



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1975

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COMMODITY EXCHANGE PROPOSAL
GETS CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY GAVE QUALIFIED SUPPORT TO AN AMENDED MOTION SEEKING COUNCIL'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO SET UP A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNOPPOSED, BUT THE UNOFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEIR SUPPORT DID NOT PREJUDICE THEM IN DEBATING AT A LATER DATE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE CONTROL OF THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COMMUNITY INTEREST.

THEY ALSO STIPULATED THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MOTION WAS SUBJECT TO THE MAIN LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND ANY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TOGETHER WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF THE EXCHANGE, BEING APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN ADDITION, THE UNOFFICIALS DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT A GROUP -- SELECTED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE SETTING UP OF A COMMODITY EXCHANGE -- WOULD BE OFFERED A LICENCE TO OPERATE THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE.

EARLIER, THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS AMENDED TO MAKE THE SETTING UP OF THE EXCHANGE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIO THAT +LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ARE MADE AND ENFORCED EFFECTIVELY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO MINIMISE SOCIAL HAZARDS TO THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF HONG KONG.+

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, SAID THEY ALL SUPPORTED THE AMENDED MOTION SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED.

DR. CHUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE DOUBTS EXPRESSED BY UNOFFICIALS LAST JUNE STEMMED FROM THEIR CONCERN TO AVOID INTRODUCING ANY NEW BUSINESS WHICH WOULD RUN CONTRARY TO THE COMMUNITY INTEREST OR CREATE SOME KIND OF SOCIAL HAZARD.

AS LEGISLATORS, HE SAID, THE UNOFFICIALS WERE NOT REALLY CONCERNED WITH THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF ANY NEW BUSINESS VENTURE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SINCE THESE BUSINESS RISKS WERE THOSE OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS. THEIR CONCERN WAS THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

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

HE WAS GLAD

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HE WAS GLAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THE UNOFFICIALS' CONCERN IN THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT ADEQUATE LEGISLATION COULD BE DEVISED AND WOULD BE ENFORCED TO MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECULATION BY SMALL INVESTORS.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHO HAD SPOKEN AGAINST THE MOTION ON AN EARLIER OCCASION, SAID HE WOULD NOT NOW OPPOSE THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE +AS IT COULD BE AN INSTITUTION WITH REGIONAL AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE.+

HE ADDED: +HOWEVER, I HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP ITS ECONOMIC PRIORITIES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE, AS THE AVERAGE INDUSTRIALIST OR BUSINESSMAN IN HONG KONG IS MORE CONCERNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DO MORE -- AND BE SEEN TO BE DOING MORE -- TO KEEP DOWN HONG KONG LIVING COSTS, ESPECIALLY RENTS, AND TO MAKE HONG KONG EXPORT PRODUCTS MORE SALEABLE AND COMPETITIVE AGAINST SIMILAR PRODUCTS FROM TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

+AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS GOING ALL-OUT TO REVIVE THE HONG KONG ECONOMY SO THAT OUR EXPORT PRODUCTS WILL HOLD THEIR OWN ON THE WORLD MARKETS, AND AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT CAN ENSURE THAT THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE WILL BE OF ECONOMIC VALUE TO HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, THEN THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN THAT THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE CAN BE GROSSLY MANIPULATED AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL HAVE BECOME LESS ACUTE.

+IN THIS RESPECT, WE CAN BUT BE VIGILANT AND WARY, AND ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PROTECT FIRST AND FOREMOST THE INTERESTS OF THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET RATHER THAN ANY NARROW VESTED INTERESTS IN HONG KONG,+ SAID MR. CHEONG-LEEN.

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PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME FOR HK ELECTRIC CO.
AND CHINA LIGHT AND POWER BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE DRAWN UP TO PROVIDE MORE FORMAL CONTROL OF THE PROFITS OF THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY AND THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LTD.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN DREMRIDGE.

MR. HADDON-CAVE INDICATED THAT IF IT WAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH SUCH LEGISLATION THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO BE AFFECTED. HE NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE TO BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER SCHEME OF CONTROL AFTER SEPTEMBER 1978.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE NO FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS AT PRESENT WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY CONTROLS THE PROFITS OF THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, AS IS THE CASE WITH CHINA LIGHT.

HOWEVER, IN 1965 THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC HAD AGREED IN WRITING THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A FRANCHISE INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS, THE FORMAL CONTROL OF ITS TARIFFS.

HE RECALLED THAT FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS OF A SCHEME OF CONTROL FOR THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN 1965 THAT NO FORMAL CONTROL SCHEME SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED OVER THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY'S OPERATIONS PROVIDED THAT ITS PROFITS, EXPRESSED AS A RETURN ON NET FIXED ASSETS EMPLOYED, DID NOT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE 13-1/2 PER CENT ALLOWED TO CHINA LIGHT AND POWER UNDER ITS SCHEME OF CONTROL.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED AT THAT TIME THAT HONG KONG ELECTRIC WOULD REGULARLY PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH INFORMATION ON ITS FINANCIAL POSITION SO THAT ITS PROFITABILITY COULD BE MONITORED. THIS HAD BEEN DONE EVER SINCE, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, NOTING THAT THE COMPANY'S PROFITS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAD AVERAGED 13.25 PER CENT PER ANNUM ON NET FIXED ASSETS AFTER TAX.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE, IT HAD ALSO BEEN AGREED IN LATE 1974 THAT THE COMPANY WOULD CONSULT THE GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCE SHOULD THE COMPANY AT ANY TIME WISH TO RAISE ITS TARIFFS.

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GAS COMPANY TO GET MONOPOLY OVER PIPED GAS SUPPLY

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LTD. TO SUPPLY PIPED GAS TO PREMISES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

+DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMPANY ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH A FRANCHISE SHOULD BE GRANTED HAVE NOW, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, BEEN COMPLETED,+ HE TOLD COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. HADDON-CAVE EXPECTED THAT A BILL ENSHRINING THE FRANCHISE WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY IN THE NEW SESSION, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IN RETURN FOR THE GRANT OF AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE, THE COMPANY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THE CONTROL OF ITS TARIFFS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+IT WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AND TO ACCEPT AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT SUPPLY OF PIPED GAS WHEREVER IT IS REQUIRED.

+WHILST THE POSITION OF ALL EXISTING LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE PROTECTED, THE INTENTION IS THAT, IN RETURN FOR THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE FOR THE SUPPLY OF PIPED GAS, THE SIZE OF FUTURE L.P.G. INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SAFEGUARD THE COMPANY'S ENFRANCHISED POSITION,+ HE SAID.

IN ANSWER TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM DR. CHUNG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT IN CONSIDERING GRANTING AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF TOWN GAS AND LIG CONSUMERS.

WHEN ASKED HOW LONG THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMPANY HAD LASTED, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID: +APPROXIMATELY 30YEARS.+

WHEN THE BILL IS PUBLISHED, HE ADDED, THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY FOR GRANTING THE COMPANY AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE.

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BUS COMPANIES PROFITS TO BE CONTROLLED

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LEGISLATIVE MACHINERY TO REGULATE THE PROFITS OF THE TWO BUS COMPANIES WERE AMONG A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED INTO THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

UNDER THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME, BOTH THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL BE REQUIRED TO SET UP A DEVELOPMENT FUND. THIS IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT EXCESS PROFITS WILL BE RETAINED WITHIN THE BUS OPERATION AND USED FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF BUSES, SPARES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEPOTS. THE FUND COULD ALSO BE USED TO DELAY FARE INCREASES IN FUTURE YEARS.

IF THE PROFITS OF EITHER CMB OR KMB WERE TO FALL BELOW THE PERMITTED LEVEL TO BE STIPULATED IN ITS FRANCHISE, THE COMPANY CONCERNED WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DRAW FROM THE DEVELOPMENT FUND THE BALANCE REQUIRED TO BRING ITS RETURN UP TO THE PERMITTED LEVEL.

THE COMPANIES WILL ALSO HAVE TO PAY INTEREST ON THE BALANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT FUND. THE INTEREST RATE WILL BE STIPULATED IN THE FRANCHISES. HOWEVER, NO INTEREST WILL BE PAID IN A YEAR WHEN THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT PROFITS TO PROVIDE THE COMPANY WITH THE PERMITTED RETURN.

INTEREST PAYMENTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM PROFITS AND WILL BE ADDED TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE CHARGE IS THAT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC WILL BE PROVIDING THE EXCESS PROFITS WHICH ARE PLACED IN THE FUND.

TO THIS EXTENT, THE EXISTENCE OF THE FUND WILL REDUCE THE NEED TO BORROW CAPITAL FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES ON WHICH INTEREST WOULD BE PAYABLE, AND +IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COMPANY SHOULD PAY A CHARGE EQUIVALENT TO INTEREST ON THE AMOUNT STANDING IN THE FUND.+

UNDER THE BILL, THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME WILL BE REVIEWED EVERY TWO YEARS.

THE EXISTING FRANCHISES OF BOTH KMB AND CMB WILL EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31 AND THE NEW FRANCHISES TO BE ISSUED UNDER THE POWERS PROVIDED IN THE BILL WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1. DETAILS OF THE FRANCHISES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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LEGAL CHANGE PAVES WAY FOR REGULAR HOVERFERRY SERVICES

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION ENABLING THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO OPERATE HOVERFERRIES AS WELL AS CONVENTIONAL FERRIES ON ANY ROUTE.

THE MOTION AMENDED THE FARES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A FLAT FARE OF UP TO \$2 PER PERSON FOR ACROSS-THE-HARBOUR HOVERFERRY SERVICES, AND \$5 PER PERSON FOR HOVERFERRY SERVICES TO OUTLYING AREAS.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD COUNCIL THAT THE AMENDMENT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ENDORSED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

HE NOTED THAT THE FOUR HOVERFERRIES OPERATED ON A TRIAL BASIS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND TSUEN WAN LAST DECEMBER HAD PROVED VERY POPULAR WITH COMMUTERS, DESPITE THE HIGHER FARES, AS HOVERFERRIES PROVIDED A MORE COMFORTABLE AND FASTER SERVICE.

WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE MOTION, HE ADDED, THE COMPANY INTENDED TO OFFER THE PUBLIC A CHOICE OF EITHER A HOVERFERRY OR A CONVENTIONAL FERRY ON SELECTED ROUTES, SUBJECT TO DEMAND AND AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT CRAFT.

UNDER THE MOTION, THE FIRST AND THIRD CLASS FARES FOR CERTAIN FERRY SERVICES WERE DELETED AND SUBSTITUTED WITH ONE-CLASS FARES.

ALSO DELETED WAS ALL REFERENCE TO THE WILMER STREET-ADERDEEN-CHEUNG CHAU FERRY PIER SERVICE AND THE WILMER STREET FERRY PIER-ADERDEEN-TAI O SERVICE WHICH WERE SUSPENDED IN 1969 AND 1970, RESPECTIVELY.

THESE TWO SERVICES WERE ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED TO CARRY FISH TO ABERDEEN FOR THE URBAN MARKETS, AND WERE OPERATED UNDER A SUBSIDY FROM THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

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VIOLENT CRIME SHOWS SIGNS OF LEVELLING OFF

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING EVERY POSITIVE ACTION TO FIGHT CRIME AND THERE ARE SIGNS THAT SERIOUS CRIME SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR ARE LEVELLING OFF, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, SAID TODAY. SO FAR THIS YEAR, HE SAID, SERIOUS CRIME HAD GONE UP BY ONLY 1.1 PER CENT COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT IN 1974 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE DECREASING TREND IN SERIOUS CRIME REFLECTED THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE POLICE AS WELL AS GREATER PUBLIC CO-OPERATION.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME, ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME, WAS STILL FAR TOO HIGH AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED TO BRING IT DOWN.

MR. CLINTON SAID THE POLICE WERE CONSTANTLY TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE THEIR TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES AND ORGANISATION, TO REDUCE CRIME. THESE INCLUDED THE RE-ORGANISATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT, THE INTRODUCTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS AND THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROUTINE WORK TO TRAFFIC WARDENS AND CIVILIANS.

IN ADDITION, MR. CLINTON SAID, MORE REPORTING CENTRES WERE BEING SET UP ESPECIALLY IN HOUSING ESTATES AND THE REPORTING PROCEDURES HAD BEEN SIMPLIFIED TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO REPORT CRIME MORE EASILY.

ON THE STAFF SIDE, HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE PRESENT FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, THE POLICE HAD BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY TO BRING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT UP TO STRENGTH.

HE NOTED THAT THE FORCE'S ACTUAL STRENGTH HAD INCREASED ° FROM 15,887 IN AUGUST LAST YEAR TO 17,512 THIS MONTH -- AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT, OR ABOUT 91.2 PER CENT OF THE AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT.

+BUT THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME IN HONG KONG OR ANYWHERE ELSE CAN NEVER SUCCEED WITHOUT THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC,+ HE STRESSED.

MR. CLINTON NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MUTUAL AID AND AREA COMMITTEES FROM THE PRESENT 1,600 TO 2,200 WITHIN THE NEXT NINE TO 12 MONTHS.

THESE COMMITTEES SERVED A MOST USEFUL PURPOSE IN IMPROVING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING ANTI-CRIME MEASURES, HE SAID.

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARE AN +INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY,+
SAYS ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

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THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG ARE AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY -- NOT JUST HONG KONG'S PROBLEM, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD COUNCIL THAT MANY OF THE REFUGEES WERE BECOMING FRUSTRATED AND DISPIRITED WITH WAITING +AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SO FAR NOT MADE ANY ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSIST IN THIS PROBLEM WILL NOW MAKE TANGIBLE EFFORTS TO HELP.+

MR. CLINTON NOTED THAT MORE THAN 20 GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED SO FAR TO HELP ABSORB SOME OF THE REFUGEES AND HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA AND THE U.S.A. FOR THEIR RESPONSE.

A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PROMISED OR OFFERED TO TAKE SOME AND CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING, HE SAID, AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES HAD OFFERED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 2,450, WITH MOST OF THOSE THAT LEFT GOING TO THE U.S.

+WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE USA IN PARTICULAR WILL TAKE MANY MORE QUITE SOON INCLUDING, I BELIEVE, 250 DUE TO LEAVE LATER THIS WEEK.

+IF SO, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CLOSE DOWN THE HARCOURT ROAD CAMP AND CONCENTRATE THE REMAINING REFUGEES IN DODWELL'S RIDGE AND SAI KUNG CAMPS,+ HE SAID.

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GRANTS FROM SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND
FOR RECREATION NEAR \$2 MILLION MARK
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GRANTS AMOUNTING TO \$1,939,242 HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION TO FINANCE VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN 1970.

THIS IS STATED IN THE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 1974/75 WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, GRANTS TOTALLING \$655,413 WERE MADE COMPARED WITH \$443,786 IN 1973/74.

THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE TOTAL INCOME FROM DIVIDENDS AND INTEREST EARNED IN INVESTMENTS ROSE BY MORE THAN \$23,000 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO \$440,307. HOWEVER, THE MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS FELL BY MORE THAN \$100,000 DUE TO A FALL IN THE VALUE OF LOCAL INVESTMENTS.

THE FUND WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY 1970 WITH A \$3.2 MILLION DONATION FROM A GENTLEMAN, WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, TO COMMEMORATE THE GOVERNORSHIP OF SIR DAVID TRENCH AND ALSO AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. OVER THE YEARS THE FUND HAS GROWN TO MORE THAN \$5.7 MILLION.

THE FUND IS USED FOR THE PROVISION OF, OR ASSISTANCE IN THE PROVISION OF, FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

GRANTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO BUY SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND BOOKS.

IN DETERMINING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE FUND SHOULD BE APPLIED, THE GOVERNOR IS ASSISTED BY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, AND COMPRISING MEMBERS WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF RECREATION.

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MORE OUTLETS FOR YOUTH ENERGIES TO BE PROVIDED
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE AND EXTEND YOUTH ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT ENERGIES AND ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY SCHOOL DROP-OUTS IN THE VULNERABLE AGE GROUP OF 11-15, WILL NOT BE DIRECTED INTO CRIMINAL OR ANTI-SOCIAL FIELDS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA WAS TO LOCATE AND IDENTIFY THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD POTENTIAL BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AND APPEARED TO BE SCHOOL DROP-OUTS.

HE SAID PILOT YOUTH GUIDANCE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD SUCCEEDED IN IDENTIFYING AND REACHING A FEW THOUSAND OF THIS TYPE OF YOUNGSTERS IN SIX SELECTED AREAS INCLUDING CHAI WAN AND WONG TAI SIN.

HOWEVER, MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE BEST SOLUTION STILL WOULD BE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AIRMS OF THE 1974 EDUCATION WHITE PAPER WHICH WILL IN TIME ENSURE A SCHOOL PLACE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE 12 TO 14 YEAR AGE GROUP.

ON THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DROP OUTS, HE SAID THE PRESENT ESTIMATED FIGURE WAS 8,600 OR ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PRIMARY SIX PUPILS WHO ARE NOT EXPECTED TO ENTER SECONDARY SCHOOL NEXT MONTH IS 26,000, REPRESENTING ABOUT 23 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PRIMARY SIX ENROLMENT.

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MORE LIBRARIES PLANNED FOR N.T.

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PLANS ARE IN HAND TO BUILD MORE PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON. ALEX WU.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT A WORKING PARTY REPORT ON LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BEING COSTED WITH A VIEW TO PRESENTING COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

THE PROPOSALS, HE ADDED, RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES BE PROVIDED WITH A LIBRARY SERVICE COMPARABLE TO THAT EXISTING IN THE URBAN AREAS.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS ONE PUBLIC LIBRARY AT FUK LOI ESTATE IN TSUEN WAN. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THIS LIBRARY IS DEVOTED TO CHILDREN.

THE LIBRARY WAS OPENED IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR AND SINCE THEN BOOKSTOCK HAD BEEN BUILT UP UNDER A PHASED PROGRAMME. +SO FAR, \$176,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON ENGLISH AND CHINESE BOOKS, APPROXIMATELY ONE FIFTH OF THIS SUM WAS FOR CHILDREN,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE OTHER FACILITIES FOR NEW TERRITORIES CHILDREN TO BORROW BOOKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

LIBRARY SERVICES WERE PROVIDED IN EIGHT HOUSING ESTATES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES AND THERE WAS A BOOK LOAN SERVICE WITH 26 STATIONS IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS AS WELL AS A MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE WITH STOPS AT 25 POINTS MAINLY IN VILLAGES.

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WONG NEI CHUNG ROAD ACCIDENT RATE NOT HIGH
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ONLY ONE ACCIDENT INVOLVING ONE INJURY HAS BEEN REPORTED SO FAR THIS YEAR AT WONG NEI CHUNG ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH SPORTS ROAD, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO FATALITY AT THIS LOCATION SINCE 1973.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

IN 1973, HE SAID, THERE WERE ONLY TWO ACCIDENTS EACH INVOLVING A SLIGHT INJURY, WHILE THERE WERE SEVEN ACCIDENTS WITH A TOTAL OF EIGHT INJURIES LAST YEAR.

+IN VIEW OF THE FAIRLY LARGE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC WHICH USES THIS ROAD, IT IS NOT THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENT ACCIDENT RATE IS UNDULY HIGH,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE THERE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESENT TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS, SUCH AS SPEEDING, WERE OBSERVED BY MOTORISTS.

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, RAISED BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO, MR. ROBSON SAID THERE WAS NO SHORT TERM SOLUTION TO RELIEVE THE SITUATION IN THE TRAFFIC CORRIDOR FROM QUEEN'S ROAD EAST TO REPULSE BAY AND FROM HAPPY VALLEY THROUGH BLUE POOL ROAD TO WONG NEI CHUNG GAP AT COMMUTING TIMES AND WEEKENDS.

+HOWEVER, IT IS HOPED THAT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, THE PROPOSED ABERDEEN TUNNEL WILL BECOME THE MAJOR ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH SHORES OF THE ISLAND, THUS RELIEVING THE WONG NEI CHUNG GAP ROUTE,+ HE ADDED.

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SIX BILLS COMPLETE PASSAGE THROUGH LEGCO
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SIX BILLS COMPLETED THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE: THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL, THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS BILL, THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL, THE DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITES) (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES (HONG KONG ISLAND) (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES (KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1975.

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RECOGNITION OF EXAMINATION RESULTS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITIES OF CAMBRIDGE AND LONDON, HAVE RECOGNISED ACHIEVEMENTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE IN A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TAKEN IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION AS BEING EQUIVALENT TO G.C.E. O-LEVEL PASSES.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD.

THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION REPLACED THE FORMER HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (ENGLISH) AND HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (CHINESE) EXAMINATIONS IN 1974.

BEFORE THE AMALGAMATION OF THESE EXAMINATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE IN SUBJECTS TAKEN IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (ENGLISH) EXAMINATION WERE RECOGNISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND BY A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES AS EQUIVALENT TO O-LEVEL PASSES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FULFILLING UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.

THE SECRETARY SAID: + IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THE NEW HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD TO MAINTAIN THE RECOGNITION GRANTED TO SUBJECTS OF THE FORMER HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (ENGLISH) AND TO WORK TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SIMILAR RECOGNITION FOR SUBJECTS TAKEN IN CHINESE.

+THIS AIM HAS NOW BEEN LARGELY ACHIEVED SINCE IN THE 1975 EXAMINATION MOST SUBJECTS TAKEN IN CHINESE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR O-LEVEL RECOGNITION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN THE 1976 EXAMINATION THE SUBJECTS OF HISTORY, BIOLOGY AND BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE TAKEN IN CHINESE WILL ALSO QUALIFY FOR RECOGNITION, THUS VIRTUALLY COMPLETING THE PROCESS OF AMALGAMATION.+

NOTE TO EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING LIST SHOWS THE SUBJECTS RECOGNISED AND THE LANGUAGE MEDIUM USED IN THE 1975 EXAMINATION.

/SUBJECTS

SUBJECTS RECOGNIZED

LANGUAGE MEDIUM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYL. B)	ENGLISH
ENGLISH LITERATURE	ENGLISH
BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE	ENGLISH
HISTORY	ENGLISH
BIOLOGY (SYL. B)	ENGLISH
DRESSMAKING	ENGLISH
POTTERY	ENGLISH
WOODWORK	ENGLISH
METALWORK	ENGLISH
DOMESTIC SUBJECTS	ENGLISH
PRACTICAL ELECTRICITY	ENGLISH
CHINESE LANGUAGE	CHINESE
CHINESE LITERATURE	CHINESE
CHINESE HISTORY	CHINESE
FRENCH	FRENCH-ENGLISH
OTHER MODERN LANGUAGES	FRENCH-ENGLISH
GEOGRAPHY	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
MATHEMATICS (ALT. SYL.)	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
CHEMISTRY	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
PHYSICS	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
MUSIC	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
ART	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
TECHNICAL DRAWING	ENGLISH OR CHINESE
PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS	ENGLISH OR CHINESE

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HKCEE RESULT NOTICES READY TOMORROW

THE RESULTS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION 1975 WILL BE ISSUED TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS NOTICES FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY SCHOOLS TOMORROW MORNING. RESULTS NOTICES FOR PRIVATE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN POSTED.

THIS YEAR 63,992 CANDIDATES ENTERED FOR THE EXAMINATION. WHEN COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OF 55,976 THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 14.32 PER CENT.

ALTOGETHER 60 SUBJECTS WERE EXAMINED. THE PERCENTAGE OF AWARDS OF GRADE E OR ABOVE FOR THOSE CANDIDATES SITTING THE MAJOR SUBJECTS WAS 61.81 PER CENT (AS COMPARED WITH 63.76 PER CENT IN 1974).

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF AN ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS IN THE MAJOR SUBJECTS ARE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN G.I.S. PRESS BOXES.

YOU MAY WISH TO REMIND READERS WHO SAT FOR THE EXAMINATION THAT AS RESULTS ARE BEING SUPPLIED TO ALL CANDIDATES INDIVIDUALLY, EITHER DIRECT OR THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS, LISTS OF RESULTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES. HOWEVER, ANY PRIVATE CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT RECEIVE THEIR RESULTS BY SATURDAY (AUGUST 16), MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, 11TH FLOOR, KOWLOON, TEL. 10: 3-683708 OR 3-688602.

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UK TRADE SECRETARY TO VISIT HK

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, MR. PETER SHORE, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON SEPTEMBER 6 FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT ON HIS WAY TO KOREA AND JAPAN.

DURING HIS STAY HERE, MR. SHORE WILL MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES IN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR BRITISH EXPORTS.

HE WILL LEAVE FOR SEOUL ON SEPTEMBER 11.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT WESTERN DISTRICT

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL VISIT WESTERN DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA. HE WILL ALSO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DISTRICT'S MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR WORK.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM.

SIR MURRAY WILL ARRIVE AT SIU TAK BUILDING, AT 124-126 HIGH STREET AT 2.40 P.M. WHERE HE WILL BE MET BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WESTERN), MR. NICHOLAS NG AND THREE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES.

HE WILL INSPECT THE SECURITY SYSTEM OF THE BUILDING AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH MAC REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RESIDENCE OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS.

SIR MURRAY WILL THEN PROCEED TO THE MOUNT DAVIS KAIFONG ASSOCIATION WHERE HE WILL DISCUSS WITH MAC REPRESENTATIVES OF KENNEDY TOWN AND MT. DAVIS AREA. HE WILL TOUR THE COTTAGE AREA IF WEATHER PERMITS.

LATER, HE WILL VISIT SING KOK MANSION AT 6C BABINGTON PATH TO SEE THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ANTI-BURGLARY ALARM SYSTEM OF THE BUILDING.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS AS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 15) TO ENABLE LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE THE KWUN TONG TSUI PING RAD ESTATE BLOCKS 1 AND 13 TO 19.

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