



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1980

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ACTING GOVERNOR SPEAKS ABOUT HK'S ACHIEVEMENTS
AND PROBLEMS
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER SPOKE ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST DECADE AND THE PROBLEMS FACING HONG KONG IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST OVER RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

SIR JACK TOUCHED ON HOUSING, EDUCATION, TRANSPORT, THE ECONOMY AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE FIRST OF A TWO-PART INTERVIEW. THE SECOND PART WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THIS MORNING'S INTERVIEW:

SIR JACK: I SUPPOSE LOOKING BACK THERE HAS BEEN ENORMOUS DEVELOPMENT, ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENT. BUT WHAT STICKS IN MY MIND AT THIS MOMENT IS THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS OR SO. AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OF US; HOUSING, I KNOW THERE IS STILL ENORMOUS PROBLEMS OF HOUSING, BUT WE HAVE ACHIEVED A VERY GREAT DEAL.

ONLY, BUT A YEAR AND A HALF OR SO IT SEEMED TO THE GOVERNOR THAT WE HAD THE END IN SIGHT BUT BY THE MID-EIGHTIES WE WOULD OVERCOME THIS SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEM.

AND NOW AS A RESULT FROM THE IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA LAST YEAR OF SOME 200 000 PEOPLE SO WE SEE OURSELVES SLIPPING IN THE PROVISION OF HOUSING, A SLIPPAGE WHICH CLEARLY IS GOING TO TAKE TIME TO CATCH UP ON.

IN OTHER AREAS, EDUCATION, AND I THINK BACK TO THE LATE SIXTIES IS THE TIME WHEN WE WERE THINKING THEN OF JUST INTRODUCED FREE, AND COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION. DOESN'T SEEM MUCH NOW. WE NOW HAVE, OF COURSE, FREE AND COMPULSORY JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION. AND THAT I THINK IS IMPORTANT.

UNIVERSITIES.....? I THINK A FACT WHICH IMPRESSES ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE ARE THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE THERE ARE IN THE UNIVERSITIES WHO COME FROM THE LOW-COST HOUSING ESTATES. WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY WAS VERY MUCH A RICH MAN'S UNIVERSITY. NOWADAYS, SOMETHING LIKE 55, 60 PER CENT OF THOSE AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY COME FROM LOW-COST HOUSING ESTATES AND OVER 70 PER CENT OF THOSE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY COME FROM THAT BACKGROUND.

INTERVIEWER: THIS IS VERY IMPRESSIVE AND THEY ARE GREAT TIPS. I NOTICE THAT YOU TEND TO STEER AWAY FROM WHAT PEOPLE WOULD CONSIDER TO BE THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN MATERIAL TERMS FOR HONG KONG WHICH PEOPLE TEND TO ASSOCIATE HONG KONG WITH. FOR INSTANCE THE MASSIVE NUMBER OF SKYSCRAPERS THAT HAVE GONE UP.

/SIR JACK:

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SIR JACK: YES, AND IF I DO, PERHAPS IT'S SOMETHING WHICH IS BUILT INTO ME THAT I DO TEND TO, OF COURSE CAN'T MISS THIS TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, THAT IS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SYSTEM, ALL AROUND US BUILDINGS GOING UP, NEW ROADS BEING BUILT, OUR ECONOMY BOOMING AWAY, AND THIS IS GREAT.

BUT IT SEEMS TO ME AT TIMES TOO, THAT PERHAPS WHAT ONE TENDS TO FORGET IS THAT PEOPLE ARE ACHIEVING THIS AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH PEOPLE. I TEND TO EMPHASISE, PERHAPS THIS IS RIGHT, THE ROLE OF PEOPLE IN THIS. I THINK THAT IS PARAMOUNT. IT IS A BIT OF A PARADOX PERHAPS BUT IT IS ALSO PEOPLE, I THINK, THAT ARE OUR MAIN PROBLEM FOR THE COMING YEARS.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT DO YOU SEE IS PERHAPS THE MAJOR PROBLEMS THAT WE ARE GOING TO FACE IN THE EIGHTIES?

SIR JACK: WELL WE ENDED 1979 WITH A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM OF IMMIGRATION, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, FROM CHINA. IT IS STILL WITH US. WE HAVE HAD PROMISES FROM CHAIRMAN HUA GUOFENG IN LONDON AND DENG XIAOPING IN PEKING AND MORE RECENTLY GOVERNOR XI, THE GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG, THAT SOMETHING WOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. AND AS WE KNOW, FROM THE FIRST OF JANUARY NEW LAWS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, A NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST EMIGRATION FROM CHINA TO HONG KONG.

SO AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT IN TIME IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW THIS WILL GO. HOPEFULLY THEIR PLANS WILL MATERIALISE AND THEIR PLANS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WILL NOT BE THE PROBLEM THAT IT WAS THIS LAST YEAR. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CHINESE HAVE AN ENORMOUS PROBLEM TOO.

SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE GANG OF FOUR, SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FOUR MODERNISATIONS, GREATER LIBERALISM, THERE HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN SOUTH CHINA, SOCIAL DISCIPLINE PERHAPS IN THE COMMUNES HAS TENDED TO BREAK DOWN. THE 'DOWN TO THE COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH MOVEMENT' IS A THING OF THE PAST. AND SO WE HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING AROUND ESPECIALLY HERE IN SOUTH CHINA. AND MANY OF THEM CLEARLY WOULD LIKE TO COME TO HONG KONG. IN FACT I WAS LOOKING AT FIGURES THIS MORNING WHICH INDICATE THAT PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE HALF A MILLION THIS LAST YEAR ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE VILLAGES AND COME TO HONG KONG, AND AS WE KNOW, UNHAPPILY MAINLY WAS SUCCESSFUL, UNHAPPILY AS FAR AS HONG KONG IS CONCERNED.

AND SO THIS IS A PROBLEM WITH US NOW BUT MAYBE THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS OR SO WILL SHOW AN IMPROVEMENT. BUT WHILST THE STANDARDS OF LIVING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THOSE IN GUANGDONG, WHILST THERE IS THIS DIFFERENTIAL, I WOULD IMAGINE THERE WOULD BE THE DESIRE STILL IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINDS ESPECIALLY TO COME TO HONG KONG.

/INTERVIEWER:

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INTERVIEWER: PRESUMABLY THE PEOPLE PROBLEM THAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO IS GOING TO HAVE RAMIFICATIONS IN OTHER AREAS WITHIN HONG KONG, I AM THINKING HERE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT, FOR INSTANCE, THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORT FOR THE EIGHTIES.

SIR JACK: OUR PROBLEMS, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THIS INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION HERE, ARE ENORMOUS. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT AND I DON'T THINK ANYBODY SHOULD TRY TO HIDE THAT FACT. IT'S NOT JUST HOUSING, IT'S NOT JUST TRANSPORT. CLEARLY THERE HAVE TO BE IMPROVEMENTS. I'M HOPEFUL THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SYSTEM WILL BE THE BACKBONE AS IT WERE OF OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE BUS COMPANIES AND THE TRAMWAY COMPANY WILL HAVE ANY LESS TO DO. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR VERY CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE CARRIAGE OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

INTERVIEWER: IN TALKING ABOUT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, SIR JACK, IN TALKING ABOUT THE MASSIVE PEOPLE PROBLEM THAT HONG KONG HAS, CAN WE SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT YOU SPEAK OF INTO THE EIGHTIES, THROUGH THINGS LIKE RECREATION, THROUGH BETTER LABOUR CONDITIONS AND SO FORTH?

SIR JACK: WELL, LOOKING BACK OVER THE 70S' YOU KNOW I AM IMPRESSED WITH WHAT ALREADY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN TERMS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEISURE. I CAN RECALL ONLY TOO CLEARLY THE PROBLEMS FACING US IN 1967 AND EARLY 1968 WHEN WE DISCUSSED WITH INDUSTRIALISTS THE NEED TO BRING DOWN THE WORKING WEEK IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR FROM 60 TO 48 HOURS. IN SOME WAYS THAT SEEMS A LIFETIME AGO BUT IT WAS ONLY JUST OVER 10 YEARS. AND I'M DELIGHTED THAT THEY AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION, DELIGHTED THAT THIS WAS ACHIEVED IN THE EARLY 70S'. AND THEN THE SUNDAY HOLIDAY. WHAT A BATTLE THAT WAS AT ONE TIME AND YET IT HAS TAKEN QUITE PROBABLY AS BEING THE NATURAL THING AND IT GIVES ME THE GREATEST OF POSSIBLE PLEASURE TO SEE YOUNG PEOPLE UP ON THE HILLSIDES, OUT WALKING ENJOYING THE COUNTRY PARKS, ENJOYING OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT THAT SORT OF THING TO CONTINUE, I WOULD EXPECT OUR COUNTRY PARK SYSTEM TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. I THINK THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS DONE A GRAND JOB HERE BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE TO BE DONE IN TERMS OF MAKING THE COUNTRY PARKS ATTRACTIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY AND WE HAVE GOT TO GET OLDER AND MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE OUT THERE.

SO I THINK THAT'S BEEN GOOD AND THAT IT WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THERE CAN BE NO GOING BACK. AND TALKING ABOUT LABOUR CONDITIONS, THERE CAN CERTAINLY BE NO GOING BACK ON WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED.

INTERVIEWER: SIR JACK, IS IT NOW POSSIBLE THAT WITH ALL THIS PROSPERITY AND YET AT THE SAME TIME THE PROBLEMS THAT GO HAND IN HAND WITH IT, THAT HONG KONG WILL EVENTUALLY SINK IN ITS OWN MIRE BECAUSE OF, YOU KNOW, THE TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE, THE TREMENDOUS PRESSURES THAT HAS PUT ON PEOPLE.

ONE CAN'T DENY THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES AND THE PRESSURES GENERALLY ON PEOPLE HERE IN HONG KONG. THERE IS NO QUESTION ON THAT. BUT I DON'T SEE THERE IS ANY QUESTION ABOUT OUR SINKING INTO ANY PARTICULAR MIRE. NO SYSTEM IS PERFECT, THIS IS TRUE.

/SIR JACK:

SIR JACK: I THINK THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCENTRATED ON THE ECONOMY, VERY MUCH CONCENTRATED ON PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND IN IMPROVING OUR OWN PROSPERITY. BUT I THINK IN THAT LIES A DANGER, THE DANGER THAT WHEN WE ARE TRAVELLING AT SUCH A PACE WE MIGHT JUST OCCASIONALLY OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT SOME AREN'T KEEPING UP WITH US, THE OLD AND THE LAME, THAT SOME ARE AS IT WERE FALLING THROUGH THE NET.

AND THESE ARE THE PEOPLE, I THINK, THAT INCREASINGLY WE MUST LOOK FOR, WE MUST SEEK OUT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DON'T SUFFER BECAUSE THEY CAN'T COPE WITH THE PACE OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

INTERVIEWER: PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD GO FOR MEDICAL SERVICE FOR EVERYONE ELSE TOO, I MEAN, YOU'D HOPE TO SEE DEVELOPMENT IN THAT AREA.

SIR JACK: WITHOUT ANY DOUBT WHATSOEVER. THE PLANS WE HAVE ARE THERE FOR ALL TO SEE BUT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBTING, NOT ONLY THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY, BUT NOT JUST IN THE MEDICAL FIELD IN THE SOCIAL FIELD GENERALLY. BUT SO OFTEN WHEN YOU PLAN, WHEN YOU HAVE IDEAS ON A BROAD SCALE IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SO OFTEN YOU CAN FIND HIM SUFFERING, AND IT IS THIS PERSON I AM BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT. I THINK WE HAVE GOT TO FIND THEM OUT, WE HAVE GOT TO SEEK THEM OUT, WE HAVE GOT TO HELP THEM.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT ABOUT EMPLOYMENT? CAN HONG KONG SUSTAIN THE VAST NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH ITS INDUSTRIES AND WITH ITS TRADE?

SIR JACK: I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WITH THESE ENORMOUS NUMBERS OF PEOPLE COMING HERE THAT WE WOULD HAVE HAD PROBLEMS BUILDING UP BY NOW UPON UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT HONG KONG IS AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE AND, AS YOU KNOW, THIS PAST YEAR OUR EXPORTS ARE UP 42 PER CENT AND I AM TOLD BY INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR ESPECIALLY AMONG THE SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED. AND SO IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WE ARE IN FACT ABSORBING THESE PEOPLE.

BUT AS WE LOOK AT THE EIGHTIES WE LOOK ALSO INTO A TIME WHEN THE WEST, WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE BETTER-OFF NATIONS ARE BECOMING, IT SEEMS TO ME, INCREASINGLY PROTECTIONIST. AND THIS, I THINK, MUST BE A GREAT WORRY THAT WE WORRY FOR US AND WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO COMBAT THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM. BECAUSE UNLESS WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN DOING THAT THEN YOU MIGHT WELL BE RIGHT, WE MIGHT WELL HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM TO DO WITH EMPLOYMENT. BUT IT IS NOT YET ON THE CARDS THAT THAT IN FACT SHOULD BE.

INTERVIEWER: SO THE CHALLENGES REALLY THEN FOR THE COMING DECADE YOU'D SEE AS BEING PEOPLE PROBLEMS AND THINGS SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE, THE ECONOMY. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ECONOMY WE HAVE ALREADY HAD THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE COMMENTING. BUT WHAT WOULD YOU SEE AS AN OVER-VIEW TO HIS REMARKS?

SIR JACK: I WOULDN'T LIKE TO ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT SIR PHILIP HAS SAID. BUT I THINK HE VERY SENSIBLY HAS REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE ECONOMY DURING THE EIGHTIES. SO MUCH COULD HAPPEN IN THE REST OF THE WORLD TO AFFECT US HERE IN HONG KONG. BUT ONE THING IS QUITE CERTAIN: THAT WE ARE IN GOOD SHAPE AS WE GO INTO THE EIGHTIES. WE ARE FORTUNATE IN HAVING A HARD WORKING, SENSIBLE COMMUNITY. OUR ENTREPRENEURS, OUR INDUSTRIALISTS ARE FLEXIBLE. THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IS STANDING UP, HAVING HAD A LOT OF PRESSURE ON IT OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO. AND SO WE GO INTO THE EIGHTIES IN GOOD SHAPE.

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CRITICISM ABOUT INADEQUATE LAND SUPPLY PUT IN PERSPECTIVE

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CRITICISM THAT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT MAKING ENOUGH LAND AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS HAD TO BE LOOKED AT AGAINST THE GENERAL DECISION THAT WE AS A COMMUNITY HAD MADE TO HOUSE ALL THE INADEQUATELY HOUSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THE 10-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME +AND NO ONE HAS CRITICISED IT.+

NO ONE HAD SAID IT WAS WRONG, BUT IT DID MEAN, IN ORDER TO MEET THOSE TARGETS, THAT 70 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR NEW TOWNS WOULD BE HOUSED IN PUBLIC HOUSING AND THIS MEANT ROUGHLY THAT ONLY 30 PER CENT OF THE LAND RESERVED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES WAS AVAILABLE FOR OFFER.

+THEREFORE, BY ADOPTING THE PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY, QUITE A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES HAVE THUS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR.+

THIS WAS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE WAS A DEARTH OF PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF THE NUMBER OF VERY LARGE SCHEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD THAT WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING THE NEW TOWNS.

+YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT IN 1975 AND EARLY 1976 WE SOLD TWO LARGE LOTS OF SEABED IN SHA TIN AMOUNTING TO 51 ACRES (20.6 HECTARES) FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT BY WAY OF RECLAMATION,+ HE SAID.

THE RECLAMATION WORKS HAD BEEN LARGELY COMPLETED AND DEVELOPMENT WAS UNDERWAY, WITH A VIEW TO OCCUPANCY OF THE EARLY PHASES OF ONE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS LATER THIS YEAR, AND BY THE OTHER IN MID-1981, WITH A LONG-TERM OVERALL PROJECTED POPULATION OF 35 000.

IN ADDITION, AT FAIRVIEW PARK IN YUEN LONG, A FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL SITE WAS GRANTED IN 1975 TO PERMIT A DEVELOPMENT OF SOME 5 000 HOUSES, AND THE EARLY PHASES OF THIS PROJECT HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE HOUSES OCCUPIED.

AT HONG LOK YUEN IN TAI PO ANOTHER ESTATE FOR 500 HOUSES WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED.

RECENTLY AT TSING LUNG TAU ANOTHER LARGE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT WAS APPROVED, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE NEARLY 1 500 FLATS- AND AT DISCOVERY BAY WHICH, ALTHOUGH IT WAS A RECREATIONAL AND RESORT AREA WITH HOTELS AND GOLF COURSES AND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ANOTHER 30 000 PEOPLE.

/AT SAI

AT SAI KUNG WE HAD APPROVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MARINA PROJECT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE 230 HOUSES, AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER SCHEMES IN THE PIPELINE WHICH WOULD ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE STOCK OF PRIVATE HOUSING.

+BY ALL MEANS LET US TRY TO DO MORE, BUT LET US ALSO REMEMBER THE VAST SCALE ON WHICH BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT IS NOW TAKING PLACE.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID HE DID NOT INTEND HIS SPEECH TO BE A DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT, BUT TO GIVE A PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AND PERHAPS TO SEE AGAINST THIS PERSPECTIVE HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE PRESENT PRESSURE TO MAKE MORE LAND AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT, THAT WE ARE NOT BUILDING ENOUGH HOUSING AND THAT ONLY BY MAKING MORE LAND AVAILABLE COULD WE BRING THE PRICE OF LAND AND PROPERTY DOWN.

+WE HAVE HAD A HOUSING SHORTAGE FOR YEARS, BUT WE HAVE NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE THE PRESENT PRESSURE THAT WE HAVE NOW FOR PROPERTY OF ALL KINDS AND THIS IS EVIDENCED IN ESCALATING RENTS AND HIGH LAND AND BUILDING PRICES.

+LET US NOT FORGET THAT IT IS ONLY COMPARATIVELY RECENTLY IN THE 1970'S THAT, WITH THE RESOURCES DEVELOPED FROM OUR ECONOMIC EXPANSION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADOPT A MORE PROGRESSIVE POLICY, NOT MERELY RESPONDING TO PRESSURE BUT ATTEMPTING TO GET ON TOP OF OUR PROBLEMS, BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE PRESSURES GENERATED FROM PROSPERITY AND FROM OTHER SOURCES HAVE INCREASED FASTER THAN OUR ABILITY TO COPE WITH THEM.+

THIS WAS OUR REAL PROBLEM, AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON WHICH WE SO CONFIDENTLY EMBARKED IN 1973 NOW FELL FAR SHORT OF WHAT WAS REQUIRED.

MOREOVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING MORE LAND AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT WAS MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THERE WAS A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH THE ECONOMY AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COULD BEAR.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THAT IT WAS VERY EASY TO SEE IN 1973 WHAT WE HAD TO DO- WE HAD TO PICK UP THE PLANS THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED IN THE 1960'S FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN AND NORTH TSUEN WAN AND GET ON WITH THEM.

+BUT IT IS NOT SO EASY TO SEE NOW WHERE WE OUGHT TO BE GOING NEXT AND WHERE WE ARE GOING TO PUT OUR EXPANDING POPULATION,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

+IF YOU PUT MORE PEOPLE IN THE YUEN LONG AREA, IN THE NORTH-WEST, THEN IT PUTS FURTHER STRAIN ON THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY.

+IF YOU PUT MORE PEOPLE IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO, THEN IT WILL PUT MORE STRAIN ON THE LION ROCK TUNNELS AND WATERLOO ROAD.

+IF YOU PUT PEOPLE IN JUNK BAY, IT WILL PUT INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH EAST KOWLOON AND KWUN TONG, AND SO FORTH.

/+SIMILARLY

+SIMILARLY POPULATION INCREASES OF THE SIZE WHICH WE MUST CONTEMPLATE REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WATER AND THE QUESTION OF WATER DISTRIBUTION HAS ALSO TO BE SOLVED.

+CLEARLY WE CAN'T STOP DEVELOPING, BUT CLEARLY THE SORT OF PROBLEMS I HAVE HINTED AT MUST BE EVALUATED.

+SO LET ME RE-ASSURE TODAY THAT THERE IS A LOT OF WORK GOING ON NOW WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND AN ANSWER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DISTRIBUTE THE FUTURE INCREASE IN POPULATION, WHAT THE SIZE OF THE HOUSING REQUIREMENT IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE YEARS AHEAD AND HOW SUCH BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTIONS AS TRANSPORT AND WATER SUPPLY AFFECT THE SOLUTION.

+MY OWN FEELING IS THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY END UP, NOT WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ANY SINGLE PLACE - THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT IS LARGELY PAST - BUT WITH EXPANSION OF THE URBAN AREAS THAT HAVE GROWN UP IN THE LAST TEN YEARS OR SO.

+I HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO MENTION OTHER EFFECTS OF THIS URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, BUT QUITE OBVIOUSLY EACH OF THESE NEW TOWNS IS GOING TO AFFECT ALL THE FLAT LAND SURROUNDING IT AND WE MIGHT AS WELL PREPARE FOR THIS AND DECIDE HOW WE ARE GOING TO CONTAIN AND CONTROL THE INEVITABLE CHANGES WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT WILL COME TO THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE 1980S.+

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW TO BE AMENDED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RECOGNISES THE NEED TO RAISE THE EXISTING LEVELS OF COMPENSATION PROVIDED UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ARE BEING DRAFTED AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. DAVID LIN, IN A REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CEMENT AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION TRADE WORKERS UNION AND THE RELATIVES OF TWO WORKERS KILLED IN A RECENT ACCIDENT AT A TSUEN WAN CONSTRUCTION SITE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW EXPANDING ITS FACTORY INSPECTORATE UNDER A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME AS ONE OF THE MAJOR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND ACHIEVE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

THE REPLY ALSO TOUCHED ON EXISTING LEGISLATION ON SAFETY AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND THE ROLES MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS CAN PLAY IN REDUCING THESE ACCIDENTS.

ON WORKERS' SAFETY, MR. LIN EMPHASISED THAT THIS HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WHICH INVESTIGATED EVERY ACCIDENT CAUSING DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY.

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THE INSPECTORATE HAD THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED THE ACCIDENTS AT THE TELFORD GARDEN AND THE HOPEWELL CENTRE AND A SIMILAR INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALL WAY GARDENS INCIDENT IS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN. IF BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE FOUND, THE CONTRACTORS OR PERSONS CONCERNED WOULD BE PROSECUTED.

APART FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS, MR. LIN POINTED OUT, THE INSPECTORATE HAD ALSO ADVISED THE CONTRACTORS CONCERNED ON APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL SAFETY MEASURES TO AVOID SIMILAR ACCIDENTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, ALL THE HOISTS ON THE TELFORD GARDEN SITE, ON THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE, HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FROM USE UNTIL THEIR OPERATIONAL SAFETY HAD BEEN ENSURED. ALL THE GONDOLAS USED BY THE COMPANY HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL THEY HAD BEEN EXAMINED BY AN ENGINEER AND CERTIFIED SAFE AND SUITABLE FOR USE.

ON SAFETY LEGISLATION, MR. LIN SAID THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS IMPOSED AN OVERALL LIABILITY ON A PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE UNDER HIS CONTROL. THEY ALSO IMPOSED A SIMILAR LIABILITY ON OTHER CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS AND PERSONS INCLUDING WORKERS ON THE SITE.

AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED, IT ALWAYS TRIED ITS BEST TO USE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO PROMOTE AND ACHIEVE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, PRIMARILY THROUGH PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, ORGANISING SAFETY COURSES AND STRENGTHENING THE INSPECTORATE.

+I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT ENFORCEMENT THROUGH INSPECTION OR PROSECUTION ALONE WILL NOT DRASTICALLY REDUCE ACCIDENTS UNLESS EVERYONE, FROM TOP MANAGEMENT DOWN TO THE FIRST LINE WORKERS, ALSO TAKES AN INTEREST AND PLAYS AN ACTIVE PART IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD BOTH THE CONTRACTORS AND THE WORKERS THEMSELVES BEEN SAFETY CONSCIOUS AND TAKEN HEED OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON SAFETY DEVICES, SUCH AS THE USE OF SAFETY BELTS WHILE WORKING AT HEIGHTS,+ SAID MR. LIN.

SPEAKING OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION CASES, MR. LIN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO BEEN TRYING ITS BEST TO MINIMISE THE PERIOD REQUIRED TO SETTLE A CLAIM IN RESPECT OF FATAL CASES.

HOWEVER, SOME CASES INEVITABLY TOOK A LONG TIME TO SETTLE BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO LOCATE ALL THE DEPENDANTS, VERIFY THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DECEASED WORKERS AND CHECK THEIR DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY. IN PARTICULAR, CASES WHERE THE SURVIVING DEPENDANTS LIVED IN CHINA TOOK LONGER TIME.

APART FROM HANDLING THESE CASES, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REFERRED THE FAMILY OF AN INJURED WORKER OR A DECEASED WORKER SUFFERING FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE, MR. LIN SAID.

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WAYS TO TACKLE TRANSPORT PROBLEM

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HONG KONG'S ROADS ARE CONGESTED TO A POINT WHERE IT IS A CASE OF THE AUTHORITIES +TRYING TO GET A QUART OUT OF A PINT POT.+

THIS COMMENT WAS MADE BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, DR. RICHARD BUTLER, AT THE ROTARY (ISLAND SOUTH) CLUB TODAY (THURSDAY).

HOWEVER, DR. BUTLER FELT THERE WERE FIVE WAYS OF ATTACKING THE PROBLEM OF CONGESTION:

- * BY DELIBERATELY RESTRAINING THE INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC COMING ONTO THE ROAD SYSTEM=
- * AS MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE PUBLIC MAKE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER DEMANDS THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER PRIVATE TRANSPORT USERS=
- * EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR SERVICES=
- * AS FERRIES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND BUSES ARE FREED FROM THEIR PRESENT USE BY THE PUBLIC OPTING TO USE THE MTR, THEY MUST BE REDEPLOYED TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MOVEMENT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY= AND
- * OFF-STREET SYSTEMS AVAILABLE, OR POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE, MUST BE EXPLOITED TO THE FULL.

ON THE FIRST POINT DR. BUTLER SAID: +IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE ADDITIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES WHOSE NUMBERS WE SHOULD PARTICULARLY AIM TO CONTROL ARE PRIVATE CARS WHICH ACCOUNT FOR TWO THIRDS OF OUR VEHICLE FLEET, FOR WHICH SUBSTITUTES ARE AVAILABLE, AND WHICH ARE PECULIARLY WASTEFUL IN THEIR USE OF SCARCE ROAD SPACE.+

DR. BUTLER STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT ADVOCATING A REDUCTION IN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE CARS. RATHER, HE REFERRED TO A CURBING OF THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE NUMBER.

+IN FACT, I FORESEE AN INCREASE - BUT AT A SMALLER RATE THAN AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND POINT, HE SAID, MEANT EARMARKING BUS-ONLY LANES, TRAM RESERVES AND EVEN PUBLIC-VEHICLE-ONLY ROADS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

+TO DOUBLE THE SPEED OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS TO DOUBLE ITS CAPACITY IN A GIVEN TIME FRAME,+ SAID DR. BUTLER.

+IF WE CANNOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE ROAD SPACE FOR ALL, LET US AT LEAST PROVIDE IT FOR THE VAST MAJORITY WHOSE NEEDS IN RELATION TO THEIR NUMBERS ARE MODEST.+

ON THE FIFTH POINT, DR. BUTLER SAID: +WE SHOULD INTRODUCE MORE FERRY SERVICES, PARTICULARLY COASTAL SERVICES, SUCH AS SHAU KEI WAN/ CENTRAL DISTRICT.

+WE MUST PRESS ON WITH THE KCR MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION AND WITH THE TUSEN WAN EXTENSION OF THE MTR PLANNED FOR 1982.+

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1980

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OVER 460 RECREATION AND SPORT ACTIVITIES ORGANISED
FOR THIS MONTH
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THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) HAS LINED UP MORE THAN 460 ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH FOR PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND INTERESTS. OVER ONE-THIRD OF THESE ARE NEW EVENTS AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO RELAX OVER A LONG WEEKEND, THERE IS AN +AWAY FROM IT ALL+ EVENT ORGANISED BY THE RSS HEADQUARTERS, WHICH GIVES AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMPING, FOLK DANCING, HORSE-RIDING AND HIKING.

THOSE WHO CAN ONLY AFFORD ONE DAY AWAY FROM THEIR WORK CAN JOIN +HORSE RIDING AND HIKING+ ON SUNDAYS ORGANISED BY THE RSS TUEN MUN OFFICE AT THE SHA TIN RIDING SCHOOL AND IN TAI PO COUNTRY PARK.

PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. OUTINGS TO THE OCEAN PARK FOR MA WAN RESIDENTS AND FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE ARRANGED AND A VARIETY OF SPORTS EVENTS ARE SPECIALLY ORGANISED FOR KUT O FISHERMEN, SAI KUNG CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER.

ALTOGETHER THERE ARE MORE THAN 170 NEW EVENTS, SOME 60 OF WHICH ARE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. THERE ARE ALSO TEAM GAMES, ATHLETIC AND AQUATIC EVENTS, GYMNASTIC EXERCISES, DANCE COURSES AND FITNESS TRAINING CLASSES.

COMING ATTRACTIONS IN FEBRUARY INCLUDE A +DANCE CAMP+ AT THE SAI KUNG RECREATION CENTRE AND A +MACLEHOSE TRAIL WALK+.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THIS MONTH IS OBTAINABLE FROM VARIOUS CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND OFFICES OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO JOIN ANY OF THE EVENTS CAN ENQUIRE ABOUT ENROLMENT AT THEIR LOCAL RSS OFFICE.

THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE:

HEADQUARTERS (5-458511), HONG KONG EASTERN (5-641543), WAN CHAI (5-724844), HONG KONG CENTRAL/WESTERN (5-438559), HONG KONG SOUTHERN (5-534111 EXT 10), SHAM SHUI PO (3-860945), MONG KOK (3-808781), YAU MA TEI (3-682585), KOWLOON CITY (3-028500), WONG TAI SIN (3-272641), KWUN TONG (3-436123), SHA TIN (12-620170), TAI PO (12-677111 EXT 140), SAI KUNG (3-2814683), NT ISLANDS (5-454616), YUEN LONG (12-764246), TUEN MUN (12-813210 EXT 264), TSUEN WAN (12-404361), AND SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE (3-2813828).

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FINAL STAGE OF TAI HING ESTATE COMPLETED

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THE LAST THREE 30-STOREY CRUCIFORM BLOCKS OF THE FINAL STAGE OF TAI HING ESTATE IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF HANDING OVER TWO OF THE NEWLY-COMPLETED BLOCKS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE REMAINING ONE WILL BE HANDED OVER LATER THIS MONTH.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT NEW TENANTS WILL BE MOVING IN TO THE NEW BLOCKS SHORTLY.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT TAI HING ESTATE WAS THE SECOND LAST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE BUILT BY PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE UNDER THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S HOUSING PLAN.

TAI HING ESTATE COMPRISES A TOTAL OF SIX 30-STOREY CRUCIFORM DOMESTIC BLOCKS AND A SEVEN-STOREY DOMESTIC BLOCK, PROVIDING HOMES FOR ABOUT 50 000 PEOPLE.

+THREE CRUCIFORM BLOCKS AND THE SEVEN-STOREY BLOCK WERE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST STAGE AND THEY ARE NOW HOUSING MORE THAN 20 000 PEOPLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+EACH OF THE NEWLY-COMPLETED CRUCIFORM BLOCKS OF THE FINAL STAGE CONTAINS 1 388 FLATS FOR ABOUT 7 500 PEOPLE. EVERY FLAT IS PROVIDED WITH INDIVIDUAL BALCONY, PROPER KITCHEN AND TOILET.+

LIKE THE FIRST STAGE OF THE ESTATE, HE SAID, THERE WERE OPEN AND RECREATIONAL SPACE IN AND AROUND THE ESTATE WITH PLAYGROUNDS AND REST GARDENS FOR RESIDENTS.

+COMMERCIAL FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS. THESE INCLUDE SHOPS AND A CENTRALLY LOCATED MARKET CONSISTING OF ABOUT 50 STALLS OF VARIOUS SIZES AND A LARGE RESTAURANT.+

THE RESTAURANT, HE ADDED, MEASURED ABOUT 1 500 SQUARE METRES AND WAS LOCATED AT THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WITH PARKING FACILITIES.

+IN ALL,+ HE POINTED OUT, +THE HIGH QUALITY TAI HING ESTATE INCORPORATES ALL BASIC COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO A BALANCED COMMUNITY.+

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TEACHER'S ROLE NOW MORE COMPLEX

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THE ROLE OF THE PRESENT DAY TEACHER IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND DEMANDING AND NOT SIMPLY ONE OF IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED IN TEXTBOOKS TO STUDENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR. TOPLEY WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT SPEECH DAY OF THE COGNITIO COLLEGE AT SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

A GOOD TEACHER, HE SAID, SHOULD AWAKEN STUDENTS' INTEREST TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY AND CRITICALLY THROUGH THE LEARNING OF ALL SUBJECTS.

THIS, MR. TOPLEY ADDED, WOULD MEAN THAT TEACHERS WOULD HAVE TO PUT IN EXTRA EFFORT AND PROFESSIONAL DEDICATION INTO THEIR WORK.

STUDENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO THINK OUT AND SOLVE PROBLEMS INDEPENDENTLY IN IMAGINED AND REAL SITUATIONS.

THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ANALYSE THE RELATION BETWEEN CAUSE AND EFFECT, AND TO FIND OUT WHY ONE EVENT SHOULD LEAD TO ANOTHER. THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO EXPERIMENT AND ARRIVE AT THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS, TO COLLECT THEIR OWN DATA AND FORM THEIR OWN JUDGEMENTS, MR. TOPLEY SAID.

HE SAID THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE TEACHER WAS TO HELP THE STUDENTS DEVELOP A HEALTHY, BALANCED PERSONALITY AND BUILD UP A KEEN SENSE OF SOCIAL AWARENESS.

ASIDE FROM SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE, THE TEACHER SHOULD BE ALIVE TO EACH ONE OF HIS STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

HE SHOULD MAKE HIS STUDENTS FEEL THAT THEY MAY BRING TO HIM THEIR PERSONAL PROBLEMS, HOWEVER PETTY THESE MAY APPEAR, AND HE WILL BE THERE TO LISTEN AND OFFER HIS FRIENDLY COUNSEL AND ADVICE, MR. TOPLEY SAID.

FURTHER TO BUILD UP THE STUDENTS' SENSE OF SOCIAL AWARENESS, THE TEACHER SHOULD KINDLE THEIR INTEREST IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BY INITIATING STUDY PROJECTS SUCH AS VISITS AND FIELD TRIPS TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW COMMUNITY AGENCIES WORK.

COGNITIO COLLEGE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED 17 YEARS AGO BY A GROUP OF YOUNG AND ENTHUSIASTIC GRADUATES FROM HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, NOW HAS ITS OWN PURPOSE-BUILT SCHOOL BUILDINGS - ONE IN SAN PO KONG AND THE OTHER IN CHAI WAN.

LAST SEPTEMBER, THE COLLEGE JOINED THE SCHEME OF CONVERSION TO AIDED SCHOOL STATUS AND BY SEPTEMBER 1982 IT WILL RECEIVE FULL GOVERNMENT AID UNDER THE CODE OF AID FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

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EMPLOYMENT OF CREWS ON VESSELS REGISTERED IN HK
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED MASTERS, OWNERS, AGENTS AND CHARTERERS OF BRITISH VESSELS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG THAT THEY MUST COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN LAW RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND DISCHARGE OF SEAMEN AND OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING CREWS.

THESE REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS 1894 TO 1967, AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 281 OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG ARE APPLICABLE TO BRITISH SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID, +FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS AS LAID DOWN COULD RESULT IN PROSECUTIONS AGAINST THE MASTERS, OWNERS, AGENTS OR CHARTERERS AND DELAYS IN SAILING OF SHIPS.+

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