



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1978

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HONG KONG'S PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT, SAYS GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY WITH THE GOOD-WILL OF CHINA AND SUPPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THE PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG ARE SURELY BRIGHT.

WINDING UP HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT CHINA WAS POISED FOR A PERIOD OF RAPID MODERNISATION AND THAT THE WESTERN PACIFIC BASIN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA REPRESENTED ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWTH AREAS IN THE WORLD.

+ IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS FERMENT OF ACTIVITY IS HONG KONG WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT COMMUNICATIONS, ALL THE MODERN FACILITIES REQUIRED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND FINANCE, DYNAMIC AND EVOLVING INDUSTRIES, A LARGE MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT, A CONVENIENT PLATFORM FROM WHICH OTHER MARKETS CAN BE WORKED, A STABLE GOVERNMENT, AND IT IS, AND WILL BE EVEN MORE SO IN SIX YEARS' TIME, A HONG KONG THAT HAS BEEN RE-BUILT, RELOCATED AND REGENERATED,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID AN IMMENSE AMOUNT HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THE 1970S - WHETHER IN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL OR CULTURAL TERMS, THE PROGRESS, IN WHICH ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD PLAYED A PART, WAS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR EXPANSION, HE SAID, WERE DESIGNED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS OF THE SEVENTIES AND, BY THE MID-80S, TO HAVE LIFTED THE LIFE OF HONG KONG ON TO A PLATEAU ON WHICH THE SAME SORT OF MASSIVE EFFORT OF CHANGE WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY.

+ WITH NEW TOWNS AND NEW LAND IN WHICH TO DEVELOP, WITH THE CROWDED INSANITARY AND INSECURE CONDITIONS OF THE PAST BEHIND US, THE UNIVERSAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION TO SUSTAIN OUR ABILITY TO GRASP WHAT THE FUTURE OFFERS, AND WITH FACILITIES FOR A CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ELEMENT OF LIFE UNKNOWN TEN YEARS AGO HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE REGION WITH ITS HEAD HELD HIGH,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY BEGAN HIS ADDRESS BY REFERRING TO THE CONTINUING GOOD SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS. +THEY ARE GOOD SPECIFICALLY OVER HONG KONG, AND WE KNOW WELL THE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL ATTITUDE OF CHINESE OFFICIALS STATIONED IN HONG KONG.+

THIS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MANIFESTED IN MANY WAYS -- INCLUDING INVESTMENT AND MOVES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION, AND THE RECENT AGREEMENT BY THE KWANTUNG WATER AUTHORITY TO INCREASE HONG KONG'S SUPPLY OF WATER FROM THE EAST RIVER BY 33 PER CENT BY 1982. SIR MURRAY SAID AN AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WOULD BE SIGNED SOON, PROBABLY IN CANTON.

/TURNING TO

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TURNING TO IMMIGRATION, SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE HIGH INFLOW OF IMMIGRANTS TO HONG KONG. DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS, HE SAID, THE HIGH LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION INTO HONG KONG HAS BEEN WORRYING, AND AT THE PRESENT RATE THE NUMBER MAY REACH 95,000 THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO WATCHING WITH APPREHENSION THE GROWING NUMBER OF ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM. AT PRESENT, 3,670 ARRIVALS FROM VIETNAM ARE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

REFERRING TO POLICE STRUCTURE GENERALLY, THE GOVERNOR SAID MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN STRENGTHENING AND REORGANISING THE HEADQUARTERS STRUCTURE AND SIMILAR PROGRESS WAS MADE IN IMPROVING IN-SERVICE TRAINING, STAFF RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE, AND IN OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT AND EFFICIENCY.

ON MATTERS CONCERNING POLICE WELFARE, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE BROAD PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATIONS IN COURT FOR POLICEMEN SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

HE SAID THAT COMPLAINTS WERE A MUCH HIGHER OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD FOR POLICE THAN FOR OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE DUTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE GROUND, AND COUNTER-CHARGES OR COMPLAINTS WERE SOMETIMES THE ONLY DEFENCE GUILTY MEN COULD MAKE.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL'S NEW SESSION OPENED IN A PERIOD OF CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY AND DISAPPOINTING GROWTH LEVELS IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE GREAT OVERSEAS COUNTRIES ON WHOSE MARKETS HONG KONG DEPENDS, AND WHEN OUR EXPORTERS ARE HAVING TO CONTEND WITH THE NEW RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON OUR EXPORTS LAST YEAR.

+NEVERTHELESS, WITH HONG KONG'S EXTRAORDINARY ENTERPRISE AND ADAPTABILITY WE HAVE MAINTAINED A REASONABLE LEVEL OF EXPORTS AND AN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH GROWTH RATE, A COMPARATIVELY LOW RATE OF INFLATION, VIRTUALLY NIL UNEMPLOYMENT, AND RAPIDLY RISING REAL INCOMES,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPECTED HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR 1978 TO GROW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AND HONG KONG'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS GENERATED BY EXPORTS TO RISE IN 1979 AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS LAST YEAR.

AS TO GOVERNMENT REVENUE, SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS NOW EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BY PERHAPS AS MUCH AS \$1 BILLION, DUE LARGELY TO BUOYANT LAND SALES. ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO EARLY TO INDICATE WITH ANY PRECISION THE LIKELY BUDGET OUTTURN, HE SAID, THERE COULD BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD AGAIN BE A SURPLUS THIS YEAR.

SIR MURRAY SAID SOME BASIC REORGANISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS PLANNED TO ENSURE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE CO-ORDINATED REGIONALLY AND INTEGRATED WITH THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, SO THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN BE MORE DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS.

/THE REORGANISATION,

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THE REORGANISATION, HE SAID, WOULD INVOLVE SOME SHIFT OF EMPHASIS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF SOME DEPARTMENTS TO REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE MAIN CENTRES OF POPULATION.

+AS THIS CHANGE IS GRADUALLY IMPLEMENTED IT WILL PROBABLY AFFECT ALSO THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, SO THAT HE WILL BE LESS INVOLVED IN THE DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION AND MORE CONCERNED WITH THE BROAD ISSUES, SUCH AS THOSE WITH WHICH THE HEUNG YEE KUK IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

ON SOCIAL WELFARE, SIR MURRAY ANNOUNCED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY. THE PROGRAMMES ENVISAGED IN THE WHITE PAPER WOULD, AT 1978 PRICES, INVOLVE \$223 MILLION IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND AN INCREASE OF \$513 MILLION IN THE LEVEL OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

ON HOUSING, SIR MURRAY SAID CONSTRUCTION WAS NOW PROCEEDING ON NO LESS THAN 57 PROJECTS WITH A CONTRACT VALUE OF OVER \$2,200 MILLION. THE CURRENT PROGRAMME WAS AT LAST REACHING FRUITION AND COMPLETIONS WOULD RISE FROM 18,000 FLATS THIS YEAR TO 45,000 NEXT YEAR AND WOULD BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN 40,000 AND 45,000 LEVELS UNTIL 1985.

THIS MEANS THAT EACH YEAR A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL BE HOUSED.

SIR MURRAY SAID A NUMBER OF NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED DURING THE CURRENT SESSION, THESE WOULD INVOLVE EXTENDING CHILD EMPLOYMENT CONTROL TO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THE PROTECTION OF MORE NON-MANUAL WORKERS, THE CONTROL OF WORKERS' SAFETY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY, AND THE CONTROL OF FIRE SAFETY IN INDUSTRY.

ON EDUCATION, SIR MURRAY SAID A WHITE PAPER WOULD SHORTLY BE PUBLISHED CONTAINING REVISED PLANS ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION. AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR A GREAT EXPANSION OF PLACES, THE WHITE PAPER WOULD REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

REVIEWING PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT, SIR MURRAY UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR SPREADING OUT OF THE CITY INTO NEW AREAS SO AS TO ACHIEVE NOT ONLY BETTER LIVING STANDARDS BUT NEW ENVIRONMENT, NEW INDUSTRY AND NEW ECONOMIC FLEXIBILITY.

HE SAID THIS YEAR'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WOULD EXCEED \$3,000 MILLION AND MAY VERY WELL RISE NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF HONG KONG IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS.

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SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE GOOD
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE VERY GOOD AND THEY ARE GOOD SPECIFICALLY OVER HONG KONG.

+AND WE KNOW WELL THE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL ATTITUDE OF CHINESE OFFICIALS STATIONED IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THIS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN MANY WAYS - INVESTMENT, MOVES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND SO ON - BUT THE ONE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE INTERESTS TO MEMBERS WILL BE THE RECENT AGREEMENT OF THE KWANGTUNG WATER AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF WATER FROM THE EAST RIVER BY 33 PER CENT BY 1982,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH CHINA TO BE SIGNED SOON

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AN AGREEMENT IS TO BE SIGNED SHORTLY WITH THE KWANGTUNG WATER AUTHORITY TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY TO HONG KONG FROM THE EAST RIVER BY 33 PER CENT BY 1982.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE SIGNED IN CANTON.

THE INCREASE IN WATER SUPPLY, HE SAID, WOULD INVOLVE THE KWANGTUNG WATER AUTHORITY IN SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURE.

+CONSIDERING THAT THE CHARGE OF THIS WATER HAS BEEN UNCHANGED AT HK\$1.26 PER THOUSAND GALLONS SINCE 1964 IT IS ENTIRELY REASONABLE THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE CHARGE TO HK\$1.88 FROM OCTOBER 1, 1978, AND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE AGREED,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN AT THE NEW CHARGE THIS WATER WOULD STILL BE VERY MUCH CHEAPER THAN ANY NEW SOURCE WITHIN HONG KONG, AND WATER CHARGES TO THE PUBLIC WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

THE AGREEMENT COVERS INCREASES UP TO 1983. +HOWEVER THE KWANGTUNG WATER AUTHORITY HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER OUR LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS AND TO DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE IN ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME -- THAT IS TO SAY BEFORE WE WOULD HAVE TO COMMENCE ANY OTHER, AND OF COURSE MUCH COSTLIER, LOCAL MEANS OF MAINTAINING THE INCREASE IN SUPPLIES NECESSARY AFTER FEBRUARY 1983.+

+THIS LATTER DEVELOPMENT IS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE, SINCE IT COULD VERY CONSIDERABLY EASE ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THIS COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS WERE LARGE, SIR MURRAY EXPLAINED, AND TO SUPPLY THEM FROM KWANGTUNG WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL ENGINEERING WORK AND VERY CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES.

ALTHOUGH THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME, WHICH WILL OPEN SHORTLY AND DOUBLE HONG KONG'S WATER STORAGE CAPACITY, WAS A GREAT ENGINEERING FEAT, IT EXHAUSTS OUR LAST MAJOR CATCHMENT AREA, HE ADDED.

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TEN PER CENT GROWTH IN 1978 GDP EXPECTED

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HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR 1978 IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AND OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS GENERATED BY EXPORTS WILL RISE IN 1979 AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR MURRAY SAID ALLOWING FOR SOME SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND AN INCREASE IN THE GROWTH OF EXPORTS, WE EXPECT THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT TO GROW BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS -- A VERY SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE BY ANY STANDARDS.

+COMPETING DEMANDS FROM THE SECTORS CATERING FOR DOMESTIC ACTIVITY AND FOR EXPORTS HAVE RESULTED IN FURTHER RAPID GROWTH IN REAL WAGES AND EARNINGS AND VIRTUALLY NIL UNEMPLOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OUTLOOK FOR 1979, SIR MURRAY SAID PROSPECTS FOR OUR EXPORTS IN 1979 WILL INEVITABLY BE INFLUENCED BY THE RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

+OF COURSE, POSSIBILITIES FOR TRADING UP AND FOR DIVERSIFICATION INTO OTHER INDUSTRIES REMAIN= AND I FEEL SURE THAT OUR ENTREPRENEURS AND OUR LABOUR WILL EXERCISE THEIR TRADITIONAL INGENUITY TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE SITUATION,+ SAID SIR MURRAY.

+BUT THE LOW RATES OF GROWTH INCLUDED IN OUR LATEST TEXTILES AGREEMENTS AND THE GREATLY REDUCED PROVISIONS FOR FLEXIBILITY LIMIT THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR EXPORTERS CAN ADJUST TO CHANGING DEMAND IN OUR MARKETS.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPORT SECTOR IS NOW REASONABLY COMPETITIVE AND WELL POISED FOR MORE RAPID GROWTH AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL BE FACILITATED BY A FURTHER SLOWDOWN IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN 1979 THEREBY RELEASING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES.

HE SAID, +RE-EXPORTS ARE TRADITIONALLY HARD TO PREDICT BUT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ASSUME THAT GROWTH WILL BE SLOWER NEXT YEAR THAN THIS.

SIR MURRAY ALSO NOTED THAT THE VIEWS ON DEMAND IN OUR MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS IN 1979 ARE MIXED. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE ON COUNTERING INFLATION AND MORE CAUTIOUS POLICIES ARE LIKELY TO RESULT.

IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, WITH A TENDENCY TOWARDS GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT, A LOW INFLATION RATE AND A LARGE TRADE SURPLUS, PRESSURES THERE ARE MOUNTING FOR THE ECONOMY TO BE REFLATED WHILE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE RECOVERY WHICH STARTED IN 1978 SHOULD CONTINUE IN 1979.

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+TAKING ALL THESE RELEVANT FACTORS TOGETHER, IT LOOKS AS IF OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS GENERATED BY EXPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN 1979 AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS THIS YEAR.

+PROVIDED ECONOMIC GROWTH, EVEN AT ITS COMPARATIVELY LOW PRESENT RATE, CONTINUES IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS - AND GENERALLY SPEAKING THIS IS WHAT WE EXPECT - IT SHOULD GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER GROWTH IN HONG KONG,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED +THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF THE PRESENT IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE GROWTH RATES OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND OF IMPORTS ON THE ONE HAND AND OF EXPORTS ON THE OTHER.

+THE NATURAL EFFECT OF THIS SITUATION ON OUR EXCHANGE RATE SHOULD DISCOURAGE IMPORTS AND ENCOURAGE EXPORTS.

+IF, AS WE EXPECT, THERE IS A BUDGETARY SURPLUS AGAIN THIS YEAR, THIS TOO SHOULD HELP TO RESTRAIN DEMAND,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THE DEMANDS ON RESOURCES BEING MADE BY CONSUMPTION, THE GROWTH OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED EXPORTS WILL BE HIGHER IN 1978 THAN IT WAS IN 1977.

HE SAID THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO IT.

+FIRST A LARGER WORK-FORCE HAS BEEN DEPLOYED THAN WE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

+SECOND, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AT A TIME WHEN WORLD PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS ARE FALLING, HAS MEANT THAT OUR EXPORTS ARE GRADUALLY PROVING MORE COMPETITIVE.

+THIRD THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN DEMAND IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS, THOUGH OUR EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING ARE BEGINNING TO RUN UP AGAINST THE NEW AND HARSHER QUOTA LIMITS WE WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT LAST YEAR.

REVIEWING THE ECONOMY IN 1977, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1977 IS NOW ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS WHICH IS SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE AVERAGE SO FAR IN THE SEVENTIES.

+THE REAL EARNINGS OF THE LABOUR FORCE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AND WORKERS SHARED WELL IN THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE SAID THIS UNDOUBTED PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED AGAINST A LESS HEALTHY BACKGROUND WHOSE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC WAS A MORE RAPID GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND THAN IN EXPORTS AND A THREAT ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT OF A PROGRESSIVE SLIDE INTO PROTECTIONISM.

+THESE WERE OUR TWO MAIN CONCERNS AS THE ECONOMY ENTERED 1978 AND THEY REMAIN TODAY,+ HE SAID.

SPREADING OUT OF THE CITY - ESSENTIAL TO
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR SPREADING OUT OF THE CITY INTO NEW AREAS TO ACHIEVE NOT ONLY BETTER LIVING STANDARDS BUT NEW ENVIRONMENT, NEW INDUSTRY AND NEW ECONOMIC FLEXIBILITY.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THIS YEAR'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WILL EXCEED \$3,000 MILLION AND MAY VERY WELL RISE NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF HONG KONG IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS.

+IT MUST BE THE LARGEST PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN BY ANY CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY OUTLINED SOME OF THE MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS THAT ARE BASIC TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID: +BY 1981, ABERDEEN WILL BE LINKED WITH THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BY MEANS OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND A SERIES OF ELEVATED HIGHWAYS AND FLYOVERS. BY 1985 THE NEW MOTORWAY WILL BE BUILT ALONG THE NORTH COAST OF THE ISLAND LINKING VICTORIA AND SHAU KEI WAN.

+IN KOWLOON, BY 1980 THE AIRPORT TUNNEL LINK WITH KWUN TONG WILL BE COMPLETED AND THE CORRIDOR UP THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE PENINSULA FROM GASCOIGNE ROAD TO LAI CHI KOK, ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1984.

+BY 1981 THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SHOULD BE DOUBLE-TRACKED AND ELECTRIFIED TO THE FRONTIER AND LINKED TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY THROUGH THE KOWLOON TONG INTERCHANGE.+

BY 1980, HE ADDED, THE SECOND HALF OF THE SIX-LANE TSUEN WAN/TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WOULD BE OPEN AND THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS BY MID-1983.

AND BY THE END OF 1981 THE NEW COASTAL MOTORWAY FROM SHA TIN TO TAI PO WILL BE COMPLETED, WHILE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ITSELF WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION IN THE URBAN AREA BY APRIL 1980 AND TO TSUEN WAN BY 1982.

+SO BY 1983 THE DRIVING TIME FROM SAY, AP LI CHAU TO TUEN MUN COULD BE ABOUT 45 MINUTES, GIVE OR TAKE A MINUTE OR TWO, A JOURNEY BY UNDERGROUND FROM CENTRAL TO TSUEN WAN SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 28 MINUTES, OR FROM HUNG HOM TO TAI PO AND SHEUNG SHUI BY TRAIN ABOUT 28 AND 36 MINUTES.

+THIS WILL BE A FAR CRY FROM THE HONG KONG HEMMED IN BY THE MOUNTAINS ROUND THE HARBOUR OF 10 OR 15 YEARS AGO,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE VAST PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, COUPLED WITH THOSE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WAS NOW SO INTENSE THAT HONG KONG GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ONE GREAT CONSTRUCTION SITE.

+I DEEPLY SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK CLOSEST TO THE DUST AND NOISE AND THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION. BUT OUT OF THIS INCONVENIENT ACTIVITY WILL EMERGE, AND EMERGE SOON, A HONG KONG THAT IS LARGELY TRANSFORMED FROM THE CITY WE HAVE KNOWN.+

LAND PRODUCTION PROGRAMME OUTLINED

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THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO PRODUCE AN AVERAGE OF 229 HECTARES OF LAND A YEAR BETWEEN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND 1983-84, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 80 HECTARES A YEAR WILL BE PRODUCED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, 64 FOR PRIVATE NON-INDUSTRIAL USE AND 85 FOR PUBLIC HOUSING. MANY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS PLANNED PROVIDE ACCESS TO THESE AREAS.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +THESE FIGURES OF LAND PRODUCTION MAY SEEM SMALL, BUT IN OUR GEOGRAPHICAL CIRCUMSTANCES THEY ARE VERY LARGE AND REPRESENT A VERY MAJOR ENGINEERING COMMITMENT, AND WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL PHASING FOR FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL REASONS.+

SIR MURRAY ADDED THAT THESE FIGURES, WHICH INCLUDE THE TWO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, REPRESENT A MUCH HIGHER FLOW OF LAND ON TO THE MARKET THAN HAS EVER BEEN ACHIEVED BEFORE. +IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER IT WILL BE ENOUGH AND IN ANY CASE THERE IS THE PERIOD AFTER 1983-84 WHICH MUST BE PLANNED FOR NOW.+

THE MAIN SOURCES OF NEW LAND ARE LIKELY TO BE THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU ISLAND AND JUNK BAY.

SIR MURRAY SAID A DECISION AS TO WHEN AND HOW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD START WOULD DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTANTS REPORT ON A FIXED CROSSING TO LANTAU WHICH WILL BE READY BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN ENGINEERING INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE ISLAND AND THE LAND PRODUCTION COSTS.

+THE EARLIEST TIME WHEN A BRIDGE COULD BE COMPLETED IS MID-1984, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF LAND WOULD PROBABLY BE FORMED FOR USE BY THE TIME THE BRIDGE WAS OPENED.

+BUT IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO START LAND PRODUCTION PROJECTS IN OTHER AREAS TO BRIDGE THE SHORTFALLS OF THE EARLY EIGHTIES. OF THESE THE MOST IMPORTANT IS JUNK BAY,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THIS AREA WOULD PROVIDE FOR A NEW SATELLITE TOWN OF SOME 200,000 PEOPLE WITH ABOUT 72 NET HECTARES OF NEW INDUSTRIAL LAND. THE PROVISION OF PROPER ACCESS AND WATER SUPPLIES WOULD ALSO ALLOW ABOUT 35 HECTARES OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL LAND TO BE BETTER UTILISED.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE TO START WORK ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE COMING YEAR. AT THE SAME TIME APPROVAL WOULD BE SOUGHT TO START DEVELOPMENT ON AN EXTENSION TO SHA TIN NEW TOWN ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE COVE TO WU KWAI SHA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR ABOUT 22 AND 47 NET HECTARES OF LAND FOR INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE HOUSING RESPECTIVELY IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC USE.

SIR MURRAY ALSO SAID THAT THE RELEASE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT LITTLE SAI WAN WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE ABOUT 30 HECTARES OF ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECREATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LAND, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS AIMING TO HAVE THIS AREA FORMED AND AVAILABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ITS RELEASE AT THE END OF 1982.

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LAND SALES BOOST REVENUE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL REVENUE FOR 1978-79 IS NOW EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BY A QUITE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT, PERHAPS BY AS MUCH AS \$1,000 MILLION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE INCREASED REVENUE IS ALMOST ALL LARGELY DUE TO BUOYANT LAND SALES AND THOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO INDICATE WITH ANY PRECISION THE LIKELY BUDGET OUTTURN, THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THERE WILL AGAIN BE A SURPLUS THIS YEAR.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT A LARGE PART OF THE INCREASED REVENUE IS BEING ABSORBED IN INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON BOTH RECURRENT AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS.

+WE HAVE FOR EXAMPLE, INCURRED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE, NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ESTIMATES, AS A RESULT OF THE 1978 CIVIL SERVICE SALARY AWARDS, AND OF THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SCHEME, FROM 75 TO 70 IN ONE STEP RATHER THAN TWO AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.+

HOWEVER, IT IS ON THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT THAT WE EXPECT A SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE THAN PROVIDED FOR IN THE APPROVED ESTIMATES, HE SAID.

+THIS IS LARGELY ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AS SUCH, AND HOUSING.

+HIGHER PRICES ACCOUNT FOR A PART OF THIS INCREASE, BUT WE HAVE ALSO MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON EXISTING CONTRACTS AND EARLIER STARTS ON NEW PROJECTS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY PUBLISH A WHITE PAPER CONTAINING REVISED PLANS ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR A GREAT EXPANSION OF PLACES, THE WHITE PAPER WILL REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

HE SAID: +THE MOST IMPORTANT RELEVANT STEP ENVISAGED WILL BE A PHASED SCHEME TO RAISE 'PER CAPUT' SCHOOLS TO FULLY-AIDED STATUS SO AS TO ENSURE PROPER FACILITIES AND MORE UNIFORM STANDARDS IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.+

SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT +QUALITY WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED BY BROADENING THE CURRICULUM TO GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, BY IMPROVING, AND WHERE APPLICABLE, LENGTHENING, TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES, AND BY STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS SUPPORT SERVICES.+

ON TERTIARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THAT THE POLYTECHNIC SHOULD RAISE THE LEVEL OF SOME OF ITS WORK, AND THAT, IN COMPENSATION, MORE ORDINARY TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHICH SHOULD BE EXPANDED ACCORDINGLY.

THE GOVERNOR SAID DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH THE COLLEGES RECOGNISED UNDER THE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES ORDINANCE ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGETS FOR SIXTH FORM AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND THE FRUITS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE WHITE PAPER.

ON THE SCALE OF EXPANSION IN HIGHER EDUCATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO ACHIEVE BY ABOUT 1986, THE GOVERNOR LISTED THE FOLLOWING TARGETS:

- * RAISING FROM 25.7 PER CENT TO ABOUT 83 PER CENT THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED PLACES FOR THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP IN SECONDARY FORMS 4 AND 5, OR IN POST-FORM 3 COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. THESE INCREASES, COUPLED WITH AN EXPANSION OF ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES, SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEET MOST OF THE DEMAND EXPECTED IN THE 1980S FROM STUDENTS LEAVING FORM 3.
- * INCREASING FROM 5.5 PER CENT TO ABOUT 20 PER CENT THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED PLACES FOR THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP FOR FORM 6.
- * RAISING FROM 17.9 PER CENT TO ABOUT 33 PER CENT BY 1986 THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED PLACES FOR THE AGE GROUP FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (INCLUDING UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNIC, THE SCHOOLS OF NURSING AND EDUCATION, AND POST-FORM 5 COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES).

- * IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED, AND ADDED TO PLANS FOR EXPANSION IN JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION ALREADY APPROVED, RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AT 1978 PRICES MAY BE EXPECTED TO RISE FROM ABOUT \$1,700 MILLION IN 1978/79 TO MORE THAN \$2,900 MILLION IN 1986/87 AND TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OVER THE SAME PERIOD WOULD BE \$2,100 MILLION.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT EDUCATION AFTER FORM 3 WOULD BE HEAVILY SUBSIDISED BUT NOT FREE.

HE ADDED: +FEE REMISSION AND STUDENT LOAN SCHEMES WILL BE EXPANDED TO ENSURE THAT NO STUDENT JUDGED SUITABLE FOR THE WIDE VARIETY OF COURSES OFFERED SHOULD BE DENIED THEM THROUGH LACK OF MEANS.+

SIR MURRAY RECALLED THAT UNIVERSAL FREE AND COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION WAS ACHIEVED IN 1971.

+ALL PUPILS COMPLETING PRIMARY SCHOOL LAST SUMMER ARE NOW BEING PROVIDED WITH FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION PLACES TO FORM 3. BY NEXT SEPTEMBER WE SHALL BE MAKING EDUCATION COMPULSORY TO 14 AND BY SEPTEMBER 1980 WE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL OF UNIVERSAL FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION TO 15 OR FORM 3,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID TWO WORKING PARTIES WERE EXPECTED TO REPORT SHORTLY ON THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY EDUCATION AND ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE SERVICES BELOW PRIMARY AGE AND KINDERGARTEN CENTRES.

THE RESULTING PROPOSALS BY THE WORKING PARTIES WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN A GREEN PAPER.

+PLANS ARE THUS WELL UNDER WAY TO PREPARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR ALL STAGES OF EDUCATION FROM KINDERGARTENS TO THE TERTIARY LEVEL.

+WHILE THESE PROGRAMMES WILL LAY DOWN THE MAIN LINES OF ADVANCE, THERE SHOULD BE SCOPE FOR RE-EXAMINATION IN A WIDER CONTEXT.

+ACCORDINGLY, ON THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, I PROPOSE TO INITIATE A WIDE-RANGING REVIEW THAT WOULD COVER THE WHOLE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, ITS METHODS AND ITS OBJECTIVES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THIS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PRIMARILY BY PERSONS FROM ABROAD WITH GREAT EXPERTISE IN EDUCATION, THOUGH CERTAINLY WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION.

+I SEE THIS REVIEW AS A LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT TO CHECK THE PLANS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE BEFORE THEY BECOME TOO DEEPLY ENTRENCHED,+ SIR MURRAY STATED.

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WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE TO BE OUT SOON
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A COMPREHENSIVE WHITE PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY ON SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

HE SAID THE WHITE PAPER'S CONCLUSIONS BROADLY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THAT THE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE COST-OF-LIVING WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED AS THE BASIS FOR CASH PAYMENTS BUT THAT ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS WERE REQUIRED FOR THOSE DEPENDENT UPON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR LONG PERIODS, AND THIS HAS BEEN DONE=
- * THAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE FOR THE AGED AND PARTICULARLY TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO CONTINUE LIFE WITHIN THEIR FAMILY OR COMMUNITY IN DIGNITY. THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM 75 TO 70= AND A SUPPLEMENT FOR THOSE OVER 60 RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED. IN ADDITION TO THESE PAYMENTS, A RANGE OF SERVICES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS INCLUDING: THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL PLACES IN PUBLIC HOUSING, EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICES, DAY HOSPITALS AND MORE GERIATRIC BEDS=

FOR THOSE NOT IN NEED OF MEDICAL CARE BUT WHO ARE UNABLE TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES OR TO BE CARED FOR BY THEIR FAMILIES, THE GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED PROVISION OF 1,700 ADDITIONAL CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES AND 2,800 ADDITIONAL PLACES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED. THESE FACILITIES WOULD SERVE ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF A TOTAL POPULATION OF 400,000 AGED 60 AND OVER=

THE BULK OF HONG KONG'S OLD PEOPLE WOULD REMAIN WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WHERE THEY PREFERRED TO BE, BUT THERE WOULD BE A RANGE OF SUPPORTING SERVICES TO HELP THEM TO DO SO. THE FOCAL POINT OF SUCH SERVICES WOULD BE 17 DISTRICT MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRES A NETWORK OF SOCIAL CENTRES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A BASE FOR ORGANISING HOME HELP, LAUNDRY SEK

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- * THAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE FOR THE REHABILITATION OR SUPPORT OF THOSE MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, AND A TEN-YEAR PROGRAMME OF PHASED DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES AND SERVICES HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AND THEIR DETAILS ALREADY PUBLISHED IN A WHITE PAPER=

/THESE SERVICES

THESE SERVICES COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH BOTH DISABILITY ALLOWANCES AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WHERE APPLICABLE= AND

* THAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION BEYOND THE ALREADY WIDE RANGE OF NORMAL PROVISION. THE MAIN THRUST WOULD BE BY MEANS OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THESE PROGRAMMES WERE TECHNICAL IN CONTENT AND COULD ONLY BE SUPPORTED BY A STEADY FLOW OF SOCIAL OR PARA-MEDICAL WORKERS TRAINED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES. PROVISION FOR THE NECESSARY COURSES HAD BEEN MADE AND MANY WERE ALREADY IN OPERATION.

HE STATED THAT THE DETAILS OF ALL THESE PROGRAMMES EITHER HAD BEEN OR VERY SHORTLY WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN WHITE PAPERS.

+AT 1978 PRICES, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS THIS WILL INVOLVE \$223 MILLION IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, AND AN INCREASE OF \$513 MILLION IN THE LEVEL OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.+

REFERRING TO A RECOMMENDATION IN A GREEN PAPER ON A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME OF INSURANCE AGAINST THE RISKS OF EXTENDED SICKNESS, DEATH AND RETIREMENT, SIR MURRAY SAID THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDE DEBATE AND ALSO OF TESTS OF PUBLIC OPINION, AND THE PUBLIC ACTUARY'S OFFICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD BEEN CONSULTED.

+A GROUP OF EMPLOYERS HAS ALSO PUT FORWARD A COUNTER-SCHEME TO COVER THE SAME RISKS. WHILE YOUR GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE NEED FOR THE COVERAGE, IT HAS NOT YET REACHED A CONCLUSION ON WHAT THE BEST METHOD OF PROCEEDING WOULD BE -- GIVEN THE WIDE MEASURE OF COVER FOR THE LOWER INCOME GROUPS ALREADY PROVIDED BY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY AND OLD AGE ALLOWANCES, AND BY STATUTORY BENEFITS UNDER LABOUR LEGISLATION AND THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS ALREADY COVERED BY THE TERMS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PROPOSALS MIGHT BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING FOR ALL STRESSED
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS AFTERNOON STRESSED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING FOR ALL.

THE CURRENT PROGRAMME, WHICH STARTED BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX YEARS AGO, WAS AT LAST REACHING FRUITION, AND COMPLETIONS WOULD RISE FROM 18,000 FLATS THIS YEAR TO 45,000 NEXT YEAR AND WOULD BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE 40,000 AND 45,000 LEVELS UNTIL 1985, HE SAID.

THIS MEANS THAT EACH YEAR A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE WOULD BE HOUSED.

CONSTRUCTION WAS NOW PROCEEDING ON NO LESS THAN 57 PROJECTS WITH A CONTRACT VALUE OF OVER \$2,200 MILLION.

+THESE FIGURES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID,+INCLUDE THE FLATS FOR PURCHASE UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AT PRESENT PLANNED TO AVERAGE ABOUT 6,000 A YEAR AS FROM NEXT YEAR WHEN 8,500 WILL BE COMPLETED.

+IN VIEW OF THE POPULARITY OF THE SCHEME, WE MUST BE ALIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF VARYING THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE PROGRAMMES FOR RENTING AND SALE IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC DEMAND, AND THE DESIGN OF NEW ESTATES PROVIDES FOR THIS DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY.+

COINCIDING WITH THE APPROACH TO THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION WAS A SPURT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLATS BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS, MANY FOR THE MIDDLE AND LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT +30,000 WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND PROBABLY AS MANY NEXT. THIS IS A MOST WELCOME CONTRIBUTION.+

BUT, HE SAID, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM.

+THIS YEAR WE RECKON THE SHORTFALL IN SELF-CONTAINED LIVING ACCOMMODATION TO BE OVER 200,000 UNITS. ALLOWING FOR ABOUT 300,000 MORE HOUSEHOLDS BY 1985, AND ASSUMING THAT THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS MAINTAINED AT THE LEVEL I HAVE INDICATED, AND THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONTINUES TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION, THE SHORTFALL SHOULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED BY 1985 AND WELL BEFORE THAT THE PROBLEM AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT WILL HAVE BEEN VASTLY REDUCED.

+HOWEVER, THESE FIGURES MAKE THE TRADITIONAL ASSUMPTION THAT 60 PER CENT OF ALL ONE PERSON AND TWO PERSON HOUSEHOLDS WILL SHARE ACCOMMODATION WITH OTHERS.

+IN VIEW OF THE TREND TOWARDS SMALLER HOUSEHOLDS AND THE RISING ASPIRATIONS OF OUR RAPIDLY EVOLVING SOCIETY I DOUBT IF THAT ASSUMPTION WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD TRUE MUCH LONGER,+ HE SAID.

AFTER 1985 THERE MIGHT THEREFORE BE A CASE FOR ROLLING FORWARD THE HOUSING PROGRAMME, ALBEIT AT A LESS DRAMATIC LEVEL.

SITES FOR SUCH A PROGRAMME SHOULD BE EARMARKED SOON, SIR MURRAY SAID.

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GOVERNOR OUTLINES OBJECTIVES IN MEDICAL
AND HEALTH SERVICES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY OUTLINED VARIOUS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR 1986-87 RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HE SAID, WERE:

- * TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GENERAL AND SPECIALISED HOSPITAL BEDS FROM THE PRESENT 20,000 OR 4.4 PER THOUSAND POPULATION, TO ABOUT 31,800 OR 6.1 PER THOUSAND=
- * TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT CLINICS FROM 52 WITH 250 CONSULTING ROOMS, TO 66 WITH 407 CONSULTING ROOMS -- AN INCREASE OF FROM 5.4 CONSULTING ROOMS PER 100,000 TO 7.8=
- * EXPANDING MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING, IMMUNISATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES=
- * INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PSYCHIATRIC BEDS FROM 2,400 TO 5,000= PSYCHIATRIC DAY BEDS FROM 180 TO 450= AND MENTALLY RETARDED BEDS FROM 260 TO 700=
- * OPENING A NEW DENTAL SCHOOL IN 1980 AND A SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN 1981=
- * TWO NEW NURSES TRAINING SCHOOLS TO BE AVAILABLE BY 1982= AND
- * A SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1980.

A NEW DENTAL THERAPIST TRAINING SCHOOL WOULD OPEN THIS MONTH, AND EXTENSIVE NEW COURSES FOR THE TRAINING OF PARA-MEDICAL PERSONNEL STARTED AT THE POLYTECHNIC IN SEPTEMBER.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +IF IMPLEMENTED THESE PROPOSALS WILL RAISE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AT 1978 PRICES, FROM \$825 MILLION IN 1978/79 TO OVER \$1,600 MILLION IN 1986/87, AND INVOLVE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN \$2,200 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD, INCLUDING THE COST OF MEDICAL AND PARA-MEDICAL TEACHING FACILITIES AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC.

+I HOPE THAT THE PROPORTIONATE INCREASES IN FACILITIES IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS WILL RELIEVE PRESSURE ON BEDS AND BUILDINGS, IMPROVE THE CONVENIENCE AND SPEED OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, AND FACILITATE THEIR ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

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CHILD EMPLOYMENT CONTROL TO BE EXTENDED TO NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR
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THE EXTENSION OF CHILD EMPLOYMENT CONTROL TO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IS AMONG A NUMBER OF NEW ITEMS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED DURING THIS SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID OTHER NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION WOULD INCLUDE THE PROTECTION OF MORE NON-MANUAL WORKERS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE CONTROL OF WORKERS' SAFETY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY AND THE CONTROL OF FIRE SAFETY IN INDUSTRY.

THE WORKING PARTY ON THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE IS CONTINUING ITS REVIEW AND WILL DRAW UP RECOMMENDATIONS SOON, HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG'S COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS ALSO CONTINUED TO IMPROVE WITH 40 CONVENTIONS HAVING BEEN APPLIED IN FULL OR WITH MODIFICATIONS.

+THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 11 SINCE 1974 AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO IMPROVE OUR DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF A FURTHER SIX BY 1980. IN THIS RESPECT HONG KONG COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION.+

SIR MURRAY STRESSED THAT THE LABOUR LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN RECENT YEARS HAD BEEN PROPOSED ON ITS HONG KONG MERITS.

+OUR CONCERN IS WHAT IS BENEFICIAL FOR HONG KONG, ITS WORKFORCE, AND ITS ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

+NEVERTHELESS IT DOES NO HARM TO KEEP INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS IN MIND. THESE ARE FAVOURABLE AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE VERY GOOD PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING ITS TARGET OF BROAD COMPARABILITY WITH THE BEST AMONG NEIGHBOURING ASIAN COUNTRIES EXCLUDING JAPAN,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE VOLUME OF LABOUR LEGISLATION IN RECENT YEARS AND THE SUBSEQUENT WORK OF ENFORCEMENT IS INVOLVING SUBSTANTIAL RECRUITMENT OF STAFF WHICH MUST BE TRAINED AND ABSORBED, AND HE BELIEVED THAT IN THIS FIELD THE FIRST PRIORITY NOW IS ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE INTENDED TO APPOINT MORE TRAINING BOARDS AND SPECIALISTS COMMITTEES SOON TO ENABLE THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES INTO THE COMMERCIAL AND SERVICE SECTORS.

HE SAID THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CLOTHING INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES HAD PROVED POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL, AND THE TRAINING COUNCIL HAD RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES IN OTHER INDUSTRIES TO BE FINANCED BY A GENERAL LEVY AND ADMINISTERED BY A STATUTORY TRAINING COUNCIL.

+THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID. SIR MURRAY ADDED THAT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRAINING COUNCIL, A FURTHER EIGHT TRADES HAD BEEN DESIGNED UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE DURING THE YEAR.

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IMMIGRATION CONTINUES TO SOAR

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THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS COMING TO HONG KONG AT THE PRESENT RATE MAY REACH 95,000 THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THE HIGH LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION INTO HONG KONG HAS BEEN WORRYING, HE SAID.

+THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE SINCE THE LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION CHANGES CONSIDERABLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR, AND THERE IS AN OUTFLOW TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AN INFLOW LARGELY FROM NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES OF CHINA,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

IN THE FIVE YEARS UP TO DECEMBER 1976, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL ARRIVALS FROM CHINA BY ALL MEANS WERE ABOUT 50,000 BUT HONG KONG'S OVERALL AVERAGE NET GAIN BY MIGRATION WAS ONLY 18,000 A YEAR. LAST YEAR THE NET GAIN ROSE TO 33,000, AND THIS YEAR, IF THE CURRENT RATE IS MAINTAINED, IT COULD BE AS HIGH AS 60,000.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +AT THIS RATE TWO EXTRA VERY LARGE HOUSING ESTATES, WITH ALL ACCOMPANYING FACILITIES WOULD BE NECESSARY EACH YEAR IF STANDARDS WERE NOT TO BE DILUTED.

+WE HAVE EXPLAINED BOTH HERE DIRECTLY, AND THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IN PEKING AND LONDON, THE PROBLEMS THAT THIS RATE OF INFLUX COULD PRESENT FOR US IF IT WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE TO SEE THE FIGURES GRADUALLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.+

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO WATCHING WITH APPREHENSION THE GROWING NUMBER OF ARRIVALS HERE FROM VIETNAM AWAITING RESETTLEMENT WHICH NOW STANDS AT 3,670.

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR SOME 4,300 WITH SOME CLAIM ON HONG KONG TO STAY HERE. ANOTHER 5,300 HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO STAY TEMPORARILY ON AN UNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES -- WHO HAS BEEN DOING EXCELLENT WORK -- TO FIND THEM A PERMANENT HOME ELSEWHERE.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING SOME BASIC REORGANISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SO THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN BE MORE DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS.

THE MOVE IS ALSO AIMED AT ENSURING THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE CO-ORDINATED REGIONALLY AND INTEGRATED WITH THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, ANNOUNCED THIS TODAY AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND GAVE A GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

THE REORGANISATION WILL INVOLVE SOME SHIFT OF EMPHASIS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF SOME DEPARTMENTS TO REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE MAIN CENTRES OF POPULATION.

+AS THIS CHANGE IS GRADUALLY IMPLEMENTED IT WILL PROBABLY ALSO AFFECT THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, SO THAT HE WILL BE LESS INVOLVED IN THE DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION AND MORE CONCERNED WITH THE BROAD ISSUES, SUCH AS THOSE, FOR INSTANCE, WITH WHICH THE HEUNG YEE KUK IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

REGULAR INCREASES IN STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES MUST BE PROVIDED TO KEEP PACE WITH POPULATION GROWTH AND TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARDS TO WHICH THE TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE BEING BUILT, HE ADDED. THIS WILL AFFECT MANY DEPARTMENTS, BUT PARTICULARLY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

COMMENTING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS LAST NOVEMBER, SIR MURRAY DESCRIBED IT AS AN +IMMEDIATE SUCCESS.+

HE PRAISED THE BOARDS FOR BEING ACTIVE, INSISTENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE. PROPOSALS AFFECTING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EACH TOWN OR REGION ARE DISCUSSED, AND LOCAL VIEWS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AT THE PLANNING STAGE BEFORE FINAL DEPARTMENTAL SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE.

+THE BOARDS ARE ALSO MAKING FULL USE OF THEIR FUNDS FOR RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FOR MINOR WORKS TO IMPROVE THEIR TOWNS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+THEY HAVE BECOME THE NATURAL CHANNELS FOR LOCAL ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. IN SHORT THEY ARE BEGINNING TO PROVIDE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EACH TOWN OR REGION THAT WAS SO BADLY NEEDED.+

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NEW LEGAL SCHEMES TO START OPERATING EARLY NEXT YEAR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE VARIOUS LEGAL SCHEMES OUTLINED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LAST JULY TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC WILL START OPERATING EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR WHEN A DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE.

THE SCHEMES COMPRISE A DUTY LAWYER SCHEME IN SOME MAGISTRATES' COURTS, A 'QUICK LEGAL ADVICE' SCHEME IN TWO CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, AND THE SCHEME OF APPOINTING CANTONESE-SPEAKING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SIT WITH MAGISTRATES IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY.

BOTH THE DUTY LAWYER AND THE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEMES WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC WITH THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLERICAL BACK UP AND THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

SIR MURRAY SAID THESE SCHEMES ARE DESIGNED FIRSTLY TO HELP BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING GAP THAT CAN DEVELOP BETWEEN A CANTONESE-SPEAKING POPULATION UNFAMILIAR WITH THE BRITISH LEGAL SYSTEM ON THE ONE HAND AND A GOVERNMENT OPERATING THROUGH BRITISH LAW AND LEGAL PROCEDURES ON THE OTHER AND SECONDLY TO ASSIST PERSONS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN OFFENCES IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS WHO ARE WITHOUT LEGAL ADVICE.

HE SAID: +THOUGH EXPERIMENTAL AND LIMITED, THE SCHEMES HAVE PROVED COMPLICATED TO START OWING TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED. WITHOUT THE PUBLIC SPIRIT OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.+

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION COMPLETES STUDY ON ECONOMY
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THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION HAS COMPLETED A STUDY OF THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS AND MADE CERTAIN FORECASTS OF THE LIKELY GROWTH OF EXPORTS OF BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES OVER THE FIVE YEARS TO 1982.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE COMMITTEE IN ITS STUDY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE LIKELY FUTURE DETERMINANTS OF GROWTH OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIES THAT MAKE UP OUR ECONOMY, INCLUDING SOCIO-POLITICAL AND GEO-POLITICAL FACTORS AND THE RESTRICTIVE IMPACT OF THE NEW GENERATION OF TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT SIX SUB-COMMITTEES ARE STUDYING THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE ATTRACTED OR DETERRED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ACTIVITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN HONG KONG AND THE MEASURES TAKEN IN COMPETITOR COUNTRIES AND THEIR COMPARATIVE SUCCESS.

+THESE SUB-COMMITTEES WILL REPORT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND ON THE BASIS OF ALL THE MATERIALS BY THEN ASSEMBLED, THE COMMITTEE WILL MOVE ON TO THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSIDERING WHETHER THERE IS A CASE FOR MODIFYING EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR EXTENDING THEM TO FACILITATE DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMY.

HE SAID THIS STAGE IS PLANNED TO COMMENCE AFTER THE PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET AND WILL LEAD ON TO THE COMPILATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S INEVITABLY LENGTHY REPORT WHICH HE HOPED THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL HAVE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

ON OTHER FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, SIR MURRAY SAID THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE ITS FIRST MEETING IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1977-78.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE WORKING PARTY SET UP TO CONSIDER A METHOD OF STATUTORY BACKING FOR OUR SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL CONTROL HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS AND A PUBLIC FINANCE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING THIS SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN ADDITION, A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VERY SHORTLY TO AMEND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF SUCH COMPANIES OF WHICH THERE ARE 234 IN HONG KONG, ON SOMEWHAT SIMILAR LINES TO THAT PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING IN RESPECT OF LICENSED BANKS.

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STRENGTHENING AND REORGANISING POLICE HQ STRUCTURE

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MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN STRENGTHENING AND REORGANISING THE HEADQUARTERS STRUCTURE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

SIMILAR PROGRESS WAS MADE IN IMPROVING IN-SERVICE TRAINING, STAFF RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE, AND IN OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT AND EFFICIENCY.

THIS FOLLOWED RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A MOST EXPERIENCED TEAM FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM LED BY MR. J. CRANE, ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF CONSTABULARY, AND A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF POLICE CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF AND THE SECURITY BRANCH OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND MR. CRANE'S TEAM.

+IN BROAD TERMS THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT PROFESSIONALLY THE FORCE WAS WORKING ON THE RIGHT LINES= BUT THAT INTENSE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND THE RAPID EXPANSION, REDEPLOYMENT AND REORGANISATION OF THE FORCE IN RECENT YEARS TO COMBAT CRIME, HAS HAD A DOUBLE-EDGED EFFECT.

+SUCCESS AGAINST CRIME, AND IN ACHIEVING AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC, HAS BEEN REMARKABLE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE TEAM'S VISIT HAD ALSO RESULTED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO DO WITH WELFARE, LIVING CONDITIONS AND HOUSING AND ALSO FACILITIES FOR RECREATION, SOME OF WHICH, SIR MURRAY SAID, WERE APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE AND SOME TO OTHER OR ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

+A FURTHER POINT THAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS A RESULT OF THIS ENQUIRY IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT AS A GOOD EMPLOYER SHOULD PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS LEGAL COSTS INCURRED BY PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO ARE PROSECUTED FOR OFFENCES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED WHEN THEY ARE ON DUTY. IT IS A POINT OF SPECIAL RELEVANCE TO THE POLICE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY STRESSED THAT IT WAS VITAL THAT PROCEDURES SHOULD EXIST FOR THE QUICK, EXPERT AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS, AND THE STRENGTHENED COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE AND THE UMELCO COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE COMMITTEE HAD GREATLY IMPROVED THE SITUATION.

BUT IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT COMPLAINTS WERE A MUCH HIGHER OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD FOR POLICE THAN FOR OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE DUTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE GROUND= AND COUNTER-CHARGES OR COMPLAINTS WERE SOMETIMES THE ONLY DEFENCE GUILTY MEN COULD MAKE.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, +CONSIDERS THAT THE BROAD PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATIONS IN COURT SHOULD BE PROVIDED.+

THE IN-DEPTH STUDY WAS CONTINUING AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY AT THE LATEST.

THE POLICE FORCE, HE SAID, WAS FUNCTIONING WITH MARKED SUCCESS, AND THE DOWNWARD TRENDS IN CRIME HAD BEEN MAINTAINED.

+VIOLENT CRIME HAS DECREASED BY A FURTHER THREE PER CENT THIS YEAR AND THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG OFFENDERS.

+I AM SURE THAT HERE THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL WITH ITS QUARTER OF A MILLION MEMBERS, AND THE MASSIVE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART.

+SO TOO HAS THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND THE MUCH GREATER AWARENESS THAT EXISTS OF WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT THEMSELVES AND HELP THE POLICE. LAST YEAR, NINE PER CENT OF ARRESTS WERE MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - A TRULY REMARKABLE RECORD,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE POLICE FORCE HAD INCREASED BY 48 PER CENT SINCE 1973 TO 21,000 MEN AND WOMEN INCLUDING CIVILIANS, AND IT WOULD INCREASE BY A FURTHER 1,000 THIS YEAR. A FURTHER INCREASE OF STRENGTH OF 1,300 WAS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR.

THESE INCREASES, HE SAID, WERE LARGE, BUT POLICE COMMITMENTS WERE GROWING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ESTATES AND NEW TOWNS, AND WITH THE GROWTH IN POPULATION.

AS AN INDICATION OF THE EFFORTS THE FORCE WAS MAKING TO USE ITS NEW STRENGTH TO INCREASE ITS COVERAGE, 97 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNITS AND POLICE REPORTING CENTRES IN HOUSING ESTATES AND OTHER AREAS WERE ALREADY IN OPERATION, 32 MORE WERE PLANNED FOR COMPLETION DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, AND 23 NEXT YEAR.

FIVE NEW POLICE STATIONS WERE BEING OPENED THIS YEAR IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. NEXT YEAR TWO MORE WOULD BE COMPLETED AND WORK WOULD START ON FOUR MORE.

IN ALL, 21 NEW STATIONS WERE PLANNED FOR COMPLETION BY 1985/86.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +WHAT INCREASES IN STRENGTH WILL BE NECESSARY OVER THIS PERIOD IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH PRECISION. THE HIGH LEVEL OF RECRUITMENT IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, BUT THE FORCE IS NOW EXCEPTIONALLY YOUNG.

+THOUGH THIS REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE, AND THE QUALITY OF THE NEW ENTRY IS HIGH, THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLING ON SUPERVISING OFFICERS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HEAVY, AND OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL I AM SURE THAT THE NEED NOW IS FOR A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION, AND LESS FRENETIC EXPANSION.+

THE RECURRENT COST OF THE FORCE WAS ESTIMATED, AT 1978 PRICES, TO RISE FROM \$600 MILLION IN 1978/79 TO ABOUT \$785 MILLION IN 1983/84.

RECREATION AND SPORT DEVELOPMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY THE CHANGE IN THE LEISURE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG SYMBOLISES, JUST AS DRAMATICALLY AS THE CHANGED SILHOUETTES OF THE SKYSCRAPERS, THE STRIDES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY.

OUTLINING THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS TO CATER FOR THESE INTERESTS IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE ADMINISTRATION OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IS A WHOLE NEW AND IMPORTANT FIELD OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AND THE SCALE AND SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT IS EXTRAORDINARY.

HE SAID: +SOME OF THESE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS HAVE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME, BUT MOST HAVE NOT AND IN ANY CASE THE SCALE OF ACTIVITY IS OUT OF ALL RECOGNITION.+

THESE CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY STIMULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT, URBAN COUNCIL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, HE SAID.

+WE HAVE EACH YEAR AN INTERNATIONAL HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL, A FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS, AND USUALLY A FILM FESTIVAL. A WEEK SELDOM PASSES WITHOUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING OF HIGH ARTISTIC MERIT.+

HE SAID THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC HAS NOW TAKEN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS HONG KONG'S ORCHESTRA. THERE IS AN EXCELLENT AND POPULAR CHINESE ORCHESTRA, DANCE AND BALLET GROUPS ARE OF A HIGH STANDARD, AND WE ARE DEVELOPING A FINE YOUTH ORCHESTRA.

THE ARTS CENTRE HAD ALSO PROVED AN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS, HE SAID, +INDEED ALL AVAILABLE AUDITORIA ARE SO HEAVILY BOOKED, THAT IT IS JUST AS WELL THAT BEFORE THE MID 80'S UNDER REVIEW THE NEW CULTURAL COMPLEX AT TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE COMPLETED AND THREE NEW LARGE CITY HALLS AND TWO SMALL ONES WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT A WIDE VARIETY OF SPORTS ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS GONE INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB OVER ESTABLISHING A VERY LARGE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

IN ADDITION, THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE ORGANISED DIVERSE FORMS OF RECREATION FOR AT LEAST 30,000 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES A MONTH AND SUPPLEMENTS AND ASSISTS THE WORK OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LOCAL GROUPS IN CATERING FOR MUCH LARGER NUMBERS.

+THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND IN THIS THE URBAN COUNCIL IS DOING PARTICULARLY GOOD WORK,+ HE SAID.

+THEN THERE IS THE NEW COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR RECREATION OF ABOUT 200 SQUARE MILES OF MOUNTAIN, VALLEY AND BEACH, WHICH IT IS EXPECTED WILL BE VISITED BY ANYTHING UP TO 100,000 PEOPLE ON ANY WEEKEND OF GOOD WEATHER,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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STRENGTH AND VIGILANCE OF ICAC TO BE MAINTAINED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, STRESSED TODAY THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF RELAXING THE EFFORTS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, AND REDUCING ITS STRENGTH.

ADDRESSING THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE STILL TO BE DONE.

+THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME PEOPLE READY TO INDULGE IN CORRUPTION, AND WE MUST THEREFORE BE VIGILANT AND EQUIPPED TO PREVENT A RELAPSE INTO THE SITUATION FROM WHICH WE HAVE JUST EXTRICATED OURSELVES SO PAINFULLY. THIS SPECIAL VIGILANCE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ICAC THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY RETROGRESSION AS FAR AS SYNDICATED CORRUPTION WAS CONCERNED SINCE THE +PARTIAL AMNESTY+ ON NOVEMBER 5 LAST YEAR. NOR HAD THERE BEEN A SLIP BACK INTO THE BAD OLD WAYS.

+WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE POWERFUL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT ARE NOW FREED FROM DELVING INTO THE PAST AND ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON INVESTIGATING AND MONITORING THE PRESENT,+ HE SAID. +THE WHOLE POSITION WITHIN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IS TRANSFORMED FROM WHAT IT WAS FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO.

+THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN WHICH MANY HAVE PLAYED A PART AS WELL AS THE ICAC, AND IN WHICH ALL OF US CAN TAKE PRIDE.+

SIR MURRAY ADDED THAT WITH THE HIGH DEGREE OF SUCCESS ALREADY ACHIEVED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PLACE INCREASING EMPHASIS AND RELIANCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENTS.

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EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CIVIL SERVICE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY PARTICULAR EFFORTS WILL BE MADE OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO IMPROVE STAFF MANAGEMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT, STAFF RELATIONS, TRAINING AND MACHINERY FOR SETTLING PAY AND STRUCTURE PROBLEMS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +IT WILL ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO FINALISE THE CURRENT REVIEW OF THE POLICIES ON HOUSING AND LEAVE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS - INCLUDING OF COURSE MEMBERS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND ADMIRATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE'S COMMITMENT, ENTHUSIASM AND ACCOMPLISHMENT, POINTING OUT THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PLANS AND ALL THE CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT DEPENDS VERY LARGELY UPON THE EFFORTS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

+THE PUBLIC SERVICE HAS BEEN UNDER PARTICULAR PRESSURE BECAUSE OF THE RAPID EXPANSION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IN PARALLEL WITH, AND INDEED AS A REFLECTION OF, THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG ITSELF,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+THIS EXPANSION AND THIS PRESSURE WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE AS NONE KNOWS BETTER THAN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, THERE IS A LOT TO BE DONE.

+I SHOULD HOPE THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE, ITS STEADY RISE IN THE LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE OF ITS MEMBERS, AND THE PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR MAJOR TARGETS SHOULD REDUCE THIS PRESSURE WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG'S ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK ACHIEVING RESULTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY THAT THE SITUATION OF HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL PROBLEM OF DRUG ADDICTION AND TRAFFICKING IS +BEGINNING TO LOOK ENCOURAGING+.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +ALL THE INDICATIONS NOW POINT TO A STEADY CONTAINMENT OF THE NUMBERS ADDICTED, AND TO A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BECOMING INVOLVED.+

BUT HE EMPHASISED THAT +WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE LENGTH OF THE ROAD TO BE TRAVELLED, OR ABOUT THE DANGERS OF REGRESSION IF THE INTENSITY OF THESE MANY-SIDED ENDEAVOURS WERE RELAXED.+

LIAISON WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, DISRUPTION OF IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION, EROSION OF DEMAND BY VOLUNTARY OR COMPULSORY CURE, AND BETTER EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ADDICTION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF CURE, WERE ALL HAVING THEIR EFFECT -- PARTICULARLY SINCE ALL ACTION WAS NOW SO CLOSELY CO-ORDINATED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, SUPPORTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT.

+WE CAN THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON OUR DOMESTIC PROBLEM,+ SIR MURRAY ADDED.

HOWEVER, SIR MURRAY SAID THIS PROBLEM MIGHT NOT BE QUITE SO LARGE AS WE HAD FEARED BECAUSE IT NOW SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 50,000 INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATE OF 100,000, ACCORDING TO THE INITIAL DATA FROM THE NEW COMPUTERISED REGISTER OF ADDICTS.

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THAT WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY TREATMENT CENTRES NOW AVAILABLE AND THE EXPANSION OF ACCOMMODATION IN COMPULSORY DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDICTS UNDER COMPULSORY OR VOLUNTARY TREATMENT OR FURTHER CARE AT ANY ONE TIME, NOW AVERAGES BETWEEN 13,000 AND 14,000.

+THIS IS PROBABLY STILL TOO SMALL A PROPORTION OF THE WHOLE, EVEN WITH THE COMPARATIVELY HIGH SUCCESS RATE ACHIEVED IN COMPARISON TO THOSE ELSEWHERE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE HEARTENING INDICATORS. FOR INSTANCE THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS ENTERING PRISON INSTITUTIONS FOUND TO BE ADDICTED HAS DROPPED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS FROM 73 PER CENT TO 40 PER CENT -- IT WAS A STAGGERING 90 PER CENT IN 1950 -- AND THE PERCENTAGE AMONGST THOSE UNDER 21 HAS DROPPED FROM 4.7 PER CENT TO UNDER 1 PER CENT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT THIS FERMENT OF PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG HAS STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST. A STEADY FLOW OF VISITORS COME TO STUDY OUR METHODS AND THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD'S REPORT FOR 1977 REFERRED TO THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPERIENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

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BIG IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON CONDITIONS

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CONDITIONS IN PRISONS HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY FROM THE SERIOUS OVER-CROWDING OF A FEW YEARS AGO, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS HAVE DROPPED, AND ACCOMMODATION HAS IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF SUBSTANTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION DURING THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.+

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THE NUMBER OF LONG-TERM PRISONERS REQUIRING HIGH SECURITY IS INCREASING.

+A FURTHER HIGH SECURITY PRISON IS THEREFORE BEING BUILT AT SHEK PIK, FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1981, AND A FURTHER MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON TO REPLACE VICTORIA PRISON IS PLANNED FOR COMPLETION ABOUT 1984 ON HEI LING CHAU.

+IT WILL THEN, AT LAST, BE POSSIBLE TO DEMOLISH THE OLD VICTORIA PRISON,+ HE ADDED.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE DRUG ADDICTION CENTRE ON HEI LING CHAU WAS ACHIEVING EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THE CURE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF ADDICTS, AND WOULD ACCOMMODATE 1,170.

+THIS IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 1,440 BY 1980- 81 WHEN THE TOTAL TREATMENT ACCOMMODATION WILL REACH 2,250 PLACES WITH AN ANNUAL THROUGHPUT OF NEARLY 7,000,+ HE ADDED.

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LAWS TO CONTROL POLLUTION

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A SERIES OF ORDINANCES WILL BE DRAFTED TO BRING UNDER CONTROL THE VARIOUS FORMS OF POLLUTION TO WHICH HONG KONG IS EXPOSED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT STRONG TIDES AND WINDS HAVE SO FAR SAVED US FROM THE WORST EFFECTS OF POLLUTION, BUT THE SOONER A CORPUS OF LEGISLATION IS ON THE STATUTE BOOK THE BETTER.

+I HOPE THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS DURING THIS SESSION,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE APPROACH OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CAREFUL AND REALISTIC.

SIR MURRAY PRAISED THE EXCELLENT PREPARATORY WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT, UNDER ITS EXPERT ADVISER, HAD COME AS A RELIEF TO COUNCIL MEMBERS.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1978

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LEGO PAYS RESPECTS TO SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON OBSERVED A MINUTE'S SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE LATE SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM, FORMER GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, WHO PASSED AWAY ON OCTOBER 4.

IN A SPECIAL TRIBUTE EARLIER, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, DESCRIBED SIR ALEXANDER AS +THE GREATEST GOVERNOR+ WHO, MORE THAN ANY SINGLE MAN, LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE HONG KONG IN WHICH WE LIVE.

SIR MURRAY SAID:

+IT IS THE WISH OF MEMBERS THAT BEFORE WE SIT DOWN WE MARK THE PASSING OF ALEXANDER GRANTHAM, PAST PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL, PAST GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, A GREAT ADMINISTRATOR, A GREAT PERSONALITY, THE GREATEST GOVERNOR.

+THE BASIC PROBLEMS BESETTING HONG KONG HAVE VARIED LITTLE OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS. WHETHER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL OR DIPLOMATIC, THEY HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS FORCED ON HONG KONG BY OUTSIDE CIRCUMSTANCES. SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF ADMINISTRATORS HAVE GRAPPLED WITH THEM, AND WITH SOME SUCCESS. AND IN THIS SUCCESS I KNOW HE TOOK CONTINUING INTEREST AND PRIDE. BUT IT WAS ALEXANDER GRANTHAM'S FATE AND HONG KONG'S GOOD FORTUNE, THAT IT WAS HE WHO WAS THE FIRST GOVERNOR TO FACE THESE PROBLEMS OF MODERN HONG KONG - AND HOW INTRACTABLE THEY MUST HAVE LOOKED AT THAT TIME ONLY HE CAN KNOW. BUT HE IDENTIFIED THEM, CONFRONTED THEM, SECURED PUBLIC SUPPORT AND ACTED TO TACKLE THEM AND HE GAVE HONG KONG CONFIDENCE IN ITS SUCCESS AND ITS FUTURE. IN SO DOING HE ALSO ESTABLISHED THE CONCEPT OF HONG KONG AS A MULTI-RACIAL ALL-EMBRACING COMMUNITY. HE THUS, MORE THAN ANY SINGLE MAN, LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE HONG KONG IN WHICH WE LIVE. HE LAID THEM WITH STYLE AND HUMOUR AS WELL AS WITH EXPERIENCE, WISDOM AND COURAGE AND ABOVE ALL HE LAID THEM WELL.

+I THINK IT WOULD BE FITTING IF WE NOW STOOD FOR A MINUTE IN SILENCE IN RESPECT FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND IN SYMPATHY FOR HIS WIDOW.+

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1978

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO LEGCO MEMBERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE GREAT VOLUME OF WORK THEY HAVE DONE WITHOUT WHICH THE +GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG COULD NOT BE CARRIED ON AND WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAS SO SIGNIFICANTLY PROSPERED.+

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG OWED A GREAT DEAL TO THEIR DEVOTION TO THIS WORK AND HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS BECOMING MORE GENERALLY APPRECIATED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE EXTENDED HIS GOOD WISHES TO THE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. JACK CATER AND THE NEW SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

HE ALSO WELCOMED THE FOUR NEW UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL WHO, HE SAID, BRING WITH THEM A WIDE AND DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE OF MANY LEVELS AND ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S SOCIETY AND ECONOMY.

THE NEW MEMBERS ARE: THE HON. DAVID NEWBIGGING, THE HON. ANDREW SO, THE HON. ALLEN LEE AND DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS AN ORGAN OF GOVERNMENT THAT IS CONSTITUTIONALLY UNIQUE IN ITS MANY ROLES OF FORUM FOR DEBATE, THE ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND OMBUDSMAN, ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC WHETHER TO HEAR COMPLAINTS OR GIVE ADVICE.

+THE ACCESS THAT ALL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS HAVE BOTH TO OFFICIALS AND TO CONFIDENTIAL OFFICIAL PAPERS, IN ITSELF DISTINGUISHES THEM FROM MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER LEGISLATURE I HAVE KNOWN.

+I AM GLAD THAT IN RECENT YEARS THESE ROLES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED NOT ONLY BY A LARGE EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP, BUT ALSO BY THE SUPPORT OF A STRONG UMELCO OFFICE, PROVISION OF BETTER ACCOMMODATION, AND ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS, AND THAT A CLOSER SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION AND A BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC HAS RESULTED,+ HE SAID.

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WORK OF RETIRING LEGCO MEMBERS PRAISED
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO FIVE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE SERVICES THEY HAVE RENDERED TO THE COUNCIL AND HONG KONG.

IN A VALEDICTORY TO SIR DENYS ROBERTS, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, MR. Q.W. LEE, MR. PETER WILLIAMS AND MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +I AM SURE THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL JOIN ME IN EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THESE RETIRING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNCIL AND HONG KONG.+

HE SAID: +SIR DENYS WAS AN OUTSTANDING CHIEF SECRETARY AND AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL. HIS MASTERY OF FACT ENLIGHTENED IT, HIS WIT ENLIVENED IT, AND HIS COURTESY SOOTHED IT.

+I AM SURE THAT THESE FINE GIFTS WILL NOT IN ANY WAY BE RESTRICTED BY THE FULL-BOTTOMED WIG AND BUCKLED SHOES OF HIS NEW CALLING.

+THE PART HE PLAYED IN THIS COUNCIL WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED WITH RESPECT AND AFFECTION,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

IN A TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE GOVERNOR SAID SIR SZE-YUEN MADE A MAJOR AND VERY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION IN HIS TEN YEARS MEMBERSHIP.

+HE WAS A NOTABLE SENIOR MEMBER AND HIS ENERGY, CONCERN AND LEADERSHIP EASED THE COUNCIL'S PASSAGE FROM A COMPARATIVELY SMALL TO A MUCH LARGER BODY. FORTUNATELY HIS ADVICE WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND UMEICO.+

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. Q.W. LEE, SIR MURRAY SAID: +WE ARE ALL VERY SORRY THAT ILL HEALTH FORCED MR. Q.W. LEE TO RETIRE. HIS FIELDS WERE FINANCE, THE ECONOMY AND EDUCATION, AND HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM MADE HIS INTERVENTIONS OF PARTICULAR VALUE.

+I AM VERY GLAD THAT HE WILL BE CONTINUING IN OTHER LESS TIME-CONSUMING FIELDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO PRAISED MR. PETER WILLIAMS FOR GIVING GENEROUSLY OF HIS TIME AND ENERGY IN HIS SIX YEARS' SERVICE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DESPITE HIS MANY OTHER COMMITMENTS.

+HIS MOST CHARACTERISTIC INTERVENTIONS WERE FOR MORE FACILITIES FOR RECREATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. AND THIS CONCERN HAS ALSO BEEN APPARENT IN HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB,+ HE SAID.

/+I HOPE

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+I HOPE HE FEELS THAT THE GREAT STRIDES MADE IN PROVISION FOR YOUTH IN RECENT YEARS ARE SOME REWARD FOR HIS ADVOCACY.+

IN A TRIBUTE TO MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, SIR MURRAY SAID SHE WILL ALSO BE GREATLY MISSED.

+AT A TIME IN WHICH THE REFASHIONING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG-TERM PLANS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION WAS MUCH BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND UMELCO, HER CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. SHE ALSO HAS MADE HISTORY AS ONE OF THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL WOMEN APPOINTED TO THIS COUNCIL,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE NEW SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR DENYS AND THE FOUR UNOFFICIALS WHO RETIRED FROM THE COUNCIL.

SIR DENYS, HE SAID, WAS EVER-READY TO LISTEN TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, WITHOUT BIAS TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS, BEFORE FINALLY FORMULATING GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES OR LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

+AND WHEN HE COULD NOT ACCEPT UNOFFICIAL PROPOSALS OR CRITICISMS, HE DID IT WITH THE UTMOST COURTESY, WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL ARROGANCE, AND WITH URBANE GOOD HUMOUR.+

IN SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE PREVIOUS SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE UNOFFICIALS HAD A LEADER WHO WAS AT PAINS TO SEE THAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD HAVE HIS SAY, EVERY VIEWPOINT PUT FORWARD, CANVASSED AND DISCUSSED, AND PUBLIC OPINION FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HIS RETIREMENT, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF MR. Q.W. LEE, MR. WILLIAMS AND MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH DEPRIVED THE COUNCIL OF THE RICH AND DIVERSE TALENTS THEY BROUGHT TO IT.

THEY AVAILED THE COUNCIL OF THEIR SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN THEIR MANY FIELDS OF INTEREST. EACH OF THEM DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, THOUGHT AND LABOUR TO THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PROBLEMS AND PROJECTS WITH WHICH THE COUNCIL AND UMELCO WAS CONCERNED. +THEY COUNSELLED WISELY AND WITH MODERATION,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AND THE ELDERLY
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A SENIOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TODAY SUGGESTED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AS A MEASURE TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEELINGS OF SOLITUDE AND INSECURITY EXPERIENCED BY A MAJORITY OF THE AGING POPULATION.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF THE PEAK THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON, MRS. HENRIETTA CHEN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, SAID THAT A HARMONIOUS, HOMELY ENVIRONMENT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE GRADUAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE ELDERLY TO THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF OLD AGE.

SHE STRESSED THAT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, A COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMME AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY, WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THE YOUNG AND OLD.

EXPLAINING THE COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ELDERLY, THE TARGET GROUP OF THIS MONTH'S FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, MRS. CHEN SAID THAT SIGNS OF PHYSICAL FRAILTY, FAILING MEMORY, NARROWING SOCIAL CIRCLE, DWINDLING ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND LOSS OF A LIFE-LONG CAREER WOULD EASILY CULTIVATE IN AN UNPREPARED INDIVIDUAL A GROWING SENSE OF FEAR AND ISOLATION.

+TO FILL THE 'PSYCHOLOGICAL VACUUM' OF THOSE WHO RETIRED, AND TO MAKE LIFE HAPPIER FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION IN GENERAL, STRENUOUS EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE BY EVERY MEMBER IN THE FAMILY,+ SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT EARLY PREPARATION FOR THE NATURAL PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGES OF AGING TOGETHER WITH ENCOURAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR THE CULTIVATION OF LEISURELY PURSUITS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO ERADICATE THIS UNSETTLING FEELING AND AT THE SAME TIME ENRICH OLD PEOPLE'S DAILY LIFE.

+WITH REGARD TO THE RE-DEFINITION OF VALUES FOR THE ELDERLY, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WILL SERVE TO REAFFIRM THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OLDER GENERATION BOTH WITHIN THE FAMILY AND IN THE COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID.

MRS. CHEN POINTED OUT THAT ELDERLY MEMBERS, WITH THEIR WISDOM AND WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, COULD MAKE TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE WORK.

/+APART FROM

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+APART FROM ASSISTING THEM TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR CAPABILITY, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES ARE ALSO GEARED TO BRING ABOUT BASIC-ATTITUDINAL CHANGES SO THAT THEY ARE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THEIR NEW IDEAS AND TRENDS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ SHE ADDED.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES DIRECTED AT VARIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO AROUSE AWARENESS AND CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF SENIOR FAMILY MEMBERS, SHE SAID.

MRS. CHEN HOPED THAT THESE GESTURES OF PERSONAL CONCERN, COUPLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPANSION PLAN FOR ELDERLY SERVICES, WOULD RESULT IN THE PROVISION OF WHOLESOME AND HAPPY LIFE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

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WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN AND WAN CHAI WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 13) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN TSUEN WAN, WATER SUPPLY TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD, TAI CHUNG ROAD, SEA-FRONT AND PUN SHAN STREET INCLUDING CHAI WAN KOK STREET WILL BE STOPPED FOR SIX HOURS FROM FRIDAY MIDNIGHT TILL 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

IN WAN CHAI, PREMISES ALONG HENNESSY ROAD, LUARD ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND ARSENAL STREET WILL BE WITHOUT WATER SUPPLY FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

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