



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1975.

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DEBATE ON PROPOSED COMMODITY EXCHANGE ADJOURNED  
MOST UNOFFICIALS AGAINST PROPOSAL

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DEBATE ON A MOTION SEEKING TO SET UP A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG WAS ADJOURNED TODAY TO ENABLE BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REFLECT FURTHER ON THE ISSUE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, MOVED THE ADJOURNMENT AFTER SEVERAL UNOFFICIALS SPOKE AGAINST THE MOTION ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS NO PROVED NEED FOR A COMMODITY EXCHANGE AND THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS IT MIGHT BRING WERE FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS.

SIR DENYS SAID THE UNOFFICIALS' ROOT AND BRANCH ATTACK ON THE PROPOSALS HAD COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE GOVERNMENT ESPECIALLY SINCE THE THEN SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER (MR. P.C. WOO) HAD SPOKEN IN VERY DIFFERENT TERMS WHEN THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE (PROHIBITION) BILL WAS DEBATED IN 1973.

URGING COUNCIL TO REFLECT FURTHER ON THE ISSUE, SIR DENYS SAID THAT A DECISION BY COUNCIL ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE MUST BE BASED +ON ARGUMENTS MORE PRACTICAL AND LESS EMOTIONAL THAN SOME OF THOSE TO WHICH WE HAVE LISTENED TODAY.+

SIR DENYS SAID IT MIGHT BE, AS IMPLIED BY THE UNOFFICIALS, THAT THE TEMPERAMENT OF HONG KONG'S PEOPLE MAY CAUSE A COMMODITY EXCHANGE TO BE A SOURCE OF SOCIAL HAZARD, NO MATTER WHAT CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS ARE APPLIED TO IT OR HOW RESPONSIBLE THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL FIRMS PARTICIPATING IN IT MAY BE.

+BUT BEFORE WE ACCEPT SUCH A VIEW, WE MUST SURELY BE SATISFIED THAT WE ARE NOT UNDERRATING THE GOOD SENSE OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY OF OUR LEGAL DRAFTSMEN TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS,+ HE SAID.

SIR DENYS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THOSE, IN WHOM AVARICE OUTWEIGNS PRUDENCE, AND ASKED HOW FAR A GOVERNMENT SHOULD GO IN PROTECTING THEM FROM THEIR OWN GREED. +AND SHOULD A PROJECT WHICH IS CAPABLE OF BRINGING BENEFIT TO A COMMUNITY BE ABANDONED BECAUSE IT CAN ALSO BRING DISASTER TO THOSE WHO MIGHT SEEK TO MISUSE IT?+

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY WONDERED WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH SELF CONDEMNATION MIGHT BE FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE STANDING AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE AND HOW FAR SUCH A PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE STABILITY AND GOOD SENSE OF RESIDENTS WOULD FURTHER HONG KONG'S INTERESTS ABROAD.

HE NOTED THAT .....

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S COMPETITORS AND OTHERS MIGHT ALSO WONDER WHETHER THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH HONG KONG HAS FLOURISHED WERE BEING ERODED. +WILL THEY NOT WONDER IF OUR FAITH IN THE REWARDS OF ENTERPRISE HAS BECOME CLOUDED BY CAUTION? WILL THEY THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS INHIBITING INITIATIVE AT THE DEEPEST OF AN OVER-DEVELOPED SENSE OF PATERNALISM?+ HE ASKED.

SIR DENYS SAID HE WAS POSING THE QUESTIONS SO THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO THE IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED.

HE STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO FORESHADOW THE SUBSTANCE OF AN EVENTUAL DECISION, BUT URGED COUNCIL TO REMEMBER THAT HONG KONG IS A SOPHISTICATED INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

EARLIER, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN OUTLINED THE REASONS WHY MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES COULD NOT SUPPORT THE MOTION.

THE UNOFFICIALS, DR. CHUNG SAID, HAD HELD THREE MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND HAD HAD A LONG SESSION WITH THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES.

THEY HAD BASED THEIR ASSESSMENTS ON THREE ASPECTS -- THE NEED FOR A COMMODITY EXCHANGE, THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM IT, AND FEARS THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD BE AGAINST THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST.

ON THE FIRST COUNT, DR. CHUNG SAID, NO CLEAR, DEFINITE AND PROVEN NEED HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG, BASED ON THE PRESENT PATTERN OF OPERATIONS OF THE RELEVANT INDUSTRIES.

SO FAR, HE SAID, NO REPRESENTATIONS EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR A COMMODITIES EXCHANGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM ANY LOCAL TRADE OR INDUSTRY WHICH USES COTTON, SUGAR, ZINC OR COPPER. ON THE CONTRARY, HE PERSONALLY HAD RECEIVED MORE THAN 10 LETTERS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS FROM INDIVIDUALS ALL OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

THE UNOFFICIALS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT A COMMODITY EXCHANGE WOULD ENHANCE HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AND WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSSIBLY 300 TO 600 PEOPLE. THEY ALSO RECOGNISED THAT IT WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL BUSINESS FOR BANKS, FINANCIAL HOUSES AND TRADING INSTITUTIONS.

/ON THE THIRD .....

ON THE THIRD ASPECT, DR. CHUNG SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE UNOFFICIALS AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ENTIRELY STOP CONSOLIDATION AND SYNDICATION BY GROUPS OF SMALL SPECULATORS ON THE PROPOSED COMMODITY EXCHANGE AND FELT THAT THERE WAS A REAL DANGER OF THIS OCCURRING AND INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH SMALL MEANS AND SAVINGS.

HE RECALLED THAT THIS HAD HAPPENED DURING THE STOCK EXCHANGE BOOM IN 1972 AND 1973 AND THAT MANY PEOPLE HAD SUFFERED DISASTROUSLY WHEN THE MARKET EVENTUALLY CRASHED.

+THERE IS NO DISPUTE THAT SPECULATING IN COMMODITY FUTURE IS A FORM OF GAMBLING,+ DR. CHUNG SAID, NOTING THAT +OVER-GAMBLING HAS CAUSED MANY FAMILY TRAGEDIES IN THE EAST AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE CHINESE POPULATION.+

THE HON. WILSON WANG AND THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ALSO VOICED DOUBTS OVER THE WISDOM OF SETTING UP A COMMODITIES EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG.

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H.K. PRESSING EEC FOR BETTER TREATMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO SECURE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN BOTH THE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND HONG KONG'S ACCESS TO THE E.E.C. GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES.

SPEAKING IN TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. JIMMY MCGREGOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR TEXTILE TRADE WITH THE E.E.C. AND SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY APPLIED BY HIS DEPARTMENT, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE HONG KONG OFFICES IN LONDON, BRUSSELS AND GENEVA.

HE SAID THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN PRESSING FOR A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN BOTH ISSUES.

ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH THE E.E.C., MR. MCGREGOR SAID THIS IS PROVING TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED RESTRIANT AGREEMENTS HONG KONG HAS EVER HAD TO DISCUSS.

+NOT ONLY ARE WE DOING SO AT A TIME OF ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC AND TRADE DISRUPTION ACROSS THE WORLD, BUT WE ARE NEGOTIATING FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH A TRADING BLOC WHICH REPRESENTS OVER 250 MILLION CONSUMERS, NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND MANY ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES+, HE POINTED OUT.

HE ADDED THAT THE DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS WITHIN THE E.E.C. AND THE DIFFERING IMPORTANCE TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIES OF THEIR TEXTILE INDUSTRIES MADE THE TASK OF NEGOTIATION FORMIDABLE AND TIME CONSUMING FOR BOTH HONG KONG AND THE E.E.C.

BUT HE ASSURED HONG KONG'S INTEREST IS PROTECTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES OR BETTER KNOWN AS THE MULTIFIBRE TEXTILES ARRANGEMENT.

+BESIDES,+ HE SAID, +WE HAVE THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY IN GENEVA TO ENSURE THAT ACTIONS TAKEN AND AGREEMENTS REACHED ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MULTIFIBRE TEXTILES ARRANGEMENT.+

ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S ACCESS TO THE E.E.C. GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES, HE SAID, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE ON THIS ISSUE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

/+FULL USE .....

+FULL USE HAS BEEN MADE OF OUR EUROPEAN OFFICES WITH THEIR WIDE AND FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH E.E.C. OFFICIALS AND WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON E.E.C. THINKING AND POLICIES.+

IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAS TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY OF PRESSING HONG KONG'S LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

+THE CUMULATIVE RESULT OF ALL THESE EFFORTS,+ SAID MR. MCGREGOR, +IS THAT HONG KONG HAS ENJOYED SINCE 1971, QUITE SUBSTANTIAL ACCESS TO THE E.E.C. GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES.+

IMPROVEMENTS WERE ALSO OBTAINED FOR THE 1975 SCHEME FOR FOOTWEAR AND THE E.E.C. COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED THAT THE 1976 SCHEME SHOULD INCLUDE ACCESS FOR HONG KONG IN A FEW COTTON TEXTILE ITEMS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, HONG KONG WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL IT HAS THE SAME ACCESS AS OTHER DEVELOPING TERRITORIES TO ALL THE GENERALISED SCHEMES OF PREFERENCES.

WINDING UP HIS SPEECH, MR. MCGREGOR ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS OFFICIALS ARE SOLELY CONCERNED TO SECURE AND PROTECT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS.

+IN SO DOING,+ HE SAID, +WE MUST RELY ON OUR OWN JUDGEMENT AS A GOVERNMENT AND AS INFLUENCED BY UNOFFICIAL ADVICE. IT IS THE HONG KONG INTEREST THAT DICTATES THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES IN TRADE AND IN ALL ELSE.+

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HONG KONG STUDY TRIPS ADVOCATED FOR EEC OFFICIALS

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HONG KONG SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BRINGING OFFICIALS FROM E.E.C. MEMBER STATES TO HONG KONG TO ENABLE THEM TO BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE LOCAL FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN HIS OPINION, THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT METED OUT TO HONG KONG UNDER THE E.E.C.'S GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES WAS +LARGELY THE RESULT OF UNINFORMED OPINIONS ABOUT HONG KONG.+

SUCH IMPRESSIONS COULD BE CORRECTED BY A VISIT BY E.E.C. OFFICIALS, HE SAID, STRESSING THAT WAYS AND MEANS SHOULD BE FOUND, DESPITE FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, TO MAKE SUCH VISITS POSSIBLE.

+THE BENEFITS CAN GO WELL BEYOND THE QUESTION OF GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES IN THAT WE CAN AT THE SAME TIME ACHIEVE A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OFFICIALS, WITH WHOM HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DEALINGS IN G.S.P. AND ALSO OTHER TRADE MATTERS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. TIEN NOTED THAT TRADE, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO TRADE, WERE DIRECTLY RELATED WITH THE WELL BEING, THE STATE OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND OTHER ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

+WE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS ARE BEING PROTECTED IN A WAY WHICH THE PUBLIC WOULD EXPECT US TO.+

MR. TIEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN TRYING TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY'S SCHEME OF PREFERENCES, AND WAS SURE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WAS DOING EVERYTHING HE COULD IN THIS REGARD.

MR. TIEN ALSO APPRECIATED THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE E.E.C. OVER HONG KONG TEXTILE EXPORTS -- AS REFLECTED IN THE STRONG AND SKILFUL NEGOTIATION TEAMS FIELDDED BY HONG KONG.

HE HOPED THAT AN EQUALLY STRONG LOCAL TEAM WOULD BE FORMED FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS IN BRUSSELS NEXT MONTH.

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GOVT GIVEN GO-AHEAD TO BORROW 6.5 MILLION POUND STERLING  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A MOTION AUTHORISING THE GOVERNMENT TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS TO BORROW THE EQUIVALENT OF 6.5 MILLION POUND STERLING FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED THAT THE PROCEEDS OF THE LOANS WOULD BE APPLIED TO EXPENDITURE FOR WHICH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED VOTE PROVISION.

SUBJECT TO THE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, 5 MILLION POUND STERLING OUT OF THE 6.5 MILLION POUND STERLING WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A SHOPPING LIST CREDIT. A SHOPPING LIST CREDIT, HE EXPLAINED, WAS A BUYER CREDIT WHICH COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VARIETY OF GOODS OR SERVICES.

THE BALANCE OF 1.5 MILLION POUND STERLING, HE SAID, WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A BANK LOAN WHICH WOULD BE USED TO COVER THE COST OF THE \$2 AND 20-CENT COINS WHICH WILL BE PUT IN CIRCULATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AUGUST.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT WHEN NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN WITH THE BANK CONCERNED, HE HAD HOPED TO USE PART OF THE SHOPPING LIST CREDIT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW COINAGE, BUT THIS PROPOSAL HAD TO BE DROPPED.

HOWEVER, THE BANK WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS NEGOTIATING THE SHOPPING LIST CREDIT OFFERED TO PROVIDE A SEPARATE US DOLLAR LOAN TO COVER THE COINAGE COST.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE MORE DETAILS UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED.

HOWEVER, HE ASSURED COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENTS UNTIL IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE TERMS WERE THE BEST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED.

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PROPOSED NEW POWERS FOR I.R.D. MODIFIED  
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SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS ARE TO BE MADE TO THE PROPOSED NEW POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE AS OUTLINED IN THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL WHICH PROVIDES STIFFER PENALTIES AGAINST TAX EVADERS.

THE CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO, ALTHOUGH FULLY SUPPORTING THE BILL IN PRINCIPLE, FELT THAT THE PROPOSED NEW POWERS SHOULD NOT UNNECESSARILY INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF INNOCENT CITIZENS.

UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT, A PERSON SUSPECTED OF SUBMITTING INCORRECT TAX RETURNS WILL HAVE NO RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE COMMISSIONER'S DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT OF HIS ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ONLY IF THE COMMISSIONER'S DEMAND FOR SUCH A STATEMENT IS UPHeld BY A SPECIAL PANEL OF THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW.

AS THE BILL NOW STANDS, THE COMMISSIONER NEED NOT EXPLAIN HIS CASE FOR SUCH A DEMAND TO A REVIEW BOARD.

THE SECOND MODIFICATION, INVOLVED CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL WHICH ENABLES THE COMMISSIONER, WITH A MAGISTRATE'S WARRANT, TO ENTER AND SEIZE BOOKS, RECORDS, ACCOUNTS OR DOCUMENTS BELONGING TO A PERSON SUSPECTED OF TAX EVASION, AS WELL AS THOSE BELONGING TO SOMEONE ELSE.

AS A COMPROMISE, THE UNOFFICIALS PROPOSED THAT INSTEAD OF SEIZING THE BOOKS AND RECORDS, ONLY COPIES OF BOOKS AND RECORDS NOT BELONGING TO THE SUSPECT AND DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SUSPECT'S TRANSACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN.

IN ADDITION, THE \$1,000 FINE PRESCRIBED IN THE ORDINANCE FOR AN OFFENCE OF BREACH OF SECRECY WILL BE RAISED MUCH HIGHER AS SUGGESTED BY THE UNOFFICIALS.

COMMENTING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL'S SECOND READING, THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI SAID THE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL "ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE SAKE NOT ONLY OF COLLECTING OUR MUCH NEEDED REVENUE, PARTICULARLY IN THESE HARD TIMES, BUT ALSO TO AVOID THE HONEST TAXPAYERS HAVING OTHERWISE TO PAY AT A HIGHER RATE OF TAX IN ORDER TO MEET OUR EVER INCREASING DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE."

HE NOTED THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF UNDERSTATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND PROFITS IN CASES FINALISED BY THE INVESTIGATION SECTION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1974, WAS AS HIGH AS 79.2 PER CENT.

/+THESE FIGURES ....

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+THESE FIGURES ARE THEMSELVES CONVINCING PROOF THAT THE INVESTIGATION POWERS OF THE INLAND REVENUE NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED AND THE PENALTIES FOR TAX OFFENCES INCREASED TO DEAL WITH AND DETER TAX EVASION EFFECTIVELY AS ARE NOW PROPOSED IN THE BILL BEFORE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS FURTHER ADJOURNED.

IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WELCOMED THE UNOFFICIALS' SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF TAX EVASION.

ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT ATTRACTED TO THE UNOFFICIALS' PROPOSAL FOR THE REVIEW BOARD TO ENDORSE THE COMMISSIONER'S DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM A PERSON SUSPECTED OF A TAX OFFENCE, HE AGREED TO TRY IT OUT FOR A WHILE, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD THAT THERE IS NO PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTY.

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#### SEVEN STOLEN POLICE PISTOLS RECOVERED

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SEVEN OF THE 12 POLICE REVOLVERS STOLEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR HAVE BEEN RECOVERED, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO, MR. DAVIES SAID POLICE SERVICE REVOLVERS ARE ISSUED ON PERSONAL CHARGE TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEM OFF DUTY.

THOSE ALLOWED TO DO SO ARE OFFICERS OF AND BELOW THE RANK OF STATION SERGEANT WHO PERFORM PLAIN-CLOTHES FULL-TIME DETECTIVE DUTIES= OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF INSPECTOR AND ABOVE WHO PERFORM PLAIN-CLOTHES DETECTIVE DUTIES AND WHO, IN THE OPINION OF A SENIOR FORMATION COMMANDER, ARE CONSIDERED LIKELY TO BE REQUIRED TO BE ARMED AT IMMEDIATE NOTICE= AND ANY POLICE OFFICER OF THE RANK OF INSPECTOR AND ABOVE WHO IN THE OPINION OF A POLICE MAJOR FORMATION COMMANDER SHOULD HOLD A PERSONAL ISSUE REVOLVER DUE TO THE NATURE OF HIS DUTIES.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO SQUATTERS' SAFETY  
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A VERY CLOSE WATCH IS KEPT ON SQUATTER HUTS FOUND IN POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS LOCATIONS AND SPECIAL ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THEM, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, SAID TODAY.

AS AN INDICATION, HE INFORMED COUNCIL THAT MORE THAN 260 PEOPLE HAD BEEN CLEARED FROM NINE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AREAS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AND ANOTHER FOUR AREAS INVOLVING OVER 400 PEOPLE WERE BEING CLEARED.

+THIS SURVEILLANCE IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

SINCE THE SURVEY OF SQUATTER AND LICENSED AREAS FOLLOWING THE JUNE 1972 RAINSTORMS, MORE THAN 24,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN CLEARED FROM 49 POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AREAS, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. KO SIU-WAH ABOUT IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN TOLERATED SQUATTER AREAS, MR. LIGHTBODY NOTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE DIFFICULT BY THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN AND GENERAL CONGESTION IN SOME AREAS.

HOWEVER, WATER SUPPLY IN THESE AREAS WAS OF GENERALLY REASONABLE STANDARDS, HE SAID.

AS FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAD JUST COMPLETED A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF SUPPLY IN URBAN SQUATTER AREAS AND THIS WOULD BE STUDIED WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

MEANWHILE, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID, +THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WILL MAINTAIN A GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF THESE AREAS TO ENSURE THAT ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM THAT MAY ARISE.+

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## TOWN PLANNING LAW TO BE REVISED

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TOWN PLANNING LEGISLATION AND MACHINERY ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION NEXT MONTH OR IN EARLY AUGUST, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ACCEPTED, HE SAID, A BILL WOULD BE DRAFTED AND INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR.

MR. ROBSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU WHO ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE A NEW LOOK AT TOWN PLANNING POLICY IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL SITUATION.

IN REPLY, THE HON. DAVID McDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID STEPS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN IN THIS REGARD.

SITES AFFECTED BY ZONING PLANS WERE BEING REVIEWED MORE CRITICALLY, HE SAID, AS EVIDENCED BY THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR TAI KOK TSUI WHICH WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, AMENDED AND RE-GAZETTED ON MAY 23 THIS YEAR.

+THE AMENDED PLAN IS LESS AMBITIOUS AND WILL, IN EFFECT, REDUCE TO THE MINIMUM THE NEED TO ACQUIRE OLD BUT EXPENSIVE PROPERTIES TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AMENITIES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN THE AREA.

+IN THIS PLAN ZONING FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES IS MAINLY CONFINED TO PROPERTIES HELD ON NON-RENEWABLE LEASES,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE ENACTMENT OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) ORDINANCE IN 1974 ALLOWED GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS, HE ADDED.

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAD AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH NEW TYPES OF NOTES FOR NEW AND EXISTING PLANS WHICH LIST FIRSTLY THE TYPES OF USE WHICH WILL BE PERMITTED OF RIGHT WITHIN EACH INDICATED ZONING AND SECONDLY THE TYPES OF USE WHICH MIGHT BE PERMITTED, WITH OR WITHOUT CONDITIONS, ON APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

IF AN OWNER OF A LOT ZONED FOR OPEN SPACE OR GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION OR COMMUNITY USE WISHED TO PROCEED WITH A DEVELOPMENT WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE SECOND LIST OF USERS HE CAN APPLY TO THE BOARD. IF PERMISSION IS GRANTED THIS WOULD ALLOW THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO APPROVE BUILDING PLANS FOR A COMPROMISE DEVELOPMENT WHEREBY THE PURPOSES OF THE INDICATED ZONING WOULD BE PARTLY OR WHOLLY ACHIEVED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OWNER'S DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, AND WITHOUT MATERIAL REDUCTION IN THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE SITE.

+UNDER THIS SYSTEM,+ MR. McDONALD EXPLAINED, +THE ENVIRONMENT IN OVERCROWDED AREAS CAN BE IMPROVED AND RESIDENTS WILL HAVE BETTER COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT COMPARATIVELY LITTLE COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE.+

ON THE OTHER HAND, OWNERS OF SITES AFFECTED BY ZONING FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES WILL BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR REDEVELOPMENT INSTEAD OF HAVING THEIR SITES FROZEN PENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION BY GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

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### MAC'S HELP THWART CRIMINALS

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THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE SCHEME HAS BEEN A RESOUNDING SUCCESS AND HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

IN PARTICULAR, SECURITY IN BUILDING HAD INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY WITH THE EMPLOYMENT OF WATCHMEN, THE INSTALLATION OF BURGLAR ALARMS, SECURITY GATES, INTERCOM SYSTEMS, AND EVEN CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEMS INSTALLED BY MAC'S IN MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. BRAY NOTED THAT IN SOME BUILDINGS MAC TEAMS HAD EVEN CAUGHT CRIMINALS RED HANDED. HE CITED ONE OUTSTANDING CASE IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE YUEN CHEONG MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE CAUGHT THE CRIMINAL IN ALL SIX ATTEMPTED BURGLARIES ON ITS PREMISES.

MR. BRAY SAID THE FACT THAT ONLY 19 OF THE 1,636 EXISTING MAC'S WERE INACTIVE WAS IN ITSELF AN INDICATION THAT THE SCHEME WAS WORKING WELL. THE REGISTRATION OF THE 19 INACTIVE MAC'S HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED.

MR. BRAY SAID ANOTHER 100 MAC'S WOULD PROBABLY BE FORMED DURING THE REST OF THIS YEAR.

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### ILLEGAL 'FERRY' TRADE SCUTTLED

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POLICE AND MARINE DEPARTMENT PATROLS IN HONG KONG WATERS HAVE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE ILLEGAL CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS BY UNLICENSED BOATS, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AND WITH THE STEADY INCREASE OF FRANCHISED FERRY SERVICES, COUPLED WITH STIFFER FINES FOR SUCH OFFENCES, THE PRACTICE SHOULD DECLINE EVEN FURTHER, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS.

SIR DENYS TOLD COUNCIL THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND MARINE POLICE LAUNCHES KEPT A PARTICULARLY CLOSE WATCH FOR ILLEGAL 'FERRIES' DURING WEEKENDS AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN AREAS WHERE LOCAL CRAFT CARRIED LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1975

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STANDARD OF TV PROGRAMMES "SATISFACTORY"  
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THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD CONSIDERS THE STANDARD AND RANGE OF TV PROGRAMMES "SATISFACTORY" BUT FEELS THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS.

IN ITS THIRD REPORT, PUBLISHED TODAY, THE BOARD COMMENDS THE TELEVISION STATIONS FOR MAKING EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF VIOLENT PROGRAMMES, AND WELCOMES THE MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF THE NEWS SERVICES OFFERED BY BOTH LICENCEES.

HOWEVER, THE BOARD HAS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT CERTAIN PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN WHICH CONTAIN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF "EXPLICIT VIOLENCE AND GLORIFICATION OF RUTHLESS AGGRESSIVENESS".

+WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT,+ THE BOARD SAYS.

IT ALSO URGES THE TV STATIONS TO NOTE THE NEED FOR CARE IN THE PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SOCIAL SATIRE FOUND IN A NUMBER OF LOCALLY-PRODUCED VARIETY PROGRAMMES.

+THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH CHEAP, UNINFORMED AND OFTEN MISLEADING CRITICISMS OF GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF SATIRE TO AN EXTENT WHICH COULD BE HARMFUL TO THE COMMUNITY'S BEST INTEREST,+ IT SAYS.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, A TOTAL OF 1,397 FILMED COMMERCIALS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL. THE PERCENTAGE NOT APPROVED CONTINUED TO REMAIN LOW INDICATING THE AWARENESS OF MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS BY THE LOCAL ADVERTISERS AND TV STATIONS.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE NUMBER OF ENTERTAINMENT FILMS OR PARTS OF FILMS FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE INCREASED SHARPLY IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS DUE TO THE FACT THAT OVERSEAS CINEMA FILMS MADE IN RECENT PERMISSIVE YEARS ARE FINDING THEIR WAYS INTO THE LOCAL TV CIRCUIT. THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNACCEPTABLE FILMS FOR TV ALSO INDICATES THE BOARD'S CONCERN TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF PROGRAMME STANDARD.

TV OWNERSHIP IN HONG KONG HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1974, THERE WERE 748,000 HOUSEHOLDS OWNING A TELEVISION SET, REPRESENTING ALMOST 85 PER CENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, AN ESTIMATED 2.4 MILLION PEOPLE WATCH TV ON AN AVERAGE DAY IN HONG KONG AND IT APPEARS THAT MORE HOUSEHOLDS ARE OWNING MORE THAN ONE SET, MANY OF THEM COLOURED SETS.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1975

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT A TOY FACTORY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD., A TOY FACTORY IN KENNEDY TOWN TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR. MICHAEL CARTLAND AND MR. K.H. YEUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE FACTORY, SIR MURRAY WILL BE MET BY MR. ART DORF, MANAGING DIRECTOR= MR. J. LEES, MR. D. MURRAY AND MR. P.O. SCALES, DIRECTORS= MR. D.D. WALKER, EXECUTIVE MANAGER= MR. R. DRWINGA, CONTROLLER AND MR. H.T. WANG, PLANT MANAGER.

HONG KONG HAS NOW REPLACED JAPAN AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF TOYS. IN 1974, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TOYS WERE VALUED AT \$1,702 MILLION AND EXPORTS DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975 AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$256 MILLION.

THE U.S.A. HAS ALWAYS BEEN HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL TOY MARKET, TAKING NEARLY HALF OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1974. THE OTHER MAJOR MARKETS INCLUDE THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

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TWO BILLS INTRODUCED IN LEGCO

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TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL TODAY -- THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL SEEKS TO ENABLE THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE MANUFACTURE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND POISONS.

THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES BILL SEEKS TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES TO \$100,000.

DEBATE ON BOTH BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1975.

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INTERVIEW FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP STARTS TOMORROW  
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NEARLY 900 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE APPLIED TO JOIN THE THREE-WEEK YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ORGANISED BY THE BRITISH FORCES AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO BE HELD FROM JULY 20.

MOST OF THE APPLICANTS ARE UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE AND SPONSORED EITHER BY SCHOOLS OR YOUTH AGENCIES.

INTERVIEWS WILL START TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE GUN CLUB BARRACKS IN AUSTIN ROAD, KOWLOON. THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVIEW BOARDS COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BRITISH FORCES, THE YOUTH WORK UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

THE BASES FOR SELECTION INCLUDE PHYSIQUE, GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH WORK BUT PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE SPONSORED BY WELFARE AGENCIES.

A TOTAL OF 150 WILL BE CHOSEN WITH 30 OF THEM TO BE PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST.

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MOBILE EXHIBITION UNIT FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

KOWLOON ROTARY CLUB WILL PRESENT HONG KONG'S FIRST MOBILE EXHIBITION UNIT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT A SPECIAL LUNCHEON IN THE PENINSULA HOTEL AT 1 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CLUB PRESIDENT, MR. BOB HARILELA, WILL HAND THE KEYS OF THE UNIT TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON AT A SPECIAL LUNCHEON CEREMONY IN THE PENINSULA BALLROOM.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE UNIT WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE PENINSULA FORECOURT.

WHEN ON THE ROAD, THE UNIT APPEARS TO BE AN ORDINARY TRUCK. WHEN IT IS IN USE, IT CAN EXPAND INTO A ROOM ABOUT 24 FEET SQUARE, COMPLETE WITH SPOTLIGHT, SLIDE SHOWS, FILM PROJECTION, PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES.

FOR THE OCCASION OF TOMORROW'S HANDOVER, IT WILL BE SET UP AS A MINIATURE CAREER'S EXHIBITION. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1975.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS WORLD-CLASS CLOCK FACTORY  
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LADY MACLEHOSE SPENT OVER AN HOUR AT THE CHIAP HUA CLOCKS AND WATCHES LIMITED IN KWUN TONG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHERE SHE SAW THE WHOLE PROCESS INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF A CLOCK. LADY MACLEHOSE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY MR. K.H. YEUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP THREE EXPORTERS OF CLOCKS, AND CHIAP HUA, BEING THE ONLY CLOCK FACTORY HERE IS — IN TERMS OF OUTPUT — ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CLOCK MANUFACTURERS. IT PRODUCES 16,000 CLOCKS A DAY.

THE VISIT TO CHIAP HUA THIS MORNING IS THE LATEST IN THE SERIES OF VISITS THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE ARE MAKING TO FACTORIES IN HONG KONG TO SEE THE PACE OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS HERE.

LAST THURSDAY, LADY MACLEHOSE VISITED A DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING FACTORY WHILST SIR MURRAY VISITED A LIGHT BULB AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES FACTORY. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) THE GOVERNOR WILL VISIT A TOY FACTORY IN KENNEDY TOWN.

APART FROM SEEING HOW CLOCK PARTS ARE MADE AND ASSEMBLED, LADY MACLEHOSE WAS THIS MORNING SHOWN THE WHOLE RANGE OF CLOCKS BEING PRODUCED HERE FOR EXPORT : WALL CLOCKS, TABLE CLOCKS, TALKING CLOCKS, IMITATION ANTIQUE CLOCKS AND A HOST OF OTHERS.

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F.S. SPEAKS ON FINANCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE SPEECH TO BE MADE BY MR. C.P. HADDON-CAVE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AT THE CHINESE BANKS' ASSOCIATION DINNER THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING HAVE BEEN BOXED FOR YOUR COLLECTION.

THE SPEECH IS ENTITLED 'FINANCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT'.

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