



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1980

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/HON WILLIAM



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GOVERNOR CALLS FOR UNITED COMMUNITY ACTION
AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY APPEALED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS TO PLAY THEIR PART IN ENFORCING THE NEW MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND TO ASSIST THE POLICE, LABOUR OFFICERS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN THIS IMPORTANT TASK.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN, BUT SUCCESS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY UNITED ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ HE STRESSED.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE ADDED BURDEN ON THE ENFORCING AGENCIES WOULD BE GREAT, AND HE APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO REALISE THE PROBLEMS OF THESE AGENCIES AND TO HELP THEM IN THEIR DUTY AT WHATEVER COST TO THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE.

+I APPEAL PARTICULARLY TO EMPLOYERS VOLUNTARILY AND FIRMLY TO ENFORCE THIS NEW POLICY AND REFUSE EMPLOYMENT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

BY DOING SO, HE ADDED, THEY CAN WIN THIS BATTLE AND CONFER A GREAT BENEFIT ON THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

UNDER THE NEW MEASURES, AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM CHINA WHO HAS REACHED HONG KONG AFTER TODAY (OCTOBER 23) WILL BE LIABLE TO ARREST ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG AND REMOVAL- IT WILL BE A CRIME TO EMPLOY HIM- AND IT WILL BE COMPULSORY TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG.

THE TIME SCALE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- * AFTER TODAY (OCTOBER 23) ALL THOSE WHO COME ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA, AND HAVE NO RIGHT TO REMAIN, WILL BE LIABLE TO BE RETURNED WHEREVER DETECTED.
- * FROM TONIGHT UNTIL OCTOBER 26, THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY IN HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 23 BUT WHO HAVE NOT GOT IDENTITY CARDS WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR THEM UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.
- * OCTOBER 30 - COMPULSORY CARRYING OF PROOF OF IDENTITY BEGINS.
- * NOVEMBER 3 - IT BECOMES ILLEGAL TO EMPLOY ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT HAVE AN IDENTITY CARD OR CERTAIN SPECIFIED PROOFS OF IDENTITY.

/WHILE THESE

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WHILE THESE MEASURES WERE ESSENTIAL, SIR MURRAY CAUTIONED THAT THEY WOULD BECOME IRKSOME WITH TIME.

IT WAS, FOR INSTANCE, IRKSOME TO HAVE TO REMEMBER TO CARRY AN IDENTITY CARD OR SOME OTHER FORM OF IDENTIFICATION AND TO PRODUCE IT IF ASKED. LIKewise MIGHT IT BECOME IRKSOME FOR EMPLOYERS TO HAVE TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYEES HAVE IDENTITY CARDS OR CERTAIN OTHER FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION.

AND IT WOULD BE DISTRESSING WHEN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FROM CHINA ENTER ILLEGALLY AND HAVE TO BE TURNED AWAY, HE SAID.

+BUT IF THIS MOVEMENT IS TO BE HALTED, AS IT MUST BE, A VERY CLEAR MESSAGE MUST GET BACK FROM HONG KONG TO THE COMMUNES THAT THE DOOR IS CLOSED, AND EVEN IF EVADED LEADS ONLY TO A DEAD END WITHOUT EITHER PROFIT OR SAFETY,+ HE STRESSED.

+THIS MESSAGE MUST GET BACK CLEARLY.

+WE MUST NOT ALLOW IT TO BE OBSCURED BY CRIMINAL ABETTORS, THE FAINT OR SOFT HEARTED OR THE GRASPING OR INEFFICIENT EMPLOYER,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD RADICALLY CHANGE HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL POLICY TOWARDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

BUT HE STRESSED: +WE CANNOT STAND BY AND ACCEPT THE INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF A HIGH LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WHILE HONG KONG STANDARDS ARE STEADILY ERODED, AND IT LOSES ITS PROSPECTS OF BEING THE PLACE ITS RESIDENTS AND ITS GOVERNMENT ARE SO ANXIOUS TO MAKE IT, AND ALSO THE PLACE WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE SO MUCH AND SO WILLINGLY TO THE MODERNISATION OF GUANGDONG.+

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG'S RECORD OF PROVIDING HOME AND LIVELIHOOD FOR PERSONS WISHING TO ENTER FROM CHINA MUST BE UNEQUALLED IN THE WORLD. IT RESULTED, HE SAID, FROM BOTH A LONG HISTORICAL TRADITION, THE BUOYANCY OF OUR ECONOMY AND THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR PEOPLE TO WELCOME THEIR COMPATRIOTS.

IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO SUSTAIN THIS POLICY IN THE PAST BECAUSE, AFTER THE EARLY 50'S, HIGH LEVELS OF INFLUX HAVE BEEN COMPARATIVELY SHORT-LIVED AND THUS ABSORBABLE, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+THE PRESENT CASE IS DIFFERENT,+ HE STRESSED.

+WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE THIRD YEAR OF THE PHENOMENON.

+IT IS AS OBJECTIONABLE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AS IT IS TO US, AND THEY, LIKE US, ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO STOP IT,+ HE SAID.

/HE ADDED: ...

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HE ADDED: +FAR FROM BEING WELCOMED BY OUR PEOPLE, THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE NOW MORE AND MORE RESENTED AS THEY ARE SEEN TO BE ERODING THE IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARDS THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE.+

SIR MURRAY NOTED THE +REACHED BASE+ POLICY HAD BECOME A CHARADE IN WHICH THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT HAS LITTLE TO LOSE AND EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY ATTEMPTING TO RUN THE GAUNTLET OF CHINESE AND HONG KONG FORCES, AND EVEN IF CAUGHT HAS EVERY INCENTIVE TO TRY AGAIN.

+THE CHINESE ACCUSE US, WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION, OF APPLYING A POLICY WHICH POSITIVELY WELCOMES ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

+IF THIS MOVEMENT IS TO STOP THE POTENTIAL ILLEGAL EMIGRANT ON THE COMMUNE MUST BE MADE TO REALISE THAT EVEN IF HE GETS THROUGH THE SECURITY CORDONS, HE WILL NOT HAVE REACHED BASE AND SAFETY, BUT LIKE AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WILL BE CONSTANTLY LIABLE TO ARREST AND RETURN.+

SIR MURRAY SAID LORD CARRINGTON'S TALKS WITH VICE PREMIER HUANG HUA IN LONDON, HIS OWN TALKS IN GUANGZHOU, AND THE SUBSEQUENT ADVICE YESTERDAY OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WERE THE LAST LINKS IN A LONG CHAIN OF EVALUATION AND CONSULTATION WHICH LED TO THE NEW LEGISLATION PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY CONSCIOUS FOR SOME MONTHS TO A GENERAL DEMAND FOR NEW ACTION BY GOVERNMENT TO HALT THE FLOW.

IN ADDITION TO DISTASTE FOR ENDING A TRADITIONAL AND HUMANE POLICY, HE SAID, THE MAIN REASON WHY SUCH ACTION WAS NOT TAKEN BEFORE HAD BEEN THE POSSIBILITY OF CRIME AND CORRUPTION IF SUCH A POLICY FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSE OF STOPPING THE INFLOW, AND OF A SUB-STRATUM OF SOCIETY LIVING OUTSIDE THE LAW GROWING UP.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, CONSIDERED THESE DANGERS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEM UNLESS AND UNTIL WE WERE ASSURED:

FIRSTLY, THAT THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ITSELF HAD REACHED A STAGE AT WHICH IT POSED DANGERS GREATER THAN THOSE INVOLVED IN ABANDONING TRADITIONAL POLICY. THIS THE GOVERNOR BELIEVED ALREADY TO BE THE CASE.

SECONDLY, THAT THE PRESENT MEASURES BY THE CHINESE AND OUR OWN FORCES WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO STOP THE FLOW, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, UNLESS SOME NEW ELEMENT WERE INTRODUCED TO HELP. THIS TOO, SIR MURRAY SAID, IS NOW CLEARLY THE CASE.

/THIRDLY, THAT

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THIRDLY, THAT DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS AT CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL HAD CONFIRMED OUR BELIEF THAT THIS CHANGE OF POLICY ON OUR PART REALLY WOULD ASSIST THEM AND US- AND THAT, HAVING REGARD TO THE NEW AND RESOLUTE ACTION WE WOULD TAKE, WE COULD COUNT ON THEM ALSO STEPPING UP THEIR OWN EFFORTS SO THAT, WITH EACH OF US ADOPTING OUR OWN MEASURES, THERE WOULD BE A PROSPECT OF THIS MOVEMENT OF POPULATION BEING HALTED. +AFTER THE VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE OF THE LEADERS IN GUANGDONG, ON THIS TOO I AM ALSO NOW SATISFIED.

FINALLY, THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE SO ALIVE TO THE DANGER THAT TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY WAS CREATING, THAT THEY HAD COME TO ACCEPT THAT IT MUST BE ABANDONED DESPITE THE PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND INCONVENIENCE ENTAILED. +OF ALL THE CONDITIONS THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. ADVICE IS UNANIMOUS THAT THIS CONDITION IS NOW MET.+

REFERRING TO LEGAL IMMIGRATION, SIR MURRAY SAID THE DAILY FIGURE OF 150 WAS MUCH TOO HIGH AND HE HOPED IT WOULD COME DOWN.

+SOONER OR LATER MEANS MUST BE FOUND OF ENABLING PEOPLE FROM GUANGDONG TO PAY GENUINE SHORT VISITS TO THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN HONG KONG WHILE ENSURING THAT THEY DO NOT STAY HERE PERMANENTLY,+ HE SAID.

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LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO DETER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION * * * * *

LEGISLATION TO DISCOURAGE AND DETER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

IN INTRODUCING THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1980, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JACK CATER, SAID THE MESSAGE HAD TO BE GOT BACK TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHINA'S COMMUNES THAT FROM NOW ON LIFE IN HONG KONG FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WOULD NOT ONLY BE UNPLEASANT BUT ALSO INTOLERABLE.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SOONER OR LATER WOULD BE DETECTED AND REPATRIATED. A VERY IMPORTANT DETERRENT WOULD BE THE FACT THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WORK LEGALLY.

SIR JACK SAID THE BILL PROVIDED THE MACHINERY TO BRING TO AN END THE UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED IN HONG KONG THESE PAST TWO YEARS.

/THE FIRST.....

THE FIRST MAJOR PROPOSAL WOULD BE THE REQUIREMENT THAT EVERY PERSON AGED 15 AND OVER, WHO HOLDS AN IDENTITY CARD OR IS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, TO HAVE WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES ONE OF SEVERAL SPECIFIED FORMS OF PROOF OF IDENTITY. THESE INCLUDE:

- * AN IDENTITY CARD=
- * AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT CONFIRMING THAT HE HAS APPLIED FOR SUCH A CARD OR FOR A REPLACEMENT=
- * A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT=
- * A DRIVING LICENCE, OR
- * A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD.

SIR JACK SAID THE LAST REQUIREMENT HAD BEEN INSERTED TO AVOID PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SINCE THEY WERE NOT ISSUED WITH NORMAL IDENTITY CARDS.

+THOSE STOPPED BY THE POLICE MUST PRODUCE THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY AND FAILURE TO DO SO WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE CARRIES LIABILITY TO A FINE OF \$1 000,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE OBJECT, HE SAID, WAS TO FACILITATE DETECTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AS THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE ISSUED WITH IDENTITY CARDS.

+CONSEQUENTLY ANYONE, SAY, FOUND BY THE POLICE IN A STOP-AND-SEARCH OPERATION AT A ROAD BLOCK NOT TO HAVE AN IDENTITY CARD OR OTHER PROOF OF IDENTITY WILL BE SUSPECT,+ SIR JACK EXPLAINED.

IT IS IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S INTERESTS -- IF ONLY TO AVOID PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE AND EMBARRASSMENT -- AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE THAT THIS REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE COMPLIED WITH.

IT WOULD MAKE THE LARGE-SCALE CHECKS AND CONTROLS MUCH EASIER AND QUICKER TO CARRY OUT AND AT THE SAME TIME HELP TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HOPING TO ESCAPE DETECTION, HE SAID.

SIR JACK SAID THE SECOND MAJOR STEP WAS THE PROPOSAL TO DEBAR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM EMPLOYMENT.

UNDER THE LEGISLATION, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO EMPLOY ANY PERSON WHO HAD NOT PRODUCED TO HIS EMPLOYER AN IDENTITY CARD, OR, IF HE WAS NOT NORMALLY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT, OR A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD.

EXISTING EMPLOYEES ARE GIVEN A WEEK IN WHICH TO PRODUCE TO THEIR EMPLOYERS SUCH PROOF OF IDENTITY -- FAILURE ON THEIR PART TO DO SO WILL PROVIDE THE EMPLOYER WITH LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DISCHARGING THEM WITHOUT NOTICE OR LIABILITY FOR COMPENSATION.

/SIR JACK

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SIR JACK POINTED OUT THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD ALSO BE OBLIGED TO INSPECT THE PROOF OF IDENTITY OF ANY PERSON TAKEN INTO EMPLOYMENT FROM OCTOBER 28 ONWARDS.

+TO FACILITATE CHECKING BY LABOUR INSPECTORS, POLICE OR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT EMPLOYERS OF MORE THAN 10 PERSONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO KEEP A SIMPLE LIST OF NAMES AND DETAILS OF THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY EACH OF THEIR EMPLOYEES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

OTHER EMPLOYERS WILL MERELY NEED TO HAVE THESE DETAILS ON RECORD, HE SAID.

EMPLOYERS, HE SAID, WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BECOME LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$50 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR A YEAR.

HE SAID: +THE MONETARY PENALTY MAY SEEM LOW, HAVING REGARD TO THE POTENTIAL GAIN TO BE DERIVED BY AN UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYER WHO TAKES ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AT STARVATION WAGES; BUT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE THAT IT CAN RELY ON EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE OVER THIS -- IT IS CLEARLY IN THEIR LONG-TERM INTERESTS TO DO SO.

+IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS WIDESPREAD EVASION, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RECONSIDER THE LEVEL OF THE PENALTY.+

IT WILL ALSO BE PRESUMED THAT ANY PERSON FOUND WITHOUT PROOF OF IDENTITY IN A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT WAS AN EMPLOYEE UNLESS THE CONTRARY IS PROVED.

SIR JACK POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW MEASURE -- OTHERWISE IT WOULD BECOME ALL TOO EASY FOR AN UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYER TO MAINTAIN THAT AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FOUND ON THE PREMISES JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE DROPPED IN.

+BUT SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS. MAY I THEREFORE ASSURE THE COUNCIL THAT THIS PRESUMPTION CLAUSE WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST AN EMPLOYER ON WHOSE PREMISES AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT IS FOUND IF IT IS CLEAR THAT THE EMPLOYER COULD HAVE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT PERSON'S STATUS,+ SIR JACK SAID.

ON THE REMOVAL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE DETECTED, HE SAID A NEW PROVISION WOULD LEAVE THE GOVERNOR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORDERING THE REMOVAL OF A PERSON REGARDED AS AN UNDESIRABLE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT BUT WOULD TRANSFER FROM THE GOVERNOR TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION OR HIS DEPUTY THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER REMOVAL OF THE ORDINARY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.

BUT AS A SAFEGUARD, A NEW APPEALS SYSTEM WILL BE SET UP WHICH WILL INTRODUCE INTO IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PRINCIPLE OF AN INDEPENDENT APPEAL TRIBUNAL.

+IT IS BASED IN PART ON THE UK SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH AN INDEPENDENT LAYMAN OF STANDING CONSIDERS APPEALS AGAINST REMOVAL ORDERS,+ HE SAID.

/+WE ARE

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+WE ARE PROPOSING THAT THERE SHALL BE A PANEL OF LAY ASSESSORS, OR A TRIBUNAL AS IT WILL BE TERMED, WHO WILL CONSIDER APPEALS AGAINST REMOVAL MADE ON SPECIFIED STATUTORY GROUNDS.

+THE TRIBUNAL WILL CONSIST OF PERSONS KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN THE COMMUNITY WITH FULL-TIME OCCUPATIONS, WHO WILL BE CALLED ON FROM TIME TO TIME TO CONSIDER APPEALS AS THE NUMBERS DEMAND.+

THEY WILL WORK IN PAIRS, WHICH WILL BE AN ADDED SAFEGUARD -- IF THEY FAILED TO AGREE, THE APPELLANT WOULD BE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, AND THE APPEAL WOULD BE ALLOWED, SIR JACK SAID.

CERTAIN MEN AND WOMEN ARE BEING APPROACHED WITH A VIEW TO THEIR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SYSTEM AND SIR JACK HOPED AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WOULD AGREE TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE NEW MEASURES.

+THEIR WORK WILL BE CO-ORDINATED AND GUIDED BY A CHIEF ADJUDICATOR, ASSISTED BY A MEMBER OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE WHEN NECESSARY,+ HE ADDED.

SIR JACK FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT A RESOLUTION ENABLING PEOPLE CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY TO PLEAD GUILTY BY POST WOULD BE MOVED IN THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 5.

HE URGED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA NOW IN HONG KONG TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE THREE-DAY PERIOD REFERRED TO BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO REGISTER AT VICTORIA BARRACKS OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

+EMPLOYERS SHOULD ALSO URGE THIS STEP ON THOSE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE AFFECTED -- OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE OBLIGED TO DISCHARGE THEM AS THEY WILL HAVE NO ACCEPTABLE IDENTITY DOCUMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW PROVISIONS FOR REMOVAL AND ADJUDICATION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 28, AND ON OCTOBER 30 ALL RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WILL BE OBLIGED TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY.

FROM NOVEMBER 3 IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO HAVE IN HIS EMPLOYMENT PEOPLE WHO FAILED TO PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY.

SIR JACK SAID A TERMINATION CLAUSE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LEGISLATION AS IT HAD TO BE ASSUMED THAT THE SITUATION WHICH IT WAS INTENDED TO GUARD AGAINST WOULD REMAIN A THREAT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.

HE SAID THE FACT THAT THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CARRY IDENTITY CARDS WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT PROOF OF IDENTITY WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE TRANSACTION OF DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+IN FUTURE, BEFORE ANY PUBLIC SERVICE IS MADE AVAILABLE, OTHER THAN SERVICES OF AN EMERGENCY KIND SUCH AS URGENT MEDICAL TREATMENT OR THE SAVING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, PROOF OF IDENTITY WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SIR JACK SAID, WILL OF COURSE EXERCISE DISCRETION BUT THE INTENTION WAS THAT ALL THE NORMAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ENJOYED BY RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WILL BE DENIED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

SIR JACK SAID WE WERE EMBARKING ON A COURSE THE OUTCOME OF WHICH COULD NOT BE ENTIRELY CERTAIN — +BUT ALL OUR CONSIDERATIONS LEAD US TO THE BELIEF THAT THIS IS ONE STEP WHICH STANDS A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF RIDDING OURSELVES OF A PROBLEM WHICH HAS SO ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, THE PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN NAGGING US FOR LONG.+

FOR US TO SUCCEED — AND SUCCEED WE MUST, HE SAID, THE MESSAGE MUST GET BACK TO, AND BE UNDERSTOOD BY, +THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNES THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT WELCOME IN HONG KONG — THAT WE SIMPLY CANNOT HAVE THEM: THAT FROM NOW ON LIFE FOR THEM IN HONG KONG WILL NOT JUST BE UNPLEASANT, IT WILL BE INTOLERABLE: AND THAT SOONER OR LATER THEY WILL BE DETECTED AND THEY WILL BE REPATRIATED.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOING INEVITABLY WAS GOING TO BE ROUGH — AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED AND THE FAINT OF HEART BEGAN TO CRY OUT FOR A RETURN TO THE OLD DAYS, AND THE OLD WAYS, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO LOOK BACK UPON THESE PAST TWO YEARS, AND ESPECIALLY THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND RECALL THE WORRY AND CONCERN WE ALL FELT— TO RECALL THE DEMAND MADE BY THE VAST MAJORITY IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO SAFEGUARD OURSELVES AGAINST THE FLOODS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

SIR JACK ADDED: +AND THEN TO RESOLVE, TO DETERMINE AS A COMMUNITY — AS WE DO TODAY — TO OVERCOME THIS NAGGING, PAINFUL PROBLEM IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG: IN OUR OWN INTERESTS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.+

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NEW POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION * * * *

FROM TODAY (OCTOBER 23) ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA ENTERING HONG KONG WILL BE LIABLE TO BE REPATRIATED.

NEW LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS POLICY WAS PASSED AT TODAY'S MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE NEW MEASURES ALSO:

- * MAKE IT COMPULSORY TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG,
- * BAN THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND
- * PROVIDE STIFF PENALTIES AGAINST EMPLOYERS EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITHOUT PROOF OF IDENTITY.

/HOWEVER, IN

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HOWEVER, IN THE MEANTIME, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA ALREADY IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED AND APPLIED FOR AN IDENTITY CARD WILL HAVE UNTIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 TO DO SO. IF THEY DO NOT REGISTER DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY WILL BE LIABLE TO REPATRIATION.

A SPECIAL REGISTRATION CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP AT VICTORIA BARRACKS AND WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY FROM 10 PM THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 26).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT SECURITY PATROLS ALONG THE BORDER AND IN THE MORE REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE FULLY PREPARED TO PREVENT ANY ADDITIONAL INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW MEASURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE STRONGER MEASURES WERE NECESSARY IN THE FACE OF THE CONTINUING INFLUX AND THE STRONG THREAT THAT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION POSED TO HONG KONG'S WELLBEING.

+DESPITE STRENUOUS EFFORTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES, AN ESTIMATED 68 000 PERSONS ENTERED HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AND HAVE REMAINED HERE. THIS WAS ON TOP OF THE ESTIMATED 110 000 WHO CAME IN AND STAYED LAST YEAR.

+HONG KONG SIMPLY CANNOT GO ON ABSORBING SUCH HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SERIOUSLY IMPAIRING THE WELLBEING OF ITS OWN CITIZENS.

+THE EFFECT ON THE STANDARDS OF EXISTING SERVICES HAS BECOME EVIDENT, AND FURTHER STRAINS WOULD REVERSE STANDARDS SO CAREFULLY BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS.+

+THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +AND SO WE HAVE NOW ABANDONED THE SO-CALLED 'REACHED BASE' POLICY. UNDER THAT POLICY THOSE WHO EVADED CAPTURE AND ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND OBTAINED PROPER ACCOMMODATION WERE ALLOWED TO STAY AND TO REGISTER FOR AN ID CARD.

+UNDER THE NEW POLICY THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR AN IDENTITY CARD, AND HE WILL BE RETURNED TO CHINA.

+FURTHER, AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN LAWFUL EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG WITHOUT AN IDENTITY CARD,+ HE SAID.

AS FROM OCTOBER 28, EMPLOYERS WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO INSPECT THE IDENTITY CARD OF ANY NEW APPLICANT BEFORE OFFERING EMPLOYMENT.

/EMPLOYERS WHO.....

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EMPLOYERS WHO TAKE ON PEOPLE WITHOUT IDENTITY CARDS, OR AN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENT, WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$50 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

THE NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT AN EMPLOYEE MUST HAVE AN ID CARD OR PROOF OF AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OR REPLACEMENT, OR IF HE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE, HE SHOULD HAVE A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT, OR A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD, OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION ISSUED UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO THE AGED, THE BLIND AND THE INFIRM.

IN THE CASE OF EXISTING EMPLOYEES, THE EMPLOYER WILL BE EMPOWERED TO DISMISS AN EMPLOYEE WITHOUT NOTICE OR PAYMENT IN LIEU IF THE EMPLOYEE IS NOT ABLE TO PRODUCE HIS IDENTITY CARD OR SPECIFIED DOCUMENT BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 FOR INSPECTION BY THE EMPLOYER.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BECOME NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE REQUIREMENT TO CARRY PROOF OF IDENTITY THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, IN LINE WITH THE NEW MEASURES TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

FROM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 EVERYONE AGED 15 OR OVER WHO IS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE WILL BE REQUIRED TO CARRY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS AS PROOF OF IDENTITY:

- * HIS IDENTITY CARD OR
- * A FORM ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAS APPLIED FOR A REPLACEMENT IDENTITY CARD (IF HE HAS LOST HIS CARD) OR
- * A FORM ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAS APPLIED TO BE REGISTERED FOR AN ID CARD OR
- * HIS CURRENT DRIVING LICENCE OR
- * HIS SERVICE IDENTITY CARD (IF HE IS EMPLOYED IN HER MAJESTY'S FORCES) OR
- * HIS VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD (IF HE IS A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE) OR
- * A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT.

FAILURE TO CARRY AN IDENTITY CARD, OR ONE OF THE SPECIFIED ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS, RENDERS A PERSON LIABLE TO A FINE OF UP TO \$1 000.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ANY RESIDENT WHO IS IN HONG KONG LEGALLY BUT WHO DOES NOT HAVE AN IDENTITY CARD, OR HAS LOST IT, SHOULD APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT ANY REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NORMAL IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES WOULD NOT BE OPEN ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON OR ON SUNDAY. CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT OFFICES WOULD BE OPEN TO OFFER ASSISTANCE FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AND A SPECIAL IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ENQUIRY SERVICE ON 5-434711 WOULD BE OPERATED UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK TONIGHT AND THEN DAILY FROM 8 AM TO 9 PM.

THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER ON THE 9TH FLOOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING IN CENTRAL WILL ALSO BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

+THIS TELEPHONE SERVICE WILL BE MANNED BY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT STAFF WHO ARE FULLY READY TO ADVISE CALLERS SEEKING ASSISTANCE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

HE STRESSED THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WHO WISHED TO REGISTER FOR AN ID CARD COULD DO SO ONLY AT THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION OFFICE IN VICTORIA BARRACKS.

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UNOFFICIALS SUPPORT ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES
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HONG KONG CITIZENS SHOULD COOPERATE AND SUPPORT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE CALL CAME FROM THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON O.V. CHEUNG, WHEN HE SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL ON BEHALF OF ALL THE UNOFFICIALS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

+THE WILLING COOPERATION OF OUR CITIZENS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THEIR SUCCESS, HOWEVER INCONVENIENT IT MAY BE TO MANY.

+WE HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH NO CHOICE,+ HE STRESSED.

THE OBJECT OF THE LEGISLATION, MR CHEUNG SAID, IS TWO-FOLD.

FIRST, ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVE HERE AFTER TODAY FROM CHINA, WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND, AND BY WHATEVER ROUTE THEY HAVE COME, ARE LIABLE TO BE RETURNED TO CHINA.

SECONDLY, IT WILL BE A SERIOUS OFFENCE TO GIVE EMPLOYMENT TO ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT.

+IT CANNOT BE SAID TOO EMPHATICALLY THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE CANNOT SUSTAIN THE INFLOW.

+OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME, OUR SOCIAL SERVICES AND EVEN OUR TRANSPORT SERVICES CANNOT COPE WITH THE LARGE INFLOW.

/+THE GROWTH

+THE GROWTH OF POPULATION ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA ALONE IN 1979 WAS THREE PER CENT, ON A BASE OF 4-1/2 MILLION.

+WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO BE SUBMERGED. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SEE HARD WON IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE WHITTLED AWAY.+

UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, IT WOULD BE OBLIGATORY FOR THOSE OVER 15 TO CARRY AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY ON AND AFTER OCTOBER 30, AND TO SHOW IT ON DEMAND BY THE POLICE AND THE IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

A PERSON WHO IS APPREHENDED WHEN NOT CARRYING A DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY WILL BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND FACILITY TO PROVE HE IS ENTITLED TO BE IN HONG KONG.

+I EMPHASIZE THAT THE MEASURES ARE NOT AIMED AT HONG KONG RESIDENTS, BUT I NEED HARDLY ADD THAT THOSE WHO THROUGH CARELESSNESS, FORGETFULNESS OR INDIFFERENCE DO NOT CARRY THEIR DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY WILL HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME IF THEY SPEND SOME HOURS IN ANXIETY AND SOME DEGREE OF INCONVENIENCE AND DISCOMFORT, AND AT THE END BE FINED.+

THE MEASURES ALSO REQUIRE THE ACTIVE COOPERATION AND WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS.

+NO ONE WITHOUT A SPECIFIED DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY MAY BE HENCEFORTH EMPLOYED OR CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED- THOSE ALREADY EMPLOYED SHALL HAVE THEIR EMPLOYMENT SUMMARILY TERMINATED.

+THESE MEASURES, AGAIN, MAY BE INCONVENIENT, BUT THEY ARE ESSENTIAL.+

AS FOR THOSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALREADY HERE, THEY WILL BE GIVEN A PERIOD OF 72 HOURS DURING WHICH THEY MAY REGISTER THEMSELVES WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN VICTORIA BARRACKS.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE CHOICE TO HAVE ONE CENTRE ONLY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE UNOFFICIALS AS +IT ALLOWS THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION TO CONCENTRATE HIS RESOURCES IN ONE PLACE+.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE BILL WAS GIVEN THREE READINGS IN ONE SITTING, IT WAS NOT LEGISLATION THAT HAD NOT BEEN FULLY DELIBERATED UPON OR RUSHED.

+IT HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IN ORDER NOT TO CREATE AN EVEN BIGGER BUILD-UP OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAITING TO MAKE THE DASH, TO KEEP THESE PROPOSALS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD CONSULTED THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ALL STAGES OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS, AND PENDING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS, THE BILL AND THE ACCOMPANYING REGULATIONS HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY BY UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE VERY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, +WHO FOR MANY HOURS ANSWERED QUERIES, DISCUSSED DIFFERENCES AND CONSIDERED OUR ADVICE.+

+IT IS TOO MUCH FOR ANY LEGISLATOR TO HOPE THAT THE LAWS HE MAKES WILL CATER FOR EVERY COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY ARISE, BUT THESE NEW LAWS AND HOW THEY OPERATE IN PRACTICE WILL BE KEPT UNDER CLOSE REVIEW, AND IT MAY BE THAT AMENDMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE, BUT IF THERE ARE OBSCURITIES OR DEFICIENCIES IT IS NOT FOR WANT OF TRYING TO REMOVE THEM,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTS NEW IMMIGRATION MEASURES
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THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING, SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ALSO ENDORSED THE MEASURES ADOPTED TODAY BY THE COUNCIL AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA.

HE SAID HE WAS ENDORSING THE MEASURES NOT ONLY AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, +BUT ALSO AS CHAIRMAN OF SEVERAL COMPANIES EMPLOYING A LARGE WORKFORCE AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

+I AM SURE THAT OTHER EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID GIVEN THE DIMENSION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MENTIONED BY THE GOVERNOR, IT WAS CLEARLY THE SINGLE MOST SERIOUS THREAT AFFECTING US, BOTH SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY AND TOUGH MEASURES WERE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH IT.

+IN MANY CASES, THESE MAY BE PERSONALLY INCONVENIENT BUT THEY ARE NECESSARY,+ HE ADDED.

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA:
DEADLINE FOR ID CARD REGISTRATION
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COMMENTING ON TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT EMPHASISED THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD ENTERED HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA AND HAD NOT YET REGISTERED AND APPLIED FOR AN IDENTITY CARD MUST DO SO BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26.

ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM CHINA WHO HAS NOT REGISTERED BY THAT DATE WILL BE LIABLE TO BE REPATRIATED TO CHINA.

REGISTRATIONS SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT DELAY AT THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION OFFICE, VICTORIA BARRACKS, COTTON TREE DRIVE, HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE OFFICE WILL OPERATE ROUND THE CLOCK FROM 10 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 26).

APPLICANTS MUST REGISTER PERSONALLY, AND BRING THREE PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS WITH THEIR NAMES WRITTEN CLEARLY ON THE BACK.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED: +IN PRINCIPLE, ONLY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THEMSELVES WILL BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE QUEUE - EXCEPT FOR CHILDREN AND THE OLD OR SICK WHO CAN BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE ADULT.+

HE SAID THE FACILITIES AT THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION OFFICE AT VICTORIA BARRACKS HAD BEEN INCREASED AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO PROCESS MORE THAN 1 000 APPLICATIONS AN HOUR.

+THE LOCATION IS WELL KNOWN, IS CENTRALLY LOCATED AND TRAVEL TO VICTORIA BARRACKS IS NO PROBLEM,+ HE SAID. +THE AREA FOR QUEUING IS LARGE AND OTHER PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR NORMAL DUTIES ARE NOT UNDULY AFFECTED, AS THEY WOULD BE IN OTHER CROWDED AREAS WHERE FAR MORE CONTROL WOULD BE NEEDED.+

ON REGISTRATION, AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WILL RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REGISTRATION WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE AS TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE PROOF OF IDENTITY, UNTIL HE IS ISSUED WITH AN ID CARD.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL APPEAL SYSTEM TO HEAR THE CASES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CLAIMING THEY HAVE VALID REASONS FOR BEING PERMITTED TO STAY IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT, FOLLOWING THE NEW MEASURES ANNOUNCED EARLIER TODAY, AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM CHINA WILL FACE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES UNLESS HE HAS AN ID CARD.

+ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED ILLEGALLY FROM CHINA MUST REGISTER NOW,+ HE EMPHASISED. +FROM NOW ON, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN JOBS WITHOUT PRODUCING ID CARDS NOR FOR EXAMPLE WILL THEY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.+

MOREOVER IF SUCH PERSONS CONTINUE TO WORK WITHOUT AN ID CARD, THEY WILL BE EMPLOYED ILLEGALLY AND WILL BE LIABLE TO BE DISMISSED FROM THEIR JOBS.

+AND, WITHOUT ID CARDS, THEY WILL BE LIABLE TO BE REPATRIATED TO CHINA.+

TO MAKE THE OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION OFFICE SMOOTHER THE CHINESE VISITORS OFFICE AND THE QUEENSWAY REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE AT VICTORIA BARRACKS WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS BRANCH OFFICES AT CANTON ROAD AND CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY WILL ALSO BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

VISITORS FROM CHINA WHOSE STAY IS DUE TO END, AND WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR EXTENSIONS, SHOULD DO SO ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 OR LATER.

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THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW LEGISLATION MEANT NO CHANGE TO THE POLICY REGARDING PERSONS WHO ENTERED HONG KONG LEGALLY BUT WHO REMAINED AFTER THEIR PERMITS EXPIRED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IF THESE PERSONS INTENDED TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT THEY MUST POSSESS AN ID CARD OR ONE OF THE OTHER SPECIFIED DOCUMENTS.

+SO, WHILE THE POLICY REGARDING OVERSTAYERS HAS NOT CHANGED, THE NEW LEGISLATION DOES AFFECT THEM,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO TREAT THESE PEOPLE AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REPATRIATE THEM.

+THEY SHOULD HAVE NO SUCH FEAR,+ HE SAID.

BUT IF THEY INTENDED TO STAY LONGER IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, THEY MUST APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION.

LIKEWISE, THOSE WHO WERE DUE TO PICK UP THEIR ID CARDS FROM THE QUEENSWAY OFFICE SHOULD DO SO ON TUESDAY OR THE FOLLOWING FEW DAYS.

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FULL CALL-OUT OF THE VOLUNTEERS

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THE GOVERNOR HAS ORDERED A FULL CALL-OUT OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) TO ASSIST IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES.

THE CALL-OUT TAKES EFFECT TOMORROW (FRIDAY), AND WILL ADD A FURTHER 500 MEN FOR DUTY WHO DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE AT FULL ALERT IN THE BORDER AREA AND ALONG THE COASTLINES OF HONG KONG.

ALL ACTIVE LIST MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT, EXCEPT THOSE IN THE HOME GUARD AND JUNIOR LEADERS' SQUADRONS, MUST REPORT TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AT SPORTS ROAD BY 2 PM TOMORROW.

THE CALL-OUT WILL INITIALLY LAST UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 26) -- THE DEADLINE BY WHICH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALREADY HERE MUST REGISTER THEMSELVES FOR IDENTITY CARDS OR RISK REPATRIATION -- BUT MAY BE EXTENDED IF NECESSARY.

THE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE DEPLOYED BY INDIVIDUAL SQUADRONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THEY WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE REGULAR FORCES AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE VOLUNTEERS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS SINCE THEY WERE FIRST CALLED OUT ON A LIMITED BASIS IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THEY RECENTLY CONCLUDED A TOUR OF BORDER DUTY AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL CAMP AND APPREHENDED 555 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DURING THE EIGHT-DAY PERIOD.

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HIGH RENTS AND SPECULATION MAY UPSET ECONOMY
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THE IMBALANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, SUCH AS SOARING COMMERCIAL RENTS AND FRENZIED PROPERTY MARKET SPECULATIONS, MAY UPSET AND EVENTUALLY PUT A BRAKE ON OUR NORMAL ECONOMIC GROWTH, DR THE HON HENRY HU WARNED.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, DR HU NOTED THAT IN RECENT MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TAKEN SUFFICIENT CARE OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN RELATION TO THAT OF THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR.

+THIS IS A MAJOR ASPECT OF THE IMBALANCES IN OUR ECONOMY,+ HE STRESSED.

ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN A FREE-ENTERPRISE ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG, HE FELT THAT IT SHOULD PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN THE MACRO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

+THE COST OF LAND IS A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF INDUSTRY'S ABILITY TO COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY AND TO ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT, AND HENCE TO GENERATE NEW EMPLOYMENT.

+IT ALSO HAS A DIRECT AND IMPORTANT BEARING ON PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD,+ HE SAID.

TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM, DR HU SUGGESTED THAT MORE PUBLIC HOUSING SHOULD BE BUILT TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE WORKING CLASS.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO EMBARK ON BIG CAPITAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY HELP REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR ENHANCING HONG KONG'S IMPORTANCE AND BARGAINING POWER IN INTERNATIONAL TERMS.

ON PUBLIC HOUSING, DR HU THOUGHT THE PRODUCTION OF 35 000 UNITS A YEAR MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE DEMAND AS MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY COULD GET A UNIT.

HE CONSIDERED PUBLIC HOUSING AN ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICE AND AN INDISPENSABLE SOCIAL STABILIZER IN HONG KONG.

+IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE PRODUCTION TIME AND COST, WE MAY HAVE TO BUILD UNIFIED HOUSING UNITS TO OFFER TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.+

AS PART OF ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, DR HU URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AFTER THE POLICE FORCE AND THE FIRE SERVICES WHICH HE SAID +ARE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB+.

THEIR STANDARDS AND PAY LEVELS, HE SAID, SHOULD BE CONSISTENTLY REVIEWED SO THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ADEQUATELY REWARDED FOR THE GOOD WORK THEY HAD DONE.

ON THE GREEN PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, DR HU CONSIDERED NOW THE RIGHT TIME TO HAVE A MAJOR RE-THINK ON THE PATTERN OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG +BECAUSE OF THE INFLUX OF MAINLAND PEOPLE, THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE GROWING COMPLEXITY IN ADMINISTERING THE DISTRICTS FROM A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BODY+.

+THE SETTING UP OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORK BECAUSE SEATS WILL BE RESERVED FOR URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS ON EACH DISTRICT BOARD AND THIS WOULD ENHANCE THE LIAISON AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL NEEDS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL'S WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONTINUOUS EVOLUTION, HE ADDED.

DR HU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE LOWERED TO 18 YEARS AND THAT THE USAGE OF CHINESE SHOULD BE EMPHASISED IN DISTRICT BOARDS.

+THIS IS BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION MAY OTHERWISE HAVE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES,+ HE SAID.

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CONCERN FOR PLIGHT OF OLD SINGLE PEOPLE

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THE DEPLORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS OF ELDERLY SINGLE PERSONS WARRANT MORE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION AND SPEEDIER ACTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PROVISION OF 5 000 NEW PLACES IN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ELDERLY OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, MENTIONED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THEIR URGENT DEMAND FOR PROPER AND DECENT HOUSING.

STRESSING THE NEED TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE, DR HO QUOTED A JOINT SURVEY BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WHICH ESTIMATED THAT 67 500 ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVED IN +SUBSTANDARD AND OFTEN INHUMAN LIVING CONDITIONS+ IN 1979.

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ANOTHER SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY A GROUP OF CHINESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN 1978 REVEALED THAT ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE 10 000 PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING IN BOARDING HOUSES WERE AGED OVER 60.

THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE BOARDING HOUSES WERE APPALLING - OVERCROWDED, UNVENTILATED, SQUALID AND DARK.

DR HO PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO TACKLE THE SITUATION:

- * HIGH PRIORITY OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROVISION SHOULD BE ASSIGNED ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS TO SINGLE SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE 5 000 PLACES PROMISED FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN A SHORTER PERIOD,
- * A PORTION OF THE PLACES IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND IN THE MARKS I AND II ESTATES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR ALLOCATION TO NEEDY, SINGLE ELDERLY APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING,
- * SUBVENTION TO SUCH WELFARE ORGANISATIONS AS HELPING HAND AND SALVATION ARMY SHOULD BE INCREASED TO ENABLE THEM TO PROVIDE MORE ACCOMMODATION,
- * THE RENT ALLOWANCE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME SHOULD BE REALISTICALLY ADJUSTED TO KEEP IN LINE WITH MARKET RENTS, AND
- * THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE SHOULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED SO THAT BOARDING HOUSES ARE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE REGULATIONS RELATING TO OVERCROWDING, FIRE HAZARDS, SANITATION AND HEAT.

ON JUVENILE CRIME, DR HO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP AND GOOD PUPIL-TEACHER RELATIONS SO THAT A POTENTIAL JUVENILE OFFENDER CAN BE QUICKLY RECOGNISED AND HELPED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

HE NOTED THAT 95 PER CENT OF THE 900 YOUNGSTERS CHARGED IN MAY 1980 FOR CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT WERE BORN AND BRED IN HONG KONG.

THIS, HE SAID, SUGGESTED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE YOUNG OFFENDERS ARE THE +GENUINE PRODUCTS OF OUR OWN MAKING+.

HIS PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE WELFARE ORGANISATIONS SERVING CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 15 LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THE WEAKENING OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF THE CARDINAL DETERMINANTS OF JUVENILE CRIME.

+WE MUST ACCEPT THAT MOTHERS ARE INCREASINGLY GOING OUT TO WORK AND RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN.

/+BUT I

+BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT GREATER EFFORT BE MADE, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME, TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO SPEND WHATEVER FREE TIME THEY HAVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE COHESION OF THE FAMILY UNIT.+

DR HO ALSO SPOKE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

+IF DISTRICT BOARDS COULD BE EMPOWERED TO SUPERVISE AND CENSURE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES AND TO FORMULATE POLICIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SERVING IN THE DISTRICTS, THEY WOULD BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+IF THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF THESE ROLES, I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP THIS SUGGESTION IN MIND UNTIL IT BELIEVES THAT THE PUBLIC HAS GAINED SUFFICIENT RESPONSIBILITY AND SOPHISTICATION FROM THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESENT WIDE NETWORK OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES,+ HE SAID.

DR HO CONSIDERED THAT THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS FOR A SINGLE CONSTITUENCY COMPRISING 250 000 PEOPLE SHOULD BE INCREASED TO THREE.

+THE MERIT OF INCREASED ELECTED REPRESENTATION WILL ENHANCE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AS A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNED AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND WILL ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO GO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAYS.+

HE SAID THE GREEN PAPER HAD NOT INDICATED IN CLEAR TERMS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR HAD MENTIONED IN HIS ADDRESS THAT +IN NO DISTRICT WILL WE PROCEED TO THE SETTING UP OF A DISTRICT BOARD UNTIL AN ADEQUATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS IN PLACE TO WORK WITH IT+, DR HO ASKED WHAT ASSURANCES WERE THERE THAT THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE HEED OF THE BOARD'S DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

AS REGARDS VOTING QUALIFICATION, HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF KEEPING IT TO THE MINIMUM - THAT IS, 21 YEARS OF AGE AND THREE YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

+THE LIBERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, I BELIEVE, WILL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF A MORE INTEGRATED, STABLE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG,+ DR HO SAID.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1980

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A FULL MTR ISLAND LINE

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THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING PRESSED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY FROM KENNEDY TOWN TO SHAU KEI WAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID SINCE HIS PLEA FOR THE EXTENSION EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE +SUBTERRANEAN DRAGON THAT HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT THIS TASK -- WITH HOPE SPRINGING ETERNAL IN MY IMAGINATION AT LEAST -- HAS PROVEN TO BE AN UNRULY BEAST AND HAS DEVELOPED A MIND OF HIS OWN.

+HAVING REACHED SHAU KEI WAN HE PROCEEDED TO CHAI WAN, THEN TURNED LEFT, AND IS NOW SOMEWHERE UNDER LEI YUE MUN GAP WELL ON HIS WAY TO COMPLETING THE CIRCLE AT KOWLOON BAY TERMINAL.+

HE APOLOGISED TO MEMBERS FOR THESE +UNAUTHORISED PEREGRINATIONS+ BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS LONG-TERM PLANNING.

MR NEWBIGGING STRESSED THAT ENTHUSIASM CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IS RUNNING AT AS HIGH A PITCH AS AT ANY TIME.

+GIVEN THE INCREASINGLY CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT IS DEVELOPING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA AND THE IMPRESSIVE STRIDES THAT HONG KONG IS MAKING IN THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, I CONSIDER THIS OPTIMISM IS SOUNDLY BASED.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE ARE MASSIVE TASKS TO BE FACED AND BOLD DECISION TO BE MADE -- A PROSPECT WHICH CAN ALSO BE REGARDED AS A SOURCE OF GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

HE NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE -- LAND PRODUCTION, ROADS, TUNNELS, HOUSING, PERHAPS A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AND MUCH ELSE BESIDES -- AND OF OUR SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WILL INVOLVE FURTHER HERCULEAN EFFORTS.

SUITABLY +HEROIC ASSUMPTIONS+ WILL NO DOUBT BE REQUIRED ON WHICH TO BASE DECISIONS TO PROCEED WITH SOME OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY BEARING IN MIND THE SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH WE ARE ALREADY COMMITTED, HE SAID.

/IN SUPPORTING

IN SUPPORTING THE NEED TO CONTINUE -- AND INDEED ACCELERATE -- THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT, MR NEWBIGGING OFFERED TWO RECOMMENDATIONS.

FIRST, HE SAID, WE MUST GIVE DUE WEIGHT TO TIMELINESS, AS WELL AS AVOIDING EXPENSIVE MISTAKES, IN MAKING DECISIONS ON SUCH ISSUES.

HE SUGGESTED THAT JUDGEMENT SHOULD BE APPLIED TO MAJOR DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS WITH WHICH WE CURRENTLY ARE, OR SOON WILL BE, CONFRONTED.

+OBVIOUSLY WE MUST OBTAIN THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS, BUT WE MUST BE WARY OF POSTPONING DECISIONS SO LONG THAT THE PROBLEMS WE ARE TRYING TO SOLVE GROW TO THE POINT THAT THEY WILL NOT YIELD TO ANY OF THE CHOICES CONTEMPLATED.+

HE REMINDED DECISION-MAKERS OF A MAXIM: +WHEN YOU'RE UP TO YOUR EARS IN ALLIGATORS, REMEMBER THAT THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO DRAIN THE SWAMP+.

SECONDLY, IN AN ENVIRONMENT AS RESTRICTED AS HONG KONG, WE MUST AIM FOR PRODUCTIVITY AS MUCH AS QUANTITY.

+WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK OF PRODUCTIVITY IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF TOYS, GARMENTS OR DIGITAL WATCHES A WORKER CAN PRODUCE; HOWEVER THE PRODUCTIVITY RELATING TO THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT.

+THERE ARE FEW BETTER ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS THAN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT.

+WITHOUT QUESTION WE NEED MORE ROADS, BRIDGES, FLYOVERS AND TUNNELS; WHILE REALISING THAT THE PRACTICAL LIMITS OF SUCH DEVELOPMENT MAY STILL BE SOME WAY OFF, OBTAINING THE OPTIMUM USE OF THESE SCARCE RESOURCES ASSUMES EVER-INCREASING IMPORTANCE.+

MR NEWBIGGING STRESSED THAT HIS PURPOSE WAS NOT TO ARGUE FOR A PARTICULAR MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE THIS.

A VARIETY OF IDEAS HAVE BEEN PUT INTO PRACTICE WITH VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS IN OTHER ASIAN CITIES, EACH OF WHICH HAS ITS OWN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS.

+BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: MORE ROADS OR NOT, IN THE ABSENCE OF IMAGINATIVE POLICY INITIATIVES SOON, THE INEXORABLE GROWTH OF TRAFFIC -- ITSELF A PRODUCT OF OUR SUCCESS -- COULD WELL PROVE THE CAUSE OF OUR UNDOING,+ HE SAID.

TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE CLEANLINESS OF HONG KONG, MR NEWBIGGING BELIEVED MUCH COULD BE ACHIEVED BY MORE EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

/+ONCE AGAIN

+ONCE AGAIN I WOULD REFER HON MEMBERS TO THE EXAMPLE OF SINGAPORE WHERE SIMPLE, IF SHARP, LEGAL SANCTIONS ARE EMPLOYED WITHOUT ANY GENUINE INFRINGEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO REGARDED THE PROPOSED SETTING UP OF A NEW +KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN+ CAMPAIGN AS TIMELY.

+INDEED IT IS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH A PLEA I MADE IN THIS CHAMBER A YEAR AGO.

+HOWEVER, THIS TIME WE MUST ENSURE MOMENTUM IS NOT LOST.+

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SUGGESTION FOR WAY TO ELECT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES
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A MIXED ELECTION SYSTEM FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS WAS ADVOCATED BY THE HON F.K. HU IN THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

OUTLINING HIS PROPOSAL, MR HU SAID THAT OUT OF 15 ELECTED URBAN COUNCILLORS, 10 SHOULD BE CHOSEN ON A DISTRICT BASIS AND FIVE ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.

HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE ELECTION IN EACH DISTRICT AND THE CANDIDATE WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES WOULD AUTOMATICALLY HAVE A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL.

ELECTIONS ON A DISTRICT BASIS AND TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS SHOULD BE HELD AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

+JUDGING FROM THE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE TWO SYSTEMS AND HAVING REGARD TO THE PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED ELECTORS VOTING OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, WE COULD EVENTUALLY DECIDE WHICH SYSTEM WAS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THEN MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER ELECTIONS SHOULD BE ON A DISTRICT BASIS OR A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.+

MR HU WAS CONFIDENT THAT DISTRICT BOARDS WILL SUPPLEMENT THE ROLE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IN PROVIDING A QUICKER AND BETTER SERVICE AT DISTRICT LEVEL THROUGH FEEDBACK TO THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT WITHIN THE OVERALL POLICY OF THE COUNCIL.

+FURTHERMORE, THROUGH THE DISTRICT ELECTED MEMBER, THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD RECEIVE MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD THEREFORE MAKE BETTER POLICY DECISIONS AND THUS ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE.

/HE FELT

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HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE PARITY OF APPOINTED MEMBERS WITH ELECTED MEMBERS IN THE URBAN COUNCIL SO LONG AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC LACKED INTEREST IN ELECTIONS.

+PARITY CAN BE REVIEWED AT SOME FUTURE TIME WHEN IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS IF THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOWS A MUCH BIGGER INTEREST IN THE ELECTIONS COUPLED WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF CANDIDATES OF HIGHER CALIBRE,+ HE SAID.

MR HU CONSIDERED THAT THE SUCCESS OF DISTRICT BOARDS DEPENDED ON THE FORMATION OF DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WHICH, IN TURN, DEPENDED ON THE REGIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

AS THE BOARDS' SUCCESS ALSO RELIED ON LOCAL SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT, HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO ENCOURAGE CANDIDATES OF HIGH CALIBRE ACTUALLY RESIDING IN THE DISTRICTS TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARDS.

HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF ADULT SUFFRAGE FOR RESIDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 21, BUT ELECTORS SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

+THIS REQUIREMENT WILL ENSURE THAT ELIGIBLE ELECTORS ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND AS HONG KONG BELONGERS WILL BE MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING. THEY MUST ALSO HAVE RECEIVED A MINIMUM OF NINE YEARS' EDUCATION WHICH IS IN LINE WITH OUR PRESENT EDUCATION POLICY.+

PEOPLE ALREADY REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE CURRENT REGISTER OF ELECTORS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF CLEANLINESS, MR HU URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AT SOURCE BY AMENDING THE LAW TO MAKE REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS A COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT FOR NEW BUILDINGS.

+THE CHAMBERS SHOULD BE OF A SIZE RELATIVE TO THE FLOOR AREA AND USE OF THE BUILDING, AND SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.+

BUT HE FELT THAT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN IS TO ACHIEVE REAL SUCCESS.

+THEREFORE, WE SHOULD INTENSIFY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN ORDER TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC.+

HE ALSO CALLED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FINES TO DETER PEOPLE FROM LITTERING THE STREETS.

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PROPOSAL FOR A COMMERCIAL RENT TRIBUNAL
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SOME MEANS OF REGULATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE FORM OF AN ARBITRATION BODY OR A COMMERCIAL RENT TRIBUNAL, WHERE DISPUTES BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES CAN BE SETTLED IN A REASONABLE MANNER.

THIS WAS ADVOCATED BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR WONG SAID HOWEVER HE DID NOT RECOMMEND COMMERCIAL RENT CONTROL AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF ITS ATTENDANT EVILS AND, ONCE INSTITUTED, THE DIFFICULTY OF RETRACTING IT.

HE SAID THE TRADITIONAL ARGUMENT AGAINST COMMERCIAL RENT CONTROL IS THAT, IN A FREE MARKET, LANDLORDS AND TENANTS ARE ON EQUAL FOOTING, THAT IS, THEY ARE BOTH BUSINESSMEN AND SHOULD BE LEFT FREELY TO NEGOTIATE ACCEPTABLE RENT LEVELS.

BUT, HE POINTED OUT, THIS SORT OF IDEAL NEGOTIATION SITUATION RARELY OCCURS IN REAL LIFE.

+TAKE AN INDUSTRIALIST RENTING A FACTORY FOR EXAMPLE. BEFORE HE SIGNS ANY LEASE HE CAN BE SAID TO BE 'FREE' AS HE CAN ASSESS WHETHER THE RENT LEVELS BEING OFFERED WOULD BE BEARABLE.

+HOWEVER, ONCE HE HAS SIGNED THE LEASE, MOVED IN HIS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND EMPLOYED HIS OWN WORKERS IN THE FACTORY, HE HAS A MUCH BIGGER STAKE IN HAND AND HIS 'FREEDOM' OF CHOICE WOULD BE VERY MUCH REDUCED WHEN THE LEASE COMES UP FOR RENEWAL.

+THE REMOVAL COST AND DISRUPTION CAN BE SO BIG THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER BE ON EQUAL GROUND TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIS LANDLORD.

+SIMILARLY THIS APPLIES TO COMMERCIAL TENANTS AS WELL, + HE ADDED.

ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, MR WONG NOTED THAT THE SPATE OF LABOUR DISPUTES IN THE PAST YEAR SHOWS THAT THERE IS A GENERAL LACK OF COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF MANY INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS.

/+THERE WERE

+THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RECENT CASES WHERE FACTORIES WERE CLOSED DOWN WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE WORKERS CONCERNED.

+ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THE EMPLOYERS TO INFORM THEIR WORKERS BEFOREHAND, THEY SHOULD SHOW MORE CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR WORKERS.

+IT IS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFECTIVE AND SINCERE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION, THE FOSTERING OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL THAT OUR INDUSTRIES WILL HAVE A SOLID AND BETTER BASIS FROM WHICH TO FACE THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO URGED THAT THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE RECREATION AND SPORTS CAMP IN SAI KUNG, BE ACCELERATED.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, HE SAID, CERTAIN PRIORITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ORGANISED PARTICIPANTS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SO THAT WORKERS COULD HAVE MORE RECREATIONAL OUTLET.

COMMENTING ON THE BUDGETARY POLICY, MR WONG SAID: +WHILE FLEXIBILITY IS NEEDED TO ALLOW FOR ADJUSTMENTS ACCORDING TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ONCE A PROGRAMME IS APPROVED, ITS TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE NOT BE DISRUPTED, UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC REASONS FOR DOING SO.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE PENALTY FOR THE SLIPPAGE IN THE PROVISION OF AN ESSENTIAL ITEM IN THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BE EXTREMELY SERIOUS TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE LONG TERM.+

HE CITED THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS SLIPPAGE.

HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD OBSERVE CERTAIN PRINCIPLES IN BUDGETARY POLICY-MAKING, IT SHOULD BE PLANNING OVER A BROADER TIME-SPAN OF SAY, THREE TO FIVE YEARS, RATHER THAN JUST THE YEAR WHICH IS BEING BUDGETTED FOR.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THE GROWTH RATE IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MAY BE ALLOWED TO EXCEED THE GROWTH RATE IN GDP IN A CERTAIN YEAR, PROVIDED THAT THE TWO GROWTH RATES ARE IN LINE WITH EACH OTHER OVER A PERIOD OF, SAY, THREE YEARS.

+IN THIS WAY, THE GROWTH IN PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE CHANGING ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL NOT BE SO ABRUPTLY AFFECTED BY SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS TO THE EXTENT OF DISRUPTING ESSENTIAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER TECHNOLOGY, MR WONG SAID THAT OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAD ALREADY REACHED A STAGE WHEN WE SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PROMOTING AND COORDINATING OUR OWN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN A MORE ACTIVE MANNER.

+LIMITED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES DO EXIST IN A NUMBER OF ACADEMIC AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS, BUT THEIR SCOPE CAN IN NO WAY MATCH THE COMMUNITY'S DEMAND FOR HIGHER TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THEY COULD BE GIVEN A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST BY THE GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BETTER COORDINATION.

ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR WONG SUGGESTED THAT IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND BELONGING OF THE PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT, EACH SHOULD HAVE A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF RATES APPORTIONED AS FUNDS FOR FINANCING ITS ACTIVITIES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

+I HOPE THAT BY SO DOING, THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WOULD HAVE THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA CONCERNED TO HELP CREATE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT,+ MR WONG SAID.

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SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN LAW ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
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INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING ORDINANCE AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE ARE +BOTH NECESSARY AND TIMELY+, THE HON WILLIAM BROWN SAID TODAY.

IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BROWN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE 115 LICENSED BANKS AND NO LESS THAN 278 DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES OPERATING IN HONG KONG TODAY.

THESE STATISTICS, HE SAID, REFLECT THE ENORMOUS INCREASES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE NUMBERS OF OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE RECENT PAST -- AND THEY MOST CERTAINLY JUSTIFY THE NEED TO AMEND THE TWO ORDINANCES TO REFLECT THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

+THE BENEFITS FOR THE ECONOMY TO BE DERIVED FROM OUR EXPANDING FINANCIAL SECTOR, AND IN PARTICULAR FROM OUR FAST GROWING STATUS AS A REGIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE ARE MORE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE THAN THE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE INHERENT IN THIS RAPID GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN OUR MARKET,+ HE SAID.

/AND SUCH

AND SUCH BENEFITS, MEASURED BOTH IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS, ARE OF INCREASING SIGNIFICANCE, HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY RELATED, THE TWO PROPOSED PIECES OF LEGISLATION ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION INTO A STATUTORY BODY, MR BROWN NOTED.

SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, HE BELIEVED THAT THE PROPOSAL DESERVED +UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT+ FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS.

FIRST, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MORE READILY ACCEPTABLE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL BANKS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY ENTERED THE HONG KONG MARKET.

+NOTWITHSTANDING THAT ALL LICENSED BANKS ARE CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING ASSOCIATION IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT MANY BANKS VIEW THE PRESENT EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION AS A RELIC OF THE PAST AND SEE LITTLE BENEFIT TO THEMSELVES IN VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE ACCOMPANYING OBLIGATION TO ABIDE BY ITS RULES.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS ARE CONDUCTED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER, AND THIS IS THE MORE SO DURING A PERIOD OF RAPID EXPANSION WHEN UNREGULATED COMPETITION COULD LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE PRACTICES.+

HE THOUGHT THAT A RECONSTITUTED ASSOCIATION WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNISE THE NEW FORCES IN THE MARKET PLACE WHILE STATUTORY AUTHORITY WOULD ENABLE THE ASSOCIATION TO ASSUME A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE.

THE SECOND REASON FOR SUPPORT IS PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, HE SAID.

+IT MUST BE RIGHT, GIVEN THE INFLATIONARY TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE AND THE RECOGNISED IMPORTANCE OF INTEREST RATES AS A TOOL TO IMPLEMENT MONETARY POLICY, THAT THE BODY WHICH SETS THESE RATES IN LIAISON WITH GOVERNMENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ITS DECISIONS.

+I TRUST THAT THE BILL TO BE INTRODUCED WILL ADEQUATELY COVER THIS REQUIREMENT.+

SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE IN OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS, MR BROWN SAID, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO SURFACE IN THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SECTOR RATHER THAN AMONG THE LICENSED BANKS.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE ENCOURAGEMENT BEING GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THESE COMPANIES TO FORM AN ASSOCIATION BE CONTINUED UNTIL THIS DESIRABLE OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVED, HE STRESSED.

+ONCE ACHIEVED IT MUST BE FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER SUCH AN ASSOCIATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN THE STATUS OF A STATUTORY BODY SO THAT ITS MEMBERS CAN ALSO BE SUBJECT TO A GREATER DEGREE OF DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE ADDED.

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BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLORE NEW AVENUES TO EFFECT A MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN PROPOSED IN HIS FIRST SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

WHILE ABSOLUTE EQUALITY IS STILL AN UNATTAINABLE GOAL IN THIS WORLD, HE SAID, OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES WOULD GRADUALLY NARROW DOWN THIS DISPARITY.

+WE SHOULD WORK OUT A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND A WELL-CONSIDERED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO FIT IN OUR EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AND ADD IN NEW MODULAR SERVICES TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE WORKING CLASS, TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

+THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOW ALL THE MORE PRESSING IN VIEW OF THE CERTAIN INCREASE IN IMPORTED INFLATION SINCE THE OIL CRISIS AND THE UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC FUTURE OF OUR MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY FAMILY BUDGETARY COUNSELLING, INVESTMENT IN LEISURE, AND SMALL INVESTMENT COUNSELLING.

MANY LARGE ORGANISATIONS HAVE USED BUDGETARY CONTROL WITH GOOD RESULTS, HE SAID.

A FAMILY BUDGETARY COUNSELLING SERVICE, HE NOTED, WOULD HELP EMPLOYEES TO EXAMINE CLOSELY THEIR INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN TO REVEAL AND ELIMINATE ANY UNPRODUCTIVE ITEMS, SUCH AS INDULGENCE IN MAHJONG AND OVERSPENDING, AND CONVERT THEM INTO SAVINGS WITHOUT CUTTING DOWN EXPENDITURE ON THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

+INDEED, WE SHOULD PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN IN RESPECT OF THE CONCEPTS OF SOUND FAMILY BUDGETTING BEFORE THEY LEAVE SCHOOL AND BEGIN TO WORK.

+THEREFORE IT APPEARS WORTHWILE TO CONSIDER EXPANDING THE EXISTING ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SYLLABUS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO INCLUDE THE TOPIC OF FAMILY BUDGETTING.

+IF BUDGETARY CONTROL AND PLANNING IS IN THE BLOOD OF OUR YOUNGER GENERATION, WE SHALL HAVE MORE SOLVENT CITIZENS, PRUDENT BUSINESSMEN AND LESS FAILURES IN SMALL BUSINESSES AND IN SOCIETY GENERALLY,+ HE SAID.

FOR THOSE WHO FIND THE LONG HOURS FREED FROM EXCESSIVE MAHJONG OR READING OF TRASH NOVELS TOO BORING, MR CHAN ADVISED THEM TO USE THE VARIOUS RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES AVAILABLE, THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, OR TO TAKE SHORT COURSES TO BETTER THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY DIVERSIFICATION AND SOPHISTICATION OF OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS.

/+AS IGNORANCE

+AS IGNORANCE IS THE ROOT OF MANY EVIL THINGS, OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD GEAR UP ADULT EDUCATION COURSES FOR EMPLOYEES AFTER WORKING HOURS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS,+ HE SAID.

ON HIS THIRD SUGGESTION, MR CHAN EMPHASISED THAT SOUND INVESTMENT COULD OUT-MANOEUVRE INFLATION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, GOOD INVESTMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE NOT GENERALLY INTERESTED IN ADVISING SMALL INVESTORS OF THE LOWER INCOME BRACKET.

HE THEREFORE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER INCLUDING SOME SORT OF SMALL INVESTMENT COUNSELLING OR COURSES AT ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES, IN SIMPLIFIED AND LAYMAN'S TERMS, ON THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE, THE POSSIBLE YIELD, THE CALCULATED RISKS AND METHODS OF CONSERVATIVE INVESTMENTS BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE RECORDS.

+GIVEN THE RIGHT PUBLICITY AND ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT, THIS PLAN WOULD AROUSE SUFFICIENT PUBLIC INTEREST TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

+THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL NOT ONLY TO PEOPLE IN THE LOWER INCOME GROUP BUT ALSO TO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IN THE LONG RUN.+

MR CHAN ALSO SPOKE ON THE WELFARE OF +SENIOR CITIZENS+ OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO LOWER THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE BY ANOTHER FIVE YEARS TO 65 TO ALIGN WITH OTHER AFFLUENT SOCIETIES.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT BY SETTING AN EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUBSIDISING THOSE AGED 65 AND ABOVE HALF THE FARE ON THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY OUTSIDE RUSH HOURS.

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ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION OPENS IN YUEN LONG
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AN ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION WAS OPENED TODAY AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

THE EXHIBITION FORMS PART OF THE ONE-MONTH YUEN LONG DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS LAUNCHED LAST SUNDAY.

ON DISPLAY ARE PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS SHOWING HOW DRUGS AFFECT SOCIETY AND HOW THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

THEY HAVE BEEN PUT UP BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA).

EXAMPLES OF METHODS USED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO EVADE CUSTOMS ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY. THEY INCLUDE A HOLLOWED OUT BIBLE, SHOES WITH THICK HOLLOW SOLES AND SPECIALLY TAILORED VESTS.

MORE THAN 160 ENTRIES IN AN ANTI-DRUG POSTER COMPETITION HELD EARLIER THIS MONTH AS ANOTHER PART OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY.

ALMOST 60 SCHOOLS TOOK PART. THE OVERALL WINNER WAS A FORM FOUR STUDENT, TONG CHI-CHEUNG, OF YUEN LONG SECONDARY SCHOOL. THE RUNNERS-UP WERE TSE CHOR-LIN (HEUNG YEE KUK SECONDARY SCHOOL), TO PO-YUK (LUTHERAN SECONDARY SCHOOL) AND WONG YING-MAY (ALSO YUEN LONG SECONDARY SCHOOL).

OFFICIATING AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING AND PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR PETER LEE= THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER YUEN LONG, MR QUINTEN LEWIS= SARDA'S SOCIAL WELFARE SUPERINTENDENT MR JAMES CHIEN= AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXHIBITION ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHOI CHONG-YIP.

THE EXHIBITION OPENS TO THE PUBLIC TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FROM 2 PM TO 9 PM, AND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM.

NEARLY 30 OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE BEING HELD DURING THE CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING AN ATHLETICS DEMONSTRATION, A CONCERT, CANTONESE OPERAS, VARIETY SHOWS, FILM SHOWS, A FUNFAIR, AND TALKS AND SEMINARS IN SCHOOLS.

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EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED TO LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD
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THREE TRADE UNION MEMBERS WERE ELECTED TODAY AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE YEAR 1981.

THEY ARE MR CHEUNG CHI-KEUNG OF CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. WORKERS' FREE UNION, MR AU-YEUNG MING OF AMALGAMATED UNION OF SEAFARERS, HONG KONG, AND MR LEE SHING-CHU OF HONG KONG STEVEDORES UNION (CHAP YIN).

THE ELECTION - HELD BY SECRET BALLOT IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAUSEWAY BAY - WAS SUPERVISED BY OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE BOARD IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON MATTERS AFFECTING LABOUR, INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. IT COMPRISES SIX EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE COMMISSIONER AS CHAIRMAN.

THREE OF THE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND THREE ARE SELECTED FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

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CAS TEAMS COMPETE FOR TROPHIES
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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD ITS INTER-UNIT FIRST AID COMPETITION THIS YEAR IN THE DEMONSTRATION THEATRE OF ITS HONG KONG HEADQUARTERS ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 26).

THE COMPETITION IS DESIGNED TO SHARPEN THE ALERTNESS AND INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF CAS MEMBERS. IT ALSO AIMS AT PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE UNITS.

THE CHAMPION OUT OF 15 PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE AWARDED THE C.Y. KWAN CUP AND A PENNANT, WHILE THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP WILL RECEIVE PENNANTS.

MR STEPHEN LEE KI, HONG KONG REGIONAL COMMANDER, WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES.

ON THE SAME DAY, A FOOTDRILL COMPETITION WILL BE HELD FOR CADET CORPS MEMBERS.

EIGHTEEN TEAMS FROM CADET UNITS ALL OVER HONG KONG WILL COMPETE FOR THE 'NORMAN LEUNG TROPHY' AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE.

THE ACTING CHIEF STAFF OFFICER AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MR CHAN CHUN-YING, WILL PRESENT THE PRIZE TO THE CHAMPION TEAM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CIVIL AID SERVICES INTER-UNIT FIRST AID COMPETITION AND ITS CADET CORPS FOOTDRILL COMPETITION THIS SUNDAY (OCTOBER 26).

THE FIRST EVENT WILL BE HELD IN THE DEMONSTRATION THEATRE, CAS HONG KONG HEADQUARTERS, 100 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, 6TH FLOOR, AND THE SECOND AT ITS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET.

BOTH COMPETITIONS WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM AND WILL BE IN THEIR FINAL ROUNDS AT ABOUT 12 NOON.

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