



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1979

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1979

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ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH STABILITY IS ONE OF
GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITY OBJECTIVES - SAYS FS
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TODAY (THURSDAY) ASSURED THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH STABILITY IS ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP PRIORITY OBJECTIVES AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE INTO THE 1980S AND BEYOND.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ECONOMY IS ADJUSTING IN RESPONSE TO MARKET FORCES AND +WE ARE IN SIGHT OF STABILITY.+

HE NOTED THAT THE GROWTH MOMENTUM ACHIEVED IN THE FOUR POST-RECESSION YEARS WHICH HAS INCREASED REAL G.D.P. BY 61 PER CENT SINCE 1975 AND REAL G.D.P. PER CAPITA BY 44 PER CENT, HAS INEVITABLY PUT PRESSURE ON THE INTERNAL PRICE LEVEL.

+UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE NOW ALSO IMPORTING INFLATION AGAIN: IMPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE 16 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHEREAS THE C.P.I. INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT ONLY.

+ALTHOUGH IT TAKES TIME FOR INCREASES IN IMPORT PRICES TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH TO RETAIL PRICES, THE EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT IMPORTED INFLATION IS NOW MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION- AND, UNFORTUNATELY, IMPORTED INFLATION IS CAUSED BY FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL,+ HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SINCE END OF JULY BY 7.3 PER CENT IS HELPFUL.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID NO MATTER HOW SIGNIFICANT IMPORTED INFLATION MAY PRESENTLY BE, THE TASK OF EASING BACK THE PRESSURE OF DEMAND ON DOMESTIC RESOURCES IS LIKELY TO REMAIN WITH US FOR SOME TIME YET.

+AND, IF THE GROWTH RATE OF EXPORTS EASES OFF NEXT YEAR, WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD TO ENSURE THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND ALSO EASES OFF IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE COST/PRICE STRUCTURE ADJUSTS APPROPRIATELY.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN REAL TERMS ACTUALLY ACCELERATED IN THE THIRD QUARTER AND HE REVISED HIS FORECAST FOR THE GROWTH RATE FROM 13 TO 16 PER CENT FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

THIS PERFORMANCE IS DUE NOT ONLY TO MAGNIFICENT EFFORTS OF OUR MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS, BUT ALSO TO THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR AND THE BUOYANCY OF OVERSEAS DEMAND WHICH HAS FIRMED UP EXPORT PRICES.

ON THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN REAL TERMS, HE SAID SO FAR THIS YEAR, IT IS RATHER HIGHER THAN HIS REVISED FORECAST FOR THE YEAR OF 15 PER CENT, +BUT THIS IS A REFLECTION OF THE BETTER THAN EXPECTED EXPORT PERFORMANCE.+

/ON THE

ON THE DEMAND FOR, AND SUPPLY OF LABOUR, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID A BETTER BALANCE APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING IN THE LABOUR MARKET AS A WHOLE, INASMUCH AS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER, ADJUSTED FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS, WAS AROUND THREE PER CENT COMPARED WITH 2.3 PER CENT IN MARCH.

+BUT THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS STILL SUCH THAT WAGE RATES ARE STILL INCREASING AT A FAST PACE AND FASTER THAN IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

TURNING TO PRICES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID REAL INCOMES GENERALLY HAVE INCREASED RAPIDLY IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND ARE CONTINUING TO DO SO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT REAL G.D.P. PER CAPITA HAS INCREASED BY 44 PER CENT IN THE FOUR POST-RECESSION YEARS AND REAL WAGE RATES IN THAT SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY WHICH EMPLOYS TWO-FIFTHS OF THE LABOUR FORCE HAVE INCREASED BY 45 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

+SO LET US NOT ALLOW THE MANY IRRITATIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS CAUSED BY 'INFLATION' TO OBSCURE THE UNDENIABLE FACT THAT THIS COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE IS PROSPERING, ONE MANIFESTATION OF THIS BEING, AS THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING SAID YESTERDAY, A PENT-UP DEMAND FOR HOUSING.+

IN REPLY TO A CALL BY DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG FOR MORE PUBLIC DEBATE ON ECONOMIC POLICY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID BESIDES THE READILY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIALS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IT IS THE PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPOSE ITS THINKING IN BUDGETARY, FISCAL, ECONOMIC AND MONETARY FIELDS AT SOME LENGTH IN BOTH THE 'WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD'.

HE SAID: +WE DO THIS NOT JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN OUR THINKING IN THESE ALL IMPORTANT FIELDS..... BUT ALSO WITH A VIEW TO PROVOKING COMMENTARY.

+SUCH COMMENTARY, NO MATTER HOW IT IS PUBLICISED IS ALWAYS STUDIED BY MY COLLEAGUES AND ME WITH INTEREST ALBEIT, SOMETIMES, INTEREST MIXED WITH IRRITATION.+

HE NOTED THAT COMMENTARY IS NEVER IGNORED AND OCCASIONALLY LEADS TO A VISIBLE RESPONSE.

TURNING TO THE CALL BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN FOR AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF GOVERNMENT'S TOP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, MR. HADDON-CAVE THOUGHT THAT +OUR MANAGEMENT OVERHEADS NEED STRENGTHENING RATHER THAN RE-ORGANISING SUCH HAS BEEN THE PACE OF GROWTH AND CHANGE IN RECENT YEARS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO DEFENDED THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FOR TAXING THE CREDIT UNIONS. +THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE MUST ADMINISTER THE LAW AS IT STANDS. THERE HAS BEEN NO HOUNDING OR HARASSMENT.+

/BUT HE

BUT HE UNDERTOOK TO EXAMINE, FROM A POLICY POINT OF VIEW, THE QUESTION OF THE LIABILITY OF CREDIT UNIONS TO INTEREST TAX, +NOT THAT I BELIEVE THEIR PRESENT LIABILITY UNDER THE LAW INVOLVES A THREAT TO THEIR VERY EXISTENCE.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE DENIED THAT THE BUDGET STRATEGY FOR A CUT-BACK IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE IN THE MIDDLE OF RECESSION IN 1974-75 WAS +SHORT-SIGHTED AND UNNECESSARY+ AS DESCRIBED BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO IN THE DEBATE.

HE SAID FROM LATE 1975 ONWARDS, THE 1975-76 BUDGET CAN CLAIM SOME CREDIT FOR THE SPEED AND DURATION OF HONG KONG'S RECOVERY CITING THE LAND PRODUCTION RATE IN RECENT YEARS, THE GROWTH RATE OF EXPENDITURE AND THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. HE SAID OUR FREE FISCAL RESERVES ARE NOW AT A LEVEL WHICH SAFEGUARDS OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A GIVEN LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE AS AND WHEN A PURELY FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT EMERGES.

IN HIS SPEECH WINDING UP THE ANNUAL DEBATE, MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO AGREED THAT THE WIDER THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND BRITAIN — THE WIDER IT IS SEEN TO BE — THE MORE EASILY H.M.G.'S OBLIGATION TO HONG KONG WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD.

HE SAID WITHOUT COMPROMISING HONG KONG'S FREE TRADE PHILOSOPHY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE BRITISH FIRMS ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES IN THIS MARKET. +TO THIS END, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR COMMISSIONER IN LONDON IS TIRELESS IN HIS ENDEAVOURS TO PUBLICISE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE FOUND HERE.+

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CIVIL SERVANTS URGED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY TOWARDS
PAY REPORT
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE RESERVATIONS ON THE FIRST REPORT ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND PUT THEIR CASES BACK TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. ROWLANDS REITERATED THAT +THIS IS A STANDING COMMISSION AND, AS THE COMMISSION ITSELF RECOGNISES, ITS FIRST REPORT DOES NOT PRETEND TO SOLVE ALL PAY PROBLEMS OR MEET ALL CIVIL SERVANTS' EXPECTATIONS.+

+THUS THE COMMISSION REMAINS READY TO REVIEW PAY SCALES AS NECESSARY IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS FROM BOTH STAFF AND MANAGEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ROWLANDS SAID DURING THE FIRST YEAR, THE COMMISSION HAS FOCUSED VERY MUCH ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY. IN FACT, IT ALSO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE IN RELATION TO HOUSING AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, AS WELL AS IN IMPROVING CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES.

/+IN ALL

+IN ALL THIS I SEE MUCH SCOPE FOR DEVELOPING A GREATER STAFF CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT +IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF EVERYONE — STAFF, MANAGEMENT AND THE PUBLIC ALIKE, THAT WE SHOULD NOW DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION, SO THAT IT MAY SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT ITS FUTURE ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF WORK.+

TURNING TO THE FIRST REPORT ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY, MR. ROWLANDS SAID THE RESULT OF THE REPORT IS A CLOSELY INTERLOCKING AND MORE UP-TO-DATE SALARY STRUCTURE FOR THE WHOLE SERVICE.

THE COMMISSION HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN THE REPORT THAT IT HAS CONSIDERED CAREFULLY ALL REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY BOTH STAFF AND MANAGEMENT, AND THAT IT HAS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN ITS EARLIER REPORT, HE SAID.

+BECAUSE THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INTERLOCKING,+ MR. ROWLANDS SAID, +ANY ALTERATION NOW TO THE PAY SCALES RECOMMENDED FOR A PARTICULAR GRADE WOULD CALL FOR SIMULTANEOUS RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER GRADES.+

+THIS WOULD REQUIRE REFERENCE BACK TO THE COMMISSION, AND WOULD DELAY SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR MANY MONTHS,+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE VIEW THAT SUCH A DELAY WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF EITHER THE CIVIL SERVICE OR THE COMMUNITY.

ACCORDINGLY, HE ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 27 THAT IT WAS PROPOSED TO SUBMIT THE REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE REVISED PAY SCALES SHOULD BE GENERALLY APPROVED, AND ALSO THAT THE STANDING COMMISSION SHOULD BE ASKED TO INCLUDE IN ITS FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK THOSE MATTERS IN THE REPORT WHICH STAFF OR MANAGEMENT CONSIDER MERIT RE-EXAMINATION.+

DISAGREEMENT WITH SOME OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WAS EXPECTED, PARTICULARLY FROM GROUPS WHOSE REPRESENTATIONS WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION, MR. ROWLANDS SAID.

IT WAS ALSO EXPECTED THAT PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD FOCUS ON THOSE GROUPS WHO HAVE THREATENED OR TAKEN DISRUPTIVE ACTION, HE SAID.

+BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO SEE THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE,+ MR. ROWLANDS SAID. +THE NUMBER OF GRADES WHO HAVE THREATENED OR TAKEN DISRUPTIVE ACTION IS A SMALL MINORITY.+

+MANY OTHERS, ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED WITH SOME ASPECTS OF THE REPORT, HAVE ACTED RESPONSIBLY AND DECIDED TO PURSUE THEIR CASE FURTHER BY MAKING FRESH REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION,+ HE SAID.

+THEY INCLUDE THE VARIOUS STAFF ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, AS WELL AS THE THREE MAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WHICH COMPRISE THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL.+

BECAUSE OF THE INTERLOCKING NATURE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PAY SCALES AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A WHOLE, THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED THE REPORT BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH A REQUEST THAT ALL MATTERS IN DISPUTE SHOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO THE STANDING COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MR. ROWLANDS SAID.

+WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE THERE IS WITHOUT DOUBT A LARGE BODY OR RESPONSIBLE OPINION WHICH DOES NOT SUPPORT THE ATTEMPTS BEING MADE BY SOME GROUPS OF STAFF TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO MODIFY THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR FAVOUR,+ HE SAID

+THESE PRESSURES MUST BE RESISTED IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO COMMAND THE RESPECT OF THE MODERATE MAJORITY AMONG ITS EMPLOYEES,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ROWLANDS SAID: +IT REMAINS THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PUT THE STANDING COMMISSION'S FIRST REPORT ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR DECISION WITHOUT DELAY, SO AS NOT TO DEPRIVE STAFF OF THE SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS WHICH WILL RESULT IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.+

+MOREOVER,+ HE ADDED,+ THERE ARE MANY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT WHICH WILL HELP RECRUITMENT, ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENTS, AND GENERALLY LEAD TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY.+

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RATE OF VR RESETTLEMENT IS STILL LOW

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HONG KONG STILL HAS OVER 61 000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DESPITE THE EFFORTS AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL AND THE MANY BRIEFINGS AND REPRESENTATIONS GIVEN AND MADE LOCALLY AND ABROAD.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. DAVIES SAID HONG KONG SHALL CONTINUE TO URGE UPON THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AND POTENTIAL RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES THE NEED TO INCREASE THE RATE OF RESETTLEMENT.

+HONG KONG IS GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP IT HAS RECEIVED, NOTABLY FROM THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,+ HE SAID.

BUT, HE ADDED, ITS TREATMENT OVERALL BY COUNTRIES OFFERING RESETTLEMENT PLACES HAS BEEN LESS GENEROUS THAN FOR OTHER PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM AS REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT FIGURES SHOW.

MR. DAVIES SAID THAT IF ONE TOOK THE BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION AT THE END OF 1978 AND ADDED TO IT ARRIVALS TO THE END OF OCTOBER 1979, HONG KONG HAD 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, MALAYSIA 38 PER CENT AND INDONESIA 19 PER CENT.

/+BUT SO

+BUT SO FAR THIS YEAR HONG KONG HAS RECEIVED ONLY 17 PER CENT OF ALL RESETTLEMENT PLACES IN THE REGION FOR BOAT REFUGEES COMPARED WITH 61 PER CENT FOR MALAYSIA AND 10 PER CENT FOR INDONESIA,+ MR. DAVIES POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT, AT THE END OF OCTOBER HONG KONG HAD 38 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL REGIONAL BURDEN OF BOAT REFUGEES COMPARED WITH 26 PER CENT IN MALAYSIA AND 25 PER CENT IN INDONESIA.

+AT PRESENT WORLD CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLY FOCUSED ON THE TRAGEDY OF THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA. STARVATION AND SUFFERING ON AN APPALLING SCALE IS OCCURRING,+ HE SAID.

+THEIR SITUATION, WHETHER IN CAMBODIA OR IN THE CAMPS IN THAILAND, IS GHASTLY AND A PROBLEM OF COMPELLING MAGNITUDE CALLING FOR MASSIVE RELIEF SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND MEDICINE.

+HOWEVER THIS ADDED DIMENSION TO THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF INDOCHINA DOES NOT LESSEN HONG KONG'S NEED TO MAKE GREATER AND MUCH FASTER PROGRESS WITH RESETTLEMENT OF ITS BOAT PEOPLE FROM VIETNAM.+

HE SAID THAT THE HON. P.C. WONG HAD ALREADY REMINDED RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES THAT +ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS.+

+I THEREFORE REINFORCE HIS CALL FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RESETTLEMENT PLACES BEING OFFERED TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE RATE OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS AVERAGED 3 300 PER MONTH WHICH WAS LESS THAN THE TARGET FIGURE WE HAD HOPED TO ACHIEVE.

HE SAID: +WE STILL HOPE TO REACH 4 000 A MONTH AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS BUT EVEN AT THIS RATE, AND WITHOUT ANY NEW ARRIVALS, IT WOULD TAKE UNTIL SPRING 1981 TO RESETTLE ALL THE BOAT REFUGEES.

+WITH THE EFFECT OF THE SHADOW CAST ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST CHINA SEA BY THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL OF OUTFLOW FROM VIETNAM, THIS IS PRETTY COLD COMFORT.

+IT IS ALSO MEAGRE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF WHAT HONG KONG HAS DONE FOR BOAT REFUGEES.+

ON IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA, MR. DAVIES SAID THE RESPONSE OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND THOSE DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE.

+TO THIS LIST I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES, AGENCIES AND, IF I MAY, MY OWN BRANCH. THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN COUNTERED WITH RESOURCEFULNESS, DEDICATION AND INGENUITY. OVER A LONG PERIOD, NOW ENTERING ITS SECOND YEAR, ALL HAVE DONE THEIR UTMOST TO CONTAIN THE PROBLEMS. I KNOW THEY WILL GO ON DOING SO,+ HE SAID.

MR. DAVIES SAID THE STRATEGY TO KEEP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE MINIMUM WAS TO MAKE THE LAND BORDER AND THE FLANKS OF HONG KONG SO SECURE THAT A HIGH RATE OF APPREHENSION WAS ACHIEVED.

/+NOT ONLY

+NOT ONLY DO WE WISH TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO SLIP THROUGH THE NET, WE ALSO WANT A HIGH ARREST RATE TO BE A DETERRENT TO THOSE WHO ARE THINKING OF TRYING TO COME HERE ILLEGALLY,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN HARD PRESSED TO ACHIEVE THIS STRATEGY BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH OF THE COASTLINE AND THE ATTRACTION WHICH HONG KONG APPEARED TO REPRESENT TO PEOPLE LIVING IN GUANGDONG.

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, HER MAJESTY FORCES HAVE BEEN REINFORCED, MORE GURKHA SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED, ADDITIONAL VESSELS ORDERED, MORE FENCING, OBSERVATION TOWERS AND LIGHTING ON THE BORDER HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED, SMALL BOAT UNITS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND PLANS MADE TO ENSURE THAT OUR SECURITY FORCES ARE PROVIDED WITH THE MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES TO CONTAIN AND REDUCE THE FLOW, HE SAID.

+WE ARE MAINTAINING AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF VIGILANCE AND PATROLLING,+ MR. DAVIES ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID: +THE ASSURANCES GIVEN RECENTLY BY CHINESE LEADERS THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ARE VERY WELCOME. EFFECTIVE ACTION WAS TAKEN IN JUNE AND JULY WITH THE RESULT THAT NUMBERS DROPPED SHARPLY.

+UNFORTUNATELY THIS TREND WAS NOT MAINTAINED. IN OCTOBER THE SECURITY FORCES WERE ARRESTING AN AVERAGE OF 374 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS A DAY, A VERY HIGH FIGURE WHICH WAS MORE THAN TWICE THE DAILY RATE FOR SEPTEMBER.

+SO FAR THIS MONTH THE FIGURE IS LOWER, AT AN AVERAGE OF 220 A DAY. BUT ALTHOUGH THE TREND IS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, LITTLE COMFORT CAN BE DERIVED FROM SUCH A FIGURE.

+BY ALL HISTORICAL MEASURES IT IS STILL ABNORMALLY HIGH. IT SHOWS THAT THE PROBLEM IS STILL FAR FROM BEING BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.+

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PROPOSALS TO AMEND LAW ON PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE
BEING FINALISED

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PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF MEETINGS AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS ARE BEING FINALISED AND WILL BE PUT BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN GRIFFITHS IN THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE.

HE SAID THE PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE WERE AGREED AMONGST MEMBERS OF A WORKING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND OTHER RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS, AND THEIR GENERAL NATURE IS AS FOLLOWS:

/* A NARROWER

- * A NARROWER DEFINITION OF +MEETING+ — THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT DEFINITION, NAMELY A SIMPLE PHYSICAL COMING TOGETHER OF PEOPLE IS CONSIDERED TO BE TOO BROAD, AND IT IS INTENDED THAT GATHERINGS FOR SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND OTHER DEFINED PURPOSES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITION AND FROM CONTROL.
- * AT PRESENT, THE PROVISIONS FOR +PRIOR CONTROL+ BY THE POLICE IN THE FORM OF APPLICATIONS TO AND THE ISSUE OF LICENCES BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE EXTEND, BY VIRTUE OF THE WAY +PUBLIC PLACE+ IS DEFINED, TO PRIVATE PREMISES. THE PROPOSAL IS THAT +PRIOR CONTROL+ SHOULD NOT ENCOMPASS PRIVATE PREMISES SAVE WHERE ATTENDANCE EXCEEDS A CERTAIN NUMBER. LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MAY BRING PROBLEMS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, AND SO ON, SO THAT EVEN IN PRIVATE PREMISES SOME CONTROL MAY BE APPROPRIATE ONCE THE NUMBER EXCEEDS A GIVEN LIMIT.
- * THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF LICENSING FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY A NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE. THE MEETING MAY BE HELD UPON PROPER NOTIFICATION UNLESS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED BY THE POLICE BY WRITTEN NOTICE ON SPECIFIED STATUTORY GROUNDS.
- * WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC PROCESSIONS PRESENTLY DEFINED AS ANY PROCESSION +IN, TO OR FROM A PUBLIC PLACE+, A NEW AND MORE PRECISE DEFINITION WILL BE INTRODUCED. IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF REQUIRING PUBLIC PROCESSIONS TO BE LICENSED SHOULD BE CONTINUED, WITH AN EXCEPTION IN THE CASE OF A PROCESSION OF LESS THAN, SAY, 15 PEOPLE OR SO.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT HE HAS MERELY DEALT WITH THE GIST OF THE MAIN PROPOSALS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND THAT IT IS NOT INTENDED TO RELAX PROVISIONS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THOSE MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS WHICH ARE IN FACT HELD ARE CONDUCTED PEACEFULLY AND LAWFULLY.

COMMENTING ON THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE HON. PETER C. WONG ABOUT THE LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE SCHEMES, MR. GRIFFITHS SAID +BOTH THE SCHEMES ARE WORKING WELL, PROGRESS WILL BE EAGERLY FOLLOWED, AND PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT VOLUNTEERS TO THE SCHEMES DESERVE THE THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR PROVIDING A VALUABLE FREE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

COMMENTING ON THE SUGGESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG THAT IN FUTURE OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD EXPOUND, IN MORE DETAIL THAN IS POSSIBLE IN THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, UPON TOPICS OUTLINED BY HIM, AND THAT THEIR SPEECHES SHOULD PRECEDE THOSE OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE DEBATE. HE SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PROCEDURE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REQUIRES AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDERS.

+ACCORDINGLY, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IS TO DISCUSS WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HOW MR. CHEUNG'S ATTRACTIVE SUGGESTION COULD BEST BE CARRIED OUT WITH A VIEW TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION PRIOR TO THIS DEBATE NEXT YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

SHA OUTLINES PLANS TO BUILD UP UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PUBLIC
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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI TODAY (THURSDAY) OUTLINED THE PLANS TO BUILD UP BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING IN THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE, MR. LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SET UP A SPECIAL UNIT IN THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR TO IMPROVE ITS EFFORT IN GATHERING PUBLIC OPINION.

THE UNIT WOULD INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY RESEARCH OFFICER AND ITS TASK WOULD BE TO DEVELOP A WIDER NETWORK OF OPINION GATHERING THROUGH DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS, BUILDING ON EXISTING CHANNELS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BUT ALSO MAKING GREATER USE OF PROFESSIONAL OPINION SURVEYS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ALREADY THE PRACTICE FOR MAJOR POLICY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO CONTAIN A SEPARATE PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY REACTION CONDUCTED BY APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS OR SECRETARIAT BRANCHES AND CROSS-CHECKED WITH THE HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

IN ADDITION TO CONSULTATION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES THROUGH GREEN PAPERS AND SPECIAL SURVEYS, MR. LI NOTED, LIAISON STAFF OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ALSO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY SO THAT PREVAILING SPONTANEOUS PUBLIC FEELINGS ON MATTERS OF CONCERN ARE CLOSELY MONITORED AND REGULARLY RELAYED TO DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

THROUGH THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THE OPINION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY, AND NOT JUST THAT OF OUTSPOKEN INDIVIDUALS OR AFFECTED GROUPS, HAS ALWAYS BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, HE SAID.

MR. LI ALSO STRESSED THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY BOTH TO LISTEN AND TO EXPLAIN, AND TO ENSURE THAT ITS 'FEEDOUT' MACHINERY WOULD RESPOND ACCORDINGLY WITH WHAT IS GATHERED THROUGH ITS 'FEEDBACK' SYSTEM.

+ IN OUR ENDEAVOUR TO IMPROVE THE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, WE DO PAY AS MUCH ATTENTION TO EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AS TO GATHERING PUBLIC OPINION,+ HE SAID.

LARGELY FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, THE INFORMATION BRANCH, UNDER THE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, WAS RE-ESTABLISHED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR TO BETTER CO-ORDINATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.

REPLYING TO A POINT BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN ON GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, MR. LI SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS EVALUATING INFORMATION COLLATED FROM THE IN-DEPTH STUDIES BY A WORKING GROUP SET UP LAST YEAR TO REVIEW THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF UNOFFICIAL PARTICIPATION ON GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

THE GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, HAS ALREADY RECOMMENDED CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS FOR STREAMLINING PROCEDURES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND THE SCOUTING OF NEW TALENT, HE SAID.

+WE ARE, AS A RESULT, IMPROVING THE REGISTER OF SERVING AND POTENTIAL UNOFFICIALS, KEPT IN THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH- AND PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ENLISTING THE SERVICES OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION,+ HE SAID.

+IN THIS REGARD, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN REMINDED TO LOOK OUT FOR NEW TALENT IN THE AGE GROUP OF 30 TO 40,+ HE SAID.

MR. LI SAID THE GROUP'S STUDY REVEALED THAT HALF OF THE 300 GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ARE CHAIRED BY UNOFFICIALS AND THAT OVER 75 PER CENT OF THAT MEMBERSHIP ARE ALSO UNOFFICIALS.

+THESE FACTS INDICATE THAT EFFECTIVE USE IS BEING MADE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF UNOFFICIALS,+ HE SAID.

+THE GROUP'S STUDY IS CONTINUING AND THE ULTIMATE AIM BEING TO STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORK OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND TO ENSURE MORE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS,+ HE SAID.

MR. LI ALSO SAID THAT THE GROUP WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS COLLECTIVE ADVICE OF UNOFFICIALS SHOULD BE ACTIVELY SOUGHT ON MAJOR POLICY ISSUES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF PARTICULAR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

COMMENTING ON THE TRANSFER OF THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE TO THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, MR. LI SAID THIS WOULD +ENSURE THAT RESOURCES ARE DEPLOYED TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EFFECT AND THAT PLANNING, MONITORING AND CONTROLLING OF GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT IN THESE FIELDS ARE EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT.+

HE ASSURED THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT THAT THE TRANSFER OF THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT AFFECT GENERAL MUSIC EDUCATION AND MUSIC CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS.

COMMENTING ON REMARKS BY THE HON. F.K. HU ON THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE IN HONG KONG, MR. LI SAID A NEW DIVISION OF RECREATION AND CULTURE IN THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH HAS BEEN SET UP AS A FIRM STEP TOWARDS EVEN CLOSER CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

MR. LI ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE NEED TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN MUSIC AND OTHER FORMS OF PERFORMING ARTS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL WOULD BE LOOKED AT +ONCE WE HAVE DRAWN UP A DEFINITE POLICY ON THE LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND ART IN HONG KONG.+

+IN THIS CONNECTION,+ HE SAID, +A PLANNING TEAM COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE MAY THIS YEAR ON SUCH A LONG TERM PROGRAMME PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH MUSIC AND THE PERFORMING ARTS.+

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1979

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REGIONALISATION SCHEME RELIEVES OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS

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THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE IN THE RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING AND THE BETTER USE OF HOSPITAL BEDS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN HIS REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, DR. THONG SAID IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, A TWO-PRONG STRATEGY WAS ADOPTED: BY REPROVISIONING AND IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE PROVISION OF NEW FACILITIES AND AREAS OF SERVICES ON THE OTHER.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF 1977, THERE WAS AN AVERAGE OF 90 AND 120 CAMP BEDS IN USE DAILY IN QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS RESPECTIVELY. THESE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO ONLY THREE AND 28 LAST MONTH.

+THIS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IS DUE MAINLY TO THE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF BEDS IN THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AS A RESULT OF THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT ON THE AVERAGE, THE OCCUPANCY RATES FOR BEDS IMPROVED FROM 75 PER CENT TO 89 PER CENT IN THE MAJORITY OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

DR. THONG SAID HE HOPED THAT WITH BETTER CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION AMONG THE MANagements OF GOVERNMENT AND THE REST OF THE SUBSIDISED HOSPITALS, MORE BEDS IN THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WOULD BE OCCUPIED.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE IS ALMOST 100 PER CENT INCREASE IN BEDS IN QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS DURING THE LAST DECADE, AND THIS HAS BEEN REASONABLY MATCHED BY CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN STAFF AND FACILITIES.

+DURING THE PAST YEARS, VARIOUS MAJOR AND MINOR EXTENSIONS AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THESE TWO REGIONAL HOSPITALS. FURTHER, THE NUMBERS OF MEDICAL, NURSING AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF HAVE ALSO INCREASED BY FOURFOLD AND DOUBLED IN QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS RESPECTIVELY.+

IN THE SUBVENTED SECTORS, DR. THONG SAID THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO OBTAIN EXTRA EQUIPMENT AND POSTS AND TO RECRUIT SUITABLE STAFF.

HE STRESSED THAT SUBSIDISED HOSPITALS WERE NOT INFERIOR TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

+BECAUSE OF ITS VERY NATURE, THE LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION IN THE FIELDS OF SERVICES OFFERED AT THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS MUST PERFORCE BE OF A HIGHER ORDER AND THE RANGE OF SERVICES MORE COMPREHENSIVE,+ HE SAID.

/+IN FACT

+IN FACT, MOST OF THE ASSISTED HOSPITALS ARE NOW BEING SUBSIDISED ON A DEFICIENCY BASIS, WHICH MEANS THE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION MEETS IN FULL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TOTAL APPROVED EXPENDITURE AND THE INCOME OF THE HOSPITALS, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE IN THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS BE QUITE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. THONG REVEALED THAT A MASTER INVENTORY OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS IN ALL HOSPITALS WITH A VIEW TO PRODUCING A CO-ORDINATED SCHEDULE FOR ONGOING REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT AT APPROPRIATE TIMES WOULD SOON BE ESTABLISHED.

+SUCH A SCHEDULE WOULD ENSURE THE REPLACEMENT OF WORN-OUT AND OUT-DATED EQUIPMENT AND THE MAXIMAL POSSIBLE USE OF ALL RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, CONCRETE STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION IN MAJOR HOSPITALS.

IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, A NEW PROJECT CONSISTING OF AN EIGHT-STORY EXTENSION INCORPORATING A NEW PAEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT, CORONARY CARE FACILITIES AND A NEW PATHOLOGY BUILDING IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMMISSIONED BY 1983.

IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, PLANS ARE IN THE PIPELINE TO BUILD A NEW SEPARATE 600-BED ANNEX INCORPORATING OPERATING THEATRES, HAEMODIALYSIS, ORAL SURGERY AND A BURNS UNIT.

DR. THONG REASSURED THAT THE SUBSIDISED SECTOR WAS NOT NEGLECTED IN THIS RESPECT.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, RECENTLY APPROVED FUNDS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL AT TSUEN WAN, REPROVISIONING OF OPERATING THEATRES AND OTHER SUPPORT FACILITIES OF THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, CONVERSION OF THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL INTO A CARDIO-THORACIC CENTRE, AND EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE POK OI HOSPITAL AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

ON NEW FACILITIES, DR. THONG SAID A 1 300-BED PSYCHIATRIC WING OF PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WILL BE COMPLETED AND BROUGHT INTO USE NEXT YEAR AND WORK ON THE 1 400-BED SHA TIN TEACHING HOSPITAL WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.

IN ADDITION TO A 1 300-BED HOSPITAL IN TUEN MUN AND ANOTHER MAJOR HOSPITAL IN EAST KOWLOON, THERE WERE ALSO PLANS TO BUILD AT LEAST 15 CLINICS/HEALTH CENTRES DURING THE '80S, HE ADDED.

+GIVEN THE RESOURCES, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIMES, THE PROGRAMMES WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EXISTING SERVICES AS WELL AS FOR NEW FACILITIES, SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY AND STANDARD OF OUR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WOULD NOT ONLY BE MAINTAINED, BUT ALSO IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1979

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GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE
DEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THE URBAN AREAS, THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. JOHN WALDEN SAID IN THE RESUMED ANNUAL DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR. WALDEN SAID A CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE WAS APPOINTED ON NOVEMBER 1 AS THE FIRST STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE CDO IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE NEW COMMISSIONER AND THE PRESENT CITY DISTRICT OFFICER AND HIS STAFF WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING OUT MEANS, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, TO ENSURE THAT THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EFFORT IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT IS BETTER CO-ORDINATED AND DIRECTED TOWARDS THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO LIVE THERE,+ HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE NOTED A DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

THE DEPARTMENTS PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT WOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

MR. WALDEN SAID: +THIS TEAM WILL STUDY THE WHOLE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES THAT EXIST OR ARE PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT.

+IT WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL CO-ORDINATING MACHINERY IS NEEDED TO ENSURE A QUICK GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE DISTRICT.+

MR. WALDEN SAID IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO CHANGE IMMEDIATELY THE EXISTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS VITAL ASPECT OF THE RE-ORGANISATION WOULD BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING RESPONSIBLE LOCAL OPINION TO BEAR UPON AND PARTICIPATE MORE IN THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT AN EARLY DATE.

+THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE STEADY RATHER THAN SPECTACULAR PROGRESS TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT BY PROVED MEASURES THAT WILL LEND THEMSELVES TO ADOPTION IN OTHER URBAN DISTRICTS WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT TO DO SO,+ HE NOTED.

MR. WALDEN ASSURED THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT THAT THESE PROPOSALS DO HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY BODIES CONCERNED.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO ASSURED THAT HER CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE DEFICIENCIES IN THE DISTRICT WOULD RECEIVE EARLY ATTENTION OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THAT +PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.+

IN REPLY TO A POINT BY THE HON. WONG LAM THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE MORE IN SEEKING OPINIONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, MR. WALDEN SAID EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO SOLICIT THE VIEWS OF THE SILENT MAJORITY.

REFERRING TO MR. WONG'S WARNING ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF STAFF BY THE OPERATION OF PARKINSON'S LAW, MR. WALDEN SAID: +THE POINT IS WELL TAKEN AND AS A FURTHER REASSURANCE TO HIM ON THIS POINT I AM SURE THERE ARE OTHERS IN THIS CHAMBER WHO WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE KWUN TONG GRIFFIN DOES NOT EASILY EVADE THE BEECHER'S BROOK OF BUDGETARY STRATEGY.+

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FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK IS NOT APPROPRIATE AT PRESENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS WILLING TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING WORKERS' CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, BUT IN THE PRESENT STATE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, IT WILL NOT MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE TO INTRODUCE A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK GENERALLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HO SAID AT PRESENT, IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, MOST OFFICE WORKERS WORK FEWER HOURS A DAY AND FEWER DAYS A WEEK THAN INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

+TO INTRODUCE A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK FOR OFFICE WORKERS ONLY WOULD ACCENTUATE THE EXISTING DISPARITY IN WORKING HOURS BETWEEN OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ANXIOUS NOT TO WIDEN THESE DIFFERENCES : ON THE CONTRARY, OUR ULTIMATE AIM MUST BE TO NARROW THE GAP,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. HO SAID ONE OF ITS PRIMARY ROLES IS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC. +IT IS THUS EVIDENT THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICES MUST REMAIN OPEN ON SATURDAYS AS LONG AS THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES CONTINUES TO WORK THOSE HOURS.+

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ONLY A VERY SMALL PART OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COULD SWITCH OVER TO A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK WITHOUT SOME CURTAILMENT OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

HE SAID A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK IS NOT AT ALL COMMON AMONG OUR NEIGHBOURS IN ASIA EXCEPT PERHAPS IN JAPAN WHERE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS MORE ADVANCED THAN ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION INCLUDING HONG KONG.

/+EVEN SO

+EVEN SO, I UNDERSTAND THAT A FAIR NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES IN JAPAN, INCLUDING BANK STAFF, STILL WORK SIX DAYS A WEEK.+

REFERRING TO THE REMARKS THAT A SATURDAY SYNDROME IS ANOTHER REASON FOR STOPPING SATURDAY WORK, MR. HO BELIEVED THAT IN CERTAIN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK, THERE IS A FRIDAY SYNDROME WHERE TRAFFIC AND PEOPLE POUR OUT OF THE CITIES AND TOWNS FROM EARLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO TAKE FULLER ADVANTAGE OF THE WEEKEND.

+FOR THESE REASONS, I FEEL THAT IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE AT THE PRESENT TIME, FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONTEMPLATE THE INTRODUCTION OF A FIVE-DAY WORKING WEEK IN HONG KONG EITHER GENERALLY OR FOR OFFICE WORKERS ONLY, OR FOR A SMALL SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT FEEL INHIBITED FROM INTRODUCING A FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR THEIR WORKERS IF THEY THINK THIS WOULD BE PRACTICAL AND BENEFICIAL.

ON SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, MR. HO SAID A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SPECIAL TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE SHORTLY.

MR. HO ALSO SAID THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS SHOULD BE GIVEN STATUTORY EFFECT, AT LEAST IN PART.

HE NOTED THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER FOR REHABILITATION WORK WAS A MATTER FOR CONCERN, PARTICULAR IN RESPECT OF SPEECH THERAPISTS, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.

HE SAID FULL TIME THREE-YEAR COURSE WERE STARTED AT THE POLYTECHNIC IN SEPTEMBER 1978 ON PHYSIOTHERAPY AND EDUCATIONAL THERAPY.

ON EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, HE SAID IT WAS HOPED A MASTERS PROGRAMME WILL SOON BE ESTABLISHED THERE.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE TRAINING OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS,+ MR. HO SAID.

HE SAID THE POLYTECHNIC IS NOW PROVIDING FOR ABOUT 40 PLACES EACH YEAR BUT, THE SMALL NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS IN THIS PROFESSION CURRENTLY AT WORK IN HONG KONG CANNOT POSSIBLY PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PRACTICAL CLINICAL TRAINING WITH ADEQUATE SUPERVISION FOR THIS NUMBER OF FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

+ACCORDINGLY, WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE POLYTECHNIC, THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION TO ASSIST WITH OVERSEAS PLACEMENTS FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ENTIRE FINAL YEAR CLASS,+ MR. HO SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO DO THIS FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS.

THIS, HE SAID, COULD ADD TO THE INITIAL TRAINING COSTS, BUT ONCE A WIDER BASE OF PRACTISING PROFESSIONALS HAS BEEN BUILT UP IN THIS FIELD, FUTURE PRACTICAL CLINICAL TRAINING SHOULD CEASE TO BE A CONSTRAINT ON MANPOWER TRAINING.

+THE STEPS WE PROPOSE TO TAKE HERE INDICATE OUR DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED IN MEETING THE TARGETS IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN — THE ULTIMATE AIM OF WHICH IS INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. HO SAID GOOD PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN AND THAT APART FROM DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, EXPANSION IN THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL IMPROVE HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

THE CODES OF AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION HAVE BEEN REVISED TO PROVIDE FOR PARA-MEDICAL STAFF AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS SO THAT A COMPREHENSIVE AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN REHABILITATING DISABLED SCHOOL CHILDREN CAN BE CARRIED OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY, HE SAID.

THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL PLACES NEXT YEAR FOR DISABLED CHILDREN WILL GROW FROM 23 000 TO 26 000 WITH A MAJOR EFFORT BEING MADE TO INCREASE THE PROVISION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

HE SAID VOCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE WILL BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE AEGIS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND SUBJECT TO THE VOTING OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS THESE FACILITIES WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

+PHYSICAL ACCESS IS BEING IMPROVED TO ENABLE MORE DISABLED STUDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AND GAIN ADMISSION INTO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS— THESE MEASURES WILL NATURALLY FACILITATE THE FULLER PARTICIPATION OF THE DISABLED IN THE NORMAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY,+ MR. HO SAID.

ON EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED, MR. HO SAID THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE HAD GIVEN A LEAD BY INSTRUCTING HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS TO ACCORD SOME DEGREE OF PREFERENCE TO QUALIFIED DISABLED CANDIDATES SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

A CENTRALISED SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT EARLY IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

ON EDUCATION, MR. HO SAID THIS WAS ALWAYS A SUBJECT OF CONCERN TO PARENTS FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR CHILDREN. +THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARES THIS CONCERN,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE TEACHING OF CHINESE THROUGH THE USE OF SIMPLIFIED CHARACTERS IN WRITING, MR. HO QUOTED THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WHO SPOKE ON THE SAME SUBJECT IN 1978 WHEN HE SAID IT WOULD BE +MOST UNWISE+ AND A +GREAT DISSERVICE+ TO PUPILS TO STOP TEACHING THE TRADITIONAL SCRIPT IN THE SCHOOLS.

COMMENTING ON THE SUGGESTION THAT HONG KONG SHOULD NOW SWITCH TO THE TEACHING OF PUTUNGHUA HE SAID THE USE OF THIS AS THE SPEECH OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS WAS AN OPTION OPEN TO SCHOOL SPONSORS AND THAT ~~AT LEAST ONE AIDED PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPLEX~~ HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR SOME TIME.

+THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WILL CERTAINLY NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF OTHER SCHOOLS WISHING TO FOLLOW SUIT,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, I MUST OBSERVE THAT WITH NORMAL SPEECH IN THE HOME, AT PLAY, AT WORK AND IN THE MARKET PLACE REMAINING CANTONESE, THE USE OF PUTUNGHUA AT SCHOOL IS NOT LIKELY TO INCREASE OUR STUDENTS' FLUENCY IN COMMUNICATION,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING ON THE ABSENCE OF PROVISION FOR AN ADMINISTRATION ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO SPONSORING BODIES, MR. HO SAID THIS WAS DUE TO TWO BASIC CONSIDERATION. THESE ARE :

- * THE CODES OF AID ARE GROUND RULES FOR THE PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS ; THE GRANTS ARE NOT FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPONSORING BODIES, AND
- * WHEN THESE RULES WERE FIRST DRAWN UP THE PRIVATE FUNDS OF SPONSORS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY, OR AUDIT BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

+AS THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT NOW HAS THIS RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SPONSORS, TO THIS EXTENT THERE IS SOME MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE POSITION WHICH MAY MERIT A RECONSIDERATION OF THE OVERALL COST OF ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

+IN SAYING THIS,+ HE ADDED, +I MUST STRESS THAT WHAT REMAINS UNCHANGED IS THAT OUR GRANTS ARE CALCULATED FOR THE SUPPORT OF, AND SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR, THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.+

ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID, WHAT MAY BE NEEDED WAS AN ARRANGEMENT PERMITTING THE ADMINISTRATION GRANT FOR EACH OF THE SCHOOLS WITHIN A GROUP TO BE CHANNLED INTO A COMMON POOL.

THIS AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE CAREFULLY LOOKED INTO IN THE CURRENT REVIEW OF THE CODES OF AID BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HE POINTED OUT.

ON THE SUGGESTION TO ADAPT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IDEA IN HONG KONG, MR. HO QUOTED A CONCLUSION IN THE 1977 GREEN PAPER WHICH STATED THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WOULD BE BEYOND OUR CAPACITY TO SUPPLY AND, +THIS REMAINS THE PRESENT POSITION.+

REGARDING PART TIME DEGREE COURSES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO INVITE THE UNIVERSITIES TO PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED THESE COURSES TO BE DESIGNED MAINLY FOR MATURE STUDENTS WITH A COMBINED TOTAL OF ABOUT 1 000 STUDENTS ENROLLED BY THE MID-1980'S.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO EXTEND THE CONCEPT OF MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT TO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND THAT THE STEPS TAKEN HAVE INCLUDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN 1973, WITH SUCCESSIVE FURTHER WIDENING OF ITS SPECTRUM OF PARTICIPATION SINCE THEN.

+ITS MEMBERSHIP NOW TOTALS 21 CITIZENS RANGING FROM THE GRASS ROOTS TO THE LEADING LIGHTS IN ACADEMIA,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE REMARKS BY DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG ON MANPOWER PLANNING AND TRAINING, HE SAID AS FAR BACK AS 1965 GOVERNMENT INITIATED ACTION BY SETTING UP THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

AND IN 1973, THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TO DEVELOP THIS WORK FURTHER.

MR. HO SAID THE COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTRODUCE A SCHEME WHICH WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TRAINING CENTRES FOR TRAINING MANPOWER NOT ONLY SPECIFIC TO INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES BUT COMMON TO ALL INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TO RESPOND TO RAPIDLY CHANGING MANPOWER DEMAND.

+THIS RECOMMENDATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT, AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR SWIFT ACTION TO BE TAKEN AS SOON AS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK,+ HE SAID.

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CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL SCENE

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THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. ROY PORTER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PAST HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY HAS ADAPTED TO MARKET DEMANDS FAR MORE QUICKLY THAN ITS COMPETITORS, BUT THE ABILITY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES QUICKLY IS DIMINISHING.

MR. PORTER, WHO IS DUE TO RETIRE NEXT MONTH AFTER 23 YEARS GOVERNMENT SERVICE, WAS REVIEWING THE ENORMOUS CHANGES IN HONG KONG HE HAD SEEN OVER THAT PERIOD, IN A LUNCHEON TALK TO THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG HARBOUR.

+TEN YEARS AGO IT WAS NOT TOO DIFFICULT FOR AN ENTREPRENEUR MANUFACTURER TO CHANGE OVERNIGHT FROM THE PRODUCTION OF TOOTH BRUSHES TO THE PRODUCTION OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS- OR FROM THE PRODUCTION OF WIGS TO THE ASSEMBLY OF TRANSISTOR RADIOS. NO GREAT TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE WAS REQUIRED AND NO GREAT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT NOW WE ARE BEING FORCED BY RISING COSTS AND INCREASED COMPETITION TO PRODUCE HIGHER QUALITY, MORE SOPHISTICATED GOODS. MORE KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNOLOGY, BETTER MANAGEMENT, HIGHER CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND MORE ADVANCED MARKETING METHODS ARE NEEDED. THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM IT, WE ARE BEING FORCED UP THE MARKET AND WE HAVE TO BE MORE PROFESSIONAL IN OUR APPROACH.+

/MR. PORTER

MR. PORTER SAID THAT HONG KONG IS NOW EDUCATING AND TRAINING GOOD YOUNG ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND MANAGERS, AND THAT THE OLDER MANAGERS MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW THEM TO PUT THEIR TRAINING TO GOOD EFFECT.

+THE TRADITIONAL, THIN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES BASED UPON THE FAMILY HAVE STOOD HONG KONG COMPANIES IN GOOD STEAD, FOR THEY ENABLE QUICK DECISION-MAKING AND INVOLVE LOW OVERHEADS, BUT THEY ARE TOO UNSOPHISTICATED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

+IN MANY CASES I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SIMPLY IMPORT MANAGEMENT THEORIES AND SYSTEMS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOME OF THE NEW TECHNIQUES MUST BE ADOPTED,+ HE SAID.

+THERE IS A NEED FOR A HONG KONG MANAGEMENT STYLE WHICH IS AN AMALGAM OF THE TWO APPROACHES, RETAINING THE BEST FEATURES OF THE OLD HONG KONG STYLE AND SUPER-IMPOSING UPON IT THE MOST SENSIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE FEATURES OF THE NEW TECHNIQUES.

+I BELIEVE THIS TO BE AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR SERIOUS STUDY BY, SAY, THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE UNIVERSITIES OR THE POLYTECHNIC. IF WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY DEVISE SUCH AN APPROACH WE WILL TEACH THE WORLD A FEW NEW TRICKS,+ SAID MR. PORTER.

TO CONTINUE THEIR SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT HONG KONG COMPANIES ALSO NEEDED TO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH TO MARKETING.

+IN THE PAST, AND TO A VERY LARGE DEGREE STILL AT PRESENT, MOST HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS PLACE A FEW ADVERTISEMENTS, ATTEND A FEW TRADE FAIRS, MAKE A NUMBER OF CONTACTS AND THEN WAIT FOR THE ORDERS TO ARRIVE. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPETITION, OR OF WHAT THE END USERS OF THE PRODUCTS REALLY WANT. THERE IS NO PROPER PROMOTION OF THE PRODUCTS, AND THERE IS NO MARKETING PLAN UPON WHICH TO BASE A PRODUCTION SCHEDULE,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS NOT ONLY THAT SALES ARE LOWER THAN THEY NEED BE, BUT ALSO THAT PROFITS ARE LOWER THAN THEY SHOULD BE, FOR IT IS AN OBVIOUS FACT THAT NO SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT WAS EVER SOLD AT TOO HIGH A PRICE, WHILE A GREAT MANY ARE SOLD AT TOO LOW A PRICE. INVESTMENT IN PROFESSIONAL MARKETING IS NOW EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS IN PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION,+ HE ADDED.

MR. PORTER SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL DEVELOP THE NEW SKILLS, THE NEW MARKETS AND THE NEW PRODUCTS WHICH THEY WILL NEED NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO CONTINUE THE DRAMATIC GROWTH THAT HE HAD WITNESSED OVER THE LAST 23 YEARS.

+THE FUTURE WILL BE AS EXCITING, AS DIFFICULT, AS DRAMATIC AND AS PROFITABLE FOR HONG KONG AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

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IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979

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THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 WHICH AIMS TO EXEMPT FROM INCLUSION IN CARGO MANIFESTS ANY ARTICLE CONTAINED IN THE PERSONAL BAGGAGE OF, OR CARRIED BY, PASSENGERS ENTERING OR LEAVING HONG KONG, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. LAWRENCE MILLS SAID: +AS THE LAW STANDS AT PRESENT, ONLY ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF PASSENGERS NEED NOT BE LISTED IN CARGO MANIFESTS.

+IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, MANY PASSENGERS BRING IN GOODS WHICH ARE NOT FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE BUT WHICH ARE RARELY, IF EVER, MANIFESTED. CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN THOUGH THEY ORALLY DECLARE SUCH GOODS AND PAY WHATEVER FEES MAY BE APPROPRIATE, THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, IMPORTING UNMANIFESTED CARGO AND ARE TECHNICALLY IN BREACH OF THE LAW.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO CLEAR THIS POINT, AND MR. MILLS SAID THE CONTROLS PROVIDED IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE WERE INTENDED TO PROTECT THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND HELP SAFEGUARD THOSE OF THE SHIPPING AND AIRLINE COMPANIES.

+IN FACT, HOWEVER, SUCH INTERESTS ARE IN NO WAY JEOPARDISED AS A RESULT OF GOODS, PROPERLY DECLARED, BEING IMPORTED AND EXPORTED BY PASSENGERS. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS UNREASONABLE THAT A PERSON SHOULD RENDER HIMSELF LIABLE TO PROSECUTION BY OPENLY DECLARING THAT HE IS CARRYING GOODS SOLELY BECAUSE THOSE GOODS ARE NOT LISTED ON A MANIFEST,+ HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD EXCLUDE FROM THE DEFINITION OF +CARGO+ ANY ARTICLE WHICH A PASSENGER MAY CARRY OR HAVE IN HIS PERSONAL BAGGAGE. THIS IN TURN WOULD REMOVE THE NEED FOR SUCH ARTICLES TO BE LISTED IN CARGO MANIFESTS AND, PROVIDED PASSENGERS PROPERLY DECLARE THE GOODS AND PAY THE APPROPRIATE FEES, THEY WILL NO LONGER BE IN BREACH OF THE LAW.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SEMINAR TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF AIR POLLUTION SURVEY

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TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF 69 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO PARTICIPATED IN A +CLEAN AIR AND LICHENS+ SURVEY LAST YEAR ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 17) TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY.

DR. S.L. THROWER OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL GIVE A TALK ON +LICHENS GROWTH AND AIR POLLUTION+ DURING THE SEMINAR, AND GIVE HER COMMENTS ON THE RESULT OF THE SURVEY.

THE SURVEY WAS ORGANISED BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE IN CO-OPERATION WITH DR. THROWER.

IT WAS SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF AIR POLLUTION IN HONG KONG,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

APART FROM LEARNING THE RESULT OF THE SURVEY, HE SAID, PARTICIPANTS AT THE SEMINAR WOULD DISCUSS POINTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM THE COLLATION OF INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPORTS.

SURVEY REPORTS AND MAPS SENT IN BY PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CHECKED, VALIDATED AND PROCESSED BY DR. THROWER AND HER ASSISTANTS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY A SUMMARY MAP SHOWING ZONES OF LICHEN GROWTH AND AIR POLLUTION TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF EXPLANATORY REPORT HAVE BEEN PREPARED.

COPIES OF THE SUMMARY MAP, TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT WRITTEN IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY.

MRS. LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, WILL GIVE AN OPENING ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR- AND MR. ERIC WAI, PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES WILL PRESENT THE MAPS AND REPORTS TO THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.

MR. JOHN TAAM, PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (SCIENCE) WILL CHAIR THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 A.M. SATURDAY AT THE SCHOOL HALL OF THE TRUE LIGHT GIRLS' COLLEGE, 54A WATERLOO ROAD, YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON THE +CLEAN AIR AND LICHENS+ SURVEY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 17) AT THE SCHOOL HALL OF THE TRUE LIGHT GIRLS' COLLEGE, 54A WATERLOO ROAD, YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

DSW TO OFFICIATE AT SCHOOL'S GRADUATION CEREMONY
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) OFFICIATE AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CHIU CHOW SCHOOL AT THE CITY HALL.

MR. LEE WILL GIVE A SPEECH ON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE WHICH HELPS STUDENTS SOLVE FAMILY, STUDY OR PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL START AT 4.30 P.M. TOMORROW AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

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BILL TO UPDATE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE
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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO UPDATE THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO AMEND SOME SECTIONS IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A MAGISTRATE'S COURT TO REFER A CASE TO A HIGHER COURT FOR ACTION CONCERNING THE ORIGINAL OFFENCE BEFORE PASSING SENTENCE ON THE SECOND OFFENCE.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, A PERSON WHO IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF A PROBATION ORDER IMPOSED BY THE HIGH COURT OR THE DISTRICT COURT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT IF HE IS CONVICTED OF A FURTHER OFFENCE.

+THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO A SITUATION WHERE THE MAGISTRATE HAS TO PASS SENTENCE ON THE SECOND OFFENCE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE HIGHER COURT REGARDING THE ORIGINAL OFFENCE,+ MR. LEE SAID.

+THIS UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION, RESULTING OCCASIONALLY IN INCONSISTENT SENTENCES BEING PASSED, HAS RECENTLY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF JUDICIAL CRITICISM,+ HE ADDED.

FURTHER AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED IN THE BILL TO ENABLE THE HIGHER COURT TO REFER THE OFFENDER BACK TO THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT AFTER HE HAS BEEN DEALT WITH IN RESPECT OF THE ORIGINAL OFFENCE, OR TO DEAL WITH ALSO THE SECOND OFFENCE ITSELF.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR BREACHING A PROBATION ORDER AND TO DELETE TWO SUB-SECTIONS WHICH ARE REDUNDANT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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HAWKER CONTROL FORCE (REPEAL) BILL 1979

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO REPEAL THE HAWKER CONTROL FORCE ORDINANCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HAWKER CONTROL FORCE WELFARE FUND WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HAWKER CONTROL FORCE (REPEAL) BILL 1979, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID THE HAWKER CONTROL FORCE WAS DISBANDED ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITMENT OF STAFF AND THE LIMITED AREA WITHIN WHICH THE FORCE OPERATED.

+IN ITS PLACE, AN INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER HAWKERS IS BEING ACHIEVED THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS+, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILLS PASSED

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SIX BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT)(NO. 7) BILL 1979, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979, THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 AND THE PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979.

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SPECIAL TRAINS TO SHA TIN RACE COURSE ON SATURDAY

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL OPERATE THREE SPECIAL PASSENGER TRAINS TO SHA TIN RACE COURSE STATION ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 17).

THESE NON-STOP TRAINS WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM AT 12.32 P.M., 12.53 P.M. AND 1.14 P.M.

THERE WILL BE SIX TRAINS INCLUDING THREE SPECIALS TO CARRY PASSENGERS BACK FROM RACE COURSE STATION DEPARTING AT 4.40 P.M., 5.47 P.M., 6 P.M., 6.11 P.M., 6.30 P.M. AND 7.15 P.M.

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MAXICAB SERVICES TO SAI KUNG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FOUR NEW TERRITORIES MAXICAB ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN SAI KUNG FROM SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 18).

THEY ARE ROUTE NO.1 FROM SAI KUNG TO KOWLOON BAY (TELFORD GARDENS)- NO.2 SAI KUNG TO HO CHUNG- NO.3 SAI KUNG TO NAM SHAN AND NO.4 SAI KUNG TO TUI MIN HOI.

THE FARE FOR ROUTE NO.1 IS \$2 WITH A SECTIONAL FARE OF \$1.5 FOR THE JOURNEY BETWEEN SAI KUNG AND CHOI HUNG MTR STATION. THE FARE FOR ROUTE NO.2 IS \$1 WHILE THAT FOR ROUTE NOS.3 AND 4 ARE BOTH AT 50 CENTS.

THE HOURS OF OPERATION AND BASIC FREQUENCY OF THE FOUR NEW ROUTES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>ROUTE NO.</u>	<u>HOURS OF OPERATION</u>	<u>BASIC FREQUENCY</u>
1	6.30 A.M. TO 12.30 A.M. NEXT MORNING	10 MINUTES
2	6.40 A.M. TO 10.40 P.M.	20 MINUTES
3	5.40 A.M. TO 10.10 P.M.	10 MINUTES
4	5.36 A.M. TO 10.21 P.M.	6 MINUTES

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MAXICAB SERVICES, A NUMBER OF STREETS IN SAI KUNG AND KOWLOON BAY WILL BE PROHIBITED TO USE BY NORMAL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

THE BAN, EFFECTIVE FROM SUNDAY, IS IMPOSED ON MAN NIN STREET EAST OF THE SAI KUNG BUS TERMINUS- THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO HO CHUNG- PO LO CHE ROAD, AND TUI MIN HOI SAI KUNG CAMP ROAD. IN KOWLOON BAY PLBS ARE PROHIBITED TO USE SIU YIP STREET- HONG TAK ROAD AND TAI YIP STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE PLB DRIVERS.

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