HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

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SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1978

GOVERNOR HELPS CLEAN BEACH IN NT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (SUNDAY) JOINED 70 MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND BOY SCOUTS IN CLEANING UP LAI CHI WO BEACH NEAR SHA TAU KOK.

SIR MURRAY ARRIVED AT THE UNGAZETTED BEACH AT 10.30 A.M. AND WAS MET BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF TAI PO, MR. CLIVE OXLEY AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR. HARNAM GREWAL.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF SHA TAU KOK RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. LAU YAM-MAN, THE 1ST VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. LAU TIN-FUK AND THE 2ND VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. YIP SING, WHOM HE HAD MET DURING THE CLEANING UP OF THE BEACH LAST YEAR.

SIR MURRAY WAS ALSO INTRODUCED TO OTHER VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AREA.

JOINING THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS HEADED BY THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (FRONTIER), CHIEF INSPECTOR CHAN PO-KWONG AND BOY SCOUTS LED BY THEIR NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR. CHEUNG CHI-FAN, WERE STUDENTS FROM THE LOCAL SIU YING PRIMARY SCHOOL.

AFTER A BRIEF CHAT WITH THE WELCOMING PARTY, SIR MURRAY GOT DOWN TO WORK. HE WAS JOINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND RURAL LEADERS.

THE CLEANING UP OPERATION, ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, LASTED FIVE HOURS AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF BASKETS OF LITTER WERE PICKED UP AND BURNT AT SELECTED POINTS ON THE BEACH.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE ENTHUSIASM AND CIVIC MINDEDNESS OF THE YOUNGSTERS AND RURAL LEADERS, THE GOVERNOR LATER TREATED THEM TO A PICNIC LUNCH IN THE VILLAGE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND.

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PUBLIC VIEWS ON DISABILITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME URGED

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A SENIOR SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICIAL TODAY CALLED ON THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO EXPRESS FULLY THEIR VIEWS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE DEAF.

SENIOR PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MRS. ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID SHE WOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR VIEWS WERE THOROUGHLY STUDIED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN DECIDING ON WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST POLICY FOR THE FUTURE.

MRS. GOODSTADT, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REHABILITATION DIVISION, WAS ADDRESSING A FORUM ON 'DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR THE DEAF' ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SUPPOSED TO SERVE THE PUBLIC AND THIS COULD BEST BE DONE WHEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS STRONGLY AND CLEARLY.

+IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING AND WHAT YOUR REASONS ARE FOR WANTING THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS POLICIES OR TO CONTINUE WITH THE PRESENT POLICIES,+ SHE TOLD THE FORUM.

GIVING AN OUTLINE OF THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME, MRS. GOODSTADT SAID IT WAS A FLAT-RATE, NON-CONTRIBUTORY AND NON-MEANS-TESTED ALLOWANCE FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED WHO FORMED THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUP IN THE COMMUNITY.

THIS ALLOWANCE, SHE SAID, AIMS AT PROVIDING EXTRA-CASH TO A FAMILY WITH THE BURDEN OF CARING FOR A DISABLED MEMBER, ENCOURAGING THE FAMILY TO CONTINUE CARING FOR THE DISABLED AT HOME WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND ENABLING THE BENEFICIARY TO MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAMILY 'BUDGET' THUS MAKING HIM FEEL LESS OF A BURDEN.

MRS. GOODSTADT SAID THE SCHEME COVERED PERSONS WHO WERE CERTIFIED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AS SEVERELY DISABLED - THOSE WHO ARE PHYSICALLY INJURED OR BLIND, WHO ARE IN DISABLING PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CONDITION, OR WHO REQUIRE CONSTANT ATTENDANCE.

SHE MENTIONED TWO IMPORTANT POINTS UNDER THE SCHEME. THE FIRST IS THAT THE DISABILITY MUST BE EQUIVALENT TO 100 PER CENT LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AND THE SECOND IS THAT THE PERSON MUST ALSO BE MEDICALLY CERTIFIED AS LIKELY TO BE SEVERELY DISABLED FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR AN ALLOWANCE.

AT PRESENT, SHE SAID, ANY ELIGIBLE DISABLED PERSON OR CHILD IS ENTITLED TO THE FULL RATE OF DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, WHICH IS $200 A MONTH, THE SAME AS THE SCALE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

+IT IS LINKED WITH THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEW AND INCREASES CORRESPONDINGLY WHENEVER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES ARE INCREASED,+ SHE SAID.

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REPORT ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON TELEPHONE SERVICES PUBLISHED
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THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY CONNECTS 94 PER CENT OF ALL APPLICANTS WITHIN SEVEN WORKING DAYS OF RECEIVING A REQUEST FOR SERVICE, ACCORDING TO THE 19TH PERIODICAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SERVICES (ACTS) COVERING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1976 TO OCTOBER 31, 1977.

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THIS AS +SATISFACTORY+.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE ACTS IS CONCERNED THAT A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE HAVE HAD TO WAIT A NUMBER OF MONTHS FOR INSTALLATION OF A TELEPHONE,+ ADDS THE REPORT.

+THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHERE DELAYS OCCURRED FOR VARIOUS REASONS SUCH AS WHEN LANDOWNERS CANNOT BE TRACED OR REFUSE TO CONSENT TO A CABLE BEING LAID ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY.+

THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO OVERALL CO-ORDINATING BODY WITHIN GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE RAPID PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR LAYING TELEPHONE CABLES OR ERECTING TELEGRAPH POLES AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXAMINE IN DETAIL ITS ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TO STREAMLINING THEM.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE REPORT STATES THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN EXTENDING THE TELEPHONE NETWORK TO REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TO OUTLYING ISLANDS. FOUR NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGES WERE OPENED IN THE PAST YEAR +MARKING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MAXIMUM REQUIRED PENETRATION OF THE TELEPHONE NETWORK THROUGHOUT THE RURAL AREAS.+

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL TO PRODUCE A COMBINED HONG KONG/KOWLOON/NEW TERRITORIES BUSINESS DIRECTORY ANNUALLY AND FOR SEPARATE RESIDENTIAL DIRECTORIES TO BE ISSUED EVERY TWO YEARS, BUT DECIDED IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE TESTING PUBLIC DEMAND.

THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAS ACCORDINGLY AGREED TO BRING FORWARD PUBLICATION OF THE NEXT RESIDENTIAL DIRECTORY FOR HONG KONG ISLAND.

WITH REGARD TO FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE TELEPHONE NETWORK AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT, THE REPORT STATES THAT THE COMMITTEE IS +REASONABLY SATISFIED+ THAT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAS THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE ACTS INTRODUCED A 24-HOUR RECORDED TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS SERVICE IN FEBRUARY, 1977, FOR A ONE-YEAR TRIAL PERIOD. A TOTAL OF 171 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED UP TO THE END OF OCTOBER, 1977, EACH OF WHICH WAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND A FULL EXPLANATION GIVEN TO THE COMPLAINANT.

/+THE COMPLAINTS .....

+THE COMPLAINTS SERVICE HAS BEEN USED LESS FREQUENTLY WITH THE PASSING OF TIME AND, AS A RESULT OF EXAMINING THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SO FAR, THE ACTS CONSIDERS THAT THIS SERVICE IS NOT ESSENTIAL,+ THE REPORT STATES. THE ACTS IS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO ENDING THIS SERVICE FROM JUNE.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY RECOMMENDING:

* THAT THE POSTMASTER GENERAL SHOULD HOLD REGULAR FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT= AND

* THAT THE FUNCTIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CHANGED IN VIEW OF THE MONITORING OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY PERFORMED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THESE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED.

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MARKET SHARE DISTRIBUTION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS 1976 AND 1977

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY ISSUED TRADE FIGURES SHOWING THE MARKET SHARE DISTRIBUTION OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN 1976 AND 1977.

ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS, THE UNITED STATES' PERCENTAGE SHARE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE FROM 34.4 PER CENT IN 1976 TO 38.7 PER CENT IN 1977.

A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT IN THE MARKET SHARE WAS ALSO RECORDED LAST YEAR IN THE CASE OF SINGAPORE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EIGHT OUT OF THE TEN MAJOR MARKETS SAW A DECLINE IN THEIR MARKET SHARES OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS LAST YEAR.

AS REGARDS THE MARKET SHARE DISTRIBUTION OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC IMPORTS, JAPAN REMAINED THE MAJOR SUPPLIER WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 21.6 PER CENT IN 1976 AND 23.7 PER CENT IN 1977.

THE INCREASE MAINLY COMPRISED RAW MATERIALS AND CAPITAL GOODS.

THE FOLLOWING TWO TABLES SHOW THE TOP TEN MARKETS FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY VALUE IN 1976 AND 1977:-

/MAJOR MARKETS .....

MAJOR MARKETS	PERCENTAGE SHARE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS	
	1976	1977
U.S.A.	34.4%	38.7%
F.R. OF GERMANY	12.2%	10.5%
UNITED KINGDOM	10.1%	8.7%
JAPAN	4.3%	4.0%
AUSTRALIA	4.2%	3.6%
CANADA	4.3%	3.3%
SINGAPORE	2.4%	2.6%
NETHERLANDS	2.3%	2.2%
SWEDEN	2.2%	1.7%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	2.0%	1.6%

MAJOR SUPPLIERS	PERCENTAGE SHARE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC IMPORTS	
	1976	1977
JAPAN	21.6%	23.7%
CHINA	17.9%	16.6%
U.S.A.	12.3%	12.5%
TAIWAN	7.1%	6.7%
SINGAPORE	5.8%	5.9%
UNITED KINGDOM	4.2%	4.5%
SOUTH KOREA	3.8%	3.5%
F.R. OF GERMANY	3.0%	3.0%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	2.6%	2.7%
AUSTRALIA	2.1%	2.0%

MEANWHILE, WHEN EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE IMPORTS OF HONG KONG'S TRADING PARTNERS IN 1976, HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS CONSTITUTED 0.5 PER CENT FOR JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS, COMPARED TO ONE PER CENT FOR F.R. OF GERMANY, CANADA, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND, 1.4 PER CENT FOR U.K., TWO PER CENT FOR THE U.S., 2.4 PER CENT FOR SINGAPORE AND 2.6 PER CENT FOR AUSTRALIA.

FIGURES FOR 1977 WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER.

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MORE DISABLED FOUND JOBS IN FEBRUARY
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THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH (FEBRUARY) FOUND JOBS FOR 31 DISABLED PERSONS, BRINGING TO 429 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL JOB PLACEMENTS SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY AMONG THOSE PLACED TO WORK DURING FEBRUARY WERE FIVE BLIND, 13 PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, SIX DEAF, TWO EX-MENTAL PATIENTS AND FIVE MENTAL RETARDATES.

HE SAID MOST OF THEM WERE ENGAGED IN THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FIELDS AS GENERAL WORKERS, ASSEMBLERS AND MACHINE OPERATORS, WHILE OTHERS WERE EMPLOYED AS TYPISTS AND TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

+THEY ARE PAID EITHER MONTHLY SALARIES RANGING FROM $520 TO $940, OR AT A DAILY RATE AVERAGED AT $19, WITH ONE GETTING A DAILY WAGE AS HIGH AS $80,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MORE AND MORE EMPLOYERS WERE REALISING THAT DISABLED PERSONS COULD WORK JUST AS WELL AS ANY ABLED PERSON.

THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT WAS STARTED IN 1967 WHEN IT FOUND JOBS FOR 46 DISABLED PERSONS, COMPARED WITH 526 DURING THE YEAR 1976-77.

+SO FAR, THE UNIT HAS FOUND JOBS FOR A TOTAL OF 3,062 DISABLED PERSONS,+ HE SAID.

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TENDERS FOR SEWAGE PUMPING STATION
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A SEWAGE PUMPING STATION IS TO BE BUILT IN TAI PO SHORTLY TO SERVE THE FIRST PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR THE AREA, ARE BEING INVITED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. BERNARD NEWMAN, GOVERNMENT ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES), SAID THAT THE WORK, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE LAYING OF A RISING MAIN ALONG TING KOK ROAD, WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY AND TAKE ABOUT 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THAT THE EIGHT-METRE-HIGH PUMPING STATION, WITH TWO LEVELS BELOW GROUND, WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN REINFORCED CONCRETE.

IT WOULD ACCOMMODATE FOUR PUMPS AND INCORPORATE AN ELECTRICITY TRANSFORMER ROOM, STAFF WASHROOMS AND A VENTILATION SYSTEM.

+THE RISING MAIN PIPELINE WHICH IS TO BE LAID UNDER THE FOOTWAY AND VERGE ALONG TING KOK ROAD WILL BE 1,560 METRES LONG AND WILL BE CONNECTED TO A GRAVITY SEWER LEADING TO THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AT PRESENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,+ MR. NEWMAN SAID.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN TAI PO, WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1980, WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TING KOK ROAD, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF NAM HANG ON LAND RECLAIMED FROM TOLO HARBOUR. IT WOULD INCLUDE THE TAI YUEN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR 32,000 PEOPLE TOGETHER WITH COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED, AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED, BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON THREE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

DATE	HOURS
MARCH 21 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 22 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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