



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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LEGCO MEETING DELAYED BY BOMB HOAX  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WENT INTO SESSION THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT 35 MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE FOLLOWING AN ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL THAT THERE WAS A BOMB IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

THE CALL WAS RECEIVED AT APPROXIMATELY 2 P.M. BY THE SECRETARY TO THE DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. THE VOICE WAS THAT OF A MAN SPEAKING IN ENGLISH WITH WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN ASIAN ACCENT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAD ALREADY ASSUMED THEIR SEATS IN THE CHAMBER WERE REQUESTED TO LEAVE WHILE POLICE SEARCHED THE CHAMBER AND SURROUNDING AREAS. ALL PUBLIC AREAS WITHIN THE BUILDING WERE SEARCHED AND OFFICERS WERE ASKED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS IN THEIR OFFICES. NOTHING WAS FOUND AND COUNCIL RESUMED AT APPROXIMATELY 3.05 P.M.

THE PROCEEDINGS BEGAN WITH THE SWEARING IN OF THE FIVE NEW APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS -- MR. J.H. BREMIDGE, DR. HARRY FANG SIN-YANG, MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, MR. LO TAK-SHING AND MR. FRANCIS TIEN YUEN-HAO.

AFTER WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBERS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WENT ON TO PAY WARM TRIBUTE TO THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN, THE HON. SZETO WAI, THE HON. WILFRED WONG SIEN-BING, MR. ANN TSE-KAI, AND MR. G.M. SAYER, ALL OF WHOM RETIRED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS FROM THE FIRST OF THIS MONTH.

ALL OF THEM, THE GOVERNOR SAID, HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND TO THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.

SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED DEEP GRATITUDE TO MR. WOO FOR HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND SAID HE ADMIRER +THE EXEMPLARY WAY IN WHICH HE DISCHARGED THE VERY ONEROUS DUTIES OF SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID; +IT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT SATISFACTION TO ME THAT THE ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF MR. SZETO, MR. ANN AND MR. SAYER AS WELL AS MR. WOO, WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO UMELCO AND TO MYSELF IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+THEY HAVE ALL, IN DIFFERENT WAYS, CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL AND TO THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY AT LARGE.+

SIR MURRAY HAD A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS FOR MR. WILFRED WONG WHO SERVED ON THE COUNCIL SINCE JUNE 1965.

+HIS WISE AND LIVELY CONTRIBUTIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE ECONOMY, WILL BE A LOSS TO ALL OF US,+ SIR MURRAY SAID. +BUT IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT, AFTER NINE YEARS OF TIRELESS AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, MR. WONG SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENJOY THE RETIREMENT FROM THIS COUNCIL THAT HE HAS ASKED FOR AND SO WELL DESERVED.+

/SPEAKING ON .....

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SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, WHO BECOMES THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, SAID THE RETIRING MEMBERS WOULD BE SADLY MISSED.

HE DESCRIBED MR. WILFRED WONG AS +A MAN OF IDEAS AND OF IDEALS+ WHOSE PARTICULAR BRAND OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT HAS A RARE AND TREASURED QUALITY. DR. CHUNG NOTED THAT MR. WONG HAD BEEN AN EXCELLENT +OMBUDSMAN+ WHO HAD DEVOTED MUCH TIME TO PURSUING PARTICULAR GRIEVANCES WHICH CAME TO HIS ATTENTION AS A MEMBER OF UMELCO.

+HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE AND HIS GREAT HUMANITY WILL SURELY BE MISSED,+ SAID DR. CHUNG WISHING MR. WONG GOOD FORTUNE AND HAPPINESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

DR. CHUNG SAID THAT WHILE ALL THE RETIRING MEMBERS WOULD BE MISSED +THE GREATEST LOSS IS OF OUR FORMER LEADER MR. WOO PAK-CHUEN.+

+HIS ENORMOUS KNOWLEDGE OF LEGISLATION, HIS ABILITY TO WORK AT BREAKNECK SPEED AND HIS WIDE INTEREST IN A VAST RANGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS WILL BE SADLY MISSED,+ DR. CHUNG SAID. +SO WILL HIS BRISK CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEETINGS OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HELD IN THE UMELCO OFFICE.+ IT WAS AT UMELCO MEETINGS, RATHER THAN IN COUNCIL, THAT MR. WOO HAD SHOWN HIS ROLE AS BOTH +WHIP+ AND LEADER OF THE UNOFFICIALS, SAID DR. CHUNG.

REFERRING TO MR. SZETO WAI, MR. ANN TSE-KAI AND MR. G.M. SAYER, HE SAID THAT WHILE THEIR GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL AFFAIRS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE GAP CAUSED BY THEIR RETIREMENT FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE EASY TO FILL.

OF HIS OWN APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. CHUNG SAID HE REGARDED IT AS AN HONOUR AND A CHALLENGE BUT ADDED HE WAS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF HIS SHORTCOMINGS. NEVERTHELESS, HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SERVE IN THE POSITION.

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REVIEW OF DRUG TREATMENT BY SARDA

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THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS IS ENGAGED ON A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMMES AND FACILITIES AND A TREATMENT BLUEPRINT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN HIS SPEECH WINDING UP THE DEBATE THAT THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THE WHITE PAPER ON +THE PROBLEM OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID THE RESULT OF THIS REVIEW WOULD, IN DUE COURSE, BE PLACED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH AN INDICATION OF THE ESTIMATED COST.

MR. DAVIES ALSO DISCLOSED THAT DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOW BEING PREPARED FOR NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL FACTORY MADE-DRUGS ABUSED HERE. +ON THE RETURN OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS IN AUGUST AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LAW DRAFTSMAN WORK ON THE ACTUAL DRAFT WILL BE PUT IN HAND.

+PROVIDED THINGS GO REASONABLY SMOOTHLY THE NEW BILL OUGHT TO BE READY EARLY NEXT YEAR. I CANNOT BE MORE SPECIFIC AT THIS STAGE SINCE IT IS NOT EASY TO ASSESS HOW COMPLICATED THE BILL MAY HAVE TO BE OR HOW EASILY AGREEMENT CAN BE SECURED BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.+

COMMENTING ON LAW ENFORCEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE DRUG PROBLEM, HE SAID THE NARCOTICS BUREAU HAD RECENTLY CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON SYNDICATE PENETRATION OPERATIONS AT A LEVEL LIKELY TO INFLICT THE MOST DAMAGE TO DRUG SYNDICATES.

SUCH EFFORTS HAD RESULTED IN FOUR HEROIN REFINERIES RAIDED, ABOUT \$15 MILLION WORTH OF DRUGS SEIZED AND 18 HIGH LEVEL SYNDICATE PERSONALITIES CHARGED WITH VARIOUS DRUG OFFENCES.

REFERRING TO A POINT MADE BY THE HON. WILSON WANG THAT COMPULSORY REGISTRATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY SAID THE VIEW CURRENTLY PREVAILING WAS THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WAS PREMATURE.

IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE PRACTICAL ONLY IF AND WHEN COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES FOR COMPULSORY TREATMENT WERE AVAILABLE. +WE ARE NOT YET IN THIS POSITION BUT I CAN ASSURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT HIS SUGGESTION WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN EVEN THOUGH EARLY IMPLEMENTATION SEEMS UNLIKELY.+

ON THE ROLE OF EX-ADDICTS, HE SAID THEIR IMPORTANCE WAS RECOGNISED AND, SO FAR, SARDA HAD 22 EX-ADDICTS ON ITS STAFF AND +THOSE ENGAGED IN TREATMENT ARE VERY, VERY ALIVE TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF EX-ADDICTS HELPING THOSE WHO ARE STILL ADDICTED.+

AIR. DAVIES ALSO .....

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MR. DAVIES ALSO OUTLINED ACTIONS TAKEN BY VARIOUS QUARTERS BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF HONG KONG IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

POINTING OUT THAT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION ABOUT DRUG ABUSE IS A CONTINUING PROCESS WHICH AFFECTS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, HE SAID THE PRIME CONCERN MUST BE TO PROTECT THE YOUNG.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THERE IS INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO ENSURE, WITHOUT EXCITING TOO MUCH CURIOSITY, THAT YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY, ARE INFORMED OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE.+

THE ACAN HAS A SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES. SIMILAR EFFORTS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE NARCOTICS BUREAU OF THE POLICE, THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND SARDA.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REVERTING TO PUBLIC BURNING OF DRUGS AS SUGGESTED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HE SAID THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED. +WE PERFORMED THESE RITES IN 1967 AND 1969 AND ACAN WILL DECIDE WHETHER FURTHER CEREMONIES WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION.+

TOUCHING ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL, HE SAID 1973 SAW A GREAT INCREASE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTION IN BURMA AND THAILAND WHICH WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE RESULTED IN A SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN THE AMOUNT OF DRUGS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

HE STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION HAD HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO REDUCE IMPORTS OF OPIUM INTO HONG KONG, AND, TO THIS END, THE NARCOTICS BUREAU AND THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE MAINTAINED THE CLOSEST LIAISON WITH OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

+WE ARE ALSO ALIVE TO OUR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES TO STAMP OUT ANY POSSIBLE USE OF HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR HEROIN IMPORTS.+

HE ADDED THAT TWO EXPERIENCED NARCOTICS BUREAU OFFICERS HAD, ON THE DAY BEFORE THE PRESENT DEBATE BEGAN, LEFT FOR EUROPE TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF ARRESTS OF CHINESE IN POSSESSION OF HEROIN ALLEGEDLY PROCURED IN HONG KONG, AND TO ESTABLISH CLOSER CONTACT WITH ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THERE.

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VARIOUS METHODS OF TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION  
MAINLY THREE TYPES, DR CHOA TELLS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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DR THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, REVIEWED VARIOUS METHODS OF TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, AND DISCUSSED THEIR SUITABILITY FOR LOCAL APPLICATION.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE PROBLEMS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

HE SAID THERE WERE MAINLY THREE TYPES OF TREATMENT PROGRAMMES: -

- \* PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL REHABILITATION.
- \* PHYSICAL REHABILITATION WITH EMPHASIS ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING.
- \* DRUG THERAPY.

DR CHOA SAID THE FIRST METHOD WAS OF LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE LOCAL ADDICTS HAD NO PREDOMINANT PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM.

WITH REGARD TO PHYSICAL REHABILITATION, THE PROGRAMMES ON SHEK KWU CHAU AND IN THE ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES RUN BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WERE AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

AS FOR DRUG THERAPY, DR CHOA SUPPORTED METHADONE MAINTENANCE.

HE EXPLAINED WHY TWO SEPARATE TRIALS BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY WERE STILL BEING CONDUCTED, AND NO CLINICS WERE AS YET OPERATING.

THE REASONS WERE:

- \* TO ASSESS WHETHER THE METHOD WOULD BE POPULAR OR NOT WITH LOCAL DRUG ADDICTS.
- \* TO FIND OUT THE CAUSES OF THEIR DROPPING OUT.
- \* TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE REGIMEN USED AT THE HIGH STREET CENTRE WAS SUITABLE FOR MASS TREATMENT.

DR CHOA GAVE THE COUNCIL THE ASSURANCE THAT, FROM HIS OBSERVATIONS IN NEW YORK, THE DANGERS REGARDING METHADONE MAINTENANCE -- SUCH AS OVERDOSE AND DEATH -- HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISINTERPRETED.

/HE SUMMED .....

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HE SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT FOR HONG KONG, WITH ITS ESTIMATED 100,000 ADDICTS, PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND METHADONE MAINTENANCE SHOULD BE IN OPERATION SIMULTANEOUSLY.

SOME 1,150 ADDICTS HAD, IN THE COURSE OF 19 MONTHS, BEEN THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S TRIAL SCHEME.

+ONCE IT IS DECIDED THAT A FULL-SCALE TREATMENT PROGRAMME SHOULD BE LAUNCHED, MANY MORE CAN BE OFFERED TREATMENT,+ HE COMMENTED. +WITH THIS, AND POSSIBLY FURTHER EXPANSION OF SHEK KWU CHAU, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO TREAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ADDICTS, BEARING IN MIND ONE TARGET SUGGESTED OF 50,000 IN THREE YEARS.+

HE DESCRIBED THE IDEAL ARRANGEMENT AS ONE HAVING A BOARD TO SCREEN ALL ADDICTS WHO APPLIED FOR TREATMENT, AND THEN TO ALLOCATE THEM TO EITHER ONE OF THE TWO PROGRAMMES ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA LAID DOWN FOR ADMISSION.

TO AUGMENT THE PROGRAMME, SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COUNSELLING ADDICTS, AND CLUB FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THEM SO THAT THEY HAD +SOMEWHERE TO GO WHENEVER THEY WISH TO KEEP AWAY FROM UNDESIRABLE COMPANY, OR DRUG-POLLUTED ENVIRONMENTS.+

DR CHOA SAID THE ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN OFFENDERS HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND THIS FORM OF HUMANE TREATMENT SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

+HONG KONG IS A MOST SUITABLE PLACE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH BECAUSE FOLLOW-UP STUDIES ARE FACILITATED BY THE FACT THAT VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT TAKES PLACE AMONG THE ADDICT POPULATION,+ HE EMPHASISED.

WORK ON LONGER-ACTING METHADONE PREPARATIONS AND ANTAGONISTS TO OPIATES WAS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ADVANTAGE OF THE FORMER WAS TO REDUCE THE DAILY ATTENDANCE AT A CLINIC TO PERHAPS TWO TO THREE TIMES A WEEK, AND THE USE OF THE LATTER WAS TO MAKE ADDICTS INTOLERABLE TO OPIUM, MORPHINE AND HEROIN, LIKE ANTABUSE FOR ALCOHOL.

GIVEN SUPPORT, TRIALS ON THESE AND ANY OTHER METHODS WORTH INVESTIGATING COULD BE CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG.

+I HOPE THAT UNDER THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, ALL INTERESTED WILL WORK TOGETHER AS A BODY, WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S NEWLY-FORMED NARCOTICS AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DIVISION CO-ORDINATING ALL TREATMENT PROGRAMMES,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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REVIEW ON BANK LICENCE POLICY COMPLETED  
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO BE CONSULTED

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A REVIEW ON THE POLICY RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF BANK LICENCES HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WILL SOON BE CONSULTED ON THE FINDINGS. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE REPORT OF THE REVIEW WAS NOW IN HIS HANDS, BUT HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE ITS CONTENTS OR INDICATE HIS REACTIONS TO IT +FOR THE ISSUES ARE SUCH THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO BE CONSULTED.+

HE NOTED THAT IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW MIGHT HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF DEPOSITORS BILL AND FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND FOR THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

+I HAVE DECIDED, THEREFORE, RATHER RELUCTANTLY, THAT THESE MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE HELD UP IN VIEW OF THE PROBABLE NEED FOR A NUMBER OF INTERLOCKING MEASURES IN A SINGLE PACKAGE.+

MEANWHILE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING HAD ENCOURAGED THE FINANCE COMPANIES TO FORM A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION COVERING AS WIDE A RANGE AS POSSIBLE OF BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMPANIES.

+THE COMMISSIONER'S INITIATIVE WAS DESIGNED PURELY TO BRING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPANIES TOGETHER AND TO START THEM TALKING,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE PERSONALLY WELCOMED THE EXISTENCE OF AN ASSOCIATION OF FINANCE COMPANIES WHICH COULD SET A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ITS MEMBERS AND COULD REPRESENT THEIR VIEWS TO GOVERNMENT.

+BUT WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO IMPOSE OUR IDEAS ON THE FORM THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD TAKE AND THE MANNER IN WHICH VIEWS ARE FORMULATED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT - AND WOULD NOT WISH TO.+

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS +NOT QUITE+ YET IN A POSITION TO MAKE A STATEMENT AS TO ITS INTENTIONS CONCERNING THE REGULATING OF DEPOSIT-TAKING AND NON-DEPOSIT-TAKING FINANCE COMPANIES AND A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BANK LICENSING POLICY.

HOWEVER, HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UP TO DATE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN VARIOUS FORUMS, INCLUDING THE BANKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND BILATERALLY WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE RELATED TO THREE MAIN AREAS OF CONCERN. THE FIRST IS THE PROTECTION OF SMALLER DEPOSITORS.

+IN THE BUDGET SPEECH I INDICATED THAT MY PREFERRED APPROACH WAS TO SPECIFY A MINIMUM SIZE OF DEPOSIT WHICH FINANCE COMPANIES COULD ACCEPT FROM THE PUBLIC, THIS BEING LINKED WITH THE VOLUNTARY FORMATION OF ONE OR MORE ASSOCIATIONS OF FINANCE COMPANIES WHICH WOULD SET RULES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR THEIR MEMBERS.

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+BUT I MENTIONED THAT IT HAD BEEN FORCIBLY URGED UPON ME THAT A BETTER METHOD WOULD BE TO REGISTER AND CONTROL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND THAT, IN CONSEQUENCE, I MIGHT DELAY BRINGING FORWARD A PROTECTION OF DEPOSITORS BILL.+

THE SECOND AREA OF CONCERN IS THE RELATED BUT MORE GENERAL ONE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE IS DEPENDENT UPON REGULATORY MEASURES BEING INTRODUCED OVER AT LEAST SOME ACTIVITIES OF SOME FINANCE COMPANIES.

THE THIRD AREA OF CONCERN RELATES TO THE DIFFICULTY OF ADMINISTERING, AND THE POSSIBLY UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS OF, OUR CURRENT BANK LICENSING POLICY. +THE FACT IS THAT IT DOES PREVENT THE PARTICIPATION IN OUR BANKING SYSTEM OF SOME OF THE MOST HIGHLY REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL BANKS AND INHIBITS THE EMERGENCE OF ANY NEW LOCAL BANKS. I SUGGESTED IN THE BUDGET SPEECH THAT SOME RETHINKING OF OUR PRESENT LIMITED MORATORIUM POLICY WAS REQUIRED,+ HE SAID.

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NEW FIXED PENALTY BILL TO BE PUBLISHED THIS WEEK  
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THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) BILL WAS WITHDRAWN TODAY AND WILL BE REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE LATER THIS WEEK.

IN WITHDRAWING THE OLD BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID THE NEW BILL WAS THE OUTCOME OF DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS +IN THE LIGHT OF REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL.+

+THE NEW BILL HAS THEIR FULL SUPPORT,+ HE ADDED.

THE ORIGINAL FIXED PENALTY BILL PROVIDED FOR A FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM FOR A WIDE RANGE OF TRAFFIC OFFENCES AS WELL AS A 'DEMERIT' POINTS SYSTEM.

IT WAS POSTPONED ON THE REQUEST OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO WANTED TIME TO MAKE A DETAILED STUDY OF ITS PROVISIONS.

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FIRST STEP TOWARDS COMPULSORY MANAGEMENT  
IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

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FIRM PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST STEPS IN COMPULSORY MANAGEMENT OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WILL BE READY BY AUTUMN THIS YEAR, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, SAID TODAY.

COMPULSORY MANAGEMENT, HE FELT, SHOULD FIRST BE INTRODUCED IN ALL NEW BUILDINGS, LEAVING EXISTING BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED FOR WITHIN THE PRESENT VOLUNTARY SYSTEM FOR THE TIME BEING.

+THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS MUCH EASIER TO GET EFFECTIVE MANagements GOING IN A BUILDING IN GOOD CONDITION THAN IN ONE WHICH HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE= BUT, IN DUE COURSE, OLD BUILDINGS TOO SHOULD BE COVERED,+ MR. LIGHTBODY EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN STUDYING THE CASE FOR THIS IN RECENT MONTHS AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THE GENERAL CLIMATE OF OPINION ON COMPULSORY MANAGEMENT HAD CHANGED OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS OR SO, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE, THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT FACE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

MR. LIGHTBODY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NUMBER OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES REGISTERED AND ALSO HOW SOON IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE A COMPULSORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BUILDINGS WHICH HAD NOT YET FORMED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

REGARDING THE NUMBER OF COMMITTEES REGISTERED, MR. LIGHTBODY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ALTOGETHER OVER 1,600 BUILDINGS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD SOME MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

A BREAKDOWN OF THESE SHOWED THAT JUST OVER 600 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES SERVING CORPORATIONS ARE REGISTERED UNDER THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS CORPORATION) ORDINANCE. OTHERS INCLUDED BUILDINGS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF LANDLORD AND TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS AND BUILDINGS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES OF WHICH THERE ARE SOME 600. IN ADDITION THERE ARE SOME 400 BUILDINGS MANAGED BY PROPERTY COMPANIES AND BOARDS, SOMETIMES THROUGH ESTATE AGENTS.

/AS TO .....

AS TO THE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS WHICH ARE WITHOUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THIS WAS NOT EASILY ASCERTAINED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION READY TO HAND ON NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHTS AND USE.

+HOWEVER, WE CAN SAY THAT ACUTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS ARE GENERALLY CONFINED TO DOMESTIC BUILDINGS OF OVER SIX-STOUREYS, WHERE THERE IS A LIFT SERVICE AND MORE COMMON PARTS THAN ARE FOUND IN LOWER BLOCKS.

+IF WE USE THIS DEFINITION, THEN THERE ARE AT LEAST 2,000 MULTI-STOREY DOMESTIC BUILDINGS WITHOUT ONE OR OTHER OF THESE FORMS OF MANagements,+ HE SAID.

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DETENTION CENTRES SEEM TO WORK  
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THE NEW-TYPE DETENTION CENTRES APPEAR TO BE ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECT OF DETERRING THE VERY GREAT MAJORITY OF YOUNG OFFENDERS FROM COMMITTING FURTHER OFFENCES, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT OF THE 708 DETAINEES DISCHARGED FROM THE CENTRES BETWEEN JUNE 1972 AND JUNE 28 THIS YEAR ONLY 48 HAD BEEN RE-CONVICTED. THIS REPRESENTED ABOUT 6.5 PER CENT OF TOTAL ADMISSIONS. IN ADDITION, 33 DETAINEES HAD BEEN RECALLED, WHILE STILL UNDER SUPERVISION, FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH SUPERVISION ORDERS.

SINCE THE FIRST CENTRE WAS SET UP IN JUNE 1972, A TOTAL OF 978 DETAINEES HAVE BEEN ADMITTED. OF THESE 346 HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SUBSEQUENT SUPERVISION PERIOD AND 362 ARE STILL UNDER SUPERVISION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. P.G. WILLIAMS, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT WHEN THE CENTRES WERE ESTABLISHED IT WAS DECIDED THAT AN EVALUATION OF THEIR SUCCESS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AFTER TWO YEARS.

+TO THIS END THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN KEEPING THE NECESSARY RECORDS AND, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CRIMINAL RECORDS OFFICE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAS KEPT A CHECK ON RE-CONVICTIONS.

+THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS IS NOW PREPARING A REPORT WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT ANTICIPATE THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT BUT FELT THAT FROM THE FIGURES OF RE-CONVICTIONS IT APPEARED THAT THE DETENTION CENTRES WERE ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECT.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

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SEVERANCE PAY FOR REDUNDANT WORKERS

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A BILL TO PROVIDE SEVERANCE PAY TO REDUNDANT WORKERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECOND READING DEBATE OF THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED, AND WHEN IT IS RESUMED THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT PUBLIC COMMENT.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, SAID A NUMBER OF USEFUL COMMENTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED SINCE THE BILL WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JUNE 7 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

+THESE COMMENTS ARE BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND IT IS LIKELY THAT A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS WILL BE PROPOSED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BILL IN THE LIGHT OF THE VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE BILL PROVIDED FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS AT THE RATE OF ONE-THIRD OF A MONTH'S PAY FOR MONTHLY-RATED WORKERS OR TEN DAYS' WAGES FOR TIME-RATED AND PIECE-RATED WORKERS, FOR EVERY YEAR OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE.

IT WOULD APPLY ONLY TO EMPLOYEES WHO HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 24 MONTHS.

ALL MANUAL WORKERS, AND ANY NON-MANUAL WORKER EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, WOULD BE COVERED.

+IT IS SIMPLY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS, AND NOT A REWARD FOR LONG SERVICE OR GOOD BEHAVIOUR, SUCH AS A GRATUITY OR BONUS,+ HE SAID. +IT ARISES ONLY FROM DISMISSAL DUE TO REDUNDANCY AND NOT WHERE THERE IS ANY ELEMENT OF VOLITION OR FAULT ON THE PART OF THE EMPLOYEE.+

MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT DISPUTES OVER SEVERANCE PAYMENTS HAD BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN INDUSTRY IN RECENT YEARS.

+OVER THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JULY 1968 TO 30TH APRIL 1974, MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF ALL MAJOR LABOUR DISPUTES DEALT WITH BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE CONCERNED REDUNDANCY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS WAS ALREADY ACCEPTED BY MANY EMPLOYERS, AND THEIR PAYMENTS WERE QUITE OFTEN GENEROUS.

/+ I WOULD .....

+I WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THE BILL LAYS DOWN MINIMUM STANDARDS ONLY, AND MY HOPE IS THAT EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE BEEN MORE GENEROUS THAN ITS PROVISIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO, AND THAT OTHERS WILL ALSO BE INCLINED IN THIS DIRECTION,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

+FOR THEM AND THEIR EMPOLYEEES, LEGISLATION SHOULD PROVIDE A YARDSTICK WHICH COULD ALSO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.+

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE PROPOSED RATE OF SEVERANCE PAY WAS DETERMINED AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RELIEF TO THE REDUNDANT WORKER AT A RATE WHICH WOULD NOT OVER-STRAIN A SMALLER EMPLOYER. IF SMALLER EMPLOYERS WERE UNABLE TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS THEY WOULD BE DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS, THEREBY CREATING FURTHER REDUNDANCY AND DEFEATING THE OBJECT OF LEGISLATION.

THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING THE PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OR OF EXCLUDING SMALL EMPLOYERS WITH LESS THAN 20 EMPLOYEES HAD ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED. +SUCH LIMITATIONS, HOWEVER, PRESENT SERIOUS ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS WITH BORDERLINE CASES,+ HE SAID.

+AND, IN ANY EVENT, IT DID NOT SEEM REASONABLE TO DETERMINE AN EMPLOYEE'S BASIC ENTITLEMENT TO RELIEF BENEFITS BY REFERENCE TO THE SIZE OR NATURE OF HIS EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS.

+IT WAS THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT THE SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF APPLYING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ACROSS THE BOARD TO ALL EMPLOYERS WERE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO OUTWEIGH THE RISKS OF IMPOSING TOO ONEROUS A BURDEN ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALLER EMPLOYERS.+

MR. WILLIAMS ALSO SAID THAT BECAUSE A NUMBER OF HONG KONG FIRMS PROVIDED LONG-SERVICE GRATUITIES OR REDUNDANCY PROVISIONS UNDER THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT SEVERANCE PAY SHOULD BE ALTERNATIVE AND NOT ADDITIONAL TO SUCH SCHEMES, ALLOWING EMPLOYEES TO CHOOSE WHICHEVER WAS THE MORE BENEFICIAL TO THEM.

+SEVERANCE PAY IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT, AND NOT TO OPERATE AS A BONUS WHERE SUCH PROTECTION IS ALREADY AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE QUALIFYING PERIOD OF TWO YEAR'S CONTINUOUS SERVICE HAD BEEN DECIDED ON BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY AFTER SUCH A PERIOD THAT THE EMPLOYMENT COULD BE REGARDED AS BEING IN ANY WAY PERMANENT.

/HE SAID, .....

HE SAID, +SUCH A QUALIFYING PERIOD MAY ALSO HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN IN THEIR JOBS, SO REDUCING HIGH LABOUR-TURNOVER - BUT, HOPEFULLY, WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE ECONOMICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS MOBILITY OF LABOUR WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A STRONG FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.+

HE SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT, IN CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAY, ONLY THE FIVE YEARS' SERVICE PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE COUNTED SO AS NOT TO PLACE TOO HEAVY AN INITIAL LIABILITY ON EMPLOYERS.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL WOULD HAVE THE JURISDICTION TO INQUIRE INTO, HEAR AND DETERMINE CLAIMS FOR SEVERANCE PAYMENT.

IN CASE OF BANKRUPTCY, WINDING-UP AND LIQUIDATION, SEVERANCE PAYMENTS WOULD HAVE THE SAME PRIORITY AS WAGES, SALARY AND CROWN DEBTS WHEN IT CAME TO CLAIMS ON THE FIRM'S ASSETS.

THE DEBATE WAS ADJOURNED.

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HOUSING OFFICIALS CONFIRM MEETING  
WITH SHOP TENANTS  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL MEET THE GROUP OF 23 GROUP B SHOP TENANTS AS SCHEDULED TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IN A LETTER TO THE 23 SHOP TENANTS TODAY, THE AUTHORITY CONFIRMED THAT THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9 A.M. IN THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPHASISED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOP TENANTS MUST OBSERVE THE CONDITION THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS GATHERING OF THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WHEN THE MEETING IS IN PROGRESS.

+THIS IS THE LAST REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS AND THE MEETING WITH SHOP TENANTS IS BUT ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL BE MEETING THE GROUP OF 23 SHOP TENANTS IN PRIVATE. HOWEVER, IT IS HOPED THAT A PRESS STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

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\$1 MILLION FINE FOR DRUG OFFENDERS

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HEAVIER FINES OF UP TO \$1 MILLION, LONGER PRISON TERMS AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ARE THE STIFFER PENALTIES PROPOSED IN TWO NEW BILLS, WHICH WERE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, AS DETERRENTS AGAINST DRUG OFFENDERS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATIONS, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 AND THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, WERE INTRODUCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON +THE PROBLEM OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN HONG KONG+ HAD RECOMMENDED AN INCREASE IN SOME OF THE PENALTIES UNDER THE PRESENT DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF CERTAIN OFFENCES, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO ILLICIT DRUG TRADING FOR PROFIT.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BILL PROVIDES THAT THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF FINES WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED FOR OFFENCES OF TRAFFICKING, MANUFACTURE, POSSESSION FOR TRAFFICKING AND DIVAN KEEPING SHOULD BE INCREASED TEN TIMES.

AMONG OTHER PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR TRAFFICKING IN A DANGEROUS DRUG WILL BE RAISED ON INDICTMENT FROM LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND \$100,000 TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND \$1 MILLION= AND ON SUMMARY CONVICTION FROM THREE YEARS AND \$50,000 TO THREE YEARS AND \$500,000.

UNDER THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BILL, MR. DAVIES SAID, MALE PERSONS WHO ARE CONVICTED OF THE MAJOR DRUG OFFENCES COMMITTED FOR PROFIT -- TRAFFICKING, MANUFACTURING, STORAGE, PERMITTING PREMISES TO BE USED, AND KEEPING A DIVAN -- WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

HE ADDED THAT THE BILL WOULD ALSO SEEK TO APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE TO MALE PERSONS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS WHO ARE CONVICTED OF BEING IN POSSESSION OF, OR SMOKING, INHALING, INGESTING OR INJECTING A DANGEROUS DRUG, OR BEING IN POSSESSION OF PARAPHERNALIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOING SO.

DEBATE ON THE TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF ARGENTINA EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT JUAN PERON.

THE MESSAGE READS: +IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I LEARNT OF THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA, AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND YOU AND YOUR FELLOW COUNTRY-MEN MY SINCERE SYMPATHY ON THIS SAD OCCASION.+

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

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CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR SCHOOL DROP-OUTS

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RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ARE BEING PLANNED IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FOR THE 12 TO 13 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE NEITHER AT SCHOOL NOR AT WORK.

SUCH PROJECTS AS EDUCATIONAL NIGHT SCHOOL CLASSES, VOCATIONAL COURSES BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON THAT AS AN INITIAL STEP, A REGISTRATION PROGRAMME HAD BEEN MOUNTED IN WONG TAI SIN TO IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF SUCH SCHOOL DROP-OUTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THIS IS THE WORK OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE SET UP IN THE DISTRICT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, AND POINTED OUT THAT SIMILAR PROJECTS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN ALL THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG.

HE ADDED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE DROP-OUTS WAS BY NO MEANS AN EASY TASK. +FOR VARIOUS REASONS, RANGING FROM DISILLUSIONMENT TO RELUCTANCE, MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE (AND THEIR PARENTS) DO NOT RESPOND READILY TO APPEALS.+

BUT ACTIVE STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO IDENTIFY THEM THROUGH THE HELP OF PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADMASTERS, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL LEADERS ON THE AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND KAIFONGS.

MR. WILLIAMS WAS REPLYING AT THE TIME TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHO, HE SURMISED, HAD SINGLED OUT WONG TAI SIN IN HIS QUERY BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED DISTRICTS.

BUT IN FACT, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, +THE PROBLEM OF THE 12 AND 13 YEAR OLDS NOT AT WORK AND NOT AT SCHOOL EXISTS IN VARYING DEGREES IN ALL OUR DISTRICTS.+

THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, IS ALSO DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM; AND HAD DECIDED ON A NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH WOULD ALSO HELP THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES IN THEIR PLANNING.

+THE ONLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE LONGER TERM,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID, +IS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL PLACES FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN CONCERNED.+

BUT, HE SAID, IN THE MEANWHILE THE VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES WILL BE PURSUED, AND PROGRESS REPORTS MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL THE DISTRICTS BY AUTUMN THIS YEAR.

WIDER DISCIPLINARY POWERS SOUGHT FOR MEDICAL COUNCIL

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THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, READ FOR THE SECOND TIME TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IS INTENDED TO AMEND THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE BY WIDENING THE DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, SAID: +AT PRESENT, WHEN THE COUNCIL IS SATISFIED THAT A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER HAS MISCONDUCTED HIMSELF IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BRING DISCREDIT ON HIS PROFESSION, THE COUNCIL MAY ORDER HIS NAME TO BE ERASED FROM THE REGISTER — EITHER COMPLETELY OR FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD — OR BE REPRIMANDED.+

ANY ORDER MADE BY THE COUNCIL COULD BE SUSPENDED, BUT WHATEVER DECISION WAS ARRIVED AT HAD, AT PRESENT, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

+INSTANCES OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME OF MINOR INFRINGEMENTS OF MEDICAL ETHICS,+ DR. CHOA SAID, +AND THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT SUCH INSTANCES DO NOT MERIT WHAT IS TANTAMOUNT TO A PUBLIC REPRIMAND.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MEDICAL COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT A LESSER PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE PERMITTED, AND IT WAS PROPOSED TO FOLLOW THE PRACTICE OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY GIVING THE HONG KONG MEDICAL COUNCIL DISCRETION TO ISSUE WARNING LETTERS AND TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT ANY PARTICULAR WARNING LETTER SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

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SELF-OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC ESTATE FLATS RULED OUT

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS NO PLANS FOR ALLOWING PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS TO PURCHASE THEIR UNITS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+TO DO SO WOULD HAVE ATTRACTIONS FROM A CASH-FLOW STANDPOINT, BUT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED THAT THE SHORTAGE OF PUBLIC HOUSING OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, COUPLED WITH THE HEAVY DEMAND FOR HOUSING FROM LOW-INCOME GROUPS MAKES IT A NON-STARTER FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR. LIGHTBODY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LI FOOK-WO WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING OCCUPANTS OF FLATS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TO PURCHASE THEM OUTRIGHT.

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BILLS PASSED

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FIVE BILLS COMPLETED THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO BECOME LAW.

THEY WERE THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC) BILL, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

ONE BILL -- THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) BILL 1974 WAS WITHDRAWN, AND 11 OTHERS WERE INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL AND GIVEN THEIR FIRST READING.

THESE WERE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE LANDS TRIBUNAL BILL, THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE PORT CONTROL (CARGO WORKING AREAS) BILL, THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE PROTECTION OF NON-GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL.

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BOMB HOAXERS RISK JAIL

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT ANYONE WHO PERPETRATES A BOMB HOAX RUNS THE RISK OF ENDING UP IN PRISON AND PAYING HEAVY FINES.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, HE SAID, ANYONE CONVICTED ON INDICTMENT FOR MAKING A FALSE REPORT ON BOMBS IS LIABLE TO FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF UP TO \$50,000.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT SUCH PUBLIC MISCHIEF WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. +HOAXES OF THIS KIND ARE IRRESPONSIBLE AND COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES BOTH TO THE PERPETRATORS AS WELL AS TO INNOCENT PEOPLE.+

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REDUCTION IN MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE FOR RICE

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A FIVE CENT REDUCTION IN THE MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE OF RICE — FROM \$2.50 TO \$2.45 PER CATTY — WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW CEILING ON RETAIL PRICES WAS FIXED AT A MEETING OF THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH REVIEWED PREVAILING IMPORT PRICES.

A COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE LOWER CEILING ON RETAIL PRICES WOULD TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH WHEN THE PRICE STRUCTURE WOULD AGAIN BE REVIEWED.

+RETAIL RICE PRICES HAVE ALREADY FALLEN BELOW THE CEILING OF \$2.50 PER CATTY WHICH HAS APPLIED SINCE APRIL WHEN WE INTRODUCED A MAXIMUM PRICE STRUCTURE TO PREVENT PROFITEERING,+ THE SPOKESMAN COMMENTED.

+WE DON'T ANTICIPATE THAT RETAILERS WILL CHARGE UP TO THE NEW MAXIMUM OF \$2.45 PER CATTY — IN FACT MANY ARE ALREADY SELLING BELOW THIS CEILING.

+HOWEVER WE THINK IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMER TO CONTINUE TO FIX A RETAIL PRICE CEILING+.

+THIS PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR THE CONSUMER, BUT DOES NOT PREVENT THE TRADE FROM SELLING AT LOWER PRICES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FLUCTUATIONS IN MARKET CONDITIONS+.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BOTH IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS WERE CONTINUING TO TAKE A LOWER MARK-UP THAN THE D.C. AND I. AVERAGE PRICE FORMULA WOULD ALLOW. THE FORMULA IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE IMPORT PRICES OVER A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE STOCKS WHICH IMPORTERS ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN.

THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH IMPORT PRICES HAVE FALLEN TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT THIS MONTH, IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT RETAIL PRICES OF RICE FALL TO THE SAME EXTENT.

THUS UNDER THE FORMULA, THE MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE, ALLOWING ONLY A REASONABLE PROFIT, WOULD BE \$2.63 A CATTY. NOT ONLY HAS THE PRICE BEEN FIXED BELOW THIS — AT \$2.45 — BUT RETAILERS ARE SELLING EVEN BELOW THIS PRICE.

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COLLEGES OF EDUCATION HOLD OPEN DAYS

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THE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HAS ISSUED AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN TEACHER EDUCATION TO VISIT THE COLLEGE TOMORROW AND FRIDAY TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE MANY FACETS OF COLLEGE WORK.

DURING THE +OPEN DAYS+ THERE WILL BE EXHIBITIONS CONNECTED WITH INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS, DANCE AND GYMNASTICS DISPLAYS, AN INTER-SCHOOL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD AND A FULL PROGRAMME OF DEMONSTRATION LESSONS GIVEN BY STUDENT-TEACHERS TO PUPILS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE INTER-SCHOOL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD, ORGANISED BY THE MATHEMATICS CLUB OF THE COLLEGE, IS THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG. IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY FROM 10 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. AT THE COLLEGE HALL IN SASSOON ROAD, HONG KONG.

NINETEEN SECONDARY SCHOOL TEAMS WILL TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION.

MATHEMATICS OLYMPIADS ARE HELD FREQUENTLY AS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN COUNTRIES.

+IT IS HOPED THAT MATHEMATICS OLYMPIADS WILL BECOME POPULAR IN HONG KONG SCHOOLS FOLLOWING ITS INTRODUCTION AT NORTHCOTE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COLLEGE'S MATHEMATICS CLUB SAID.

NORTHCOTE WILL BE HOLDING ITS GRADUATION CEREMONY IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON JULY 9 WHEN THE SECRETARY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. ALAN SCOTT WILL ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY AND MRS. SCOTT WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES.

MEANWHILE, THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IS CARRYING OUT AN EXPERIMENTAL INTEGRATED TEACHING PROJECT AT PRIMARY LEVEL.

ALL FIRST-YEAR STUDENT-TEACHERS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS EXPERIMENT AFTER SEVEN WEEKS OF INTENSIVE PREPARATION.

THE STUDENT-TEACHERS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ENTIRE TEACHING PROGRAMME OF PRIMARY 1 TO 6 AT THREE NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS.

EACH STUDENT-TEACHER IS INTEGRATING TWO OR MORE SUBJECTS - LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS, GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT, ART AND CRAFT - INTO HIS TEACHING PROGRAMME.

ALL THE STUDENT-TEACHERS WILL HAVE TO EVALUATE THE RESULT OF THIS PROJECT - KNOWN AS +INTEGRATED DAY+ - AND TO PREPARE A DISPLAY OF THEIR PUPILS' WORK ON JULY 10.

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THIS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL BE HOLDING ITS GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ITS NEW BUILDING IN PIPER'S HILL ON AUGUST 29.

ON JULY 15, THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL BE HOLDING ITS GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL WHEN MR. KUOK WAI-MAN, A FORMER PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, WILL ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY.

CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY MRS. KUOK.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ON THE DATES MENTIONED.

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SAFETY GLASS USED ON ALL BUSES

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THE CORRECT USE OF SAFETY GLASS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF OMNIBUSES AND LIGHT BUSES IS ONE OF THE FEATURES CHECKED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT DURING THE MECHANICAL INSPECTION OF THESE MOTOR VEHICLES BEFORE INITIAL REGISTRATION AND AT LATER REGULAR INSPECTIONS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN REPLY TO TWO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG ON WHETHER ALL PUBLIC OMNIBUSES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE FITTED WITH SAFETY GLASS IN THE DRIVER AND PASSENGER COMPARTMENTS.

SAFETY GLASS MEANS GLASS SO CONSTRUCTED OR TREATED THAT, IF FRACTURED, IT DOES NOT FLY INTO FRAGMENTS CAPABLE OF CAUSING SEVERE CUTS, MR. ROBSON EXPLAINED.

HE REFERRED TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND USE) REGULATIONS WHICH STATED THAT ALL GLASS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OMNIBUS OR A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS MUST BE SAFETY GLASS.

+IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THEREFORE THAT ALL PUBLIC OMNIBUSES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE FITTED WITH SAFETY GLASS THROUGHOUT AND IF THERE ARE ANY WHICH ARE NOT SO FITTED THEY ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAW,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

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CHIEF WATERWORKS ENGINEER RETIRING  
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MR. LI HIN-WING, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE WATERWORKS OFFICE IS RETIRING AFTER 26 YEARS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, HIS COLLEAGUES ARE PRESENTING HIM WITH A FAREWELL GIFT, TO BE PRESENTED BY MR. WILFRED KNIGHT, DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, AT A CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (JULY 5).

MR. LI FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ASSISTANT ENGINEER IN DECEMBER 1948. HE WAS PROMOTED TO ENGINEER IN 1959, THEN TO SENIOR ENGINEER SIX YEARS LATER, AND TO HIS PRESENT POST IN 1970.

HE WILL BE PROCEEDING ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE NEXT WEEK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY COVERED. IT WILL BE HELD AT 4.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

NEW SYMBOLIC-TYPE ROAD SIGNS ARE BEING GRADUALLY INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG, AND A PHASED INSTALLATION PROGRAMME ON A LARGER SCALE BASIS WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK.

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) BY THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME AS WELL AS PUBLICITY MEASURES AIMED AT ADEQUATELY INFORMING MOTORISTS OF THE FEATURES OF THE NEW SIGNS.

THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3 P.M. AT THE G.I.S. 35 MM THEATRE, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE. AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS WILL BE MR. J. HYDE, ENGINEER/HIGHWAY OFFICE AND MR. KAM CHAN-YIU, ENGINEER/TRAFFIC OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND MISS DOROTHY YUEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER/TRAFFIC OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE:		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	-	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.12
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	-	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	1.98
PO NGAI	-	-
CHU CHO	-	-
THAI RICE:		
100% WHOLE	-	-
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.87
A1 : SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.77
A1 : SUPER	GOOD	1.57
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.80
U.S. RICE	-	-
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.82
PAKISTAN RICE	-	-
TAIWAN RICE	-	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(F.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.20	1.80	2.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.60	0.60	1.70
SQUID	LIMITED	7.50	2.50	5.20
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.80	0.90	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.70	1.40	1.80
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.20	0.70	0.80
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.80	1.50	1.60
MELON COAT	SCARCE	1.80	1.30	1.50
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.70	3.00	4.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.00	0.50	1.30
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.80	3.00	3.50
RED GOAT FISH	---	---	---	---
FORK-TAIL	---	---	---	---
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	4.80	2.80	3.50
MELON SEED	GOOD	1.50	0.80	1.00
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.00	7.50	7.80
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.50	6.50
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	6.50	4.80	5.30

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.60	0.80	2.00
WHITE CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.40	0.80	1.80
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	2.00	0.80	1.50
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	2.00	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	3.00	0.80	2.00
SPRING ONION	GOOD	1.00	0.20	0.60
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	2.40	0.80	1.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.00	0.60	1.60
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.80
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.60	1.20	2.00