



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1977

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FS OUTLINES GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THREE CONSIDERATIONS: THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE SECTOR ASSISTS THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY AND DOES NOT HINDER IT= THE NEED TO PROVIDE THE USERS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES WITH SOME PROTECTION= AND THE OBVIOUS NEED TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN A SPEECH ENTITLED +GOVERNMENT AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR+ TO THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS AT THE FURAMA HOTEL.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE FIRST CONSIDERATION WAS THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR ASSISTS THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY AND DOES NOT HINDER IT AS HAPPENED DURING THE BANKING CRISIS IN 1965 AND THE PROPERTY AND SHARE BOOM IN 1972.

HE SAID: +TO HELP TO AVOID THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENING AGAIN, WE MUST SET UP MACHINERY ADEQUATELY TO MONITOR WHAT IS HAPPENING AND TO ENABLE US TO INTERVENE WITH AUTHORITY TO THE EXTENT INTERVENTION CAN BE JUSTIFIED. WE HAVE ALREADY COME A LONG WAY: THE BANKING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG HAS PERFORMED BETTER THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS AND THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY NOW LOOKS MUCH MORE SOUNDLY BASED THAN IT WAS, SAY, FIVE YEARS AGO.+

BUT THERE WAS MORE TO BE DONE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID. WE HAD BEEN CRITICISED - AND FAIRLY HE BELIEVED - FOR THE LACK OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY AND WE WERE THEREFORE IN THE PROCESS OF DOING WHAT WE COULD TO IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL STATISTICS.

+I HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON THE CO-OPERATION OF THOSE CONCERNED FOR IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT FOR THE PROVIDERS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES TO BE WELL INFORMED AS THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND CONSIDERATION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID, WAS THE NEED TO PROVIDE USERS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES WITH SOME PROTECTION.

+WE HAVE DEVELOPED CONSUMER PROTECTION LESS IN HONG KONG THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

+WE HAVE RELIED PRIMARILY ON THE OLD MAXIM, LET THE BUYER SEE TO IT, AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RELY ON IT IN THE MAIN.

+NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH CONSUMERS, NO MATTER HOW INTELLIGENT, CAN BE AFFECTED BY FORCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. SMALL BANK DEPOSITORS ARE AN EXAMPLE.+

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ON THE THIRD CONSIDERATION - THE OBVIOUS NEED TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE - MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID: +IF ADEQUATE WEIGHT IS GIVEN TO THE FIRST TWO CONSIDERATIONS, THEN HONG KONG'S REPUTATION WILL BE LARGELY SECURED. BUT NOT QUITE: ON THE BASIS OF A COHERENT AND CONSISTENT PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THE FIELDS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF FISCAL ADMINISTRATION, IMMIGRATION AND LICENSING SYSTEMS.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE ILLUSTRATED THE WAY IN WHICH THESE THREE CONSIDERATIONS HAD BEEN APPLIED IN PRACTICE BY EXAMINING GOVERNMENT POLICY IN RESPECT OF BANKING, DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES, THE STOCK MARKET, COMMODITIES TRADING AND INSURANCE.

ON GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO BANKING, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID IT WOULD BE FAIR TO CLAIM THAT THE 1964 BANKING ORDINANCE HAD OPERATED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MEET THE THREE CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING GOVERNMENT POLICY: THE ECONOMY GENERALLY HAD BEEN SAFEGUARDED, DEPOSITORS HAD ENJOYED PROTECTION AND YET IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE BANKS HAD SUFFICIENT FREEDOM TO OPERATE ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE IN A COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

ON THE TOPIC OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN CRITICISED, AT ANY RATE BY THE BANKS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH IN PROTECTING DEPOSITORS AND THAT DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF WHOLESALE BANKING, HAD AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER THE LICENSED BANKS, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR FREEDOM FROM LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENTS.

HE SAID THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WERE GROWING AND, TO PROTECT THE ECONOMY GENERALLY RATHER THAN DEPOSITORS IN PARTICULAR, PROPOSALS WOULD SHORTLY BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FOR MONTHLY RETURNS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S OFFICE, FOR POWERS OF INSPECTION OF COMPANIES BY THE COMMISSIONER AND FOR LIQUIDITY REQUIREMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE REQUIRED IN THE BANKING ORDINANCE. IT WAS ALSO GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PERMIT CERTAIN LARGE INTERNATIONAL BANKS TO REGISTER UNDER THE DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND OPEN BRANCHES IN HONG KONG +SUBJECT TO OUR BEING ABLE TO DEVISE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS.+

ON THE 1974 SECURITIES ORDINANCE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID: +GENERALLY, I THINK THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS. THE REALLY BLATANT ABUSES SO APPARENT FIVE YEARS AGO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE CODE ON TAKE OVER AND MERGERS PUBLISHED IN 1975 HAD WORKED WELL, ADDING THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES WAS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE CODE WITH THE READY ASSISTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. HE SAID A CODE ON UNIT TRUSTS AND MUTUAL FUNDS HAD REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE CODE ON TAKE OVERS AND MERGERS AND THE UNIT TRUSTS CODE WERE THE ONLY TWO CODES HE HAD IN MIND AT THE MOMENT. +BUT I CAN SEE OTHERS BEING DEVELOPED AS TIME PASSES.+

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO SET UP A TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE INSIDER DEALING. +THE DIFFICULTY WITH INSIDER DEALING IS TO DEVISE AN ANSWER THAT GETS AT THE CULPRITS WHILE LEAVING ALONE THE INNOCENT,+ HE SAID.

A TRIBUNAL WOULD BE USED RATHER THAN THE COURTS AND A REVIEW IN TWO YEARS' TIME WOULD TELL WHETHER WE HAD GOT THE CORRECT BALANCE BETWEEN PURSUING THE GUILTY AND PROTECTING THE INNOCENT. +IF WE HAVEN'T, WE SHALL HAVE TO DEVISE OTHER MEANS OF TACKLING THE PROBLEM.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THERE WERE THREE REASONS WHY UNIFICATION OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES WOULD BENEFIT BOTH DEALERS AND SHAREHOLDERS: IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMIC TO ADMINISTER ONE EXCHANGE= A BROADER AND LESS ERRATIC EXCHANGE SHOULD RESULT= AND IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES TO ENFORCE ANY LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE CO-OPERATION OF THE EXCHANGE IF HE HAD TO DEAL WITH ONLY ONE EXCHANGE.

+GIVEN THESE ADVANTAGES,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, +I ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON UNIFICATION. IT WOULD APPEAR AS IF SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO CONVINC ME THAT UNIFICATION IS IN PROSPECT.

+SO, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO INTERFERE ACTIVELY IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE, UNLESS WE SOON HAVE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIFICATION, WE SHALL HAVE TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO BRING IT ABOUT.+

REGARDING THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT SINCE IT WAS OPENED IN MAY, BUSINESS HAD BEEN AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN HE THOUGHT ALL HAD EXPECTED.

+BUT I CERTAINLY DO NOT SEE THIS AS REFLECTING ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE ORGANISATION OR MANAGEMENT OF THE EXCHANGE,+ HE SAID.

+IT MERELY SHOWS THAT TIME IS NEEDED TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO A NEW INSTITUTION. IT REFLECTS ALSO THE FACT THAT INTEREST IN COMMODITIES WORLD WIDE HAS BEEN AT A LOW EBB. BUSINESS ON THE EXCHANGE WILL, IN ANY CASE, RECEIVE A BOOST LATER THIS MONTH WITH THE START OF TRADING IN RAW SUGAR FUTURES.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE REGISTRA GENERAL WAS DRAFTING, WITH THE ACTIVE CO-OPERATION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, A NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CONTROL AND REGULATION OF THE INDUSTRY FOR THE PROTECTION OF POLICY HOLDERS, WHICH WOULD REPLACE THE THREE EXISTING ORDINANCES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR. HADDON-CAVE'S SPEECH BOTH IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN THE NEWS ROOM OF G.I.S. ON 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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MTR EXTENSION AREA PLAN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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THE RAILWAY AREA PLAN FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD STATION AND LAI CHI KOK BAY THE ROUTE OF WHICH GENERALLY FOLLOWS CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD HAS BEEN DEPOSITED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

THIS PLAN SHOWS THE AREAS IN WHICH LAND MAY BE RESUMED OR EASEMENTS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND RUNNING THE RAILWAY. UNDER THE ORDINANCE, OWNERS OF LAND AND PROPERTY ACTUALLY AFFECTED BY THE RAILWAY MAY CLAIM COMPENSATION.

COPIES OF THE PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED FREE OF CHARGE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR= THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, OR AT ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +THE ALIGNMENT OF THE RAILWAY AND THE LOCATION OF BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH IT HAVE BEEN CHOSEN WITH GREAT CARE SO AS TO LIMIT ITS EFFECT ON PROPERTY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.+

ONLY 34 PROPERTIES MAY BE AFFECTED - AND IN SOME CASES ONLY THE BUILDINGS' VERANDAHS COULD BE CONCERNED. IN MOST OF THESE CASES, PRELIMINARY TALKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD BETWEEN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE OWNERS.

ANY HOUSE-HOLDERS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCES WILL BE OFFERED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, IF ELIGIBLE.

AS WELL AS GIVING THE GOVERNOR THE POWER TO ORDER RESUMPTIONS OR EASEMENTS, THE ORDINANCE ALSO EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO REQUIRE THE OWNER OF ANY BUILDING IN THE RAILWAY AREA TO REMOVE ANY OBJECT OR STRUCTURE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO OR PROJECTS FROM THE BUILDING IF HE CONSIDERS ITS REMOVAL NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING THE RAILWAY.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY DOES NOT MEAN THAT REDEVELOPMENT OF SITES ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY AREA WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY FROZEN SINCE IN ALL BUT A FEW SITES REDEVELOPMENT CAN BE PERMITTED UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

HOWEVER, AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND THE RAILWAY WORKS, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS THE POWER UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO REFUSE APPROVAL TO BUILDING PLANS IF HE CONSIDERS THEY ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY.

OWNERS MAY BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH CLAIMS TO COMPENSATION WHERE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUIRES LEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE REMOVED OR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY REFUSES TO APPROVE BUILDING PLANS.

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A NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY STREET ALTERATIONS WILL BE NECESSARY TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY AND WHEN THE DETAILS OF THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE FINALISED, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

BUSINESS OWNERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO SUBMIT CLAIMS FOR BUSINESS LOSS. AS WITH THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OPERATORS OF SMALL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES WHOSE TRADE IS AFFECTED BY THE WORKS CAN APPLY FOR MONTHLY PAYMENTS UNDER THE ADVANCED PAYMENTS SCHEME.

ALL CLAIMS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS IS IN MOST CASES ONE YEAR AS LAID DOWN IN THE ORDINANCE. GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE RAILWAY AREA PLAN SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

THE RAILWAY AREA PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY TO TSUEN WAN IS UNDER PREPARATION AND IT IS EXPECTED TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT WANCHAI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT WAN CHAI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN AND ITS NOTES HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

MOST OF THE AMENDMENTS GAZETTED TODAY INVOLVE THE REZONING OF SPECIFIC SITES. HOWEVER, THE BOARD HAS ALSO AGREED THE INCLUSION OF A PROPOSED TRAM TURNING CIRCLE FROM JOHNSTON ROAD, VIA THOMSON ROAD AND LUARD ROAD= THE DESIGNATING OF SECTIONS OF TONNOCHY ROAD AND LUARD ROAD AS PEDESTRIAN STREETS AND FENWICK STREET AND O'BRIEN ROAD AS TRAFFIC ROUTES= AND AN ELEVATED ROAD ABOVE GLOUCESTER ROAD IS ALSO INCORPORATED.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTES TO THE PLAN CONCERN THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SINGLE +RESIDENTIAL+ ZONING BY RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A) AND RESIDENTIAL (GROUP B) AND A REDEFINITION OF THE USES THAT MAY BE PERMITTED WITH OR WITHOUT CONDITIONS ON APPLICATION TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

USES PERMITTED UNDER GROUP B ARE SLIGHTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE ALLOWED UNDER GROUP A. CERTAIN ADDITIONAL USES HAVE ALSO BEEN INCLUDED IN COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL AND OPEN SPACE ZONING AS PERMISSIBLE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD.

UNDER THE DRAFT PLAN, 26.74 HECTARES OF LAND ARE ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL USE WHILE 15.18 HECTARES ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE.

LAND PROPOSED FOR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY USE COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 25.56 HECTARES WHILE OPEN SPACE IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP ABOUT 13.66 HECTARES OF LAND.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS UNTIL NOVEMBER 24 AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCES= THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (WAN CHAI), TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG AND THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, 17TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE IN WRITING NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 24, TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING.

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NEW WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME
FOR CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTED
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GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) GAZETTED A NEW PENSION SCHEME FOR THE DEPENDANTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS, REPLACING THE ONE DATING BACK TO 1908.

THE NEW SCHEME, WHICH A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID WILL +REFLECT MORE ADEQUATELY PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEEDS,+ IS KNOWN AS THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

IT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE, FOR A RELATIVELY SMALL PREMIUM, REASONABLE COVER THROUGHOUT AN OFFICER'S SERVICE, AND ALSO TO GIVE SOME PROTECTION AGAINST INFLATION AND SOME RECOGNITION OF HIS ADVANCEMENT IN THE SERVICE.

EVERY PENSIONABLE MALE OFFICER APPOINTED AFTER THE SCHEME COMMENCES MUST CONTRIBUTE TO IT. CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE THREE PER CENT OF HIS SALARY UNLESS AN OFFICER CHOOSES TO PAY FOUR PER CENT IN RETURN FOR A BETTER WIDOWS' PENSION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SERVING PENSIONABLE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE EXISTING SCHEME, KNOWN AS THE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION SCHEME, WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO JOIN THE NEW SCHEME OR TO REMAIN IN THE PRESENT SCHEME WHICH WILL GRADUALLY RUN DOWN. OFFICERS EXEMPTED FROM THE OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXISTING SCHEME WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE NEW SCHEME IF THEY WANT TO.

HE SAID THE NEW SCHEME WILL REFLECT AN OFFICER'S PRESENT AND FUTURE CIRCUMSTANCES BY RELATING PENSION TO HIS PERIOD OF CONTRIBUTORY SERVICE AND TO HIS SALARY AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT OR DEATH. IF AN OFFICER DIES YOUNG, THERE WILL BE AN ASSURED MINIMUM BENEFIT, IN MOST CASES, CORRESPONDING TO 20 YEARS' CONTRIBUTORY SERVICE.

UNDER THE EXISTING SCHEME AN OFFICER CONTRIBUTES FOUR PER CENT OF HIS SALARY OR HE CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE AT A FIXED RATE OF \$125 PER MONTH WHEN HIS SALARY REACHES \$3,125 PER MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED AT A TIME WHEN MORTALITY CONDITIONS WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY ARE TODAY. +ITS BENEFITS ACCORDINGLY PROVIDED MORE FOR EARLY DEATH AND LEFT THE WIDOWS OF OFFICERS WHO DIED LATER IN LIFE WITH RELATIVELY LOW BENEFITS,+ HE SAID. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE SCHEME WAS COMPLEX AND NOT EASY TO ADMINISTER.

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COURSE FOR DRUG FIGHTERS

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A TOTAL OF 23 POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM TEN COUNTRIES WILL GATHER IN HONG KONG THIS WEEKEND FOR A TWO-WEEK COURSE FOR NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTORS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

THE AIM OF THE COURSE, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG FROM NOVEMBER 7 TO 18, IS TO PROMOTE GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEMS AND THE MEANS OF OVERCOMING THEM.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON ANTI-SMUGGLING METHODS, TECHNIQUES OF INVESTIGATION, SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS AND THE USE OF DRUG DETECTION DOGS. THERE WILL BE VISITS TO THE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY AND THE TAI LAM ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT. THOSE TAKING PART WILL ALSO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN TRAINING METHODS TO ENABLE THEM TO ORGANISE LECTURES AND COURSES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

APART FROM HONG KONG, THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED CONSIST OF BURMA, INDIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND.

THE MAIN SPEAKERS WILL BE OFFICIALS FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT'S NARCOTICS DIVISION, THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING DIVISION, TOGETHER WITH HONG KONG BASED ANTI-NARCOTICS SPECIALISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE, THE UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, AND A NETHERLAND NARCOTICS LIAISON OFFICER STATIONED IN BANGKOK.

THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS HAS RUN SEVERAL COURSES OF THIS TYPE - MOSTLY IN GENEVA - BUT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TO TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG AND ONLY THE SECOND TO BE HELD IN THE REGION.

A SIMILAR COURSE WAS HELD IN DJAKARTA IN 1974 WHEN HONG KONG WAS REPRESENTED BY A POLICE SUPERINTENDENT AND AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE.

THE IDEA OF USING HONG KONG AS A VENUE ON THIS OCCASION FIRST AROSE DURING THE HONG KONG CONFERENCE OF SENIOR PREVENTIVE OFFICERS HELD IN MAY LAST YEAR WHEN UN OBSERVERS DECIDED THAT THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL OFFERED IDEAL FACILITIES FOR A REGIONAL COURSE.

SINCE THEN, THERE HAS BEEN A REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GENEVA AND BOTH THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS AND A SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE HAVE VISITED THE CENTRAL TRAINING UNIT OF THE UK DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS.

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THE COURSE WILL BE OPENED BY MR. W. DORWARD, THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE. MR. B.F. SLEVIN, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WILL ADDRESS THE PARTICIPANTS DURING THE CLOSING SESSION ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 7) AT 9.30 A.M. AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

TELEVISION AND RADIO CREWS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE EARLY TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE CEREMONY STARTS.

TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO TAI LAM CHUNG, LEAVING KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8 A.M. SHARP.

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, PETER ILIFFE-MOON, AND STAFF OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COURSE, PLEASE CONTACT SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT WALTER NEIL, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, TEL. 5-456182 EXT. 222, OR MR. ILIFFE-MOON, TEL. 5-233191 EXT. 227.

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TEAM SET UP TO PROMOTE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) 11 OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO PROMOTE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, A COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMME AIMED AT PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY AS A UNIT.

SPEAKING AT THE 24TH SPEECH DAY OF WELLINGTON COLLEGE, MR. LEE SAID A FULL-TIME WORKING TEAM COMPRISING A CO-ORDINATOR AND 10 OFFICERS WORKING ON A DISTRICT BASIS HAS ALREADY EMBARKED, IN CONSULTATION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ON THE DETAILED PLANNING OF THE OVERALL PROGRAMME, DUE TO BE LAUNCHED SOME TIME AROUND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

DESCRIBING THE PROGRAMME AS ONE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE EXPANSION OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS, MR. LEE EMPHASISED THE IMPACT OF FAMILY UNITS ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOUR.

+RESEARCH HAS CONFIRMED THAT BROKEN FAMILIES, INADEQUATE PARENTAL CARE AND ATTENTION, INAPPROPRIATE METHODS OF ENFORCING DISCIPLINES, AND STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

+FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AIMS THEREFORE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE FOR INDIVIDUALS, BY ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF ONE'S SELF, BY SHOWING HOW TO ACHIEVE BETTER HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FAMILY AND BY HELPING EACH FAMILY MEMBER TO RECOGNISE THE ROLE HE PLAYS,+ MR. LEE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT, ABOVE ALL, THE PROGRAMME IS GEARED TO FORESTALL FAMILY BREAKDOWNS BY IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE ON MARRIAGE, CHILD CARE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN AND ON OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS.

+THROUGH THE USE OF A VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES, SUCH AS AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, SEMINARS, ROLE PLAYS, DISCUSSIONS AND COUNSELLING BACKED UP BY SERVICES TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES WHERE NECESSARY ON A CASEWORK BASIS, THE MESSAGE OF A UNITED AND HAPPY FAMILY WILL SOON MAKE ITS WAY TO FAMILIES ALL OVER HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

AMONG THE VARIOUS TARGET GROUPS OF THE PROGRAMME, MR. LEE NOTED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE ONES THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE MOST TOWARDS IT SUCCESS.

UNDERLINING THE YOUNGER GENERATION'S DIFFICULTIES IN ADAPTING TO PHYSICAL CHANGES AND EMOTIONAL STRAINS TOGETHER WITH THE CHALLENGES AND FRUSTRATIONS ON THE WAY TO ADULTHOOD, THE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WOULD SUPPLEMENT EFFORTS MADE BY THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.

+SPECIALLY DESIGNED IN CONTENTS AND METHODOLOGY, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WILL ENABLE THEM TO UNDERSTAND, ANALYSE, AND SOLVE PROBLEMS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE CHANGES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE PHYSICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND SOCIALLY IN THE PERIOD OF GROWING UP,+ HE SAID.

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FOR THIS SPECIFIC GROUP, THE PROGRAMME ALSO OFFERS GUIDANCE IN CHARACTER BUILDING, THE CHOICE OF CAREER AND THE ROLE THEY SHOULD PLAY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE FAMILY.

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN THE VALUE OF THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME, MR. LEE HOPED THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL GIVE IT STRONG SUPPORT.

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RETIRED POSTMAN HONOURED BY THE QUEEN

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MR. LI KI, A RETIRED POSTMAN, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL BY THE QUEEN.

MR. LI, 55, FIRST JOINED THE POST OFFICE IN 1940 AS A LABOURER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO POSTMAN CLASS III IN 1946 AND TO POSTMAN IN 1953. HE RETIRED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AFTER MORE THAN 36 YEARS OF SERVICE.

FOR MOST PART OF HIS CAREER, MR. LI SERVED AS A DELIVERY POSTMAN IN THE TAI PO DISTRICT.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY YESTERDAY (THURSDAY), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR. D.J.K. BAMFORD, HANDED MR. LI A LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR INFORMING HIM ABOUT THE AWARD.

MR. BAMFORD NOTED THAT THE AWARD HAS BEEN GIVEN IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LI'S LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE TO THE POST OFFICE AND THE COMMUNITY.

+IT IS NOT ONLY A GREAT HONOUR FOR MR. LI BUT ALSO FOR THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT,+ MR. BAMFORD SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE AWARD, MR. LI SAID, +I OWE IT ALL TO MY COLLEAGUES WHO REALLY MADE THIS POSSIBLE.+

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CENTRAL DISTRICT FOR THREE DAYS STARTING FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 7) BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE QUEENSWAY FLYOVER.

DURING THESE PERIODS, THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF QUEENSWAY BETWEEN GARDEN ROAD AND COTTON TREE DRIVE AND THE SECTION OF MURRAY ROAD BETWEEN CHATER ROAD AND QUEENSWAY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN LEFT FROM DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL INTO PEDDER STREET.

IN ADDITION TRAFFIC FROM GARDEN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND TRAFFIC FROM DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL TURN LEFT AT THE PEDDER STREET JUNCTION AND PROCEED FROM THERE TO CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

AT THE SAME TIME TRAFFIC FROM CHATER ROAD WILL PROCEED VIA LAMBETH WALK TO CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

THE CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTE NO. 121 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL ON ITS KOWLOON BOUND JOURNEY DURING THESE PERIODS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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RETIRED USD FOREMAN HONOURED
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A VETERAN WORKER OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR. LEUNG KAI, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL, THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR. LEUNG, WHO IS 55, HAS BEEN HONOURED FOR 37 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE USD, DURING WHICH HE UNDERTOOK MANY SPECIAL DUTIES SUCH AS MAJOR CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS. HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN 1940 AS A SANITARY WORKER AND RETIRED AS A FOREMAN IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

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NT LICENSING CENTRE

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS OPENED A NEW CENTRALIZED LICENSING SECTION FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, KOWLOON.

THE NEW SECTION, WHICH BEGAN OPERATING ON NOVEMBER 1, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING ALL NEW APPLICATIONS FOR USD LICENCES EXCEPT HAWKER LICENCES AND TEMPORARY PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. PREVIOUSLY, THESE APPLICATIONS WERE PROCESSED BY THE DISTRICT URBAN SERVICES OFFICES.

APPLICATIONS FOR ALTERATION, TRANSFER OR RENEWAL OF LICENCES ARE STILL PROCESSED BY DISTRICT URBAN SERVICES OFFICES AS USUAL.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE NEW LICENSING SECTION ARE 3-677989 AND 3-677901.

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WATER CHARGES COLLECTION CENTRES IN NT

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THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO WILL BE SETTING UP TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES AT SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING LATER THIS MONTH FOR THE COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES FOR THE SECOND PERIOD OF THIS YEAR.

THE SHEUNG SHUI COLLECTION CENTRE WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE AT SHEK WU HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON NOVEMBER 15 AND 16.

THE OTHER CENTRE WILL BE AT THE FANLING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT LUEN WO HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON NOVEMBER 17 AND 18.

BOTH CENTRES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICTS ARE INVITED TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE SPECIALLY PROVIDED FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE.

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