



WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974.

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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1,500 REPORTS FOR ICAC IN THREE MONTHS

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THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HAS RECEIVED 1,499 REPORTS SINCE ITS INCEPTION ALMOST THREE MONTHS AGO, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, MR. CLINTON SAID ONLY 929 OF THESE CASES, THOUGH THIS IS A LARGE NUMBER, CONTAINED SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION.

THE REMAINDER BEING CONCERNED WITH VERY GENERALISED OR VAGUE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION OR MISCELLANEOUS ALLEGATIONS NOT INVOLVING CORRUPTION.

+IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AS YET TO SAY HOW MANY OF THE COMPLAINTS WHICH CONTAINED SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION HAVE SUFFICIENT MATERIAL TO ENABLE AN INVESTIGATION TO BE MOUNTED BUT THE COMMISSION'S EXPERIENCE SO FAR INDICATES THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THESE COMPLAINTS, THAT IS ABOUT 600 DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS, PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MATERIAL FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

+IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION HAS INHERITED ABOUT 220 CASES FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THESE ARE ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION, + HE SAID.

* COMMENTING ON THE STAFFING SITUATION OF THE COMMISSION'S OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT, MR. CLINTON SAID THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS 180 OFFICERS BUT ITS STRENGTH IS 149.

+IN A PAPER WHICH IS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL LATER TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE OPERATIONAL STRENGTH OF THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSION TO 210, AN INCREASE OVER THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 30 OFFICERS.+

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID THE EXISTING STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT AT PRESENT KEEP PACE WITH THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION CASE LOAD.

HOWEVER, IF THE ADDITIONAL POSTS REQUESTED WERE APPROVED, AND PROVIDED THAT RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING CONTINUES SATISFACTORILY, THE COMMISSIONER WOULD HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEAL WITH ALL CASES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION. +IF NOT, I AM SURE, HE WILL SIMPLY ASK FOR MORE RESOURCES,+ MR. CLINTON ADDED.

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STUDY ON POSSIBLE USE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
FOR SECONDARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME

A SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE HOW FAR IT IS FEASIBLE TO UTILISE VACANT ROOMS IN SOME PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. JOHN CANNING, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE REPLIED TO A QUESTION BY MR. SZETO WAI.

THE SURVEY WOULD ALSO LOOK INTO WHAT ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

+THE SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALISED BUT THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DETERMINING WHAT ADDITIONAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS WILL BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW POLICY,+ MR. CANNING SAID.

BUT THE DIRECTOR SOUNDED A SLIGHT NOTE OF CAUTION BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT ANY VACANT PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PURPOSES UNDER THE NEW POLICY SHOULD BE PROPERLY ADAPTED OR CONVERTED, OTHERWISE HE FEARED THAT THESE SCHOOLS WOULD NOT PROVE EDUCATIONALLY ATTRACTIVE TO PARENTS, PUPILS OR TEACHERS.

WHEN CONSIDERING THIS PROBLEM, MR. CANNING SAID, + IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT WHILST THE PRIMARY SCHOOL POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO DECREASE UNTIL IT REACHES A LOW POINT OF 480,700 IN 1979, THEREAFTER IT WILL RISE TO REACH 717,400 BY 1991 WHICH IS WELL OVER THE 1970 PEAK OF 648,100, AND THAT THIS INCREASING TREND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE BEYOND THAT DATE.+

VACANT PLACES CAN ARISE IN THREE WAYS, HE SAID.

FIRSTLY, THERE ARE VACANT ROOMS IN NEWLY OPENED SCHOOLS WHICH IN THE COURSE OF TIME WILL BECOME FULLY DEVELOPED.

+IT WOULD CLEARLY BE IMPRUDENT TO TRY TO PLAN TO UTILISE THESE PLACES FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE,+ MR. CANNING SAID.

SECONDLY, THERE ARE SOME AREAS IN WHICH THERE ARE SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN TO FILL CLASSES WHICH MUST BE OPERATED. STEPS ARE TAKEN WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO MERGE CLASSES SO THAT THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN ACTUAL OPERATING CLASSES IS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.

THIRDLY, VACANT ROOMS EXIST IN SOME PRIMARY SCHOOLS, WHICH WERE BUILT TO CATER FOR A LARGER PRIMARY SCHOOL POPULATION THAN NOW LIVE WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE OF THEM.

SUCH SCHOOLS ARE MAINLY ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE IN EACH SCHOOL VARIES CONSIDERABLY. +IT IS THIS CATEGORY WHICH OFFERS THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE USES,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

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**ASSURANCE ON CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF MEDICAL SERVICE
DR CHOA DISPELS ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION OF ECONOMY PLANNING
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, GAVE AN ASSURANCE TODAY THAT THE PRESENT LEVELS OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED RATHER THAN LOWERED EITHER IN QUALITY OR QUANTITY.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO THE HON. WILFRED WONG, WHO HAD ASKED FOR AN ASSURANCE THAT FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE QUALITY OR QUANTITY OF MEDICINE, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PRESCRIBED IN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.†

DR. CHOA SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT CERTAIN CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS HAD UNFORTUNATELY CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE REDUCED OR CURTAILED.

†THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE,† HE EMPHASISED.

HE WENT ON:- †LIKE OTHER HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE OPTIMUM USE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED DURING THE YEAR IS ACHIEVED, HAVING DUE REGARD TO THE STANDARD AND LEVEL OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC.†

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXERCISE OF ECONOMY WHENEVER THIS WAS POSSIBLE WAS TO FURTHER SUCH AN AIM, AND SHOULD NOT BE †MISCONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO LOWER STANDARDS EITHER OF QUALITY OR QUANTITY.†

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**REVIEW ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MCKINSEY PROPOSALS
TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY
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A WRITTEN REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN IMPLEMENTING THE MCKINSEY PROPOSALS WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, MR. CLINTON NOTED THAT THE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS RECOGNISED IN THEIR FINAL REPORT THAT THE TASK OF IMPLEMENTING THEIR MAIN ORGANISATIONAL PROPOSALS WOULD BE A FORMIDABLE ONE, WHICH HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

†WE HAVE JUST COME TO THE END OF THE NINE MONTHS WHICH THE CONSULTANTS ESTIMATED THESE TASK WOULD TAKE,† SAID MR. CLINTON.

HE RECALLED THAT THE UMELCO MEMBERS HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED AT A MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15 ON THE ENCOURAGING PROGRESS MADE, AND SINCE THEN A FURTHER PROGRESS REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE LAST MONTH.

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R.H.K. PLANNING BETTER RECEPTION FACILITIES

PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXTEND RADIO HONG KONG'S V.H.F./F.M. COVERAGE BUT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF STEREO BROADCASTING STARTING WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. LI SAID THAT EXTENDED VHF/FM COVERAGE AND STEREO BROADCASTING HAD BEEN CONSIDERED FOR SOME MONTHS BY THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING AND THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

THE STAGE HAD NOW BEEN REACHED, HE ADDED, WHEN IT WOULD BE CHEAPER TO REPLACE THE EXISTING VHF/FM TRANSMITTING FACILITIES AT MOUNT GOUGH -- INSTALLED IN 1960 -- THAN TO CONTINUE PAYING THE HIGH COSTS FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE.

+SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF THIS AND THE DETERMINING OF THE BEST METHOD OF IMPROVING THE COVERAGE, THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING INTENDS TO SUBMIT A SCHEME TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TRANSMITTERS.

+SUCH REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF STEREO BROADCASTS,+ SAID MR. LI.

HOWEVER, VARIOUS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED BEFORE THESE PROPOSALS COULD BE FINALISED.

+FOR INSTANCE, IT MIGHT BE DECIDED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT TRANSMITTERS WITH SIMILAR HIGH POWER TRANSMITTERS WHICH WOULD GIVE VHF/FM COVERAGE OVER THE PRESENT AREA AND IN ADDITION TO INSTALL THREE PAIRS OF SMALL TRANSPOSERS (OR BOOSTER STATIONS) TO COVER AREAS WHICH WILL NOT RECEIVE A STRONG SIGNAL FROM THE MAIN TRANSMITTERS,+ MR. LI EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER COURSE, WOULD BE TO SET UP A SERIES OF SMALL TRANSMITTERS AT SITES OTHER THAN MOUNT GOUGH.

BOTH OF THESE COURSES WOULD GIVE GOOD COVERAGE BUT THERE WOULD STILL BE SOME AREAS WHICH COULD NOT BE REACHED WITHOUT DISPROPORTIONATE EXPENDITURE, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT'S TECHNICAL EXPERTS WOULD TRY TO FIND A SYSTEM WHICH WILL GIVE THE BEST COVERAGE, TOGETHER WITH THE BEST QUALITY RECEPTION, AT THE MOST ECONOMICAL COST.

MR. LI SAID IT WOULD BE A FEW MONTHS YET BEFORE EXAMINATION OF THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM IS COMPLETE AND AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS SUBMITTED.

+THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF BROADCASTS FROM NEW EQUIPMENT ALSO DEPENDS ON THE SUPPLY POSITION OF THE EQUIPMENT AND THE TIME NEEDED TO INSTALL IT.

+I REGRET THEREFORE THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF THESE BROADCASTS STARTING WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.+

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EMIGRATION PROCEDURES CLARIFIED

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ADMITTANCE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG TO OTHER COUNTRIES IS A MATTER ENTIRELY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CAN NOT INTERFERE IN THE MATTER.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN.

MR. DAVIES ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS POSED BY IMMIGRANTS +IN THIS ALREADY DENSELY POPULATED TERRITORY AND IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO PREVENT THOSE WHO CAN DO SO FROM LEAVING.+

HOWEVER, HE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE A NATIONAL PASSPORT OR VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND THOSE WHO DO NOT.

THOSE WITH VALID DOCUMENTS, HE SAID, SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY OVER ONWARD TRAVEL.

+FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VALID DOCUMENT THE POSITION IS THAT MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL ONLY ADMIT CHINESE FROM HONG KONG IF THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

+SUCH A CERTIFICATE GIVES IN EFFECT RESIDENT STATUS AND THEREFORE CONFERS UPON IMMIGRANTS THE RIGHT OF RE-ENTRY TO HONG KONG TO LIVE HERE PERMANENTLY SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO DO SO.+

THE GREATEST MAJORITY OF IMMIGRANTS, MR. DAVIES SAID ENTERED HONG KONG UNDER EXIT PERMITS ISSUED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WHICH ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE CHINA TO VISIT HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE.

+ALTHOUGH SUCH PERSONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HONG KONG TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, THEY ARE NOT ENTIRELY PREVENTED FROM TRAVELLING AND, IN FACT, MANY OF THEM DO SO USING DECLARATIONS OF IDENTITY WHICH CARRY RE-ENTRY VISAS FOR HONG KONG WITHIN THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE PERMITTED TO STAY HERE.+

IN CASES WHERE APPLICANTS CAN PROVE THAT THEY WISH TO EMIGRATE PERMANENTLY, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL CASES ON THEIR MERITS AND TO ISSUE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS OF LIMITED VALIDITY.

HOWEVER, IT WAS ENTIRELY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WHETHER TO ADMIT IMMIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT COULD NOT INTERFERE IN THIS MATTER.

+IN THIS RESPECT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO RE-ADMIT FORMER RESIDENTS WHO LEFT THEIR COUNTRY SOME YEARS AGO,+ HE NOTED.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. DAVIES REVEALED THAT DRAFT AMENDED LEGISLATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY TO DO AWAY WITH THE NEED FOR IMMIGRANTS TO REGISTER AND RE-REGISTER SEVERAL TIMES FOR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS.

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SMALL DEBTS COURTS IN THE OFFING

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PROPOSALS FOR THE SETTING UP OF TRIBUNALS TO DETERMINE DISPUTES INVOLVING SMALL SUMS OF MONEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE DISTRICT COURT WAS RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING GROUP SET UP IN THE LATTER PART OF LAST YEAR.

BOTH THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND BOTH SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION IN PRINCIPLE.

THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE JUDICIARY, THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE GROUP EXAMINED THE WORKING OF SMALL DEBTS COURTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES OBTAINED FROM CHEAPEST SOURCE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION AT PRESENT OF TAKING ANY FURTHER STEPS TO PROCURE A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES FROM ANY PARTICULAR SOURCE, WHETHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID TODAY.

+IT IS ALREADY OUR GENERAL RULE TO GIVE SUPPLIERS IN HONG KONG THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUOTE FOR ALL THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES, EXCEPT ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN WE ALREADY KNOW THAT LOCAL FIRMS CANNOT PROVIDE THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES CONCERNED.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE TAXPAYER, TO PLACE ORDERS ON THE BASIS OF THE LOWEST ACCEPTABLE OFFER, THAT IS THE LOWEST OFFER THAT MEETS THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATION, + HE SAID.

MR. JORDAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER FURTHER STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO PROCURE A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL SOURCES.

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ACCOMMODATION FOR 54,000 IN RESERVE
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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS RESERVED ACCOMMODATION FOR ABOUT 54,000 PEOPLE TO MEET CERTAIN COMMITMENTS ARISING OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI ON THE NUMBER OF VACANT UNITS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THIS RESERVE CAPACITY WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 6,000 PEOPLE MONTHLY DURING THIS PERIOD.

VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS, THE BIGGEST ONE BEING FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS BY DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES, FOR WHOM SOME 35,000 SPACES WERE EARMARKED.

OTHER CATEGORIES, HE SAID, INCLUDED FAMILIES LOSING THEIR HOMES WHEN DANGEROUS OLD TENEMENTS ARE CLOSED BY GOVERNMENT ORDER, FAMILIES INVOLVED IN URBAN RENEWAL SCHEMES, AND THOSE MADE HOMELESS BY FIRES OR NATURAL DISASTER.

EXPLAINING THE POLICY ON RESERVING THESE UNITS, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID: +WE HAVE OVER THE YEARS CONSISTENTLY GIVEN PUBLIC HOUSING TO FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS IN THESE VARIOUS WAYS AND IT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE TO DENY THEM THIS HELP NOW, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES WHERE HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE THE UNPLEASANT TASK OF KNOCKING DOWN HUTS THAT HAVE BEEN HOME TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FOR MANY YEARS PAST.

+IF PUBLIC HOUSING WERE NOT OFFERED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE DEPARTMENT'S LONG RECORD OF FRICTION-FREE CLEARANCES WOULD DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT, AND EVERY CLEARANCE WOULD BRING NEW CONFRONTATIONS AND DANGERS.+

HE ADDED THAT IN AN IDEAL SITUATION WHERE NEW ESTATE BLOCKS WERE BEING COMPLETED AT INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THIS SITUATION WOULD NOT ARISE.

+BUT OUR SITUATION IS VERY FAR FROM IDEAL AND APART FROM ONE MAN ESTATE THERE IS VERY LITTLE NEW PUBLIC HOUSING BEING COMPLETED DURING THE NEXT TEN MONTHS OR SO.

+HENCE WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING FORWARD VACANT ACCOMMODATION FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S PRODUCTION. IN DUE COURSE, OUR PUBLIC HOUSING BUILDING PROGRAMME WILL SPARE US FROM HAVING TO RESORT TO EXPEDIENTS OF THIS KIND -- BUT IT NEEDS TIME TO BUILD UP.+

HE ALSO ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THESE RESERVATIONS WOULD BE KEPT CONTINUALLY AND CLOSELY UNDER REVIEW SO THAT ANY EMPTY UNITS THAT WOULD NOT BE NEEDED DUE TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES COULD BE ALLOCATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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NO EVIDENCE OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. P.B. WILLIAMS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HOWEVER, INDICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS MOST CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD ARE THAT UNDER-EMPLOYMENT IS GOING UP, HE ADDED.

+THIS IS VERY DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY SINCE THERE IS NO GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION OF THE TERM UNDER-EMPLOYMENT+ SAID MR. WILLIAMS.

IN ORDER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT ON TAKE-HOME PAY, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONDUCTING A LIMITED SURVEY NEXT MONTH AND REPEAT IT AS NECESSARY.

MR. WILLIAMS TOLD COUNCIL THAT IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR 627,230 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS -- THE HIGHEST LEVEL EVER RECORDED. VACANCIES AT THAT TIME HAD DECLINED TO ABOUT 7,000 WHICH INDICATE A SLACKENING IN THE LABOUR MARKET.+ FIGURES FROM THE MARCH SURVEY WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ONE POINT THAT WAS OFTEN BEING OVERLOOKED, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, WAS THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS TEND TO BE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SEEKING TO CHANGE JOBS OR TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME WHO WOULD BE TECHNICALLY CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

+EVEN IN 1971 WHEN LABOUR CONDITIONS WERE QUITE TIGHT THE CENSUS-TAKERS FOUND 72,000 PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 64 WHO WERE SEEKING WORK. THIS REPRESENTED 4.3 PER CENT OF THE WORK FORCE AT A TIME WHEN THE LABOUR MARKET WAS COMPETITIVE AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE FIGURE COULD EVER FALL MUCH BELOW THAT LEVEL+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO SYSTEM FOR ACTUALLY REGISTERING PERSONS WHO ARE UNDER-EMPLOYED OR UNEMPLOYED, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REASONABLY RELIABLE INDICATORS OF THE SITUATION. THESE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE STATISTICS AND THE STATISTICS OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

SO FAR, THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE STATISTICS CONTINUE TO SHOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES COMING ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN RECENT MONTHS, BUT A CLOSE WATCH IS BEING MAINTAINED ON THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

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NEW RULES SOON ON SEVERANCE PAY

A NEW BILL TO INTRODUCE SEVERANCE PAY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. P.B. WILLIAMS, SAID DRAFTING OF THE BILL WAS AT AN ADVANCE STAGE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED BEFORE ITS INTRODUCTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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CALL FOR TOTAL ABOLITION OF ESTATE DUTY
ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY DISAGREES
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THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TOTALLY ABOLISH ESTATE DUTY IN HONG KONG.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 WHICH WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY. THE LEGISLATION SEEKS TO INCREASE THE EXEMPTION LEVEL FOR ESTATE DUTY FROM \$200,000 TO \$300,000.

DESCRIBING ESTATE DUTY AS A BAD FORM OF TAXATION FOR HONG KONG, MR. WOO SAID: +AS A REVENUE-RAISER IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT= IT HAS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR ECONOMY= AND IT CAN WORK HARSHLY ON INDIVIDUALS.+

MR. WOO QUOTED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, WHEN HE PROPOSED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH IN 1972 THE REDUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM RATE OF ESTATE DUTY TO 15 PER CENT, AS SAYING: +IT WILL ALSO HELP TO DISCOURAGE HONG KONG RESIDENTS FROM TAKING AVOIDANCE ACTION BY TRANSFERRING ASSETS OVERSEAS BEFORE DEATH.+

MR. WOO FELT THAT THIS REASONING WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE TOTAL ABOLITION OF ESTATE DUTY THAN TO THE MERE REDUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM RATE.

+FURTHERMORE, IF NO ESTATE DUTY IS PAYABLE IN HONG KONG THERE IS ALSO THE BENEFIT OF ENCOURAGING PEOPLE FROM OVERSEAS TO BRING IN THEIR ASSETS FOR INVESTMENT OR FOR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG. THIS WILL CERTAINLY IMPROVE OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS REPLY, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY THE HON. DAVID JORDAN DISAGREED WITH MR. WOO ON THIS ARGUMENT.

+I THINK A POINT OF BALANCE CAN BE FOUND WHERE WE DO NOT NEEDLESSLY FOREGO NECESSARY REVENUE BUT DO NOT RAISE IT AT RATES THAT POSITIVELY ENCOURAGE AVOIDANCE, OR DISCOURAGE INVESTMENT,+ MR. JORDAN SAID.

HE ALSO DOUBTED WHETHER HONG KONG COULD AFFORD TO DISPENSE WITH SOURCES OF REVENUE BECAUSE THE YIELD WAS UNPREDICTABLE. +WE SHALL AT LEAST FOR SOME YEARS AHEAD JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF THAT.+

COMMENTING ON MR. WOO'S SUGGESTION THAT THE DUTY HAD ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR. JORDAN SAID: +I MUST SAY THAT WHILE THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE OVER THE YEARS REDUCED THE MAXIMUM RATE FROM ITS PEAK OF 52 PER CENT SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS TAX PRODUCING ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR ECONOMY.+

ON THE BELIEF THAT THE TAX COULD WORK HARSHLY ON INDIVIDUALS, HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE SO, BUT A GOOD DEAL HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS.

ENLARGED NURSING BOARD WITH MORE DISCRETIONARY POWERS PROPOSED

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THE NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 WHICH SEEKS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO GIVE THE NURSING BOARD DISCRETION TO ACCEPT FOR ENROLMENT NOT ONLY NURSES ENROLLED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE HON. DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA, SAID THE BOARD COULD NOW ACCEPT, AT ITS DISCRETION, IN SO FAR AS REGISTERED NURSES WERE CONCERNED, QUALIFICATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE BILL SOUGHT A SIMILAR DISCRETION FOR THE BOARD WITH REGARD TO ENROLLED NURSES.

DR. CHOA DESCRIBED THE BILL'S MAIN PROVISION AS ENLARGEMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NURSING BOARD, THE REASON BEING THAT, WITH THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION AND COMPLEXITY OF THE NURSING SERVICES, THE BOARD HAD DECIDED TO SET UP TWO COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

ONE COMMITTEE WOULD DEAL WITH THE TRAINING OF REGISTERED NURSES, AND THE OTHER WITH THE TRAINING OF ENROLLED NURSES.

DR. CHOA SAID THE BOARD DID NOT THINK IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR ONE COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH BOTH REGISTERED AND ENROLLED-NURSES BECAUSE BOTH TYPES OF TRAINING TOOK PLACE AT TWO LEVELS, AND THE COURSES DIFFER BOTH IN CONTENT AND LENGTH.

IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT WHEN BOTH COMMITTEES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TWO COMMITTEES SHOULD BECOME MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, AND TO ADD, BY WAY OF BALANCE, TWO REGISTERED NURSES TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

THE DIRECTOR EXPLAINED THAT WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE MEMBER OF THE PRESENT BOARD REPRESENTING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD ACT AS EDUCATIONAL ADVISER TO THE BOARD RATHER THAN AS A FULL MEMBER.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS, BY WAY OF KEEPING ABREAST OF MODERN PROGRESS, AN ADVISER ON SOCIAL STUDIES TO BE APPOINTED ON NOMINATION BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974.

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POSTMEN FULLY COMMITTED WITH PRESENT DUTIES

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID McDONALD, TODAY DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF PLACING ADDITIONAL REVENUE COLLECTING DUTIES ON TO THE EXISTING POST OFFICE STAFF AS THEY ARE ALREADY FULLY COMMITTED WITH THEIR PRESENT DUTIES.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, HE SAID IT MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE POSSIBLE TO UTILISE CERTAIN POST OFFICES FOR THE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS AS HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE AT TAI O.

BUT A STUDY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THIS SERVICE IN TERMS OF STAFFING, ACCOMMODATION AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.

REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PAYING WATER BILLS IN THE WATERWORKS OFFICES, MR. McDONALD SAID A FACILITY ALREADY EXISTED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, MURRAY BUILDING, FOR PAYMENT OF METER RECONNECTION FEES AND ALLIED OUTSTANDING WATER ACCOUNTS.

+CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF A SIMILAR FACILITY AT THE NEW CONSUMER SERVICES BUILDING WHICH IS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON AND IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

+WITH REGARD TO THE NORMAL PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL HAS EXAMINED THE POSITION AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE PUBLIC AND TAX-PAYER ARE BEST SERVED BOTH IN CONVENIENCE AND IN ECONOMIC COST BY LARGE COLLECTION CENTRES WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING COLLECTION OF VARIOUS TYPES OF REVENUE AND WHICH ARE CENTRALLY LOCATED IN BUSINESS AND MORE DENSELY POPULATED AREAS.

+IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DUE TO THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO PAY THEIR ACCOUNTS BY POST THE PRESSURE AT THESE COLLECTION CENTRES HAS EASED AND THE SERVICE IMPROVED, + HE SAID.

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BILLS PASSED

FOUR BILLS RECEIVED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AND PASSED INTO LAW.

THEY WERE: THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, ALSO COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974

ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE SET UP

AN ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THE COMMITTEE WILL STUDY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY AND ASSIST IN THE PRODUCTION OF REPORTS AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL BASE ITS THINKING ON ECONOMIC POLICIES.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE MR. OSWALD CHEUNG, DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, MR. LEE QUO-WEI, MR. P.G. WILLIAMS, AND THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT TODAY THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD REFERRED TO THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE IN HIS SPEECH WINDING UP THE BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 27.

MR. HADDON-CAVE DESCRIBED THE VARIOUS MEASURES EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, WHICH INCLUDE A CENTRAL STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT AND AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS UNIT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IF HONOURABLE MEMBERS WISHED HIM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE ANNUAL AND INTERIM ECONOMIC REVIEWS RESULTING FROM THESE STUDIES HE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THIS. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT AN ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SET UP ALONG THE LINES WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN ACCEPTED.

THE FIRST ECONOMIC REPORT, WHICH WILL UPDATE THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO THE BUDGET, TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 28, WILL BE VETTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

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**PAY RISE FOR FIREMEN, PRISONS OFFICERS
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NEW RANK AND FILE SALARY SCALES WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, FIRE SERVICES, PREVENTIVE SERVICE AND PRISONS SERVICE.

A SERIES OF REVIEWS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT. POLICE PAY WAS ADJUSTED LATE LAST YEAR, FOLLOWING A SIMILAR REVIEW. THE METHOD IS TO USE A FORMULA WHICH IS BASED ON THE WAGE LEVELS OF SKILLED TRADESMEN AND WHICH RECOGNISES THE VARYING SKILLS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

THE REVISED PAY SCALES AND NEW PROCEDURES INVOLVED HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND WILL COST ABOUT \$12 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR. APPROXIMATELY 5,500 OFFICERS IN THE FOUR SERVICES WILL BENEFIT.

THE SCALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

<u>FIRE SERVICES/AMBULANCE SERVICE</u>	<u>OLD SCALE</u>	<u>NEW SCALE</u>
FIREMAN/AMBULANCEMAN	\$640 TO \$1060	\$850 TO \$1250
SENIOR FIREMAN/SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN	\$990 TO \$1290	\$1280 TO \$1490
PRINCIPAL FIREMAN/PRINCIPAL AMBULANCEMAN		\$1555 TO \$1900
 <u>PRISONS</u>		
ASSISTANT OFFICER II	\$620 TO \$1055	\$850 TO \$1250
ASSISTANT OFFICER I	\$1145 TO \$1740	\$1330 TO \$1900
 <u>PREVENTIVE SERVICE</u>		
ASSISTANT REVENUE OFFICER	\$620 TO \$940	\$850 TO \$1160
REVENUE OFFICER	\$885 TO \$1005	\$1190 TO \$1250
SENIOR REVENUE OFFICER	\$1035 TO \$1145	\$1280 TO \$1400
PRINCIPAL REVENUE OFFICER II	\$1205 TO \$1340	\$1450 TO \$1600
PRINCIPAL REVENUE OFFICER I	\$1395 TO \$1740	\$1660 TO \$1900

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974:

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POLICE AND FIREMEN RECEIVE INSIGNIA

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, PRESENTED INSIGNIA TO 13 MEMBERS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AT A CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE RECIPIENTS WHO WERE HONOURED BY THE QUEEN IN THE 1974 NEW YEAR HONOURS INCLUDED TEN FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THREE FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

ALL OF THEM RECEIVED THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF TODAY'S RECIPIENTS:

R.H.K.P.F. -- MR. IAN PETER HYDE, G.4.
MR. IP SUN
MR. LAU CHEONG-WA
MR. LO PAK-SAU
MR. LO WAI-CHIU
MR. TAM KAI-TAI
MR. KEITH WOODROW

R.H.K.A.P.F. -- MR. NG KWAN
MR. SO WING-SUM
MR. UN MAN-UAI

F.S.D. -- MR. AU CHI-WO
MR. CHEUNG SHU-SHING
MR. LEE CHO-YAU

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT TUEN MUN

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NOTE TO EDITORS: THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL SPEND TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON IN TUEN MUN TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TUEN MUN, MR. DAVID LAN.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE TOUR.

A 14-SEATER VAN (AM 2134) WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON SUB-POOL BEHIND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AT 12.30 P.M. IT WILL TAKE MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA BACK TO THE STAR FERRY PIER AFTER THE VISIT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALES UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOULOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

GRADE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW - OLD CROP	---	---
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
- OLD CROP	---	---
S.C. JIEN - NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	---	---
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	---	---
10-15% BROKENS	---	---
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.92
A1 SUPER	---	---
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	---	---
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.92
PAKISTAN RICE	---	---
TAIWAN RICE	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 305 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.70	3.20	4.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.80	0.60	1.80
SQUID	NORMAL	5.00	2.20	3.50
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.20	0.90	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.70	1.10	1.80
CROAKERS	NORMAL	2.30	0.80	1.50
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	1.50	1.00	1.20
MELON COAT	---		NO SALE	
BREAMS	NORMAL	6.30	2.20	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.20	0.50	1.40
MACKERELS	GOOD	3.50	2.20	2.80
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.70	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	---		NO SALE	
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	6.50	3.00	5.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.00	1.00	1.70
POMFRETS	SCARCE	9.00	7.50	8.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.00	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	---		NO SALE	

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(CV.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.40	0.60	1.00
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	0.50	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.60	0.80	1.20
STRING BEANS	---	---	---	---
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.80
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	0.80	0.20	0.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.60	0.10	0.40
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80