



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

| <u>CONTENTS</u> | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY CANNOT YIELD TO THE CORRUPT SAYS GOVERNOR | 1 |
| COMMISSIONER OF POLICE GIVEN POWERS TO SUMMARILY DISMISS OFFICERS FOR DISOBEDIENCE | 4 |
| UNOFFICIALS STRONGLY SUPPORT DISMISSAL POWERS OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE | 5 |
| HONG KONG MAKES FINAL OFFER TO EEC | 6 |
| ROLES OF NT ADVISORY BOARD FURTHER EXPLAINED | 8 |
| GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING REITERATED | 9 |
| CALL FOR CAREFULLY REGULATED HOMEWORK | 10 |
| NEW HOUSES FOR SHAM TSENG VILLAGERS | 11 |
| SECTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED | 12 |

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 1 -

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY CANNOT YIELD
TO THE CORRUPT SAYS GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, EMPHASISED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY CANNOT ACCEPT THAT POLICEMEN WHO DO NOT ACCEPT LAWFUL AUTHORITY, OR WHO SUPPORT OTHERS IN NOT DOING SO, OR CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE LAWFUL AUTHORITY BY MEANS OF PRESSURES, SHOULD REMAIN IN THE FORCE, AND BE PAID BY THE PUBLIC.

+I ASSURE THEM IT IS TIME VERY SOBERLY TO ANSWER TO LAWFUL AUTHORITY AND TO ENFORCE IT -- NOT TO ANSWER TO A SMALL SELF-INTERESTED GROUP,+ SIR MURRAY URGED IN HIS OPENING REMARK OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE IDEA THAT PRESSURE CAN ACHIEVE FURTHER CONCESSIONS OF THIS SORT WOULD RESULT FROM A COMPLETE MISCONCEPTION OF THE MOOD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY,+ HE WARNED. +IT WOULD ALSO IGNORE THE TRUE INTERESTS OF AT LEAST 99 PER CENT OF THE POLICE FORCE ITSELF. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT TOTALLY IGNORES THE TRUE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG WHERE THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF HONESTY HAVE MADE SUCH STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS.+

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT CONCESSION TO SUCH DEMANDS UNDER PRESSURE WOULD INVITE PRESSURE ON OTHER ISSUES.

+NEXT IT WOULD BE THE SUPPRESSION OF ICAC ITSELF, POSSIBLY TO HAVE PERSONS IN PRISON RELEASED, AND SO ON, UNTIL WE HAD A SITUATION IN WHICH THE LAW WAS BEING ADMINISTERED IN THE INTEREST OF THE CORRUPT. TO DO SO WOULD YIELD TO ANARCHY AND TO ANARCHY THERE CAN BE NO CONCESSION,+ HE SAID.

+I AM CONFIDENT IN THIS I AM SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, YOUNG AND OLD, RICH AND POOR. I HOPE THAT WISER COUNSELS WILL NOW PREVAIL,+ HE ADDED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF SIR MURRAY'S SPEECH:

+ON SATURDAY EVENING I ANNOUNCED A NEW POLICY WITH REGARD TO ICAC OPERATIONS. I DID SAY IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: 'ALL CONCERNED MAY TAKE IT THAT AS FROM NOW THE ICAC WILL NOT NORMALLY ACT ON COMPLAINTS OR EVIDENCE RELATING TO OFFENCES COMMITTED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1977 EXCEPT IN RELATION TO PERSONS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED, PERSONS AGAINST WHOM WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED, AND PERSONS NOW OUTSIDE HONG KONG.'

+I EXCEPT PERSONS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED BECAUSE I DO NOT THINK THAT ANYONE WOULD ACCEPT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, WHETHER BY THE POLICE OR BY THE ICAC, SHOULD BE HALTED BY EXTRA-LEGAL ACTION.

+I SAY 'WILL NOT NORMALLY ACT' BECAUSE OCCASIONALLY AN OFFENCE MAY COME TO LIGHT WHICH IS SO HEINOUS THAT IT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE NOT TO ACT AND THE PUBLIC WOULD NOT TOLERATE FAILURE TO ACT. BUT IN ANY SUCH CASE I WILL BE CONSULTED FIRST.

/+THIS OF COURSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 2 -

+THIS OF COURSE APPLIED TO THE MEMBERS OF ALL PUBLIC SERVICES, AND THE PUBLIC, AND NOT JUST TO THE POLICE FORCE.

+OUR OBJECT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO CLEANSE THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO CONTINUE PROSECUTIONS FOR PAST OFFENCES UNTIL ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

+WE HAD NEVER ENVISAGED PROSECUTING EVERYBODY WHO HAD EVER COMMITTED ANY OFFENCE.

+IN VIEW OF THE GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARDS OF HONESTY ACHIEVED, PARTICULARLY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, I HAD EXPECTED BEFORE LONG TO TAKE A STEP OF THE SORT ANNOUNCED LAST SATURDAY.

+THIS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MAINTAINING STANDARDS FOR THE FUTURE, RATHER THAN TO CONTINUE TO IMPRESS THE NEED FOR HONESTY BY PROSECUTING PEOPLE FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THE PAST, AND THUS TURN OVER A NEW LEAF IN THE HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

+HOWEVER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAD ARISEN I JUDGED THAT THIS RELIEF SHOULD BE GRANTED IMMEDIATELY, APART FROM THOSE EXCEPTIONS.

+IT HAS REMOVED ALL CAUSE FOR FEAR FROM ALL WHO KEEP STRAIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

+THE EXCEPTIONS WERE DELIBERATELY INTENDED TO BE VERY SMALL. ONE WAS 'PERSONS WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED'. THIS DOES NOT MEAN ANYBODY TO WHOM AN ICAC OFFICER HAS SPOKEN AT ANY TIME. IT MEANS ONLY PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE ICAC OFFICER, WHETHER OR NOT FOLLOWING ARREST, AND TO WHOM DURING THAT INTERVIEW ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE THAT THEY HAD COMMITTED AN OFFENCE. THE NUMBER OF SUCH PEOPLE IS SMALL, PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 200 WITHIN A FORCE OF 20,000.

+ANOTHER EXCEPTION WAS AN OFFENCE COMMITTED BEFORE THIS YEAR, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT AND WAS SO HEINOUS THAT IT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE NOT TO ACT.

+TO ENSURE THAT IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THIS EXCEPTION BE USED TO UNDERMINE MY GENERAL INTENTION, I STATED THAT IF THERE WAS SUCH A CASE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO ME. THIS MADE CLEAR THAT I EXPECTED THE NUMBER OF CASES TO BE NEGLIGIBLE= IN FACT NONE IS KNOWN AT THE MOMENT.

+OTHER EXCEPTIONS RELATED TO THE OBVIOUS CASES OF PERSONS FOR WHOM WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED OR PERSONS NOW OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

+ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE STATEMENT THAT WOULD INHIBIT ICAC FROM ENSURING THAT THE IMPROVEMENT ACHIEVED WOULD BE MAINTAINED, OR THAT SUGGESTED THAT OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN PUBLIC SERVICE WAS ABANDONED OR DIMINISHED, I THINK ITS TIMING AND CONTENT CAME AS A SHOCK TO THE PUBLIC. ALTHOUGH THE REASONS FOR IT HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETICALLY UNDERSTOOD, MANY WERE WORRIED THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE AT ALL, OR THAT IT WENT TOO FAR. BUT CERTAINLY NO ONE HAS SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER - QUITE THE CONTRARY.

/+MY STATEMENT

+MY STATEMENT HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE DIFFERENT ASSOCIATIONS OF THE POLICE FORCE.

+HON. MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONCERNED TO LEARN THAT INFORMALLY IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH= THAT PRESSURE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON THE ADMINISTRATION BY DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROGRESSIVE REFUSAL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNTIL ALL CURRENT INTERVIEWS, CHARGES AND COURT PROCEEDINGS NOW IN COURSE WERE DROPPED.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THESE IDEAS ARE PROPAGATED BY THE LESS THAN ONE PER CENT WHO UNDER THE EXCEPTIONS I HAVE MENTIONED REMAIN IN FEAR OF PROSECUTION, AND INSOFAR AS THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY OTHERS IT IS BECAUSE OF A MISTAKEN SENSE OF TEMPORARY EUPHORIA OR SOLIDARITY.

+I ASSURE THEM IT IS TIME VERY SOBERLY TO CONSIDER THEIR POSITION. IT IS FOR THE POLICE TO ANSWER TO LAWFUL AUTHORITY AND TO ENFORCE IT - NOT TO ANSWER TO A SMALL SELF-INTERESTED GROUP.

+THE IDEA THAT PRESSURE CAN ACHIEVE FURTHER CONCESSIONS OF THIS SORT WOULD RESULT FROM A COMPLETE MISCONCEPTION OF THE MOOD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY. IT WOULD ALSO IGNORE THE TRUE INTERESTS OF AT LEAST 99 PER CENT OF THE POLICE FORCE ITSELF. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT TOTALLY IGNORES THE TRUE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG WHERE THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF HONESTY HAVE MADE SUCH STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS.

+CONCESSION TO SUCH DEMANDS UNDER PRESSURE WOULD INVITE PRESSURE ON OTHER ISSUES= NEXT IT WOULD BE THE SUPPRESSION OF ICAC ITSELF, POSSIBLY TO HAVE PERSONS IN PRISON RELEASED, AND SO ON, UNTIL WE HAD A SITUATION IN WHICH THE LAW WAS BEING ADMINISTERED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CORRUPT.

+I KNOW THIS IS NOT WHAT MOST OF THE FORCE AND THEIR FAMILIES WANT, BUT THIS IS WHERE THEY WOULD BE LED IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO GIVE ANY FURTHER GROUND. TO DO SO WOULD YIELD TO ANARCHY AND TO ANARCHY THERE CAN BE NO CONCESSION.

+I AM CONFIDENT IN THIS I AM SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, YOUNG AND OLD, RICH AND POOR.

+I HOPE THAT WISER COUNSELS WILL NOW PREVAIL. BUT IT IS AS WELL THAT ALL SHOULD REALISE NOW, BEFORE IRREVOCABLE ACTION IS TAKEN THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT POLICEMEN WHO DO NOT ACCEPT LAWFUL AUTHORITY, OR WHO SUPPORT OTHERS IN NOT DOING SO, OR CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE LAWFUL AUTHORITY BY MEANS OF PRESSURES, SHOULD REMAIN IN THE FORCE, AND BE PAID BY THE PUBLIC.

+IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES POWERS AVAILABLE ARE TOO SLOW AND PONDEROUS. HON. MEMBERS WILL THEREFORE BE INVITED THIS AFTERNOON TO AMEND THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE TO GRANT POWERS OF SUMMARY DISMISSAL.

+I VERY MUCH HOPE IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO USE THESE POWERS. I HOPE, AS I SAY, THAT WISER COUNSELS WILL PREVAIL AND THAT THE DIALOGUE PROCEEDING WILL CONTINUE.

+I CAN ALSO ASSURE ALL CONCERNED THAT THESE POWERS WILL NOT BE USED IN RESPECT OF ANYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR, AND WILL NOT LIKELY BE USED IN THE FUTURE.

+I AM GLAD TO SAY IN CONCLUSION THAT A MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS POLICE ASSOCIATIONS DURING MOST OF TODAY.

+THE MEETING AGREED THAT THE COMMISSIONER SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT WILL BE MADE SHORTLY, RECORDING A PLEDGE OF FULL LOYALTY TO THE COMMISSIONER AND A PLEDGE THAT IN FUTURE ALL ISSUES WOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH ESTABLISHED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANNELS, AND BY NO OTHER MEANS, AND CERTAINLY NOT BY THE PROCESS OF ANY PROTEST PUBLIC GATHERINGS.

+AS I HAVE ONLY JUST HEARD THIS STATEMENT I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT ON IT, BUT FEEL IT RIGHT THAT HON. MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW OF IT BEFORE PASSING TO THE AMENDMENT ON THE ORDER PAPER. I STILL THINK THAT THE POWERS THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL CONFER ARE DESIRABLE, THOUGH THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING DOES OFFER ADDITIONAL HOPE THAT THEY WILL NOT NEED TO BE USED.+

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COMMISSIONER OF POLICE GIVEN POWERS TO SACK OFFICERS FOR DISOBEDIENCE
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THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1977, WHICH EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO SUMMARILY DISMISS ANY POLICE OFFICER FOR DISOBEDIENCE TO POLICE ORDERS, WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY).

MOVING THE BILL, THE HON. CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS SAID ANY OFFICER SUMMARILY DISMISSED UNDER THE NEW SECTION 31 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WOULD NORMALLY FORFEIT ALL CLAIMS TO A PENSION, GRATUITY OR OTHER ALLOWANCE.

HOWEVER, SECTION 31 (2) WOULD ALLOW THE GOVERNOR TO PERMIT A PENSION OR OTHER ALLOWANCE TO BE PAID TO A POLICE OFFICER DISMISSED UNDER THE SECTION IN A PARTICULAR CASE, SIR DENYS ADDED.

+I BELIEVE THAT, IN THE PRESENT DISTURBED STATE OF THE FORCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO ARM THE COMMISSIONER WITH THIS WEAPON SO THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO DISCIPLINE SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY ANY POLICE OFFICER WHO IS GUILTY OF DISOBEDIENCE, THOUGH I HOPE THAT GOOD SENSE WILL PREVAIL AND THAT IT WILL NOT PROVE TO BE NECESSARY TO USE IT.+

UNDER THE BILL, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO +DISMISS FORTHWITH ANY POLICE OFFICER WHOM HE IS SATISFIED IS GUILTY OF DISOBEDIENCE TO POLICE ORDERS OR TO ANY LAWFUL ORDER GIVEN BY A SUPERIOR OFFICER.+

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 5 -

UNOFFICIALS STRONGLY SUPPORT DISMISSAL POWERS OF
POLICE COMMISSIONER

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE AMENDMENT TO THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE SUMMARY DISMISSAL OF ANY POLICEMAN WHO WILFULLY DISOBEYS A LAWFUL ORDER.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIALS, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG ASSURED THE GOVERNOR AND THE GOVERNMENT THAT ALL THE UNOFFICIALS WILL GIVE THEIR SUPPORT IN RESISTING +THE BLACKMAIL OF THIS SMALL GANG OF CORRUPT POLICEMEN WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MOBILISE OTHER POLICEMEN TO PUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE AT STAKE PURELY TO FURTHER THEIR OWN SELFISH, PERSONAL ENDS IN A TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND DISGRACEFUL MANNER.+

HE DESCRIBED THE AMNESTY ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR LAST SATURDAY AS VERY GENEROUS IN THE MINDS OF THE PUBLIC AND SAID THAT TO RETREAT ANY FURTHER WOULD AMOUNT TO CONDONING CORRUPTION TO AN EXTENT WHICH IS DEFINITELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+WE CANNOT ALLOW A SMALL NUMBER OF CORRUPT POLICEMEN WHO DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THIS AMNESTY TO INCITE THOSE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO ARE COVERED BY THE AMNESTY OR THE MAJORITY WHO ARE HONEST TO DICTATE THE TERMS OF THAT AMNESTY TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH UNLAWFUL INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDISE THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF HONG KONG.

+THIS IS A PRICE WHICH NO ONE IN HONG KONG CAN AFFORD TO PAY. IN SHORT, WHAT THIS PERFIDIOUS GANG ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO RANSOM TO SERVE THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST,+ DR. CHUNG SAID.

TWO OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON. T.S. LO AND THE HON. WONG LAM SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT.

MR. LO SAID FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BOW TO ANY FURTHER DEMANDS WOULD PUT THE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT INTO THE HANDS OF THE CORRUPT AND THE NEFARIOUS.

IN HIS VIEW, IF ANY POLICE OFFICER REJECTED THE GOVERNOR'S GENEROUS OFFER OF PARTIAL AMNESTY OR TOOK STEPS WITH INTENT TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO DO AWAY WITH ICAC, +HE WILL BE MAKING IT MANIFEST THAT WHAT HE WANTS IS TO BE ABLE TO BE CORRUPT AND TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROFIT FROM VARIOUS RACKETS WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE.

+FOR HE WILL BE MOTIVATED NOT BY FEAR BUT OUT OF GREED.+ SAID MR. LO.

/SPEAKING IN

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR. WONG SAID HE CONSIDERED THAT ANYONE REJECTED THE AMNESTY WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE SYMPATHY OF THE PUBLIC AS THE PUBLIC WOULD THINK THAT THE ONLY REASON WHY HE WANTED FURTHER CONCESSIONS WAS BECAUSE HE INTENDED TO CONTINUE DOING HIS CORRUPT ACTIVITIES.

+WE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, CANNOT POSSIBLY TOLERATE A SITUATION WHEREBY WE GIVE IN TO DEMANDS TO ALLOW A CONTINUATION OF CORRUPT ACTIVITIES.

+I SUPPORT THE BILL AND THIS MUST REFLECT THE FIRM SUPPORT WE GIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS.

+INDEED SOME FEEL THAT WE MAY HAVE ALREADY GONE TOO FAR,+ MR. WONG SAID.

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HONG KONG MAKES FINAL OFFER TO EEC
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HONG KONG HAS MADE THE EEC A FINAL OFFER IN A MOVE TO BREAK THE IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE TEXTILES EXPORTS TO THE EEC. THIS FINAL OFFER WAS FORMALLY TABLED BY MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, HONG KONG'S DIRECTOR OF TRADE, ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 4) IN BRUSSELS.

MR. MILLS SAID IN A STATEMENT ON NOVEMBER 6, THAT THE IMPASSE AND THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OCCURRED FOR FOUR REASONS.

+THE FIRST IS THAT THE EEC'S PROPOSALS FOR SIX OF THE EEC'S EIGHT MOST SENSITIVE PRODUCTS INVOLVED A SHARP CUTBACK ON HONG KONG'S 1976 TRADE. THIS WAS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE EEC INDUSTRY, BUT TO ENABLE THE EEC TO REDISTRIBUTE PART OF HONG KONG'S TRADE TO OTHER SUPPLIERS. NOT SURPRISINGLY HONG KONG HAS FOUND THIS ELEMENT OF THE EEC'S PROPOSALS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT.

+SECONDLY, AS ITS OWN NEGOTIATORS HAVE READILY ADMITTED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EEC HAS SO FAR FAILED TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE SET OF PROPOSALS TO HONG KONG. THE HONG KONG NEGOTIATORS HAVE THEREFORE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A FULL ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE EEC IS DEMANDING OF HONG KONG, AND TO RESPOND TO THAT DEMAND.

+THIRDLY, IN COMPLETE DISREGARD OF THE TRADITIONAL PATTERNS OF TRADE, THE EEC HAS PROPOSED RADICAL CHANGES TO THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF CLASSIFYING TEXTILE PRODUCTS, HONG KONG OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILES RESTRAINTS HAVE ESTIMATED THAT IF THE EEC'S NEW SYSTEM WERE IMPOSED ON THE TRADE, IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS, AND POSSIBLY FOUR MONTHS, FOR THE QUOTAS TO BE RE-CALCULATED IN LINE WITH THE NEW SYSTEM. THE HONG KONG NEGOTIATORS HAVE TOLD THE EEC NEGOTIATORS THAT SUCH A STOPPAGE OF TRADE WOULD CAUSE ENORMOUS DISLOCATION AND HARDSHIP TO COMMUNITY IMPORTERS AND CONSUMERS JUST AS MUCH AS TO HONG KONG EXPORTERS.

/+FINALLY, THE EEC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 7 -

+FINALLY, THE EEC PROPOSALS FOR A DRAFT AGREEMENT CONTAINED NUMEROUS PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DEPRIVING HONG KONG OF EXPORT CONTROL. THE HONG KONG DELEGATION HAS LEFT THE EEC IN NO DOUBT THAT, THE MAINTENANCE OF EXPORT CONTROL IS FUNDAMENTAL TO HONG KONG'S POSITION, SO THAT IT MAY AT LEAST MAXIMISE THE LIMITED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY ANY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH A FORMAL ASSURANCE ON EXPORT CONTROL WAS GIVEN TO HONG KONG DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EEC HAS FREQUENTLY REVERTED TO PROPOSALS THAT WOULD IN EFFECT AMOUNT TO IMPORT CONTROL.

+HONG KONG HAS PRACTICALLY NO EXPORT TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE FIRST PRODUCT IN THE COMMUNITY LIST OF +POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SENSITIVE+ PRODUCTS, NAMELY COTTON YARN. HONG KONG'S EXPORTS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 0.3 PER CENT OF EEC IMPORTS, SO ANY DIFFICULTY BEING EXPERIENCED BY EEC END CANNOT POSSIBLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO HONG KONG.

+FOR THE OTHER SEVEN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PRODUCTS, HONG KONG HAS OFFERED TO RESTRAIN EXPORTS IN 1978 TO THE LEVELS OF 1976 RATHER THAN THE HIGHER 1977 LEVELS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT. THIS IS A MAJOR CONCESSION AND THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THIS PROPOSAL MEETS IN FULL THE EEC'S STATED OBJECTIVE OF STABILISING IMPORTS IN 1978 AT THEIR 1976 LEVEL TO PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

+HONG KONG IS PREPARED TO RESTRAIN 30 OF AN ADDITIONAL 39 PRODUCTS ON WHICH THE EEC HAS SOUGHT CONTROLS. EXPORTS TO THE EEC OF OTHER NINE ARE INSIGNIFICANT. THE 1978 LIMITS PROPOSED BY HONG KONG FOR THESE 30 PRODUCTS ARE BASED ON 1977 RESTRAINT LIMITS WHERE THEY EXIST.

+THESE PRODUCTS ARE GROUPED INTO 18 CATEGORIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE CURRENT HONG KONG/EEC AGREEMENT WHICH IS WELL KNOWN TO THE TRADE AT BOTH ENDS AND WHICH WILL NOT CREATE THE DIFFICULTIES FORESEEN IN THE NEW SYSTEM PROPOSED BY THE EEC.

+ON THE BASIS OF THESE PROPOSALS, HONG KONG IS WILLING TO CONCLUDE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT UNDER THE MFA FOR FIVE YEARS FROM JANUARY 1, 1978.+

THE INITIAL EEC REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS IS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN IN BRUSSELS TODAY (MONDAY).

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/8

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 8 -

NT ADVISORY BOARDS TO REPRESENT LOCAL COMMUNITIES
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THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS PROPOSED FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL NOT MAKE RURAL COMMITTEES UNNECESSARY, BUT WILL ADD A FURTHER DIMENSION TO THE NETWORK OF CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE.

THIS WAS STATED TONIGHT BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHILE ADDRESSING A MEETING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LIONS CLUB.

MR. AKERS-JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS FROM THE RURAL COMMITTEES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BOARD SYSTEM WAS NOT A +REVOLUTION+, BUT A NECESSARY EVOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHANGES WHICH HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE SOCIETY.

THE BOARDS ARE IN NO WAY INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH THE ROLE OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES, HE SAID.

THEY WILL HAVE AS MEMBERS PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS REPRESENTING AS WIDE A CROSS-SECTION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS POSSIBLE, AND THE RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WILL BE AT THE VERY HEART OF THE BOARDS, HE SAID.

+THEY WILL HAVE MONEY TO SPEND ON MAKING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND IN SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

+THEY WILL HAVE A SAY ON THE PRIORITIES OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR REGION THROUGH THE ADVICE THEY WILL GIVE ON THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AS IT AFFECTS THEIR DISTRICT,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE OVERALL EFFORTS WHICH WERE BEING MADE TO BUILD NEW TOWNS AND A NEW LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE LAST 20 YEARS HAD SEEN DRAMATIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH HAD BROUGHT BENEFIT TO MANY PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST ESTIMATES, WOULD BE AROUND 2.17 MILLION BY 1986 - DOUBLE THE 1976 FIGURE.

+THE PLANS, WHICH HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP TO ACCOMMODATE THIS POPULATION, SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY COMMUNITY INGREDIENTS FOR A FULL AND SATISFYING LIFE - TOWN HALLS, SWIMMING POOLS, CLINICS, SCHOOLS, SPORTS AND PLAYING FIELDS,+ HE SAID.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 9 -

UN HOLDS ANTI-NARCOTICS COURSE IN HONG KONG

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR. BILL DORWARD, TODAY REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A TWO-WEEK UNITED NATION'S COURSE, HE TOLD REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS THAT, +WE EACH HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE AND WORK. BUT WE CANNOT HOPE TO COPE WITH THESE RESPONSIBILITIES ON OUR OWN.+

HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS AND THAT THEY COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL LIAISON CO-OPERATION.

MR. DORWARD POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF CO-ORDINATING THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE IS THE UN DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS WHICH HAS ORGANISED SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN RECENT YEARS.

THE AIM OF THIS LATEST COURSE, WHICH IS ONLY THE SECOND TO BE HELD IN ASIA, IS TO PROMOTE A GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF THE WORLD'S DRUG PROBLEMS AND THE WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM.

THE COURSE IS BEING ATTENDED BY 23 POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM 10 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. IT IS BEING HELD AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE COURSE, WHICH LASTS FROM NOVEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 18, THERE WILL BE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON ANTI-SMUGGLING METHODS, TECHNIQUES OF INVESTIGATION, UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS AND THE USE OF DRUG-SNIFFING DOGS.

THOSE TAKING PART WILL ALSO VISIT THE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY AND A DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRE. THEY WILL ALSO BE SHOWN HOW TO ORGANISE SIMILAR COURSES AND LECTURES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

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CALL FOR CAREFULLY REGULATED HOMEWORK

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HOMEWORK SHOULD BE CAREFULLY REGULATED IN ORDER TO AVOID ENCROACHMENT ON THE PUPIL'S SPARE TIME, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. HO NGA-MING, SAID THIS AFTERNOON AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE HOI PING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECONDARY SCHOOL.

MR. HO WAS ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, WHO WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS.

+SCHOOLS SHOULD ENSURE THAT WHAT IS ASKED IS NOT UNREASONABLE, AND THAT WHERE DIFFERENT TEACHERS SET WORK FOR THE SAME EVENING, THE SUM TOTAL OF THE DIFFERENT DEMANDS IS ALSO NOT UNREASONABLE,+ MR. HO SAID.

+BROADLY SPEAKING, I THINK THAT LESS HOMEWORK SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF PUPILS IN JUNIOR FORMS AND THAT THE QUOTA SET FOR WEEKENDS SHOULD NOT EXCEED THAT SET FOR ANY WEEKDAY SO THAT CHILDREN MAY HAVE A FREE EVENING TO SHARE FULLY IN FAMILY LIFE.+

MR. HO STATED THAT HOMEWORK PLAYED A USEFUL PART IN EDUCATING PUPILS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS - IN CONSOLIDATING KNOWLEDGE AND PERFECTING SKILLS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE FIRST STEPS IN UNDERSTANDING COULD BE MADE IN THE CLASSROOM UNDER GUIDANCE, IT WAS ONLY THROUGH CONTINUED PERSONAL PRACTICE THAT MASTERY COULD BE ACHIEVED.

REFERRING TO CERTAIN POINTS OF A SOCIAL NATURE, MR. HO SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS THE QUESTION OF GENERAL HOME CONDITIONS.

+WHERE THESE ARE ADVERSE, THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTITUTING PREPARATION AT SCHOOL FOR HOMEWORK MIGHT WELL BE EXAMINED.

+OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE THE LENGTH OF JOURNEYS TO AND FROM SCHOOL, INSUFFICIENT SLEEP AND INVOLVEMENT IN DOMESTIC CHORES. WHERE FATIGUE IS ASCERTAINED TO HAVE BEEN DUE TO SUCH CAUSES, SPECIAL STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO EASE THE BURDEN OF HOMEWORK,+ HE SAID.

THE TEACHER, MR. HO SAID, SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT APART FROM SETTING HOMEWORK, CERTAIN EXTENSIONS OF SCHOOL WORK WERE USEFUL.

+THEY INCLUDE GENERAL READING, PLAY-ACTING, PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ART AND CRAFTS, AND MUSIC. THEY ALL ADD VARIETY TO CLASS WORK, AND IN PURSUIT OF THEM THE PUPILS LEARN SOMETHING OF THE WISE USE OF LEISURE,+ HE SAID.

MR. HO NOTED THAT THE HOI PING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECONDARY SCHOOL WAS BUILDING UP A GOOD REPUTATION BY LAYING EMPHASIS NOT ONLY ON ACADEMIC PROWESS BUT ALSO ON THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND MORAL WELL BEING OF ITS PUPILS.

+QUITE APART FROM ACHIEVING GOOD RESULTS AT THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, THE SCHOOL HAS WON TROPHIES IN TABLE-TENNIS, FOLK DANCING AND VERSE-SPEAKING COMPETITIONS AND HAS PROMOTED A RICH VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 11 -

NEW HOUSES FOR SHAM TSENG VILLAGERS
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ABOUT 200 SHAM TSENG VILLAGERS WILL SOON BE MOVING INTO THEIR NEW VILLAGE HOUSES BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE FINAL PHASE OF A \$10.5 MILLION VILLAGE REMOVAL SCHEME.

THEIR OLD VILLAGE HOUSES HAVE TO GO TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VIADUCT ACROSS THE SHAM TSENG VALLEY AS PART OF THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY PROJECT. IN ADDITION, PART OF THE VILLAGE AREA IS EARMARKED FOR A PERMANENT MARKET.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR OLD HOUSES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BUILT A TOTAL OF 60 THREE-STOREY MODERN HOUSES IN THE NEARBY AREA, AT A COST OF ABOUT \$130,000 EACH.

EIGHTEEN WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR, UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SCHEME, FOR ABOUT 100 VILLAGERS ALONGSIDE THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

ANOTHER 42 HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED ON THE HILLSIDE ABOVE THE VILLAGE COMMANDING A GOOD SEAVIEW. THEY WERE BUILT ON TERRACES, SITE FORMATION FOR WHICH COST \$2 MILLION.

ASSISTANT TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER (LAND PROJECT), MR. TOM POON, SAID TODAY THE VILLAGERS WERE HAPPY TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE NEW HOUSES WHICH HAD ALL THE BASIC FACILITIES OF A NEW HOME.

+THEY ARE NOW HAVING THEIR NEW HOMES DECORATED AND ARE EXPECTED TO MOVE IN BY THE END OF THIS MONTH,+ HE SAID.

MR. POON SAID THE VILLAGERS HAD BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE OF \$6,500 TO HELP MEET REMOVAL AND DECORATION EXPENSES.

EACH HOUSE, HE SAID, HAS A TOTAL FLOOR SPACE OF 2,100 SQUARE FEET - 700 SQUARE FEET ON EACH FLOOR COMPLETE WITH KITCHEN AND BATHROOM FACILITIES AND BUILT-IN ELECTRICAL WIRING.

+BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS HAVE A BALCONY. IN ADDITION, THE SECOND FLOOR IS PARTITIONED INTO ONE LIVING ROOM AND TWO BEDROOMS WITH BUILT-IN WARDROBES,+ HE SAID.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1977

- 12 -

CLOSURE OF SECTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD
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A SECTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD BETWEEN WYLIE ROAD AND JORDAN ROAD IN YAU MA TEI, WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 9) TO FACILITATE THE SETTING UP OF A GANTRY DIRECTIONAL SIGN FOR THE GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, TRAFFIC INCLUDING BUS ROUTE NOS. 2C, 2E, 6C, 102, 104, 105, 112 AND 122 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA JORDAN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, AUSTIN ROAD AND CHATHAM ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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