MAKE A MAJOR INVESTMENT IN BUILDING A NEW HEAD OFFICE IN CENTRAL.

+THIS STRENGTHENING OF OUR ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA HAS BEEN MATCHED BY A RAPID EXPANSION IN THE NETWORK OF AIR AND SEA LINKS WITH CHINESE CITIES.

+THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES IN APRIL SHOULD LEAD TO A PARALLEL IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS THE LAND BORDER,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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LEGO STANDING ORDERS TO BE REVIEWED
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A WORKING PARTY WILL BE SET UP TO REVIEW THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS, CONVENTIONS AND PRACTICES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE SAID SOME OF THE AIMS WERE TO ACHIEVE A MORE STRUCTURED PUBLIC DEBATE OF LEGISLATION AND AN EASIER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A TRUER REFLECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S ESSENTIALLY REPRESENTATIVE ROLE.

+THE INVOLVEMENT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG WOULD, I SUSPECT, COME AS A SURPRISE TO AN OVERSEAS OBSERVER; AND I DOUBT THAT IT IS WHOLLY COMPREHENDED BY OUR OWN PEOPLE,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE NOTED THAT 75 BILLS WERE PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL. NINETEEN OF THOSE BILLS WERE AMENDED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE, WITH A TOTAL OF 73 CLAUSES BEING CHANGED, SOME OF THEM SUBSTANTIALLY.

+IT WAS THE WISE ADVICE OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, REFLECTING PUBLIC CONCERNS, WHICH LED TO THESE CHANGES,+ SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE THEIR OWN MASTERS, WITH A RIGHT TO BE HEARD ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON ANY ISSUES, INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL, WHICH IN THEIR JUDGMENT TOUCHED UPON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

+THEY ARE OUR WATCH-DOGS OVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS, WITH A RIGHT TO CALL ATTENTION TO ANY FORM OF MALADMINISTRATION OR PUBLIC GRIEVANCE. THE PUBLIC CALLED THEIR ATTENTION TO OVER 3 000 SUCH COMPLAINTS DURING THE TERM OF THE LAST SESSION.

+THEY ARE OUR MONITORS ON THE PANELS WHICH REVIEW PROGRESS IN MAJOR POLICY AREAS, WHICH MET 44 TIMES DURING THE LAST SESSION, AND THEY ARE OUR CONSCIENCE IN THE MEETINGS OF THE ICAC COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE AND THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP.

+CLEARLY, HONG KONG SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK OF ITS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK OF ALL THOSE PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR TIME TO SERVE ON OTHER COUNCILS, ADVISORY BOARDS AND THE HOST OF OTHER BODIES WHICH PLAYED SUCH A VITAL ROLE IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN HONG KONG.

HE ADDED THAT HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ADVICE THEY OFFERED AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE OBJECTIVES AND COMPOSITION OF THESE BODIES WERE KEPT IN TUNE WITH PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HAS ASKED FOR THE NEXT REGULAR REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF ALL ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, OF WHICH THERE ARE NOW SOME 320, TO BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, SIR EDWARD SAID THE MATTERS WITH WHICH DISTRICT BOARDS DEALT WITH HAD A DIRECT BEARING ON THE DAILY LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEIR VOICES SHOULD BE HEARD.

+WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS THEY EXPRESS ARE GIVEN DUE WEIGHT WHEN DECISIONS ARE BEING TAKEN. THIS THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO,+ HE SAID.

THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED NEARLY \$30 MILLION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

+WITH THESE FUNDS, THE BOARDS CAN MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, AND ORGANISE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SPORTING AND COMMUNITY-INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN WHICH PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND WALKS OF LIFE CAN TAKE PART,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID NEXT MARCH WILL SEE THE COMPLETION OF THE REFORMS INTRODUCED BY THE WHITE PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WHEN THE NEW URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD.

THE ELECTORATE, HE SAID, WILL BE MORE THAN 20 TIMES THE SIZE OF LAST YEAR'S ELECTORATE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS.

+THE COUNCIL WILL BE INCREASED IN SIZE FROM THE PRESENT 24 MEMBERS TO 30: FIFTEEN APPOINTED AND FIFTEEN ELECTED MEMBERS. ALL URBAN COUNCILLORS WILL SIT ON DISTRICT BOARDS, ELECTED MEMBERS SITTING ON THE BOARDS FOR THOSE DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDE THEIR CONSTITUENCIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE NOTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS WERE ALREADY CLOSE, BUT WITH THE ADVENT OF CONSTITUENCY BASED ELECTED MEMBERS HE WAS SURE THAT CO-OPERATION WILL BECOME CLOSER.

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CONCEPT OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO BE STUDIED

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THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO EMPLOY CONSULTANTS TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR TO STUDY THE CONCEPT OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR FINDINGS BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS FOLLOWED A RECOMMENDATION BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER MISS LYDIA DUNN'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY IN JULY, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT.

+A CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF LAND PRODUCTION IS VITAL TO OUR PLANS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC COMMUNITY FACILITIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS THAT FORMED AND SERVICED LAND SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, INCLUDING INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

- 10 -

ABOUT 994 HECTARES OF NET LAND AREA WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, 500 IN THE URBAN AREA AND 494 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. IN 1983-84, 593 HECTARES IS EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE, AND IN 1984-85, 596 HECTARES, HE POINTED OUT.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES HAD RECENTLY CAUSED DEVELOPERS TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT ACQUIRING LAND.

+THIS MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE LAND OF THE RIGHT SORT AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY HAS THE TASK OF MONITORING THIS SITUATION.

+WHILE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SHORT-TERM NEEDS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO TAKE A LONG TERM VIEW OF THE OVERALL NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

REFERRING TO PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN LAND PRODUCTION, SIR EDWARD SAID THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THREE MAJOR AREAS (TOTALLING 30 HECTARES) IN THE URBAN AREAS, AND SITES IN THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS AMOUNTING TO OVER 100 HECTARES (EXCLUDING THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT) WERE SUITABLE FOR DISPOSAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE WORKING GROUP ALSO STUDIED THE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE SCALE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND IDENTIFIED JUNK BAY NEW TOWN AS SUITABLE FOR THE CREATION OF A LARGE PACKAGE FOR COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PLANNING OF THE NEW TOWN THERE.

+FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR THIS SORT OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN LAND FORMATION AND ENGINEERING WORK EXIST, BUT CANNOT BE PURSUED UNTIL MAJOR STRATEGIC PLANNING STUDIES ARE COMPLETED IN 1983,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN 1960 HAD RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES, IN PART BECAUSE MORE OF THE DEVELOPMENT LAND PRODUCED HAD BEEN TAKEN UP TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GREATLY EXPANDED HOUSING AND RELATED PROGRAMMES.

THE OUTSTANDING LETTER B COMMITMENT, HE SAID, IS NOW SOME 40 MILLION SQUARE FEET ON AN AGRICULTURAL LAND BASIS.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS SHOULD CEASE TO BE ISSUED WITH EFFECT FROM THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

+THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT IS CAREFULLY CONSIDERING WAYS OF REDUCING THE OUTSTANDING LETTER B COMMITMENT WITHIN A MUCH SHORTER PERIOD THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE UNDER THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF OFFERING ABOUT 45 PER CENT OF SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR DISPOSAL OF LETTER B TENDER.

/SIR EDWARD

SIR EDWARD SAID ALSO THAT RECENT STUDIES INDICATED THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT +IS ENORMOUS+, AND SOME 388 HECTARES WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MAIN URBAN AREA.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT, HOWEVER THAT THIS HAD TO BE VIEWED +IN THE CONTEXT OF LONGER TERM STRATEGIC OPTIONS.+ NEVERTHELESS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN LIMITED AREAS THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WAS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

DISCUSSING RURAL IMPROVEMENT, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT +THERE ARE LARGE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT CAN BE CALLED NEITHER URBAN NOR RURAL IN NATURE.+

THE DETERIORATING AND UNPLANNED NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THESE AREAS WAS A CAUSE OF CONCERN, AND WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM BEING CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY.

+THE CONSULTANTS WHO WILL BE INVESTIGATING THE CONCEPT OF A DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO CONSIDER THE USE OF SMALL CORPORATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING LIMITED RURAL STYLE DEVELOPMENT IN THESE AREAS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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STUDIES ON DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS EXPECTED TO
BE READY WITHIN A YEAR

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REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL STUDIES ARE NOW IN HAND TO IDENTIFY DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YAUDE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+WE AIM TO COMPLETE THESE STUDIES AND THE FORMULATION OF A LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD EXPLAINED THAT THE CHOICE OF A PARTICULAR STRATEGY INVOLVED RECONCILING THE DEMANDS OF HOUSING, INDUSTRY, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

+LIKewise, THE QUESTION OF REPLACING KAI TAK WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS THE SUBJECT OF DETAILED AND ON-GOING CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, RELATED AS IT IS TO THE STUDIES PRESENTLY IN HAND,+ HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE TOTAL VALUE OF OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS ON CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS, EXCLUDING PUBLIC HOUSING AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, HAD INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS -- \$14.2 BILLION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1980-81, \$21.6 BILLION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1981-82, AND \$26 BILLION AT THE START OF 1982-83.

+FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REASONS, I DO NOT THINK ANY FURTHER INCREASE CAN BE CONTEMPLATED FOR THE TIME BEING,+ SIR EDWARD STATED.

/BUT HE

- 12 -

BUT HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE ROOM FOR STARTS TO BE MADE ON ABOUT \$5 BILLION WORTH OF NEW PROJECTS IN 1983-84.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS AND ON PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS HAS INCREASED FROM \$6.8 BILLION IN 1980-81, TO \$11 BILLION IN 1981-82 AND TO \$13.6 BILLION IN 1982-83.

+AGAIN, THIS RATE OF INCREASE CLEARLY CANNOT BE SUSTAINED, PARTICULARLY AS REVENUE FROM LAND SALES, WHICH HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING EXCEPTIONALLY TO THE FINANCING OF THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT, IS UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE AT THE HIGH LEVELS OF RECENT YEARS.

+THE INTENTION, THEREFORE, IS TO MAINTAIN EXPENDITURE IN 1983-84 AT ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THE CURRENT YEAR,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THIS SHOULD ENABLE WORK TO PROCEED AS PLANNED ON ALL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING HOUSING AND NEW TOWN PROGRAMMES IN TSUEN WAN-KWAI CHUNG, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, SHA TIN, TAI PO AND FANLING.

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PRIVATE HOUSING FLATS FOR ELDERLY

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO PURCHASE FLATS IN PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS TO SUPPLEMENT THE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF THE GROUP OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY.

SIR EDWARD SAID THIS WILL BE A TRIAL SCHEME WHICH, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WILL PROVIDE SOME 700 PLACES, ACCOMMODATED IN FLATS SUITABLE FOR FOUR TO SIX ELDERLY PERSONS LIVING TOGETHER IN A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT.

+SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS, THE SCHEME WILL BE FINANCED FROM THE SURPLUSES OBTAINED FROM THE SALES OF GOLD COINS WHICH ARE NOW HELD IN THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FURTHER FUNDS, THE SCHEME COULD BE EXPANDED BY THE ACQUISITION OF FURTHER PROPERTIES,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE PROPERTIES FOR ACQUISITION FOR THE TRIAL SCHEME AND THE METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF PLACES IN THE FLATS IS BEING WORKED OUT AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WILL BE INCREASED PROVISION OF HOSTEL PLACES.

FOR INSTANCE THE SPECIAL ANNUAL QUOTA FOR ELDERLY PERSONS APPLYING IN GROUPS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 300 TO 400 FLATS- AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS ABOUT TO INTRODUCE A PRIORITY ALLOCATION SCHEME FOR PUBLIC HOUSING APPLICANTS WITH PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS LIVING WITH THEM, WHICH WILL REDUCE THE TIME SUCH APPLICANTS REMAIN ON THE WAITING LIST BY UP TO ONE YEAR HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SPOKE OF THE TRADITIONAL AND COMMENDABLE RESPECT FOR THE OLD IN THE COMMUNITY AND SAID THEY +DESERVE A DIGNIFIED OLD AGE.+

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 13 -

2.2 MILLION LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING

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MORE THAN 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE, OR 42 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION, NOW LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS PERCENTAGE WILL GROW AS THE PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING PROGRAMMES PROCEED.

+IN 1981-82 PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION, INCLUDING THE HOUSING SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTION, WAS NEARLY 40 000 FLATS, ALL IN MODERN ESTATES WITH GOOD AMENITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD ESTATES, HE CONTINUED, WOULD ENSURE IMPROVED STANDARDS FOR EARLIER PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

+THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION CAN BE SUSTAINED, AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM FOR MANY YEARS TO COME,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY, WHICH CONTRIBUTED SOME 3 700 FLATS TOWARDS LAST YEAR'S TOTAL PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VALUABLE ROLE, COMPLEMENTARY TO THAT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THE SOCIETY IS NOW DIRECTING ITS ENERGIES TOWARDS THE URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AND THE PROVISION OF SMALL ESTATES IN RURAL AREAS, SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE SAID THAT MORE THAN 34 000 FLATS AND HOUSES WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+NOT SURPRISINGLY, PERHAPS, PRODUCTION AT THIS LEVEL, COUPLED WITH HIGH INTEREST RATES AND PROPERTY VALUES INFLATED BY SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS, LED TO AN ABNORMALLY HIGH NUMBER OF UNSOLD PROPERTIES,+ HE SAID.

BUT, HE ADDED, THE LEVELLING OFF OF SALE PRICES AND A LOWERING OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES HAD PUT MORE OF THIS LARGE STOCK OF ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE REACH OF THOSE SEEKING HOUSING.

ON THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE POLICY OF EXCLUDING LAND VALUE FROM THE SELLING PRICE OF THESE FLATS HAD PROVED VERY POPULAR --- OVER 70 000 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE FIRST 6 600 FLATS OFFERED FOR SALE ON THESE TERMS --- AND THE PROGRAMME WILL BE CONTINUED ON THIS BASIS.

/+THE PRIVATE

+THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROMOTION OF HOME OWNERSHIP. SO MORE SITES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND THE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

THESE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES SHOULD, BY 1985-86, BE PRODUCING SOME 12 500 FLATS ANNUALLY FOR PURCHASE BY BETTER OFF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO VACATE THEIR HEAVILY SUBSIDISED RENTAL FLATS, AND BY THOSE LIVING IN RENTED PRIVATE FLATS WHO COULD NOT OTHERWISE ASPIRE TO OWN A HOUSE OF THEIR OWN.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE LATEST FIGURES AVAILABLE SHOW THAT THREE-QUARTERS OF NEW FLATS OCCUPIED LAST YEAR WERE OCCUPIED BY THEIR OWNERS, BRINGING THE PROPORTION OF OWNER-OCCUPATION TO ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

+THIS MOVEMENT TOWARDS HOME OWNERSHIP IS ONE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENCOURAGE,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD WAS CONFIDENT THAT, BY THE END OF THIS DECADE, THE HOUSING PROBLEM WILL HAVE BEEN GREATLY REDUCED.

+BUT OUR HOUSING STANDARDS HAVE IN THE PAST HAD TO BE MODEST AND THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEED FOR QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO BRING OLDER HOUSING UP-TO-DATE. THERE WILL BE NO PAUSE IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON RENTAL HOUSING, SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING, WELL BEFORE THE EXPIRY IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATION CONTROLLING RENT INCREASES FOR POST-WAR PREMISES, THE FUTURE FORM OF THESE CONTROLS.

HE REVEALED THAT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

HE SAID A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN THE PRIVATE RENTAL FIELD OVER THE PAST YEAR WAS THE INTRODUCTION, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, OF A SYSTEM PROVIDING REASONABLE SECURITY OF TENURE OF PREMISES NOT SUBJECT TO RENT CONTROL, PROVIDED THEY WERE PREPARED TO PAY THE FAIR MARKET RENT.

- 15 -

THE PROBLEM OF SQUATTERS

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ALTHOUGH NEARLY 1.3 MILLION SQUATTERS HAVE BEEN REHOUSED SINCE THE 1950'S, LATEST ESTIMATES STILL PUT THE SQUATTER POPULATION AT OVER HALF A MILLION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+MANY WILL BE REHOUSED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS= BUT MOST LARGE SQUATTER CONCENTRATIONS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN FOR QUITE SOME TIME, AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THEM,+ SIR EDWARD SAID AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT AS A FIRST STEP, A PROGRAMME HAS BEEN STARTED TO REDUCE THE DANGER FROM FIRE AND LANDSLIP BY IMPROVING ACCESS AND WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE FIGHTING, CREATING FIRE BREAKS AND UNDERTAKING ESSENTIAL SLOPE STABILITY WORKS.

HE ALSO SAID WORK IS ALREADY WELL ADVANCED IN A NUMBER OF DENSELY POPULATED AREAS AND THE PROGRAMME WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY EXTENDED TO OTHER VULNERABLE AREAS. THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS WATER, ELECTRICITY AND DRAINAGE IN AREAS NOT DUE FOR CLEARANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SIR EDWARD ADDED: +WE MUST, AT THE SAME TIME, ENDEAVOUR TO CONTAIN THE PROBLEM BY PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NEW SQUATTING. TO THIS END, THE HIGHER DEGREE OF CONTROL NOW BEING EXERCISED, TOGETHER WITH THE RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR RACKETEERING SHOULD HELP TO DETER NEW HUT BUILDING.+

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MAJOR EXPANSION FOR HOSPITAL FACILITIES

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OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS WILL BE INCREASED BY 2 110, OR 10 PER CENT OVERALL, 1 840 OF WHICH WILL BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE SOME 29 200 HOSPITAL BEDS BY 1987, MOST OF WHICH WOULD AGAIN BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA OF EAST KOWLOON.

TO RELIEVE FURTHER THE PRESSURE ON ACUTE HOSPITAL BEDS, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT ABOUT 1 400 ADDITIONAL INFIRMARY BEDS BE PROVIDED BY THE END OF THE DECADE, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+CONTINUED PRESSURE IS BEING PUT ON OUR MEDICAL FACILITIES AS A RESULT OF INCREASED POPULATION AND RISING EXPECTATIONS.

+THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AN IMPRESSIVE HEALTH RECORD IS A REFLECTION OF THE EFFORT AND DEDICATION OF ALL CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO REFERRED TO HONG KONG'S IMPROVED SANITATION, IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, ALL OF WHICH HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CONTAIN MAJOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

HE CITED THE TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATION RATE WHICH DECLINED FURTHER FROM 160 PER 100 000 POPULATION IN 1980 TO 150 IN 1981, WITH THE DEATH RATE FROM THIS DISEASE FALLING FROM 10.9 TO 9.4 PER 100 000 POPULATION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

HONG KONG'S INFANT MORTALITY RATE AT 8.7 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE AT 0.08 PER THOUSAND TOTAL BIRTHS FOR 1981 WERE DESCRIBED BY SIR EDWARD AS +THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD+.

BUT HE NOTED THAT WITH THE AGEING OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION, COUPLED WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN THE PATTERN OF DISEASES.

+THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH ARE NOW CANCER AND HEART DISEASES. THERE IS ALSO AN INCREASING TREND IN THE NUMBER OF PSYCHIATRIC CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STRESS OF URBAN LIFE,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, HE ADDED, WAS IN THE SHIFT OF POPULATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS THERE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR MEETING THESE CHANGES, HE POINTED OUT, WERE EXEMPLIFIED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL WHICH PROVIDES 1 340 BEDS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL AND THE KWOK TAK-SENG CARDIO-THORACIC CENTRE AT GRANTHAM HOSPITAL WHICH NOW PROVIDES FOR THE TREATMENT OF CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASES.

IN ADDITION, THE 300-BED EXTENSION TO THE WONG TAI SIN INFIRMARY PROVIDES RELIEF FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL WHO CANNOT BE DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

ON OUT-PATIENT CARE, SIR EDWARD REPORTED THAT FIVE NEW CLINICS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, WHILE A FURTHER 18 CLINICS OR POLYCLINICS WERE BEING PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 539 CLINIC CONSULTING ROOMS BY 1987, COMPARED WITH 287 TODAY.

IN ADDITION, DAY HOSPITAL PLACES ARE PROVIDED FOR PSYCHIATRIC AND GERIATRIC PATIENTS AS PART OF THEIR REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT AN ADDITIONAL 285 PSYCHIATRIC AND 220 GERIATRIC DAY HOSPITAL PLACES WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY 1987, COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING PROVISION OF 200 AND 75 RESPECTIVELY.

+THESE EXPANSION PROJECTS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINED MANPOWER AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE UPGC TO INVITE THE TWO UNIVERSITIES TO PLAN FOR INCREASED INTAKES INTO THE TWO MEDICAL SCHOOLS: FROM 100 TO 140 AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND FROM 150 TO 225 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THREE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOLS WOULD BE OPENED AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS TO INCREASE THE TOTAL TRAINING CAPACITY FOR NURSES FROM THE PRESENT 1 680 PER YEAR TO 1 880.

A FURTHER 960 PLACES WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY 1987 WHEN NEW NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOLS OR EXTENSION PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED, SIR EDWARD SAID.

BIG GROWTH IN TERTIARY EDUCATION PLANNED

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PROPOSALS FOR GROWTH IN TERTIARY EDUCATION WILL RAISE THE NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR DEGREE PLACES TO COVER SIX PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP BY THE END OF THIS DECADE AND EIGHT PER CENT BY THE MID-1990'S, AGAINST ABOUT TWO PER CENT TODAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE PRESENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF FOUR PER CENT IN THE STUDENT POPULATION IN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL 1988, BUT SPECIFIC REQUESTS BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MET OVER AND ABOVE THIS FIGURE.

+THUS, THE TARGETS FOR THE 1985-88 TRIENNIUM ARE 8 000 FOR HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, AND 7 000 FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+DEGREE PROGRAMMES ARE PLANNED FOR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, WHICH WILL BE EXPANDED, ON ITS PRESENT SITE, TO ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 13 500 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS.

+IN ADDITION, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE SECOND POLYTECHNIC, FROM ITS INCEPTION, WILL RECRUIT A PROPORTION OF ITS STUDENTS ONTO DEGREE COURSES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

EVENTUALLY, THE TWO POLYTECHNICS COULD HAVE 27 000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES, UP TO 30 PER CENT BEING FOR DEGREE COURSES.

UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UPGC, THE BAPTIST COLLEGE WOULD IN DUE COURSE OFFER A MIX OF DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE COURSES, HE SAID.

THE FURTHER GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A THIRD UNIVERSITY OR ANOTHER MAJOR TERTIARY INSTITUTION WAS ALSO BEING STUDIED.

AND THE UPGC, HE SAID, WOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO CONSIDER THE ROLE WHICH A PROPERLY CONSTITUTED OPEN UNIVERSITY MIGHT PLAY IN HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD ALSO NOTED THAT MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE LAST DECADE IN PROVIDING MORE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND IN RAISING THE STANDARD OF TEACHING.

IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE IN STAFFING RATIOS TO PERMIT MORE REMEDIAL TEACHING AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF A WIDER RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND THE CURRICULUM HAD BEEN BROADENED, WITH NEW SUBJECTS AND MORE EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ESTABLISHED EARLY THIS YEAR WAS PLANNING TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES BEFORE THE END OF THE DECADE BY EXTENDING EXISTING TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND BUILDING NEW ONES.

+IN ADDITION, TWO NEW INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COMPLEXES ARE PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1985. THESE WILL HAVE AN ANNUAL CAPACITY OF NEARLY 9 000 TRAINEES AT CRAFT AND OPERATIVE LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 18 -

260 000 GET WELFARE CASH

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LAST YEAR ABOUT 260 000 PEOPLE RECEIVED CASH BENEFITS UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE LEVEL OF PAYMENT OF THESE BENEFITS HAS BEEN +PROGRESSIVELY REVISED UPWARDS,+ THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE 1979 WHITE PAPER -- SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1980'S -- SET OUT THE AIMS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDED THAT HONG KONG'S SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM SHOULD ENSURE THAT THOSE LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES SHOULD BE LOOKED AFTER, SIR EDWARD NOTED.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, IS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF AND UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER IMPROVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

+THE ISSUES ARE LARGE ONES, AND THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE MORE AMBITIOUS SCHEMES ARE HUGE.

+WE MUST BEWARE OF ACCEPTING RECURRENT COMMITMENTS ON PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDS WHICH WE COULD NOT SUSTAIN,+ HE STATED.

HE ADDED THAT NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY THE ISSUES WITH GREAT CARE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO AMELIORATE THE LOT OF THOSE IN NEED.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SPOKE ON THE NEW SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING SUBVENTIONS TO VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR.

THE SYSTEM WAS FORMULATED LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND SUBVENTION ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS ON THE ADVICE OF VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

+THE CHANGES PROPOSED HAVE ATTRACTED SOME CONCERN FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND IT MUST BE ACCEPTED THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL NEED SOME FINE TUNING BEFORE IT BECOMES TRULY EFFECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

DISCUSSING THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED SOCIAL WELFARE WORKERS, HE SAID, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES HAD BEEN INVITED TO EXPAND THEIR SOCIAL WORK INTAKE IN THE NEXT TRIENNIUM STARTING IN 1984-85.

+THE POLYTECHNIC WILL ALSO COMMENCE ITS SOCIAL WORK DEGREE COURSE FROM 1983-84,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HE SAID, +INTENDS TO MAINTAIN STEADY PROGRESS+ IN THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES AND OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED.

+BY 1986, EACH REGIONAL HOSPITAL WILL HAVE ATTACHED TO IT ONE MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE PROVIDING SPECIALIST IN-PATIENT TREATMENT.

/+BY THE

+BY THE END OF THE DECADE, THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE PLACES WILL HAVE TRIPLED AND QUADRUPLED RESPECTIVELY.

+PRE-SCHOOL TRAINING AND SPECIAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING PLACES WILL ALSO HAVE BEEN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AND WE SHOULD BE WITHIN SIGHT OF ATTAINING ALL OUR TARGETS BY THE EARLY 1990'S,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE, SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO THE FINDINGS EXPECTED SHORTLY FROM A SPECIAL WORKING PARTY.

THE PARTY HAS BEEN SET UP TO REVIEW THE HANDLING OF MENTALLY DISTURBED PERSONS WITH A DISPOSITION TO VIOLENCE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE ADEQUACY OF THE VARIOUS AFTER-CARE SERVICES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS INTO THE COMMUNITY.

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WORKING GROUP TO STUDY SEVERANCE PAY
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AN AD-HOC WORKING GROUP WILL BE SET UP TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER OF SEVERANCE PAY FOR WORKERS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, AND COMPRISE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES.

IT WOULD EXAMINE THE MATTER IN DEPTH AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, HE SAID.

+THEY WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REASONABLE CLAIMS OF THE WORKERS INVOLVED TO RECEIVE PROMPT PAYMENT OF WAGES DUE, ANY WIDER CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE AND THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE CONSIDERING NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION, INCLUDING THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH COVERS THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE EFFECTIVE MACHINERY FOR ASSESSING COMPENSATION, AND MEASURES TO EXPEDITE SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE ENFORCING AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ENQUIRIES INTO SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND TO SIMPLIFY THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR FACTORIES, WOULD ALSO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL.

FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY MEASURES FOR WORKERS WORKING AT HEIGHTS WILL ALSO BE MADE SHORTLY, SIR EDWARD ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 20 -

POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY

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ONLY THE CRIMINALS BENEFIT IF THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE DO NOT SHOW CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IS NOW SERVED BY A HIGHLY COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL POLICE FORCE WHICH GOES ABOUT ITS DUTIES WITH LOYALTY, ENTHUSIASM AND FAIRNESS AND THAT IT IS RIGHT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE QUALITIES.

HE SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF THE FORCE'S EXPANSION AND QUALITY, THE SUCCESS OF POLICE EFFORTS IN COMBATTING CRIME REMAINS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE SELF-HELP AND CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

+I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THE STEADILY-IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC TO WHICH THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE MAKING A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE INCIDENCE OF ROBBERY, IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS, IS A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE STATE OF CRIME GENERALLY AND, FROM AN AVERAGE OF 40 REPORTS A DAY IN 1974, ROBBERIES FELL TO 20 A DAY IN EARLY 1979 AND SINCE THEN IT HAS FLUCTUATED AT BETWEEN 20 AND 30 REPORTS A DAY.

+SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE DAILY AVERAGE HAS BEEN 24,+ HE ADDED.

BUT A DISTURBING FEATURE ON THE CRIME SCENE WAS THE GREATER USE OF FIREARMS.

+IT WAS, THEREFORE, MOST ENCOURAGING TO LEARN IN JULY OF THE SUCCESSFUL POLICE OPERATION WHICH IDENTIFIED AND NEUTRALISED THE +BIG CIRCLE+ GANG OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME FIVE MAJOR ROBBERIES, IN WHICH FIREARMS HAD BEEN USED,+ HE NOTED.

SINCE THE ARRESTS, IN WHICH A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF FIREARMS WAS SEIZED, THIS BRUTAL FORM OF ROBBERY HAS DECLINED, SIR EDWARD SAID.

REGRETTABLY, SIR EDWARD SAID BURGLARY IS ON THE INCREASE -- IN MID-1979, BURGLARIES WERE BEING REPORTED AT A RATE OF 17 A DAY, BUT DURING 1981 AND SO FAR THIS YEAR THE FIGURE HAS RISEN TO 29.

+IN OVER A QUARTER OF THE CASES REPORTED, THERE WAS NO FORCIBLE ENTRY, INDICATING THAT MANY BURGLARIES ARE CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY. THIS UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO HELP THEMSELVES AND THE POLICE BY SAFE-GUARDING THEIR PREMISES,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID IT IS A RELIEF THAT THE ALARMING INCREASE IN JUVENILE CRIME OF THE LAST THREE YEARS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HALTED AND MAY HAVE BEEN REVERSED.

+THIS TREND IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE EFFORTS OF PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND THE GOVERNMENT. IT WILL NEED RENEWED EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THE DOWNWARD TREND CONTINUES,+ HE SAID.

/IT IS

IT IS JUSTIFIABLE, HE SAID, FOR CRITICISM TO BE LEVELLED AT ANY POLICE FORCE WHERE MEMBERS FAIL IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO CONTEST THAT RIGHT OF CRITICISM.

+BUT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE WIDER PICTURE. SINCE I ARRIVED I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE FORCE GOES ABOUT ITS WIDELY RANGING DUTIES IN THIS BUSY, CROWDED PLACE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON THE MATTER OF NARCOTICS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE BUMPER OPIUM CROPS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THERE WAS NOW A MORE ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

ALTHOUGH THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS HAD SEIZED MORE DRUGS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1982 THAN IN THE WHOLE OF 1981, PRICES OF DRUGS AT STREET LEVEL WERE LOWER THAN THEY HAD BEEN FOR SIX YEARS. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE DECLINING TRENDS IN DRUG ADDICTION SINCE 1974 WERE REVERSED LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER IT WAS CONSOLING TO KNOW THAT 12 500, OR NEARLY ONE-THIRD, OF THE 40 000 ADDICTS ON RECORD WERE RECEIVING VARIOUS FORMS OF TREATMENT OR AFTERCARE EVERY DAY, AND THE NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED ADDICTS BETWEEN THE AGE OF 15 AND 24 HAD DROPPED FROM 722 IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1981 TO 591 IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

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POLICE CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS SHOW 13% DROP
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WAS ENCOURAGED TO SEE A DROP OF 13 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ALLEGING CORRUPTION AGAINST THE POLICE DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

ADDRESSING THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ICAC AND THE POLICE IN MANY ASPECTS OF OPERATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED AND THEIR JOINT EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION THROUGH THE POLICE CORRUPTION PREVENTION GROUP HAS MADE A GOOD START.

HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN COMPLAINTS ABOUT CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUT THE FIGURES MAY INDICATE A GREATER READINESS TO REPORT CORRUPTION IN THIS AREA.

ON CRITICISM AGAINST ICAC FOR THE TIME TAKEN IN INVESTIGATION, HE EXPLAINED THAT, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION WERE COMPLEX AND OFTEN LONG DRAWN-OUT.

+EVERY EFFORT IS MADE BY THE COMMISSION TO REDUCE DELAYS BECAUSE THESE, APART FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, CAN WELL UNDERMINE THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION,+ HE ADDED.

AS FOR THE POWERS OF THE ICAC, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN GENERAL THEY WERE STILL ESSENTIAL IN THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG.

+THE ROLE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN DECIDING IN ALL PROSECUTIONS AND THE MONITORING FUNCTIONS OF BOTH THE OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE ICAC COMMITTEE UNDER UMELCO PROVIDE SOUND SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE,+ HE STRESSED.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 22 -

NEW ID CARDS TO BE ISSUED IN MAY
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IS TO BEGIN ISSUING MORE SECURE REPLACEMENT IDENTITY CARDS FROM MAY NEXT YEAR -- ADDING AN IMPORTANT NEW DETERRENT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

AND THIS WILL NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN AMNESTY, THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE EMPHASISED TODAY.

THE GOVERNOR TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT PRIORITY OF ISSUE WOULD BE GIVEN TO MALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 35, BECAUSE IT IS IN THIS GROUP THAT THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ENTERING ILLEGALLY ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND.

+IN FUTURE, IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGE IDENTITY CARDS AND THOSE ALREADY HERE WHO ARE TRYING TO AVOID DETECTION BY USING THEM WILL BE DISCOVERED AND REPATRIATED,+ HE WARNED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THIS IMPORTANT OPERATION WOULD CAUSE INCONVENIENCE TO THE EXTENT OF TWO SHORT ATTENDANCES AT A CENTRE, +BUT THE PERSONAL COST IS WORTH PAYING TO PRODUCE A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE DOCUMENT AND RECORD IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.+

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT WHILE THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF ARRESTS ON ENTRY WAS NOW AROUND 30, COMPARED WITH 250 PRIOR TO THE ENDING OF THE 'REACH-BASE' POLICY IN 1980, THE URGE TO ENTER HONG KONG SEEMED TO BE AS POWERFUL AS EVER.

+WE MUST, THEREFORE, MAINTAIN THE HIGH LEVEL OF OPERATIONS BY THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, AND WE ARE PRESSING ON WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.+

THESE, HE ADDED, WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1983.

REFERRING TO THE GARRISON, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE FORCES WERE STILL VERY MUCH COMMITTED ON OUR BORDERS WHERE CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS REQUIRED.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE NUMBERS OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WHO ARRIVED AT A RATE OF 55 000 A YEAR, REPRESENTING AN ADDITIONAL ONE PER CENT EXPANSION IN OUR POPULATION.

+WE RECOGNISE THE PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FROM THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH GOOD REASONS FOR COMING TO HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+WE HOPE NEVERTHELESS IT WILL SOON BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME REDUCTION IN THE NUMBERS WHO ENTER AND REMAIN HERE, AND WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM ON THIS ISSUE.+

ON THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT WHILE HONG KONG COULD BE PROUD OF ITS RECORD IN PROVIDING FIRST ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES, IT COULD NOT ABSORB MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE WELFARE OF OUR OWN CITIZENS.

/IT WAS

IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO PLACE NEW ARRIVALS IN CLOSED CAMPS. +OUR INTENTION IS TO DETER THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO PERSIST IN SEEKING ILLEGAL ENTRY TO HONG KONG.+

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT HONG KONG NOW HAD 3 000 MORE REFUGEES THAN SIX MONTHS AGO, AND HE PRAISED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FOR THE WAY THEY HAD RESPONDED IN MANAGING THE NEW CAMPS.

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'CROSS HARBOUR BRIDGE LIKELY'

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THE NEXT MAJOR ROAD NETWORK PROJECT TO BE DECIDED ON IS THE SECOND FIXED CROSSING OF THE HARBOUR AND, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS CONNECTED WITH THE AIRPORT, THIS IS LIKELY TO BE A BRIDGE AT LEI YUE MUN, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT MORE EMPHASIS WAS BEING PLACED ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ROAD NETWORK — TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, PARTICULARLY RAIL SERVICES, AND TO ENSURE THE MORE ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT USE OF THE ROAD NETWORK.

THE SIZE OF THE TRANSPORT PROGRAMME, HE SAID, REFLECTED THE NEED TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR NEARLY EIGHT MILLION PASSENGER TRIPS DAILY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TO PROVIDE FOR OVER 340 000 VEHICLES TO MOVE AROUND HONG KONG'S ROAD NETWORK.

SIR EDWARD SAID IMPROVEMENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE INCLUDED THE PARTIAL OPENING OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND THE AIRPORT TUNNEL.

+EARLY IN 1983 THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WILL BE FULLY OPERATIONAL WITH DUAL THREE-LANE OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID WORK WAS CONTINUING ON THE MAJOR TRUNK ROUTES, THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, THE SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL ROAD AND THE REMAINING STRETCHES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

+THE STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR INVESTMENT COMMITMENT AS NEW PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE LINK BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN, COMMENCE,+ HE ADDED.

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HE SAID THE GROWTH IN CAPACITY IN 1982 HAD BEEN PERHAPS THE GREATEST SO FAR ACHIEVED.

THE MODERNISED AND ELECTRIFIED KCR OPENED ITS INNER SUBURBAN SERVICE FROM HUNG HOM TO SHA TIN IN MAY, HE SAID, AND THE OUTER SUBURBAN SERVICE TO LO WU WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN LATE 1983.

SIR EDWARD SAID FACILITIES AT THE NEW LO WU STATION, NOW BEING BUILT, WILL BE UPGRADED TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE CROSSING THE BORDER.

/+DISCUSSIONS ARE

+DISCUSSIONS ARE IN PROGRESS WITH GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES ON HOW NEW FACILITIES ON EACH SIDE CAN BEST BE MATCHED. TO MAKE THE NEW RAILWAY MORE RESPONSIVE TO COMMERCIAL DEMANDS, WORK IS IN HAND TO ESTABLISH A KCR CORPORATION+ HE SAID.

THE MTR ISLAND LINE NOW BEING BUILT AND PROJECTED TO OPEN IN 1985 AND TO BE IN FULL OPERATION THE NEXT YEAR WILL RELIEVE THE SERIOUS CONGESTION ALONG THE KING'S ROAD CORRIDOR, HE SAID.

+FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE EXTENSION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM TO JUNK BAY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST KOWLOON LINE,+ HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD SAID A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE TWO MAJOR BUS COMPANIES HAD JUST BEEN CONCLUDED AND AS A RESULT A FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WOULD BE AGREED WITH THE COMPANIES, AND REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

+THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING SUCH PROGRAMMES WILL BE REALISTICALLY ASSESSED, WHICH WILL ENABLE A PROPER BALANCE TO BE FOUND BETWEEN A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICE, AND ACCEPTABLE FARE LEVELS,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE MAJOR BUS COMPANIES HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND -- IN THE LAST THREE YEARS THEIR COMBINED FLEET OF DOUBLE DECKER BUSES HAS RISEN FROM 2 600 TO 3 300 AND THEIR COMBINED CARRYING CAPACITY FROM 260 000 PASSENGERS TO 360 000.

ON THE USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM, SIR EDWARD SAID PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN VARIOUS FORMS WERE HELPING TO FACILITATE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON THE VERY CROWDED ROADS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED THAT INCREASINGLY SERIOUS CONGESTION HAD TO BE TACKLED BY FISCAL MEASURES TO RESTRAIN THE RATE OF GROWTH OF PRIVATE VEHICLE NUMBERS, HE SAID.

+THE NEW POLICY PROVIDES FOR A GROWTH RATE OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE PER CENT PER ANNUM, A TARGET EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR. FOR 1982-83, THIS MEANS NOT MORE THAN 1 000 NEW PRIVATE VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS EVERY MONTH, BUT IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS TARGET WILL BE MAINTAINED IN LATER YEARS,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ADDED: +THE GOVERNMENT HAS THUS FACED THE REALITY THAT UNRESTRICTED GROWTH IS INTOLERABLE, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. I HAVE JUST REFERRED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGER TRIPS AS APPROACHING EIGHT MILLION EVERY DAY. THIS IS 12 TIMES THE NUMBER OF PASSENGER TRIPS MADE BY PRIVATE CARS WHICH COMPRISE TWO-THIRDS OF OUR TOTAL VEHICLES ON THE ROADS.+

HE ALSO SAID A CONSULTANCY STUDY WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE ECONOMICS OF THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONSIDER WHETHER RESTRICTIONS WERE ALSO JUSTIFIED ON GOODS VEHICLES.

+DECISIONS ON THIS DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX PROBLEM SHOULD BE REACHED BY THE END OF 1983,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 25 -

CIVIL SERVICE GROWTH SET AT FOUR TO FIVE PER CENT
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A CEILING OF NO MORE THAN FOUR PER CENT TO FIVE PER CENT HAS BEEN SET, AS AN OVERALL GUIDELINE, ON THE GROWTH OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, AS AGAINST THE UPPER LIMIT OF 10 PER CENT ALLOWED FOR IN THE PRINTED ESTIMATES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY.

SIR EDWARD SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE TO BE ASSIDUOUS AND WELL MOTIVATED, HE WAS AWARE OF THE CONCERN AMONG MEMBERS THAT IT HAD EXPANDED TOO RAPIDLY.

THE TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT HAD GROWN FROM 98 000 POSTS IN 1972 TO NEARLY 170 000 POSTS IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

+SINCE THESE FIGURES ENCOMPASS THE STAFF OF THE POLICE FORCE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE VARIOUS WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES, THIS EXPANSION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IS HARDLY SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE GROWTH IN VOLUME AND SCOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS.

+AS THE GOVERNMENT'S SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY ARE IMPROVED, SOME GROWTH IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WILL STILL BE REQUIRED. BUT THE RATE OF GROWTH MUST NOW BE SLOWED DOWN,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS, TIGHTER CONTROLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED ON THE CREATION OF NEW POSTS. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO PLACE A RENEWED EMPHASIS ON THE VALUE-FOR-MONEY CRITERION- TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE HABIT OF AUTOMATICALLY REFILLING POSTS WHENEVER THEY BECOME VACANT THROUGH RETIREMENT OR OTHER REASONS- AND TO KEEP UNDER CRITICAL REVIEW THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AS A WHOLE.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT SEVERAL MAJOR CHANGES HAD BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST YEAR OR SO TO THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION.

AND FURTHER ADMENDMENTS TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION, THE NETWORK OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THEM TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BEING EXAMINED.

+THE OUTCOME WILL PROBABLY BE CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULES OF SOME POLICY BRANCH SECRETARIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE GROUPINGS OF POLICY PROGRAMMES AND A BETTER BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITIES.+ HE SAID.

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/26

NATIONALITY ACT AND STUDENT FEES IN UK

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED DURING THIS SESSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO HONG KONG'S IMMIGRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION +AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR,+ THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

AN IMPORTANT RELATED QUESTION WHICH NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED WAS THE NATIONALITY DESCRIPTION TO BE USED IN PASSPORTS, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO URGE ON HMG THE IMPORTANCE WE ALL ATTACH TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID ALSO THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN FOR JOINT FUNDING OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOME AND OVERSEAS STUDENT FEES, ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE OVERSEAS STUDENT TRUST.

IF ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE AGREED, HONG KONG STUDENTS IN BRITAIN WOULD, SUBJECT TO A MEANS TEST, PAY THE SAME FEES AS HOME STUDENTS, HE SAID.

+WE SHALL BE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF A CO-ORDINATED SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS ABROAD, IN ORDER TO HELP MEET CURRENT AND EXPECTED SHORTAGES OF MANPOWER IN PARTICULAR AREAS,+ HE SAID.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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A CLEAN HONG KONG CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN A CROWDED URBAN COMMUNITY RELYING HEAVILY ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IS BOUND TO CAUSE PROBLEMS UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO PREVENT IT.

+FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PART, ACTION STARTS WITH LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE PROVISIONS OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL ARE BEING EXAMINED BY THE UMELCO GENERAL SERVICES WORKING GROUP AND, WHEN THE BILL IS PASSED, IT WILL JOIN THE EXISTING WASTE DISPOSAL AND WATER POLLUTION ORDINANCES AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A COMPREHENSIVE NOISE CONTROL BILL, THUS PROVIDING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR POLLUTION CONTROL.

TOLO HARBOUR, HE SAID, WAS DECLARED THE FIRST WATER CONTROL ZONE, UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, IN FEBRUARY AND WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR THE ZONE WERE GAZETTED IN JUNE.

+THE NEXT STEP IS THE MAKING OF DETAILED REGULATIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR CONTROL AND THEN FINALLY COMES ENFORCEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID REGULATIONS UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE TO CONTROL AGRICULTURAL WASTE, TOXIC, DIFFICULT AND HAZARDOUS WASTES ARE ALSO BEING DRAWN UP.

THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN, LAUNCHED ON OCTOBER 25, 1981, WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER. A PROGRAMME OF PLANTING TREES, SHRUBS AND PLANTS HAS ALSO BEEN STARTED AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 1983.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS INTENSIFIED ITS HARBOUR CLEANSING ACTIVITIES, AND IMPROVED ITS EQUIPMENT BY THE PURCHASE OF FOUR MORE SPECIALLY DESIGNED VESSELS TO PICK UP FLOATING REFUSE.

+NONE OF THIS WILL SUCCEED IN THE LONG RUN WITHOUT THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. A CLEAN HONG KONG IS UP TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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ARTS AND RECREATION

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WHEN THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IS FORMALLY OPENED LATER THIS MONTH, HONG KONG WILL HAVE FIRST-CLASS FACILITIES FOR TRAINING SPORTSMEN AND A BASE FROM WHICH TO MEET INCREASED COMMUNITY INTEREST IN SPORT, THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ARTS AND RECREATION CONTRIBUTE TO A BALANCED LIFE FOR A COMMUNITY THAT IS ENJOYING GREATER LEISURE TODAY THAN IT ENJOYED EVEN A FEW YEARS AGO.

+THE COMMUNITY IS GRATEFUL TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND MANY SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE BODIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID ALSO THAT THOUGH THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS WAS +LITTLE MORE THAN A VISION+ LAST YEAR, A SITE HAD SINCE BEEN FOUND, PLANS DRAWN UP AND WORK STARTED ON THE MAJOR PROJECT.

+THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB IN THESE TWO ENDEAVOURS IS TO BE COMMENDED,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 28 -

UNOFFICIAL THANKED FOR SERVICE
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING WHO RETIRED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WHICH HE SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS SINCE 1978.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY, THE FIRST SINCE MR NEWBIGGING'S RETIREMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID MR NEWBIGGING HAD A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

+ I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL DURING HIS YEARS AS AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, AND FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE HAS ENRICHED OUR PROCEEDINGS WITH HIS EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM.

+ I AM FORTUNATE IN BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THE ADVICE OR MR NEWBIGGING IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.+

SIR EDWARD ALSO WELCOMED DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP AS MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 29 -

INVITATION TO GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS

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HONG KONG IS SETTING OUT ON A CONSISTENT AND SYSTEMATIC BASIS TO ENCOURAGE WESTERN EUROPEAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PETER TSAO, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN OPENING THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICE IN STUTTART, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS, BANKERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS. MR TSAO TOLD THE GATHERING THAT ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF THE STUTTART OFFICE WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO CAN INTRODUCE NEW PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY OR NEW PRODUCTS AND SOPHISTICATED MANAGEMENT TO HONG KONG.

+WE ARE NOT SEEKING THE TRANSFER OF JOBS TO HONG KONG, BUT THE TRANSFER OF PRODUCTION PROCESSES WHICH MIGHT BE MORE PROFITABLY UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG,+ MR TSAO SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MANY OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAD FOUND THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A MORE COMPETITIVE POSITION IN WORLD MARKETS BY COMPLEMENTING THEIR HOME PRODUCTION WITH COMPONENTS OR FINISHED PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY NEEDED A RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE, SUPPORT FACILITIES, A HEALTHY COMMERCIAL CLIMATE AND A GOOD, RELIABLE, INTELLIGENT AND EDUCATED WORKFORCE TO SUCCEED.

+I BELIEVE THESE ARE THINGS THAT HONG KONG HAS TO OFFER,+ HE STRESSED.

THE STUTTART OFFICE, HONG KONG'S THIRD OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICE AFTER TOKYO AND LONDON, IS HEADED BY PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, MR JOHN WHITE.

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AIRPORT TUNNEL COMES INTO FULL USE ON FRIDAY

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THE AIRPORT TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 7) FOR PREPARATORY WORK TO OPEN BOTH TUBES TO TRAFFIC, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TUNNEL WILL RE-OPEN AT 5 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING (OCTOBER 8) WHEN BOTH TUBES WILL BEGIN OPERATING ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 30 -

LABOUR DEPARTMENT OPENS NEW BRANCH OFFICE
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION UNIT WILL OPEN ANOTHER BRANCH OFFICE ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11) IN TSUEN WAN.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE NEW OFFICE - SITUATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, TEXACO ROAD, TSUEN WAN - WILL HANDLE AND PROCESS INJURY CASES ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT AT KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI ISLAND.

IT WILL ALSO OFFER ADVICE TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

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THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND SOLD
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THREE LOTS OF CROWN LAND WERE SOLD AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IN THE HILTON HOTEL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FIRST LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 1 369 SQUARE METRES IN YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL AREA, IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO BONCHIEF LIMITED FOR \$1.98 MILLION, OR \$1 446.31 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE SECOND LOT, WHICH IS FOR INDUSTRIAL, GODOWN AND OFFENSIVE TRADE PURPOSES, COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 690 SQUARE METRES IN KWAI CHUNG, AND WAS SOLD TO PAKLEE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED FOR \$1.76 MILLION, OR \$2 550.72 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE LAST LOT OF ABOUT 873.2 SQUARE METRES IN MUI WO ON LANTAU ISLAND IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO HON FAI INVESTMENT LIMITED FOR \$3.65 MILLION, OR \$4 180.02 PER SQUARE METRE.

ONE LOT IN YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MEASURING ABOUT 3 347 SQUARE METRES AND EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN PURPOSES, WAS WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO BIDDER.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982

- 31 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO
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FROM 10 AM THIS FRIDAY (OCTOBER 8), FUK WING STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND CHEUNG WAH STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, CHEUNG WAH STREET BETWEEN FUK WING STREET AND FUK WA STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

THE EXISTING PLB STAND AT FUK WING STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG WAH STREET WILL BE EXTENDED FOR ABOUT 20 METRES TO ACCOMMODATE MORE PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

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PEAK TRAM SERVICES CURTAILED ON THURSDAY
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ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 7) EVENING, PEAK TRAM SERVICES WILL BE CURTAILED FOR MAINTENANCE WORKS. THE LAST TRAMS WILL LEAVE BOTH TERMINI AT 10 PM.

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