



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1978

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NEW LAND SOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTED

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SENIOR UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, SAID TODAY THAT HONG KONG COULD ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PLAINS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND BY RESITING THE AIRPORT OFF THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU.

LEADING OFF THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR. CHEUNG SAID THE ARGUMENT ABOUT THIS LAND SOURCE IS THAT IT WOULD BE +HIDEOUSLY EXPENSIVE+ TO RESUME THE PLOTS WITHIN THE PLAINS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL WELL-POPULATED AND ALL THE LAND IS PROBABLY IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND THE NECESSITY TO PRESERVE GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND.

+YET WITHIN THE LAST 25 YEARS I HAVE SEEN THE CONVERSION OF RICE FIELDS TO ECONOMICALLY MORE PRODUCTIVE CROP AND VEGETABLE FARMS, TO NURSERIES FOR PLANTS AND FLOWERS, TO FISH PONDS, TO CHICKEN BATTERIES AND PIG PENS, AND GRADUALLY TO COTTAGE FACTORIES- THE PROGRESSION IS RELENTLESS, AND IN MY JUDGMENT, IRREVERSIBLE, AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS BEST TO TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. CHEUNG SAID HE DID NOT ADVOCATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT NECESSARILY PROCEED BY THE USUAL LAYOUT AND RESUMPTION.

+BUT GIVEN THAT WE DECIDE IT IS DESIRABLE TO TURN AGRICULTURAL LAND TO RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SIT DOWN AND THINK VERY HARD ON HOW BEST IT WOULD BE TO BRING ABOUT SUCH CONVERSION, ON TERMS THAT ARE FAIR TO THE PRESENT OWNERS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SECOND LAND SOURCE, MR. CHEUNG SAID IT WOULD BE A +DIRECT AND DOUBLE+ BENEFIT RESULTING FROM A DECISION TO BUILD A NEW AIRPORT OFF THE NORTH COAST OF LANTAU.

MR. CHEUNG SAID IF IT IS SITED AS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED, IT WILL FREE KAI TAK FOR BUILDING, AND A +NOT INCONSIDERABLE+ HECTARAGE OF PRIME LAND WILL BE RELEASED FOR BUILDING, ESPECIALLY IF FURTHER RECLAMATION IS CARRIED OUT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RUNWAY.

+SECONDLY,+ HE SAID, +IT WILL FREE KOWLOON FROM THE PRESENT RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING HEIGHTS, FROM THE REMOVAL OF WHICH GOVERNMENT CAN RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS OF PREMIA.+

MR. CHEUNG FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE TWO SOURCES OF CAPITAL REVENUE TO BE DERIVED FROM MOVING THE AIRPORT WILL BE MORE THAN THAT REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND FURBISHING OF THE NEW ONE.

+AND THE OPTIMUM DATE FOR STARTING THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION MAY BE 1982, WHEN THE MTR IS FINISHED,+ MR. CHEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE RECENT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA SEEM TO HIM TO WARRANT AN EARLIER DECISION AND AN EARLIER DATE OF COMPLETION THAN CONTEMPLATED.

/MR. CHEUNG.....

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MR. CHEUNG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE DEMAND FOR ADMINISTRATORS, TECHNOLOGISTS, MANAGERS, AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE WOULD BEFORE TOO LONG EXCEED THE SUPPLY THAT THE PRESENTLY PLANNED EXPANSION IN TERTIARY PLACES WOULD MEET.

REFERRING TO THE WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, MR. CHEUNG SAID THAT IN THE FIELD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP FIRMLY IN MIND THAT WHERE QUALITY EXISTS IN SOME SCHOOLS, IT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND NURTURED, AND NOT BURIED FOR THE SAKE OF UNIFORMITY AND EASE OF ADMINISTRATION.

+FOR IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE TROUBLE AND SPEND THE MONEY ON TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, AS IT IS TO TURN OUT GOOD POLICE CADETS ON WHOM, WE ALL AGREE, LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ARE SPENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHEUNG ALSO SAID THE UNOFFICIALS WERE AWAITING WITH GREAT INTEREST THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON HOUSING AND LEAVE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND ON THE MACHINERY FOR SETTLING PAY AND STRUCTURE PROBLEMS.

ON RECREATION, MR. CHEUNG CALLED FOR +MASSIVE INCREASES+ IN THREE SORTS OF FACILITIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE -- SQUASH COURTS, YOUTH HOSTELS IN COUNTRY PARKS AND SAILING, ROWING AND CANOEING CENTRES, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY DINGHIES, BOATS AND CANOES.

MR. CHEUNG ALSO THANKED FOR THE GOVERNOR FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT IN HIS TENURE OF OFFICE, AND SAID ALL THESE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT VIOLATING +OUR BASIC CONCEPTS OF POLICY: REASONABLE TAXATION, MINIMAL INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, A FREE PRESS, THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE WORK, AND JUST RECOGNITION AND REWARD OF THE INDUSTRIOUS.

+AND AS A DIPLOMATIST FROM THE WORLD'S HARDEST AND FINEST SCHOOL (LACKING ONLY, BUT THANKFULLY, THE CUTTING LOGIC OF SOME OF ITS VETERANS) YOU HAVE RESOLUTELY MADE IT YOUR TASK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WITH THE FRUITS FOR ALL TO SEE AND TO TAKE HEART.

+SELDOM HAVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD SUCH GOOD CAUSE TO THANK A GOVERNOR FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT IN HIS TENURE OF OFFICE, TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE FABRIC, WORKS, PLANS AND POLICIES IN BEING, AND THE HOPES FOR TOMORROW.+

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NEW INDEPENDENT SALARIES COMMISSION REQUIRED
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IN INCIDENTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY CIVIL SERVANTS, IT IS MOST UNSATISFACTORY, AS IT IS THE PRESENT PRACTICE, TO REFER AGGRIEVED PARTIES TO THE SENIOR STAFF OF THEIR OWN DEPARTMENTS, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS IS SO FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE OFFICERS' POINT OF VIEW. +THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF NOT ONLY IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH THE 'MANAGEMENT' BUT MUST ALSO BE SEEN TO BE LOYAL TO ITS OWN STAFF. THERE IS BOUND TO BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST HERE,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE GROWING COMPLEXITIES AND SOPHISTICATION OF OUR SOCIETY AND THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS TOWARDS THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE, THE GOVERNMENT, AS A GOOD EMPLOYER, MUST ENSURE THAT BASIC SALARY SCALES AND THE STRUCTURE OF A PARTICULAR CLASS OF OFFICERS OR DIFFERENT RANKS WITHIN IT, REMAIN APPROPRIATE FOR THE DUTIES INVOLVED.

HE FELT THAT A BETTER MACHINERY TO RESOLVE STAFF DISPUTES OVER PAY AND CAREER PROSPECTS IS URGENTLY REQUIRED, MORE PARTICULARLY SINCE STRIKE ACTION OR WORK TO RULE WOULD BRING HARDSHIP TO NEEDY FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO RELY ON THE SERVICES IN QUESTION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE AND INTERNAL RELATIVITIES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE NOW SOMEWHAT OUT OF PHASE, A NEW INDEPENDENT SALARIES COMMISSION COMPRISING EXPERTS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN HONG KONG, SHOULD NOW BE APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE SERVICE ACROSS THE BOARD.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEED FOR A STANDING COMMITTEE TO ACT AS WATCHDOG, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUPERSCALE SALARIES.

DR. FANG WELCOMED THE IMPROVED ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUSING FOR GOVERNMENT DOCTORS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD PERSUADE SOME OF THEM TO STAY LONGER.

+IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE GOOD HOUSING COMMANDS SUCH A HIGH PREMIUM, A SCHEME TO ENABLE DOCTORS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE OFFICERS, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE AND SEX, TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS RETAINING EXPERIENCED STAFF WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO DO WELL TO OBTAIN INSURANCE COVER FOR ITS DOCTORS WHOSE PROFESSION IS MORE VULNERABLE TO CLAIMS OF MALPRACTICE THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENT OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF PROVIDES IN CASES OF LITIGATION IS DEPENDENT ON THE CULPABILITY OF THE OFFICER INVOLVED.

THIS ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY IS OBVIOUSLY WORRYING TO THE STAFF, HE SAID, UPON WHOM WE RELY FOR AN ADEQUATE MEDICAL SERVICE.

HONG KONG MAY NOT HAVE THE ABSURD SITUATION LIKE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE TENDENCY TOWARDS INCREASING LITIGATION CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

THE PREMIUM INVOLVED, WHICH WOULD COVER UNLIMITED LIABILITIES, SHOULD AMOUNT TO NO MORE THAN \$250,000 A YEAR. +SET AGAINST THE TIME SPENT BY LEGAL OFFICERS IN DEFENDING ANY CLAIMS AND THE AMOUNTS SPENT IN FINAL SETTLEMENT, SUCH A SMALL INVESTMENT SEEMS EMINENTLY WORTHWHILE,+ HE ADDED.

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LET THERE BE VARIETY AND DIVERSITY OF SCHOOLS -- MISS BENNETT
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SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY THOSE RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR OWN CHARACTERISTICS, THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+DO NOT LET US PRETEND THAT AT THE END OF THE DECADE ALL SCHOOLS ARE GOING TO BE EQUAL,+ SHE SAID, +LET US REJOICE RATHER THAT THERE WILL BE VARIETY AND DIVERSITY.

+IF WE DESIRE OUR SCHOOLS TO BE ALL THE SAME WITH NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AND BRILLIANCE, WE SHALL BE DESTROYING THE NATURAL HONG KONG ABILITY TO EXCEL.+

SHE SUPPORTED THE GIVING OF SPECIAL GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE NEW CURRICULA IN CERTAIN SUBJECTS, AND FURTHER URGED THAT EACH SCHOOL RUN BY A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION BE ENCOURAGED TO EXCEL IN AT LEAST ONE PARTICULAR FIELD.

SHE THOUGHT THAT CHARGING TONG FAI HAS ENABLED THE AIDED SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO BE DELAYED BY BUREAUCRACY, AND THE BENEFITS OF THIS TO THE STUDENTS ARE APPRECIATED BY THE PARENTS.

AS THESE BENEFITS ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE SENIOR SECTION OF A SCHOOL, SHE ASKED THAT TONG FAI IN FORMS IV TO VI BE KEPT AND BE INCREASED WHEN NECESSARY. SHE ALSO URGED THAT AIDED SCHOOLS BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM TO SPEND RECURRENT GRANTS WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS.

REGARDING THE ABOLITION OF TONG FAI IN FORMS I TO III, MISS BENNETT POINTED OUT THAT A SCHEME HAS YET TO BE WORKED OUT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE VOLUNTARY BODIES, BY WHICH THE CHILD DOES NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY EXTRA CHARGES AND YET THEY HAVE THE FREEDOM TO RUN THEIR SCHOOLS ON THEIR OWN LINES WITH THEIR OWN EMPHASIS.

/SHE STRESSED.....

SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SEARCHING FOR THE CORRECT BALANCE OF FREEDOM AND CONTROL. +TO REMOVE ALL INITIATIVE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE DIFFERENT WOULD DOWNGRADE ALL AIDED SCHOOLS TO A CATEGORY OF SCHOOL INFERIOR TO AND UNABLE TO COMPETE WITH GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS,+ SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS A STATED POLICY OF FREE EDUCATION, CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE THIS EDUCATION STILL HAVE TO BUY THEIR OWN TEXTBOOKS AND STATIONERY UNLESS THEY ARE POOR AND IN PRIMARY SCHOOL OR THEIR PARENTS ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

MOST SCHOOLS ALSO REQUIRE SOME FORM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM WHICH IS NOT FREE. BECAUSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TONG FAI IN FORMS I TO III COULD NOT BE MADE IN TIME FOR THE PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR, CHILDREN IN AIDED SCHOOLS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO PAY THIS SUBSCRIPTION.

MISS BENNETT ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EMPLOY MORE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS TO TEST SLOW-LEARNING CHILDREN AND TO DISCOVER THE REASONS FOR THEIR SLOWNESS.

AT THE MOMENT ONLY 220 SLOW-LEARNERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE OR 3.3 PER CENT OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SLOW-LEARNER POPULATION ARE ACCOMMODATED IN SPECIAL CLASSES. THE PERCENTAGE OF SLOW-LEARNERS IN EACH AGE GROUP HOWEVER MAY WELL BE 13 PER CENT.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE AMONG THE SLOW-LEARNING CHINESE CHILDREN AND HOPED THAT THE UNIVERSITIES WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO HELP THEM OVERCOME THEIR DISABILITIES IN LEARNING THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

MISS BENNETT WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF TEACHING THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE SCRIPT IN HONG KONG WHICH IS NOT USED AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

SHE HOPED TO BE ASSURED THAT THE EXPERTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ARE ACTIVELY RESEARCHING INTO THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE, TOGETHER WITH A STUDY OF WHY CHILDREN ARE SLOW IN LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE.

SPEAKING FROM HER EXPERIENCE AS A FORMER CHILD-CARE CENTRE SUPERVISOR, MISS BENNETT SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT CHILD-CARE WORKERS TAKE INTEREST IN THEIR JOB AND ARE HELPED TO MAKE IT A CAREER.

SHE THEREFORE THOUGHT THE PROPOSALS TO LOWER THE BASIC EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR CHILD-CARE WORKERS NEED FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

BY ASKING FOR COMPLETION OF FORM V WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO SUBJECTS AT GRADE E HOWEVER, MANY STUDENTS COMPLETING FORM V WITHOUT THE FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE E REQUIRED FOR MANY CAREERS WILL BE ABLE TO TURN TO CHILD-CARE CENTRES FOR A GOOD CAREER AND CAN LOOK FORWARD TO BECOMING A SUPERVISOR, WHICH REQUIRES A SIMILAR MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION.

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SHE HOPED THAT MORE CAREERS ADVISORY CENTRES CAN SOON BE ESTABLISHED TO ATTRACT THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THE YOUNG AND THE HANDICAPPED.

SHE ALSO ASKED THAT THE CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR THE HANDICAPPED BE PUT IN OPERATION SOONER AND THAT THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WORK FASTER. IN JUNE THIS YEAR, SHE SAID, 1,504 SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN WERE KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. BESIDES, OVER A THOUSAND MORE MENTALLY RETARDED CITIZENS WERE IN NEED OF TRAINING.

QUOTING THE DISTRICT OF KWUN TONG, MISS BENNETT DREW ATTENTION TO EXISTING INADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND SICK IN HONG KONG.

THE ONLY HOSPITAL IN THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN OPEN FOR NEARLY FIVE YEARS AND IS NOW INSUFFICIENT DUE TO RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION. THIS POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN FIVE YEARS FROM THE PRESENT 640,000 TO SOME 840,000.

+THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER AGREES THAT A SECOND HOSPITAL IS NEEDED, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHERE IT WILL BE BUILT OR BY WHOM,+ SHE SAID. +AT LEAST FIVE YEARS ARE NEEDED FROM THE FIRST DRAFT PLANS TO THE OPENING OF A HOSPITAL. THE SITUATION MAY BE WORSE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY NEARBY WHICH WILL HAVE A FUTURE POPULATION OF A QUARTER OF A MILLION,+ SHE ADDED.

MISS BENNETT FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THIS NEED FOR MORE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN KWUN TONG HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MORE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY, SUCH AS COULD BE FOSTERED BY ESTABLISHING TOWN HALLS IN THE URBAN AREAS, IN ADDITION TO THE SETTING UP OF SCHOOLS NETS AND REGIONALISATION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

+AS OUR POPULATION GROWS AND MATURES, I THINK THE TIME IS COMING TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION AND RESPONSIBILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL,+ SHE ADDED.

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IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS STRESSED

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PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS IS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IN REALISING OUR AIMS IN EDUCATION, THE HON. ALEX WU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT IN ANY SENSE A REACTIONARY BUT HE BELIEVED THAT WE MAY HAVE OVER-REACTED TO THE NEEDS OF OUR INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY TO THE EXTENT OF UNDERRATING SOME OF THE OLD ACADEMIC VIRTUES. BROAD PERSPECTIVES ARE AS MUCH NEEDED BY TECHNOLOGICAL MAN AS BY HIS ANCESTORS, HE SAID.

IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WE HAVE POSSIBLY THE TWO MOST SUBTLE AND EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGES, DEPENDENT FOR THE RICHNESS OF THEIR EXPRESSION ON LONG AND VIVID LITERATURES.

+FOR BOTH LANGUAGES, THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR FUNCTION AS THE SOUNDS AND SYMBOLS OF UTILITARIAN COMMUNICATION, AND THEIR POWER, DEPENDING ON THE APPRECIATION OF LITERATURE AND HISTORY, TO CONVEY IDEAS BY IMAGERY AND ALLUSION,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR BI-LINGUAL SOCIETY THAT IDEAS CAN BE CONVEYED ACCURATELY AND EFFECTIVELY, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN OUR TWO LANGUAGES.

THE FORMS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT WE ARE DEVELOPING CALL FOR AN INCREASING ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, TO DISCUSS AND TO COMMUNICATE IN NOT NECESSARILY FAMILIAR CONCEPTS, HE EXPLAINED.

CONFIDENCE IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM TOO DEMANDS EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND RECENTLY WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION IN THE COURTS.

IN A WIDER SENSE, THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE TO THE FULL POWER OF LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT IN HONG KONG BECAUSE WE ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, MORE ESPECIALLY SO FOR OUR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

FURTHERMORE, IN OUR ROLE AS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD AND IN OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA, WHICH CAN LEAD TO EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS FOR US AS +A POWERHOUSE OF ENTERPRISE AND INVENTION+, COMMUNICATION WILL BE A MAJOR ASSET DEPENDENT ABOVE ALL UPON LANGUAGE.

MR. WU THOUGHT THAT AS AN IMMEDIATE TASK WE SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS OF OUR TRAINEE TEACHERS AS FAR AS THAT CAN BE DONE AT SUCH A LATE STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION.

+AT THE SAME TIME,+ HE SAID, +WE MUST ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE APPRECIATION OF LANGUAGE AS THE MEDIUM OF IDEAS AND THE EXPRESSION OF CULTURE AND GIVE IT THE STATUS WHICH IT DOES NOT NOW HAVE IN OUR SCHOOL.+

/MR. WU.....

MR. WU WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSITION STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION THAT +THE CONTENT AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE SUCH AS WOULD PROMOTE GREATER ADAPTABILITY, PROFICIENCY IN A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNICAL SKILLS, BROAD PERSPECTIVES, AND THE CAPACITY TO THINK LOGICALLY AND TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.+

MR. WU SAID THESE AIMS, AND THE FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION SUMMARISED IN THE WHITE PAPER WHICH INCLUDED +A SENSE OF MORAL AND SOCIAL VALUES+ AND AN APPRECIATION OF CULTURE, HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEEN ADVOCATED BY HIM IN THE COUNCIL.

HE POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS A YEAR AGO FOR A POLICY ON SUBSIDIES FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLY AN ARTS COUNCIL TO PREVENT OVERLAPPING OF EFFORT, HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN UP.

+THE NEED IS BECOMING URGENT. WE HAVE THE ARTS CENTRE AND WE HAVE THE HEAVILY SUBSIDISED AND PROMOTED PROGRAMMES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH PERCEPTION TO SEE THAT THERE IS ALREADY SOME OVERLAPPING AND PERHAPS EVEN SOME WASTE,+ HE SAID.

PUBLIC SUBSIDY OF THE ARTS IS RECOGNISED AS A NECESSITY IN THE MOST ADVANCED SOCIETIES AND IS CERTAINLY REQUIRED IN HONG KONG WHERE SPACE FOR PERFORMANCE OR EXHIBITION IS SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE, AND WHERE THE COST OF BRINGING IN INTERNATIONAL PERFORMERS MAY BE PROHIBITIVE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS.

WE MUST AVOID COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT BODIES WHO EACH, IN SOME WAY, ENJOY A FORM OF PUBLIC SUBSIDY.

THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR INTEREST AND WITH THE INCREASING PUBLIC FACILITIES BECOMING AVAILABLE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO AVOID IT, AND TO MAXIMISE OUR RESOURCES IN THIS FIELD.

THE PROMOTION OF THE ARTS IS AN EXPENSIVE MATTER IN HONG KONG, +WE MUST BE SURE THAT WE ARE GETTING THE UTMOST VALUE FOR OUR MONEY IN TERMS OF QUALITY AS WELL AS QUANTITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU AGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR THAT OUR ABILITY TO PLAN AHEAD AND TO REALISE OUR AMBITIONS DEPENDS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR ECONOMY.

HE ALSO WELCOMED THE GOVERNOR'S CONTINUED CONFIDENCE THAT ONE OF THE TWO DISQUIETING FACTORS IN OUR ECONOMY -- EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION -- CAN BE RESTORED TO A HEALTHY BALANCE WITH EARNINGS BY NATURAL ECONOMIC FORCES.

+I WOULD BE RELUCTANT,+ HE SAID, +TO SEE US RESORT TO MORE DIRECT ATTEMPTS TO REGULATE BEHAVIOUR IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNOR'S REVIEW OF OUR DEVELOPMENT INTO THE 1980'S WAS BASED ON SENSIBLE COSTING AND ON PROGRAMMES WE ARE INITIATING NOW.

THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN OUR FORWARD PLANNING WAS A MATTER OF COPING WITH ONE CRISIS AFTER ANOTHER.

WE CAN NOW HOWEVER TAKE INITIATIVES ABOUT WHAT SORT OF A COMMUNITY WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN TEN YEARS TIME, MR. WU SAID.

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CALL FOR SETTING UP OF RESEARCH COUNCIL

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THE HON. JAMES WU, PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THE SETTING UP OF A HONG KONG RESEARCH COUNCIL TO RESEARCH INTO THE MANY IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY.

MR. WU SAID HONG KONG NEEDS SUCH A COUNCIL BECAUSE +AS HONG KONG'S POPULATION GROWS AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECOME MORE COMPLEX, PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS BECOME LESS APPARENT, AND USUALLY BEYOND THE APPREHENSION AND INTUITION OF EVEN THE MOST CAPABLE AND EXPERIENCED+.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE RESEARCH COUNCIL BE CONSTITUTED WITH MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDING THE ACTIVITIES, INITIALLY AT LEAST, AND SERVICED BY OFFICERS FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

+UNDER THE COUNCIL WOULD BE THREE COMMITTEES, VIZ SOCIAL STUDIES COMMITTEE, ECONOMIC STUDIES COMMITTEE AND TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES COMMITTEE, WHICH IN TURN WOULD HAVE SUB-COMMITTEES OR SPECIALIST PANELS.+

MR. WU ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL COULD POSSIBLY START WITH A FUND OF \$5-10 MILLION ANNUALLY TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY INTO THE THREE AVENUES OF APPLIED RESEARCH, AND WOULD INVITE PROSPECTIVE RESEARCHERS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS WHICH WOULD BE VETTED, AND IF APPROVED, MONITORED AND THE RESULTS EVALUATED BY THE SPECIALIST PANEL AND LATER THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL.

+DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM, EACH PROJECT WOULD PROBABLY COST FROM \$20,000-100,000 OR MORE, LASTING FROM THREE MONTHS TO A YEAR OR TWO,+ MR. WU SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S UNIVERSITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONDUCT MUCH ACTIVITIES DUE TO A LACK OF FUNDS.

+AS A RESULT, ACADEMICS RETREAT FURTHER TO THEIR IVORY TOWER, AND STUDENTS ARE DEPRIVED OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST IN PRACTICAL RESEARCH THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD LEARN THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THEIR DISCIPLINE, AND DEVELOP THE ATTITUDE AND TECHNIQUES IN INVESTIGATORY WORK,+ MR. WU SAID.

+SINCE RESEARCH HAS BECOME SUCH A PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS IN MODERN DAYS, IT FOLLOWS THAT TO BE DEPRIVED OF THIS IMPORTANT TRAINING IS TO HAVE MISSED A FULLER EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT IN THE GRADUATE'S SUBSEQUENT PROFESSIONAL LIFE AND CAREER, NOT TO SAY HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

+PERHAPS THIS IS ONE REASON WHY A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF OUR GRADUATES ENDS UP IN GOVERNMENT AND TEACHING WORK WITH SO FEW PROPERLY TRAINED OR EQUIPPED TO ENTER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WHERE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS ARE ATTRACTIVE.+

MR. WU.....

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MR. WU SAID HE HAS CONSULTED THE PROPOSAL WITH THE VICE CHANCELLORS OF THE UNIVERSITIES, THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, AND ALL OF THEM EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT AND APPROVAL.

+GIVEN HONG KONG'S MOSTLY SMALL MANUFACTURING FIRMS ENGAGED IN INDUSTRIES THAT ARE RELATIVELY SKILL INTENSIVE BUT TECHNOLOGICALLY INADEQUATE OR INSIGNIFICANT, THE NEED FOR JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ACHIEVE INCREASED SOPHISTICATION IS ALL THE MORE GREATER, IF WE WERE NOT TO BE LEFT BEHIND.

+INDEED, THIS PILOT SCHEME COULD HELP TO POINT THE WAY TO A MORE APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR DEVELOPMENT, AS HAS BEEN PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN IN THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, AS WELL AS IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU ALSO SPOKE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, SAYING THAT HE WAS +SOMEWHAT PUZZLED+ BY THE EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT CHINESE BE DELETED AS A COMPULSORY SUBJECT FOR ADMISSION TO THE HONG KONG HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATION.

+THIS CERTAINLY WOULD NOT HELP TO IMPROVE THE RECOGNISED DEFICIENCY OF OUR STUDENTS TO COMMUNICATE IN WRITTEN CHINESE,+ HE SAID.

+POLITICS AND EMOTIONS ASIDE,+ HE SAID, +CHINESE TODAY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A BRIDGE OF LEARNING FOR THE VERY RICH LEGACY IN THE CHINESE PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND AS AN INDISPENSABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNITY AND THE BUSINESS WORLD.

+PEOPLE WHO HAVE A KNOWLEDGE IN ENGLISH BUT WITH HIGH PROFICIENCY IN WRITTEN CHINESE TODAY COMMAND GOOD REMUNERATIONS EVERYWHERE AND THIS SHOULD POINT THE WAY THAT EVEN FOR PRAGMATIC AND MATERIALISTIC REASONS, CHINESE HAS ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE PRESENT AND FUTURE,+ HE EMPHASISED.

ON LAND PRODUCTION, MR. WU SAID WE NOW SEEM TO BE IN A SITUATION IN WHICH +TOO MUCH CHEAP MONEY IS CHASING AFTER TOO FEW LAND, OR ANYTHING IN SHORT SUPPLY, RANGING FROM FLATS, SHARES TO TAXI LICENCES, AND SPECULATIVE MANIPULATIONS, BIG OR SMALL, BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY+.

MR. WU SAID THIS SITUATION IS VERY FERTILE BACKGROUND FOR INFLATION AND SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT DEVISE WAYS AND MEANS TO CHANNEL SUCH IDLE CAPITAL INTO MORE PRODUCTIVE USE IN HELPING TO PRODUCE MORE LAND.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1978

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SMALL FACTORY OPERATORS NEED HELP

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPT MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HELPING SMALL FACTORY OPERATORS SOLVE THEIR ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT FACTORY BUILDING PROGRAMME CATERS MAINLY FOR OPERATORS OF SQUATTER FACTORIES WHOSE STRUCTURES ARE DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

+THERE IS NO PLAN TO HELP SMALL-SCALE FACTORIES IN NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WHICH GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE RELOCATED INTO INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AS A MATTER OF LONG-TERM POLICY,+ HE SAID.

NOT MANY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS EITHER ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING FACTORY BLOCKS WITH SMALL INDIVIDUAL UNITS.

HE THOUGHT THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, WITH ITS SKILLED SUPERVISORY STAFF AND 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE COULD HELP BY EXPANDING ITS FACTORY ESTATE PROGRAMME. AT THE POLICY LEVEL, THE PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF SUCH ACCOMMODATION COULD BE ENTRUSTED TO A BODY SUCH AS THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CORPORATION OR A NEW SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION.

ON THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF SPIRALLING LAND COSTS AND SPECULATION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON FUTURE LAND SALES TO DISALLOW REASSIGNMENT WITHIN FIVE YEARS, UNLESS FULL PAYMENT IS MADE OR THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO MADE SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE COMPLETE REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS.

TO ENSURE THAT DRUG-ADDICTED OFFENDERS ARE GIVEN EVERY CHANCE OF PROPER TREATMENT, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR MAGISTRATES TO CALL FOR AND CONSIDER SUITABILITY REPORTS ON EVERYONE OF THEM BEFORE IMPOSING SENTENCE TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR SENDING TO TREATMENT CENTRES. THE AFTERCARE PERIOD FOR THOSE WHO RELAPSE AND RETURN TO THESE CENTRES SHOULD ALSO BE INCREASED FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE.

AN EXPANDED PRISONS PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE WILL HELP PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY PERSISTENT OFFENDERS, IN THEIR REHABILITATION.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. THESE WOULD IMPROVE ON EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS OR FORESTALL FUTURE DIFFICULTIES.

/AS REGARDS.....

AS REGARDS OUR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. CHEONG-LEEN RAISED FOUR POINTS:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION

SINCE ITS DELIBERATIONS ARE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST AND CONCERN TO OUR INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MR. CHEONG-LEEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT TO SEEK PERTINENT PUBLIC COMMENTS.

LAND PRODUCTION

TOP PRIORITY WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO OPENING UP NEW AREAS, SUCH AS JUNK BAY TO MEET EXPECTED SHORTFALL IN THE EARLY 1980'S. THE PRESENT TOP HEAVY ENVIRONMENT BRANCH COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO - A TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT BRANCH, AND A TOWN PLANNING AND RESOURCES BRANCH. THE LATTER WOULD CONCENTRATE ON LAND USE, LAND PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

TRANSPORT

THE SETTING UP OF THE SEPARATE TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT BRANCH WOULD HELP IN THE PLANNING AND TIMELY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TRANSPORT SERVICES. TRANSPORT WILL BE A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN FUTURE YEARS.

JOINT VENTURES

HONG KONG WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE JOINT VENTURES UNDERTAKEN BY A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL FIRMS WITH VARIOUS STATE ORGANISATIONS IN CHINA. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS HOW MANY HONG KONG WORKERS WILL BE AFFECTED. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO REVIEW THE VARIOUS OPTIONS WHICH COULD BE OPEN AS AND WHEN SUCH INDUSTRIAL CHANGES GATHER MOMENTUM.

TURNING TO OUR COMMUNITY PROBLEMS, MR. CHEONG-LEEN HAD THESE COMMENTS:

COMMUNITY BUILDING POLICY COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE TO BE SEEN TO BE WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND FOR THE WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS IN EACH DISTRICT. IT IS NOW TIME TO EXPAND THE COMMUNITY BUILDING POLICY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO GIVE IT WIDER PERSPECTIVE.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

THIS PROGRAMME COULD BE A YEAR-ROUND ONE WITH EMPHASIS ON WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THE ENERGIES AND IDEALS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE HARNESSSED TO HELP THE ELDERLY, THE INFIRM, THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND THE NEEDY.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE +INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD+. MR. CHEONG-LEEN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE U.N.'S +DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD+ THROUGH ITS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND OTHER CHANNELS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A TELEPHONE HOT LINE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO APPOINT AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO OVERSEE AND CO-ORDINATE CULTURAL SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THERE IS ALSO A CASE FOR APPOINTING A DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO CO-ORDINATE ALL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S OBSERVATIONS ON OUR SOCIAL SERVICES WERE:

HOUSING

THE HOUSING PROBLEM WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO RESOLVE, ALTHOUGH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S EFFORTS WOULD STABILISE DOMESTIC RENTS FOR OUR LOWER INCOME GROUPS. THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME SHOULD BE EXPANDED AND THE CURRENT INCOME CEILING FOR APPLICANTS RAISED TO \$4,000. HOUSING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EVENTUALITY OF THEIR RETIREMENT. IT IS DESIRABLE TO HOUSE OUR POLICEMEN IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND NOT SEGREGATE THEM FROM THE COMMUNITY.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

THE URBAN COUNCIL COULD PERHAPS EXPAND ITS SCOPE TO PROVIDE SUBVENTED NURSERIES AND CRECHES IN THE URBAN AREAS, ESPECIALLY FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS AND HOUSING ESTATES, TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES

MODERN PAEDIATRIC FACILITIES IN HONG KONG ARE SHOCKINGLY INSUFFICIENT. THE NEW SHATIN HOSPITAL WHICH WILL SERVE AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL, SHOULD INCLUDE A MODERN GENERAL PAEDIATRIC WING FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING PURPOSES. FOR THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, A MODERN PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SHOULD BE BUILT, FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE SITE OF THE OLD MENTAL HOSPITAL AT HIGH STREET.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

THE DISAPPOINTING ENROLMENT FIGURE FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR COULD PERHAPS BE IMPROVED BY MAKING PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE FREE AND COMPULSORY. IN THE WORDS OF THE REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, +WHATEVER THE REASONS, TO DENY CHILDREN ACCESS TO ECONOMICAL MEDICAL TREATMENT, EVEN BY DEFAULT, CAN SCARCELY BE JUSTIFIED.+

ON THE CIVIL SERVICE, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING TENDENCY FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED THAT ANOTHER SALARIES COMMISSION BE APPOINTED TO REVIEW WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE IT MET SEVEN YEARS AGO AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. HE HOPED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICAC ON ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED DOWN TO AS LOW A SUPERVISORY LEVEL AS IS PRACTICABLE.

HE WELCOMED THE IMPROVING DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR CRIME-FIGHTING EFFORTS AND DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO PREVENT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM JOINING THE TRIADS WHILE IN SCHOOL OR IN THEIR TEENS.

HE ALSO WELCOMED THE NEW AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF EAST RIVER WATER TO HONG KONG AND THE PRESENT STATE OF SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS. HE HOPED THE FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA WOULD BE KEPT WITHIN SUSTAINABLE LIMITS AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SOJOURNING IN HONG KONG WOULD BE KEPT AT ANY ONE TIME TO A FIXED NUMBER.

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PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED TO REDUCE
INCONVENIENCE TO PUBLIC BY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
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A SENIOR OFFICIAL SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO CO-ORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO REDUCE THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY THESE PROJECTS TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS OVERALL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IS NEEDED, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO SAID, AS THERE ARE SO MANY MASSIVE GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE, AND EQUALLY NUMEROUS PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES UNDERWAY OR BEING PLANNED.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT WHILE GENUINE ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MINIMISE THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEW TOWNS AND BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THERE WAS APPARENTLY LITTLE CO-ORDINATION IN MOST OF THE OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS.

+MANY OF THESE UNDERTAKINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, REQUIRE OPENINGS TO BE MADE IN THE MAIN ROADS - OBSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE A CONSTANT SOURCE OF ANNOYANCE AND INCONVENIENCE TO DRIVERS, COMMUTERS AND PEDESTRIANS ALIKE.

+WHILE IT WOULD BE TOLERATED, IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY WORKS, THESE UNSIGHTLY OPENINGS IN BUSY STREETS ARE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENT PROJECTS OR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN ON THE DRAWING BOARD FOR A LONG TIME,+ HE SAID.

WITH A BIT OF FORESIGHT, ACTION BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED COULD BE CO-ORDINATED. THIS RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING CLOSER LIAISON BETWEEN THEM WOULD BE THAT OF THE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR.

ANOTHER ASPECT WHICH HE SAID WE CANNOT IGNORE IF WE ARE TO IMPLEMENT SUCCESSFULLY ALL OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IS OUR ABILITY TO HAVE LAND AVAILABLE WHEN IT IS NEEDED.

HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT THAT PRODUCTION OF LAND MUST CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES.

AN AVERAGE OF SOME 230 HECTARES IS EXPECTED TO BE PRODUCED EACH YEAR BETWEEN NOW AND 1983-84 FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL USE. BEYOND THAT, ENOUGH LAND HAS STILL TO BE FOUND TO MEET OUR NEEDS.

DESPITE THE WELCOMED ATTEMPTS TO FIND NEW LAND IN NORTH LANTAU, JUNK BAY, THE EASTERN SIDE OF SHA TIN COVE, LITTLE SAI WAN AND CERTAIN OTHER PLACES, THE AREA OF LAND TO BE FORMED AND MADE AVAILABLE EACH YEAR WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY SMALL. +IT IS THUS ESSENTIAL THAT ANY LAND PRODUCED BE USED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT,+ HE SAID.

WITH CAREFUL PLANNING AND PHASING, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HE THOUGHT, TO REDUCE CONSIDERABLY THE LEAD TIME WHICH IS REQUIRED BEFORE UNDEVELOPED LAND CAN BE FORMED WHICH AT PRESENT, ON AVERAGE, IS IN EXCESS OF FOUR YEARS.

OTHER POINTS WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE EXAMINED ARE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL SITES, THE ACTUAL SIZES OF SITES ALLOCATED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, RULES GOVERNING THE MODIFICATION OF LEASE CONDITIONS, AND THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE ESTIMATED TO BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

ASSUMING THAT MORE LAND CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE, MR. LI FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ALLOCATION OF PRIORITIES AND METHODS OF DISPOSAL.

WHILE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE WITH THE NATURAL FORCES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND, MR. LI THOUGHT IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER FOR IT TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT LAND IS AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED FOR PROJECTS WHICH ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+AS WE EXPAND FROM THE CITY INTO NEW AREAS, UTILISING LAND WHICH WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE ACCESSIBLE OR AVAILABLE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PREVIOUS LACK OF OVERALL CO-ORDINATION WHICH GAVE RISE TO SO MANY PROBLEMS WILL NOT REPEAT ITSELF.

+THE COMMUNITY DESERVES A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR ITS PATIENCE IN HAVING HAD TO PUT UP WITH SO MUCH INCONVENIENCE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND IT WOULD BE MOST UNFAIR TO EXPECT OUR PEOPLE TO UNDERGO THE SAME EXPERIENCE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS,+ HE SAID.

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WARNING OF A POSSIBLE MANPOWER SHORTAGE

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THE HON. T.S. LO WARNED THE GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, OF A POSSIBLE MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS.

MR. LO REFERRED TO THE LIST OF MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS DESCRIBED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS.

THESE INCLUDED THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, THE MOTORWAY LINKING VICTORIA WITH SHAU KEI WAN, THE AIRPORT TUNNEL, THE WESTERN CORRIDOR, THE DOUBLE TRACKING AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, THE SECOND HALF OF THE TUEN MUN ROAD, THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS, THE SHA TIN/TAI PO MOTORWAY AND THE COMPLETION OF THE MASSIVE M.T.R. PROJECT, THE TOTAL COST OF WHICH IN PRESENT DAY TERMS WILL WELL EXCEED \$13,000 MILLION.

THIS INTENSE ACTIVITY WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN ENORMOUS EFFORTS WILL BE PUT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION EACH YEAR OF PUBLIC HOUSING FOR ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE.

+EVEN ASSUMING THAT OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH DURING THE PERIOD WILL REACH 9 PER CENT PER ANNUM COMPOUND, IS THE GOVERNMENT SURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MANPOWER SHORTAGE FOR ALL THIS ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY WHEN ONE BEARS IN MIND THE FACT THAT DURING THIS PERIOD THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD NOT BE IDLE?+ MR. LO ASKED.

+SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER WILL MEAN SPIRALLING COSTS AND ALL OUR ESTIMATES FOR ALL THE PROJECTS DRAMATICALLY EXCEEDED. MOREOVER, THESE SPIRALLING COSTS WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING EXPORT INDUSTRIES SO THAT WE WILL BECOME EVEN LESS COMPETITIVE ABROAD.

+THE RESULTANT MAL-EFFECT ON OUR ECONOMY AS A WHOLE WILL CERTAINLY OUTWEIGH ANY TEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST ARISING FROM THE FRENZIED SPENDING SPREE.

+IN THE LONG TERM EVERYONE MAY SUFFER,+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE ANY ESTIMATES ON THE AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS OF MANPOWER FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE WE REACH A POINT OF NO RETURN, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SPACING OUT OUR P.W.D. PROGRAMME.

+BESIDES, TO SPACE OUT OUR ACTIVITIES SO AS TO EXTEND BEYOND THE NEXT FIVE TO SIX YEARS MIGHT WELL HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM A SURFEIT OF MANPOWER AFTER THE MID 80'S,+ HE ADDED.

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SPECIAL ZONE PROPOSED FOR DYEING AND FINISHING MILLS
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THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO DESIGNATE A SPECIAL ZONE TO GROUP TOGETHER DYEING AND FINISHING MILLS, PERHAPS IN A REMOTE PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION AND TO FACILITATE THE SUPPLY OF UNTREATED WATER FOR THEIR USE.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. TIEN PUT IN PERSPECTIVE THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THESE FACTORIES.

+WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WHEN SOME OF THESE MILLS WERE FIRST ESTABLISHED, THEY WERE NOT LOCATED IN CROWDED OR THICKLY POPULATED AREAS,+ HE SAID. SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS SOMEHOW CHANGED THEIR ENVIRONMENT SO THAT THEY ARE NOW IN HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREAS,+SOME EVEN WITH HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS OVERLOOKING THEIR ONCE TOWERING CHIMNEY-STACKS.+

HE AGREED THAT POLLUTION SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE OR FURTHER AGGRAVATED. MOST OF THE MILLS ARE AT PRESENT SITUATED IN FLATTED FACTORY BUILDINGS AND THE CHEMICALLY CONTAMINATED EFFLUENTS, OBNOXIOUS FUMES AND SMOKE FROM THEIR BOILER OPERATIONS ARE AMONG THE CAUSES OF POLLUTION.

HOWEVER, TO CONTROL THEM AND TO IMPROVE UPON EXISTING CONDITIONS REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF SUITABLE EQUIPMENT WHICH ARE FAIRLY EXPENSIVE. THERE IS ALSO THE COST INVOLVED IN RUNNING AND OPERATING SUCH EQUIPMENT.

THIS ADDITIONAL COST MAY WELL PROVE TO BE TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR THESE MILLS WHICH ARE COMPARATIVELY WEAK FINANCIALLY BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL PROFIT MARGIN.

THEY, HOWEVER, PLAY AN INDISPENSABLE PART IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AS THEY PROVIDE SERVICE AND SUPPORT TO THE GARMENT MAKING SECTOR.

+THE CLOSURE OF SUCH MILLS WILL MEAN THAT THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY WILL LOSE MUCH OF THE SERVICE AND SUPPORT IT NEEDS TO BE VERSATILE, FLEXIBLE AND COMPETITIVE AND WHEN THIS HAPPENS, THE CONSEQUENCES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WILL BE VERY SERIOUS INDEED,+ MR. TIEN SAID.

A PROBABLE SOLUTION IS TO PERMIT EXISTING MILLS TO MAINTAIN BUT NOT TO EXCEED THEIR PRESENT LEVEL OF POLLUTANT DISCHARGE WHILE SUBJECTING NEW PLANTS TO STRICT CONTROL.

THIS MR. TIEN DISMISSED, AS THE FORMULA COULD BLOCK EFFECTIVELY ANY FURTHER GROWTH, DEFEAT THE VERY PURPOSE OF CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT UPON EXISTING CONDITIONS, AND CREATE A PRIVILEGED CLASS OF AGING MILLS WITH NO INCENTIVE FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OR TO RENOVATE.

/AS DYEING.....

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AS DYEING AND FINISHING MILLS ARE, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, BULK USERS OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF INDUSTRIAL WATER WHICH TAKES UP A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THEIR OPERATING COSTS, HE THOUGHT A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND FOR THEM TO USE UNTREATED WATER TO CUT DOWN COSTS.

BY GROUPING ALL OF THEM IN A SPECIAL ZONE AS HE PROPOSED, ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLYING SUCH UNTREATED WATER, FOR EXAMPLE FROM EAST RIVER WHICH IS USUALLY UNINTERRUPTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, COULD BE MADE.

POLLUTION WILL ALSO BE LESS OF A HAZARD TO THE POPULATION AND WILL BE AT A PLACE WHERE IT CAN BE EFFECTIVELY AND COLLECTIVELY DEALT WITH.

SUCH A ZONE COULD BE LEASED TO APPLICANTS ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS WOULD DISCOURAGE LAND SPECULATION SO THAT ONLY DYEING AND FINISHING MILLS WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO MOVE IN.

MR. TIEN HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL THOSE CONCERNED WILL PUT THEIR MINDS TOGETHER TO EXAMINE WHETHER SUCH A SCHEME IS FEASIBLE AND WORTHWHILE.

IF IT IS CONSIDERED PRACTICABLE, HE HOPED IT WOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO THE INDUSTRY SO AS TO ENABLE THE PRESENT OPERATORS TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN TIME-TABLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE
DEVELOP SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

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SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG HAVE RESPONDED WARMLY TO RECENT CAMPAIGNS INVOLVING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND THIS ENCOURAGES THE HOPE THAT WHEN THE STUDENTS GROW UP THEY WILL BE MUCH MORE SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS, MR. HO NGA-MING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL) SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF RAIMONDI COLLEGE, HE CITED AS EXAMPLES THE PART STUDENTS PLAYED IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN, KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN, FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME AND KEEP HONG KONG DRUG FREE CAMPAIGNS.

+THE GREAT VALUE OF THESE COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES, BESIDES THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG, IS THAT THEY MAKE OUR ADOLESCENTS MORE AWARE OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND ITS PROBLEMS,+ MR. HO SAID.

THROUGH THESE CAMPAIGNS, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT INCULCATED IN CITIZENS A GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY AND A WILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ITS PROBLEMS.

MR. HO ALSO SPOKE ON TWO GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH HE CONSIDERED WERE FUNDAMENTAL TO SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THE FIRST WAS THAT A SECONDARY SCHOOL MUST REALISE ITS FIRST DUTY WAS TO THE PUPILS AS INDIVIDUALS, AND HELP THEM TO SATISFY THEIR NEEDS, TO FIND OUT AND DEVELOP THEIR ABILITIES.

FURTHER, THE SCHOOL SHOULD REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF ORAL TEACHING AND ENCOURAGE THE PUPILS TO LEARN THROUGH DOING AND THE EXERCISE OF THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, MR. HO SAID.

THE SECOND IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE TO BEAR IN MIND WAS THAT EDUCATION IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT SCHOOLS MUST KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD SO THAT PUPILS WOULD GRADUATE FROM SCHOOL WITH A GENUINE INTEREST IN AND AWARENESS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THEM.

MR. HO SAID ONE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SECOND PRINCIPLE WAS WHAT WAS OFTEN TERMED +EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP.+

+IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SCHOOL TO TRAIN GOOD CITIZENS WHO SHOULD BE NOT ONLY WELL INFORMED BUT ALSO ACCURATELY INFORMED AS REGARDS CURRENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WHO SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY OF WHICH THEY ARE MEMBERS, AND WHO, ABOVE ALL, SHOULD HAVE A KEEN SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY,+ HE SAID.

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NEW AREAS IN NT BROUGHT UNDER PROPERTY TAX NET
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TWELVE NEW AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO CHARGE TO PROPERTY TAX FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE PROPERTY TAX DEMAND NOTICES IN RESPECT OF THOSE AREAS WILL BE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 15, THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE 12 NEW AREAS ARE:-

- * AREAS F5-7 -- AN AREA IN THE VICINITY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM SAN TIN TO HUNG SHUI KIU, KAM TIN-SHEK KONG AND LAU FAU SHAN=
- * AREA G5 -- AN AREA AROUND TAI PO MARKET, INCLUDING HONG LOK TSUEN=
- * AREA H5 -- YING PUN (ON FAN KAM ROAD)=
- * AREA J3 -- SHEUNG SHUI, PING CHE AND KWU TUNG=
- * AREA K2 -- AN AREA AROUND TUEN MUN, INCLUDING LAM TEI=
- * AREAS L4-5 -- AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF SHA TIN=
- * AREA M5 -- AN AREA SOUTH OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, INCLUDING RENNIE'S MILL= AND
- * AREAS N2-3 -- NAM WAI AND NAM SHAN/SHA KOK MEI, BOTH IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ASSESSOR, PROPERTY TAX (TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-761635, EXTENSIONS 30, 32, 35 OR 36), OR BY WRITING TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 132, GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONG KONG.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT MOVES TSUEN WAN SUB-OFFICE

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THE SUB-OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT, NOW LOCATED IN THE CHARTERED BANK BUILDING IN SHA TSUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN WILL MOVE TO THE FIFTH FLOOR OF SHING WAH BUILDING AT 31 SHING FONG STREET, KWAI CHUNG ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4).

THE OFFICE, WHICH SERVES THE KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT, IS BEING MOVED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS IN THE AREA WHERE MORE FACTORIES ARE BEING BUILT AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE NEW OFFICE WILL BE 12-298983 FOR THE SENIOR LABOUR INSPECTOR AND 12-298747 AND 12-298107 FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES.

THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE HOURS OF WORK AND REST DAYS.

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ALL SUSPENDED POSTAL SERVICES BACK TO NORMAL

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE BACKLOG OF MAIL WHICH ACCUMULATED DURING THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE HAS BEEN CLEARED AND THE SUSPENDED SERVICES WILL NOW BE RESUMED.

THESE SERVICES ARE THE INLAND PRINTED PAPERS AND OVERSEAS SURFACE LETTERS AND PRINTED PAPERS, THE REGISTRATION AND INSURED SERVICES AND INLAND PARCELS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THAT THE BACKLOG WHICH ACCUMULATED CONSISTED OF INLAND MAIL AND SOME INCOMING AIRMAIL. THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE OPERATED NORMALLY THROUGHOUT THE DISPUTE AND OUTGOING AIRMAIL SERVICES WERE NOT GREATLY AFFECTED.

HE SAID THAT PROVIDED CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR GREAT BRITAIN WERE POSTED BY TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 2) IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DESPATCH THEM IN TIME FOR DELIVERY BY CHRISTMAS. ORIGINALLY, THE PUBLISHED LATEST DATE WAS NOVEMBER 1.

THE POST OFFICE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT AIRMAIL SERVICE TO ISRAEL, WHICH WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO A POSTAL STRIKE IN THAT COUNTRY, HAS NOW RESUMED.

ALL AIR LETTER AND PARCEL MAIL FOR ISRAEL WILL NOW BE ACCEPTED FOR POSTING AS THE POSTAL STRIKE HAS ENDED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1978

- 22 -

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LUGARD ROAD

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THE SECTION OF LUGARD ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 27 AND 28 WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 3) FOR ABOUT 12 MONTHS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE CLOSURE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE STRUCTURES ALONG LUGARD ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CHAI WAN AND TSZ WAN SHAN WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 3) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS BY WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

IN CHAI WAN THE AREA BOUNDED BY THE SECTION OF CHAI WAN ROAD BETWEEN AH KUNG NGAM ROAD AND WAN TSUI ROAD, HONG MAN STREET, CHEUNG LEE STREET, KUT SHING STREET, LEE CHUNG STREET, NING FOO STREET AND CHAI WAN HILL RESITE AREA SECTION A WILL HAVE NO WATER SUPPLY FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

THE AREA IN TSZ WAN SHAN, BOUNDED BY TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD, WAN WAH STREET, SHUNG WAH STREET AND SHEUNG FUNG STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 1 TO 32 TSZ WAN SHAN ESTATE WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT FRIDAY.

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