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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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CENTRAL GOVT RE-ORGANISATION PROGRESS REPORT

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THE FIRST PHASE OF THE REORGANISATION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, AS RECOMMENDED BY AN OUTSIDE FIRM OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS EARLY LAST YEAR, HAS ALREADY LED TO +QUICKER DECISION-MAKING AND EARLIER RESULTS ON THE GROUND.+

THESE ARE AMONG THE FINDINGS OF A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS PROPOSED BY THE CONSULTANTS, MCKINSEY AND COMPANY.

THE REPORT, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED, SAYS THE THREE MAIN ORGANISATIONAL PROPOSALS - MAKING THE EXISTING MACHINERY WORK BETTER, REGROUPING SECRETARIAT BRANCH RESPONSIBILITIES TO RELATE TO PROGRAMMES, AND TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE PRINCIPAL BRANCH HEADS - HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE NINE MONTHS MCKINSEY'S ESTIMATED +THIS FORMIDABLE TASK+ WOULD TAKE.

THE REFORMS, IT SAYS, REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MACHINERY.

+IN ADDITION TO DIRECTING POLICIES, THE NEW SECRETARIES HAVE CONSULTED DEPARTMENTS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A GREATER DELEGATION TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS SO AS TO IMPART MORE IMPETUS.+

EXTENSIVE DEPARTMENTAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DELEGATION OF STAFFING MATTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN STUDIED AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE PROGRESS REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE NEW PLANNING PROCESSES ARE BEING INTRODUCED BY THE SECRETARIES AND IN THIS RESPECT THE CONSULTANTS, DURING THEIR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT, ARE LOOKING INTO THE PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THEY FOLLOW THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY AND THAT THEY ARE PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN BE USED, WHERE APPROPRIATE, AS MODELS FOR FUTURE PLANS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WILL ASSIST BRANCH SECRETARIES TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THEIR NEW TASKS AND PLANNING PROCESSES= AND HELP TO TRAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT STAFF AT SENIOR AND MIDDLE LEVELS IN THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF MODERN MANAGEMENT SO THAT THE CHANGES BEING IMPLEMENTED ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, ARE ADEQUATELY INSTALLED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF CONTINUATION.

THE PROGRESS REPORT ALSO REFERS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE STANDARDISATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR STAFF AND SPECIAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE 1974/75 ESTIMATES, WHICH RESULTED IN CLEARER AND MORE PRECISE INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED, THUS LEADING TO FEWER QUERIES.

IT SAYS THAT WORK IS CONTINUING ON IMPROVING PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S MANPOWER NEEDS MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO REDUCE THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL PEOPLE BY MAKING MORE EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING STAFF.

/IN THIS .....

IN THIS FIELD, PERSONNEL RESOURCE PLANS ARE BEING DEVISED FOR A NUMBER OF GRADES WHERE THERE ARE SERIOUS SHORTFALLS IN RECRUITMENT. REGARDING THE POLICE, IT SAYS THAT THE CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSULTANTS' LAST YEAR, AND THE RECENT PAY RISE, HAVE RESULTED IN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN RECRUITMENT WITH LESS WASTAGE.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY SPLIT BETWEEN TWO SECRETARIAT BRANCHES HAS BEEN CENTRALISED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, WHICH IS NOW UNDERTAKING LONG TERM PLANNING TO MEET ANTICIPATED FUTURE NEEDS.

MORE FLEXIBILITY HAS ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED INTO RECRUITMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS BY OPENING IT UP TO OTHER GRADES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

IN CONCLUSION, THE PROGRESS REPORT SAYS THAT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE REORGANISATION, WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING, WILL INVOLVE THE EXTENSION OF THE PLANNING PROCESSES INTO NEW AREAS.

+MORE PROGRAMME, RESOURCE, AND ANNUAL OPERATING PLANS WILL BE NEEDED UNTIL THE MAIN AREAS OF EXPENDITURE - CAPITAL AND RE-CURRENT - ARE COVERED.

+THE PRINCIPAL AIM WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY, THAT ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES ARE EVALUATED, AND THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT USE IS MADE OF GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES OF MANPOWER, CAPITAL AND LAND.+

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION ARE BOXED TONIGHT.

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RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR TUEN MUN
UNIQUE FEATURE IN HONG KONG
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EXCLUSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT RIGHT-OF-WAY (E.P.T.R.O.W.) - A SYSTEM OF RESERVING A PORTION OF THE ROAD WIDTH FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT - HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE TUEN MUN TOWN PLAN WHICH IS NOW AT ITS EARLY STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION UNDER A TEN-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THE SCHEME SPELLS A COMPLETELY NEW CONCEPT IN MODERN TRANSPORT PLANNING, AND IT ENSURES THE SPEEDY AND EFFICIENT MOVING OF THE MASS OF PEOPLE BY MEANS OF SPECIAL FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT - WHETHER IT BE BUS, TRAM, TROLLEY BUS OR ANYTHING THAT RUNS ON WHEELS.

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THIS SCHEME AND A NETWORK OF THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE REVISED OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TUEN MUN.

THE NETWORK STRETCHES OVER ALMOST 40,000 FEET OF ROADWAY, SERVING THE MAIN RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS WITHIN THE NEW TOWN WHICH WILL HAVE AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF NEARLY 500,000 WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED.

MR. ARTHUR CHAN, THE ACTING CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER OF THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, P.W.D. ELABORATED ON THE SYSTEM WHICH IS UNIQUE IN HONG KONG.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE DECISION OF WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME OR TO WHAT EXTENT IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE LATER WHEN THE DEVELOPMENT WORK PROGRESSED.

+ALL WE HAVE DONE SO FAR IS THE RESERVATION OF LAND ON THE PLAN,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHAN NOTED THAT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WAS THAT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY SHOULD, BY NO MEANS, IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN.

AS A RESULT, THE NETWORK WAS INTRODUCED IN AREAS WHERE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING HAD NOT REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE.

SINCE THE NEW TOWN IS AT ITS EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, HE STRESSED THAT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ROUTING, AS NOW PLANNED, COVERED ALL POPULATION AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES STRETCHING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND FROM WEST TO EAST OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE SCHEME CALLED FOR THE RESERVATION OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 20 ACRES OF LAND WITHIN THE NEW TOWN.

/+HOWEVER, ...

+HOWEVER, SHOULD IT BE EVENTUALLY DECIDED NOT TO IMPLEMENT THE EXCLUSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, THE SPACE RESERVED MAY BE USED AS OPEN SPACE OR AMENITY PLANTING AREAS BY A SUITABLE TREATMENT OF R.O.W. STRIP WITHIN THE CROSS SECTION OF THE DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR ROADS IN WHICH THE RESERVE HAS BEEN PLANNED. THIS WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT.+

EXPLAINING HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS, MR. CHAN SAID THE R.O.W. WOULD BE SEGREGATED FROM THE GENERAL TRAFFIC AND IT WOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT. THUS THE WORKING OF THE SYSTEM WILL NOT BE HINDERED BY GENERAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

+TO PROVIDE REASONABLE COVERAGE, THE ROUTE FOLLOWS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE DISTRICT DISTRIBUTOR ROADS AND IT IS GENERALLY SITED IN THE CENTRE OF SUCH ROAD. THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IS 24 FEET WIDE FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AND IS SEPARATED FROM THE CARRIAGEWAYS CARRYING GENERAL TRAFFIC BY SIX FEET VERGES.

+AT STOPPING POINTS, WHICH ARE SITED NEAR MAJOR TRANSPORT GENERATORS AND SPACED ROUGHLY AT 1/4 MILE INTERVAL, THE VERGE WIDEN TO TEN FEET TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PASSENGER PLATFORMS.

+THE RESERVE IS SITED AT-GRADE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BUT WHERE THE RESERVE CROSSES ROADS AND JUNCTIONS, IT MAY BE ELEVATED OR OTHERWISE SEGREGATED BY UNDER-PASSES. PASSENGER ACCESS TO STOPPING POINTS IS BY MEANS OF FOOTBRIDGES OR SUBWAYS,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DISTRIBUTOR ROADS WITH A RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE CENTRE MUST BE, BY NECESSITY, OF 108 FEET WIDE. +THIS IS BECAUSE AT LEAST 36 FEET OF ITS WIDTH IS RESERVED FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.+

WITH THE R.O.W. CARRYING SPECIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES SEGREGATED FROM OTHER TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD, THE FAST MOVEMENT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FROM ONE POINT OF THE TOWN TO ANOTHER IS THUS ENSURED.

+THIS ADDS UP TO A BETTER LIFE FOR THOSE WHO WILL SETTLE IN THE NEW TOWN IN THE COMING YEARS.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR BRANCHING OFF OF THE R.O.W. NETWORK INTO AREAS WHERE MAJOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WERE TO BE SITED. IN ADDITION, THE NETWORK WAS DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT COULD BE LINKED TO OUT-OF-TOWN TRUNK ROUTES.

NOTE TO EDITORS: A SKETCH ILLUSTRATING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY SYSTEM IS BOXED TONIGHT.

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REDUCED TRAIN FARE FOR STUDENTS

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STUDENTS TRAVELLING ON THIRD CLASS OF SCHEDULED PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY HALF-RATE CONCESSION FARES DURING THE SUMMER VACATION, BEGINNING NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 2).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STRESSED THAT THE CONCESSION RATES WERE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MORE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING THE LONG HOLIDAYS.

HE SAID THE REDUCED FARES WOULD APPLY FOR ONLY TWO MONTHS, UP TO AND INCLUDING AUGUST 30, AND MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME.

ORDINARY HALF-FARE +CHILD+ TICKETS, OVERPRINTED WITH THE WORD +STUDENT+, WILL BE SOLD FOR TRAIN JOURNEYS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES STATIONS TO KOWLOON TERMINAL OR MONG KOK, AND VICE VERSA, SUBJECT TO THE RAILWAY RULES AND THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

* THESE TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED FOR 3RD CLASS ONLY, FOR JOURNEYS ON SCHEDULED PASSENGER TRAINS.

* ONLY RETURN TICKETS, VALID FOR THE DATE OF ISSUE, WILL BE SOLD.

* THESE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON WEEK DAYS ONLY= THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

* NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE IN RESPECT OF UNUSED RETURN PORTIONS OF THE TICKETS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

* STUDENTS OVER-RIDING THE STATIONS FOR WHICH THEIR CONCESSION TICKETS WERE SOLD WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY HALF-FARE PLUS 50 PER CENT FOR THAT PORTION OF THE JOURNEY FOR WHICH THEY DO NOT HOLD TICKETS.

* STUDENTS FOUND TRAVELLING IN THE FIRST OR SECOND CLASS COACHES WITH 3RD CLASS HALF-FARE TICKETS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL FARE OF THE HIGHER CLASS PLUS 50 PER CENT LESS THE 3RD CLASS HALF-FARE.

* PURCHASERS OF HALF-FARE STUDENT TICKETS MUST SHOW TO THE RAILWAY BOOKING CLERKS AND, WHEN REQUESTED, TO THE TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE TRAINS, DOCUMENTS CERTIFYING THAT THEY ARE BONA FIDE STUDENTS EMPLOYED ON FULL TIME STUDY. IF SUCH DOCUMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOLDERS, HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS MUST ALSO BE PRODUCED FOR INSPECTION.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE LOWER TRAIN FARES WOULD PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR YOUTHS LIVING IN THE URBAN AREAS TO ORGANIZE PICNICS AND OUTINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THEY WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS TO VISIT THE CITY MORE FREQUENTLY THUS ENABLING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE URBAN SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND TO ENJOY THE AMENITIES LACKING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW ROADS FOR ABERDEEN

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TWO NEW ROADS, ONE MEASURING 900 FEET AND ANOTHER 1,200 FEET, WILL SOON BE BUILT IN THE ABERDEEN AREA.

THE SHORTER ROAD WILL BE BUILT BEHIND WAH KIN HOUSE AT WAH FU ESTATE, TO SERVE SCHOOLS IN THE VICINITY AND ADJACENT DEVELOPMENTS.

IT WILL HAVE A 24-FOOT-WIDE CARRIAGEWAY WHICH WILL BE BITUMINOUS-SURFACED. CONCRETE FOOTPATHS OF NINE FEET WIDE WILL BE PROVIDED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD.

ANCILLARY STORMWATER DRAINS WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROJECT.

THE 1,200-FOOT ROAD IS DESIGNED TO SERVE THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS NORTH OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ABERDEEN FIRE STATION.

THE CARRIAGEWAY, 18 FEET IN WIDTH, WILL ALSO BE SURFACED WITH BITUMINOUS MATERIALS. IT WILL HAVE A SIX-FOOT WIDE CONCRETE FOOTPATH ON EACH SIDE.

SURFACE WATER DRAINS WILL ALSO BE LAID IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROAD WORKS.

WORK ON THE TWO NEW ROADS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH, THE FIRST TAKING ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE AND THE SECOND IN ABOUT FIVE MONTHS.

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MAJOR BOOST FOR HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, TODAY VISITED TSING YI ISLAND TO SEE SITES FOR TWO MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH WILL GIVE A $200 MILLION TECHNOLOGICAL BOOST TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

ONE SITE IS BEING DEVELOPED BY OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FACTORY TO BUILD OUTBOARD MARINE ENGINES. THE OTHER WILL BE DEVELOPED BY DOW CHEMICAL PACIFIC LTD WHICH WILL CONSTRUCT A PLASTICS MANUFACTURING PLANT.

THEY ARE THE FIRST COMPANIES TO OBTAIN SITES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MODIFIED INDUSTRIAL LAND POLICY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG.

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN FORMULATING THE NEW POLICY WHICH ENABLES LAND AND CAPITAL INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, WHICH ARE UNSUITABLE FOR HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS, TO OBTAIN LAND BY PRIVATE TREATY OR BY TENDER PROVIDED THEY MEET DETAILED ECONOMIC CRITERIA.

THE PROJECTS CONCERNED HAVE TO BE NEW TO HONG KONG OR REPRESENT A TECHNOLOGICAL UP-GRADING TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF AN EXISTING INDUSTRIAL PROCESS. THEY MUST ALSO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT A GENERALLY HIGHER LEVEL OF SKILL THAN PREVAILS IN EXISTING INDUSTRIES.

MR. MCGREGOR COMMENTED : +THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT REGARDS THE OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION AND DOW PROJECTS AS SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARDS BROADENING HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE AND UP-GRADING THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL OF OUR INDUSTRY.

+THE O.M.C. PROJECT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT EXPANSION OF THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY WHILE THE DOW PLANT WILL ENCOURAGE THE EXPANSION AND UP-GRADING OF OUR PLASTIC-USING INDUSTRIES.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE TWO PROJECTS ON TSING YI ISLAND MAY ALSO HAVE A FAR-REACHING AND CATALYTIC EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER CAPITAL INTENSIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG. I CERTAINLY HOPE THIS WILL PROVE THE CASE.+

RECLAMATION WORK, INVOLVING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEA-WALL, HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS AT THE O.M.C. SITE SINCE MAY, 1973. FOUNDATION WORK FOR THE MANUFACTURING PLANT WILL START IN SIX WEEKS' TIME. THE PLANT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN PRODUCTION IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

SITE FORMATION ON THE DOW SITE IS EXPECTED TO START TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT MONTH, SUBJECT TO PLANS BEING APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PLANT WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN JANUARY, 1976. THE PLANT WILL MANUFACTURE POLYSTYRENE WHICH IS USED EXTENSIVELY IN THE LOCAL PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

/AFTER HIS .....

AFTER HIS VISIT TO TSING YI, MR. MCGREGOR WENT ON TO SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR A SHOP-FLOOR TOUR OF HONG KONG PAPER MILLS LTD WHERE HE SAW MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS. THE COMPANY EMPLOYS OVER 80 WORKERS AND PRODUCES INDUSTRIAL PAPER FOR PACKAGING PURPOSES.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THIS PLANT AS IT PROVIDED A FINE EXAMPLE OF REPROCESSING OF WASTE MATERIALS AND THEREFORE AN AID TO HIGHER ECOLOGICAL STANDARDS.

+NOT ONLY IS THIS PLANT RECYCLING WASTE PAPER BUT IN ITS OWN MANUFACTURING LAYOUT IT IS RECYCLING THE WATER IT USES AND REDUCING TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS THE DISCHARGED EFFLUENT.

+I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE SUCH PLANTS IN HONG KONG ALTHOUGH WATER SUPPLY COULD BE A PROBLEM.+

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WARNING AGAINST PLASTIC BAGS AS HEAD COVERS SUFFOCATION CASES REPORTED IN UNITED STATES

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY WARNED AGAINST THE +CURRENT FAD+ AMONG MANY PEOPLE TO USE PLASTIC BAGS TO COVER THEIR FACES DURING A DOWNPOUR INSTEAD OF DEPENDING ON RAINCOATS AND UMBRELLAS.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE +FAD+ WAS +CONSPICUOUSLY APPARENT+ DURING THE DRAGON BOAT RACES ON MONDAY, AND HE EXPLAINED THIS PROMPTED THE WARNING +IN VIEW OF THE PROSPECT OF MUCH RAIN AND STRONG WINDS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.+

HE DESCRIBED THE +FAD+ AS +VERY DANGEROUS,+ AND HE GAVE TWO REASONS:-

* UNDER THE PRESSURE OF STRONG WINDS, THEY COULD SUDDENLY BLOCK THE NOSE AND MOUTH, WHICH IN TURN COULD CAUSE SUFFOCATION.
* EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF WIND, THE IMPACT OF CONTINUOUS RAIN DURING A DOWNPOUR COULD MAKE THE BAGS ADHERE TO THE NECK, ALSO CAUSING SUFFOCATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID NOT LONG AGO THERE WERE REPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAD BEEN SUFFOCATED IN PRECISELY SUCH WAYS BY PLACING PLASTIC BAGS OVER THEIR HEADS WHILE PLAYING AS +SPACEMEN+.

+IT IS NECESSARY TO PUT THE COMMUNITY ON ALERT,+ HE EXPLAINED. +AN APPARENTLY CONVENIENT WAY OF MOVING ABOUT IN THE RAIN CAN BE PRETTY LETHAL. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE A TRAGEDY IN HONG KONG THAT COULD SO EASILY BE AVOIDED.

+HENCE THIS WARNING.+

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ALTERNATIVE POSTS FOUND FOR DISMISSED TEACHERS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY HELPING SEVEN TEACHERS IN SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POSTS BECAUSE THEIR CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE RENEWED FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR BY THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENTS AS A RESULT OF FALLING ENROLMENTS.

THEY ARE AMONG 14 CASES WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN REPORTED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR BY THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED, SOME OF THE AFFECTED TEACHERS THEMSELVES OR THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY FOUND ALTERNATIVE POSTS FOR FOUR OTHER TEACHERS.

ANOTHER TWO WILL CONTINUE EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION OF THEIR CASES BY OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

ONE OTHER TEACHER - THE 14TH - HAS RESIGNED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: †WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS A GRADUAL DROP IN PRIMARY 1 ENROLEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS AFFECTED IS CERTAINLY NOT GREAT.+

HE DESCRIBED AS +SPECULATIVE AND GROUNDLESS+ THE RECENT REPORT IN A NEWSPAPER WHICH SAID THAT HUNDREDS OF TEACHERS IN SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE THEIR CONTRACTS TERMINATED THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS SURPRISED TO READ IN ANOTHER NEWSPAPER THAT DISMISSALS OF TEACHERS HAD CONTINUED UNABATED.

+THE 14 CASES, WHICH ARE THE ONLY ONES REPORTED, SHOW THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS HONOURING ITS WORD TO HELP SUBSIDIZED TEACHERS FIND ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POSTS IF THEY HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE THAT THEIR CONTRACTS WOULD NOT BE RENEWED AS A RESULT OF FALLING ENROLMENTS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

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TRADE CONTROLS ON RICE AND TEXTILES DEFENDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR JIMMY MCGREGOR, SAID TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT WOULD BE AN ACT OF +FOLLY AND IRRESPONSIBILITY+ FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DISMANTLE THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME.

+THE CONSEQUENCES OF A GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PRESENT CONTROL OVER THE RICE TRADE COULD BE VERY SERIOUS INDEED,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST DEMANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONTROL ON THE RICE TRADE SHALL CONTINUE AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.+

MR MCGREGOR WAS SPEAKING TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF KWUN TONG IN ANSWER TO CRITICISMS MADE RECENTLY BY MR WONG TOK-SAU ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH CONTROLS ARE OPERATED IN RESPECT OF RICE AND TEXTILES.

+THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRADE CONTROLS IS FLEXIBLE AND SUBJECT TO CONTINUOUS EXAMINATION NOT ONLY AS A MEANS OF CHANGING AND IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT MORE SIGNIFICANTLY TO DETERMINE WHEN WE CAN REDUCE ITS SCOPE OR GET RID OF CONTROLS ALTOGETHER,+ MR MCGREGOR SAID.

+I THINK THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD IN THE GENERAL AREA OF TRADE CONTROLS IS A VERY GOOD ONE AND THAT IT WILL BEAR THE MOST CRITICAL EXAMINATION. A GREAT MANY CONTROLS WHICH WERE NECESSARY AFTER 1945 WERE QUICKLY DISPENSED WITH AS SOON AS THE NEED FOR THEM DISAPPEARED.+

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT RICE CONTROL HAD REMAINED AND THE REASONS WERE NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND.

+WE DEPEND ENTIRELY ON IMPORTS OF RICE AND I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST ACCEPT A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT, AS FAR AS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD, HONG KONG'S RICE SUPPLY IS SECURE FROM ONE MONTH TO THE NEXT AND INDEED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

+RICE CROPS ARE FICKLE AND RICE PRODUCTION CAN FLUCTUATE GREATLY FROM ONE HARVEST TO THE NEXT. BUT CONSUMPTION ACROSS ASIA IS NOT DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE. IT IS HUGE AND IT IS GROWING AS THE ASIAN POPULATION EXPANDS.

+WE HAVE SEEN THE EFFECTS OF FAMINE ARISING FROM DROUGHT AND POOR RICE CROPS. WE HAVE HEARD THE ANGUISHED CRIES FOR HELP FROM THOSE COUNTRIES SO TRAGICALLY AFFLICTED WITH FAMINE AND ITS DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES.+

/MR MCGREGOR .....

MR MCGREGOR REITERATED THAT THE SALE OF RICE QUOTAS IS NOT PERMITTED AND IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

+WHAT I TOLD A NEWSPAPER REPORTER,+ HE SAID, +WAS THAT A QUOTA HOLDING COMPANY COULD BE BOUGHT OVER COMPLETELY AND THAT, PROVIDED THE COMPANY MAINTAINED ITS COMMERCIAL IDENTITY AND WAS ABLE TO SHOW THAT ITS RICE TRADE WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE NO OBJECTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE RICE QUOTA ALLOCATION.

+I SAID ALSO THAT THE SHAREHOLDING OF A RICE IMPORTING COMPANY COULD CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME WITHOUT BRINGING THE RICE QUOTA HOLDING INTO QUESTION.+

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT HIS ALLEGED DEFENCE OF THE 38 RICE IMPORTERS HAD BEEN +MUCH MISQUOTED AND MISUNDERSTOOD.+

HE CONTINUED: +I DID NOT DEFEND THE ACTIONS OF RICE IMPORTERS ..... WHAT I DEFENDED WAS THE QUALITY OF DC AND I ADMINISTRATION OF THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME.

+I WILL STATE AGAIN MY BELIEF THAT, IN AN ABNORMAL AND SERIOUSLY INFLATIONARY INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT DURING THE PAST SIX TO NINE MONTHS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ACTION TO ENSURE A FULL AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RICE TO THE FOUR MILLION CONSUMERS OF HONG KONG AT PRICES WHICH REFLECT A COMPETITIVE AND LIVELY MARKET.

+THE SPECULATION, HOARDING AND PROFITEERING WHICH OCCURRED EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS BROUGHT UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT -- NOT BY CHANCE OR THROUGH A HIT AND MISS APPROACH BUT THROUGH THE GREAT GOOD FORTUNE OF EXPERIENCE AND INITIATIVE.+

ON TEXTILE CONTROLS, MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT THESE WERE FORCED UPON HONG KONG BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR MAIN MARKETS. THE ALTERNATIVE TO THEM WAS IMPORT CONTROLS IN THESE COUNTRIES WHICH COULD QUITE SERIOUSLY REDUCE OUR EXPORTS AND LEAD TO VERY GREAT UNCERTAINTY IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

+WITHOUT THE ASSURANCE WHICH EXPORT CONTROLS IN HONG KONG PROVIDE, MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS COULD NOT PLAN FORWARD,+ HE ADDED.

+FOR THE MANUFACTURER THIS WOULD BE A MOST SERIOUS PREDICAMENT SINCE MUCH OF HIS FORWARD PLANNING, ESPECIALLY IN MACHINE REPLACEMENT, MIGHT LOOK TWO OR THREE YEARS AHEAD.+

MR MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GOVERNS THE CALCULATION OF QUOTAS IS THAT THEY SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE COMPANIES WHICH BUILT UP THE TRADE IN THE RESTRAINED ITEM. THIS SEEMED FAIR AND EQUITABLE AND NOBODY HAD PRODUCED A BETTER BASIS SO FAR.

/THE PRINCIPLE .....

THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GOVERNS THE RETENTION OF QUOTA, HE SAID, IS THAT THE QUOTA HOLDER SHALL FULLY UTILISE HIS QUOTA OR LOSE PART OR ALL OF IT, AND THAT ALSO SEEMED FAIR.

UNLESS THE DEMAND IN THE MARKET EXCEEDS THE QUOTA AVAILABLE IN A RESTRICTED CATEGORY, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD SEEK TO OPEN UP AS MUCH OF THE QUOTA AMOUNT AVAILABLE AS POSSIBLE TO ALL COMERS.

MR MCGREGOR STRESSED THAT THE SALE OF TEXTILE QUOTAS WAS LEGAL AND ENTIRELY NECESSARY. THE RECORDS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT BETWEEN 20 AND 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL QUOTA HOLDING IN TEXTILES IS SUBJECT TO TRANSFER EACH YEAR. MOST OF THESE ARE TEMPORARY TRANSFERS AND THEY DEMONSTRATE THE GREAT NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN QUOTA UTILIZATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR MCGREGOR'S SPEECH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE PRESS BOXES.

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TALK ON MASS TRANSIT COMPLETED

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JAPANESE CONSORTIUM AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY COMPLETED THIS AFTERNOON THEIR SECOND SERIES OF FORMAL DISCUSSIONS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE LETTER OF INTENT IN FEBRUARY 1974.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS BOTH SIDES REPORTED PROGRESS ON THE WORK NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH A VIEW TO THE CONCLUSION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST FOUR STAGES OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

THESE DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED A MOST USEFUL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS BETWEEN THE ENGINEERS FROM BOTH SIDES, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER MEETING OF THIS GROUP IN EARLY AUGUST.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION SHOULD BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT SEPARATE MEETINGS OF SPECIALIST GROUPS WOULD BE CALLED AS AND WHEN NECESSARY IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE TWO SIDES WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM'S REPRESENTATIVES IN HONG KONG.

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SHOP OPERATORS APPLY FOR ALLOWANCE

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TEN KOWLOON BAY SHOP OPERATORS HAVE APPLIED FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WITH THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR PROCESSING.

IN FACT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SAID, ONE APPLICATION HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AND THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT, MR. NG SHING-TONG OF THE 11TH VILLAGE ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION, WAS GRANTED $8,100 LAST FRIDAY (JUNE 21).

PROCESSING OF THE OTHER NINE APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE FINISHED IN ABOUT A WEEK TO TEN DAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED OTHER SHOP OPERATORS TO LODGE THEIR CLAIMS WITH THE NECESSARY PROOF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS COULD BE QUICKLY DEALT WITH.

HE STRESSED THAT THE AREA MUST BE CLEARED TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AS SCHEDULED, OTHERWISE ALL PLANNED PROJECTS WOULD BE HELD UP.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF THE AIRPORT TUNNEL ROAD LINKING KOWLOON AND KWUN TONG AND A NEW LICENSED AREA FOR THE GENUINELY HOMELESS.

HE CONTINUED: +THE EXISTENCE OR NON-EXISTENCE OF THE STRUCTURES INVOLVED IS TOTALLY IRRELEVANT AS= REGARD THE FULFILMENT OF THE NECESSARY CRITERIA ON WHICH THE ELIGIBILITY OF ANY SHOP EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WILL HINGE.+

THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ARE: SHOP OPERATORS MUST BE ABLE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT THEIR RESITE SHOP STRUCTURE OR THEIR PREVIOUS STRUCTURE WAS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE THE 1964 GENERAL SQUATTER SURVEY= THEY MUST BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT THEIR BUSINESS WAS CARRIED OUT CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE 1965 GENERAL SHOP SURVEY= AND FINALLY BUSINESS WAS BEING CARRIED ON AT THE TIME OF THE SCREENING SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1972.

IN THE 1972 SURVEY, 16 SHOPS WERE FOUND TO BE OPERATING THEN. NINE MORE WERE FOUND TO BE IN BUSINESS IN A SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY SEVERAL MONTHS LATER.

IN THE FIRST SURVEY, 22 SHOPS WERE FOUND TO BE DOMESTICALLY OCCUPIED, BUT NOT BY THE ORIGINAL RESITEES. THE OCCUPANTS WERE OFFERED SPACE IN A LICENSED AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE EARLIER STAGES OF THE CLEARANCE OF KOWLOON BAY AND AGAIN SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE FIRE IN NOVEMBER 1973 THE ABOVE CRITERIA WERE ADOPTED.

/+MORE THAN .....

+MORE THAN 100 RESITE SHOP OPERATORS WHO THEN COULD MEET THESE CRITERIA WERE PAID EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES AMOUNTING TO ABOUT $250,000.

+FROM THIS, SHOP OPERATORS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO ANY UNFAVOURABLE TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE 80-ODD RESITE SHOP OPERATORS WERE OFFERED THEIR PRESENT SHOP SITE EITHER IN 1967 OR 1968 ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY RESETTLEMENT RIGHT ON EVENTUAL CLEARANCE.

THIS SPECIAL CONDITION WAS STAMPED ON THEIR TENANCY CARDS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NO RESETTLEMENT RIGHT WOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE BUSINESS FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF FUTURE DISPUTES.

+HOWEVER, ALL OF THESE SHOP OPERATORS WERE GIVEN DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATIONS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN PREVIOUS CLEARANCES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALLEGATION OF A VERBAL PROMISE THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN SHOP UNITS BY THE GOVERNMENT ON CLEARANCE WAS COMPLETELY UNTRUE.

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NEW RANK INSIGNIA FOR PRISONS OFFICERS

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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL INTRODUCE NEW RANK INSIGNIA FOR ITS SENIOR OFFICERS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD, THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS HAD BEEN WEARING THE INSIGNIA OF AN ARMY BRIGADIER WHICH IS A CROWN AND THREE STARS, AND THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER A CROWN AND TWO STARS.

THIS HAS POSED PROBLEMS OF RECOGNITION AND THE INSIGNIA IS NOT EASILY UNDERSTOOD WHEN IT IS WORN BY AN NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL.

IN ADDITION, IT IS FELT THAT THE PRISONS SERVICE SHOULD, LIKE OTHER DISCIPLINARY SERVICES, HAVE ITS OWN FORM OF INSIGNIA.

AS A RESULT, A LAUREL LEAF WITH CROSS KEYS SURMOUNTED BY A STAR AND A CROWN HAS BEEN DESIGNED FOR THE COMMISSIONER.

CHANGES IN OTHER INSIGNIA ARE AS FOLLOWS: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER - A LAUREL LEAF SURMOUNTED BY A CROWN, SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT - A CROWN AND TWO STARS, SUPERINTENDENT - A CROWN AND ONE STAR, AND ASSISTANTSUPERINTENDENT - A CROWN.

THE INSIGNIA OF ALL OTHER RANKS REMAIN THE SAME.

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ALWAYS KEEP AN OPEN MIND,
SAYS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAYS WHAT IS IDEAL FOR TODAY MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR TOMORROW.

SPEAKING AT THE ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG AT THEIR LUNCHEON MEETING, HE SAID THE QUESTION WAS WHEN TO CHANGE AND BY HOW MUCH.

THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD SIMPLE ANSWER, HE SAID, WAS TO ADOPT NEW GOOD IDEAS AND REJECT BAD ONES. BUT WHILE UNDERNEATH ONE HAS A FEELING THAT IT IS PRUDENT TO GO ALONG WITH CHANGE, THERE ARE SOME IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES.

+NEW IDEAS AND NEW STYLES DO NOT COME LABELLED GOOD OR BAD, WE DON'T KNOW IN ADVANCE HOW TO JUDGE THE NEW EXCEPT IN TERMS OF THE OLD,+ HE SAID.

IN A SLOWLY CHANGING WORLD, GIVEN REASONABLE LEISURE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, HE POINTED OUT, TO PONDER CAREFULLY, TO THINK ABOUT AND TO PASS THROUGH A FILTER OF REASON ALL NEW IDEAS WHICH COME OUR WAY.

+BUT IN A FAST-CHANGING WORLD, WITH INADEQUATE LEISURE WE HAVE SOMETIMES TO PICK OUR IDEAS, OUR ATTITUDES ALMOST OFF A SHELF AT AN INTELLECTUAL SUPERMARKET. WHAT IS MORE WE ARE LIABLE TO END UP WITH AN ARMOURY OF IDEAS WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO MANIPULATE.+

SOME WOULD ARGUE THEN THAT THERE WAS A CASE FOR REMAINING WHERE YOU ARE AS LONG AS IDEAS OR PLANS ARE WORKING WELL, HE SAID, BUT OTHERS CONTENDED THAT IN A WORLD OF VERY RAPID CHANGE IT SEEMED TO PAY TO KEEP MOVING AND TRY TO BECOME EXPERT AT PICKING NEW IDEAS AND FADS WHICH WILL PROVE STRONG RUNNERS.

+THE THING THAT STANDS MOST IMMOVEABLY IN THE WAY OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IS USUALLY A PAST ACHIEVEMENT HELD FAST BY A FIRM CONVICTION. IT IS NOT OUR FAILURES WHICH LET US DOWN, BUT RATHER OUR PAST SUCCESSES WHICH TRIP US UP,+ HE SAID.

+WE CAN HOLD TO WHAT WE BELIEVE FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE PROVIDED WE DO NOT CLING TO IT FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE. WE SHOULD NOT MOVE ON SO QUICKLY THAT WE MAKE COUNTERFEITS OF OURSELVES. IF WE MUST BE NIMBLE, WE MUST ALSO BE REFLECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

+OPEN MINDEDNESS IS NO BAD WATCH WORD.+

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF MR. TOPLEY'S SPEECH ARE BOXED.

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CARE FOR JUVENILES

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. DENIS BRAY TODAY SHOWED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE CENTRE'S NEW COMMITTEE, MR. BRAY NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HIM TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OR VALUE OF THIS KIND OF SERVICE IN A MODERN AND EVER PROGRESSING SOCIETY SUCH AS HONG KONG.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1948, THE CENTRE HAS DEDICATED ITS EFFORT TO PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL CARE AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM POOR OR BROKEN FAMILIES, ORPHANS AND DESTITUTES, AND ALSO BOYS WHO ARE ON PROBATION.

MR. BRAY SAID IT WAS THROUGH THE CARE AND PROPER TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE THAT MANY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE FOUND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT AND WERE ABLE TO BE +INTEGRATED INTO NORMAL SOCIETY AS USEFUL CITIZENS.+

WHILE EMPHASISING THAT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE +RESOURCEFULNESS AND FORESIGHT+ OF ALL PAST AND PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MR. BRAY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE VALUABLE WORK WHICH THE CENTRE HAD BEEN ENGAGED OVER THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON TEXTILE AGREEMENT

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DETAILS OF HONG KONG'S NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11.15 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE 35 MM FILM THEATRE, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR.

MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WHO NEGOTIATED THE NEW AGREEMENT, WILL PRESIDE. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. CLEMENT YEUNG, PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

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SEMINAR ON PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR NURSES

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THE SECOND SEMINAR ON PUBLIC RELATIONS, DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS OF THE NURSING GRADES IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WILL HEAR EXACTLY WHAT THE PUBLIC THINKS OF THEIR PERFORMANCE BY THE FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES AND NOW THE HEAD OF HIS OWN COMMUNICATION AGENCY.

HE IS MR. MICHAEL STEVENSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MICHAEL STEVENSON LIMITED, CONSULTANT, AMONG OTHER INSTITUTIONS, TO THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE SEMINAR WILL TAKE UP THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON OF TOMORROW (THURSDAY) BEGINNING AT 2.30 P.M., IN THE LECTURE HALL OF THE PROFESSORIAL BLOCK IN THE GROUNDS OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, AND MORE THAN 120 SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE NURSING GRADES WILL ATTEND.

THE SECOND GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), WHO WILL MAKE AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE. THIS IS THE SIXTH SEMINAR IN THE CURRENT SERIES, THE SECOND FOR THE NURSING GRADES, AND THE SECOND IN ENGLISH.

ONE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING DEPARTURE FROM ROUTINE IS THE 45 MINUTES THAT WILL BE RESERVED FOR THOSE ATTENDING TO PUT FORWARD THEIR IDEAS, PERHAPS THEIR DEFENCE, IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT CRITICISM BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. K.F. CHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (MEDICAL). ON THE ROSTRUM AMONG THE SPEAKERS WILL BE MISS K.J. VEEVERS, PRINCIPAL NURSING OFFICER, AND MR. ARTHUR STARLING, CHIEF HOSPITAL SECRETARY.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SEMINAR HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND IS BEING ORGANISED BY DR. K.L. TAM, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THIS SIGNIFICANT DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR ARRANGED ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF DR. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES. IT WILL BE COMPLETELY OPEN AND UNREHEARSED. THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RADIO AND TV COVERAGE, IF DESIRED.

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON YOUTH
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS IN WONG TAI SIN, WANCHAI, AND TSUEN WAN WILL BE CONDUCTING YOUTH FORUMS AND A PANEL DISCUSSION ON +THE INFLUENCE OF ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS ON YOUTH+ WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, WORKERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY INSIDE THEIR DISTRICTS LATER THIS WEEK.

THE FIRST DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 2.15 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M. AND WILL INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUTH WORK AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

ORGANIZED BY MRS. HENRIETTA CHEN, THE C.Y.O. (WONG TAI SIN), THE PANELISTS WILL COMPRISE MR. I.R. STRACHAN, CDO (WONG TAI SIN)= MR. BENNY NG, THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (WONG TAI SIN)= MR. ALBERT LEE, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE LOK SIN TONG YU KAN HING SECONDARY SCHOOL= MISS CHAN KAN-WAN, SOCIAL WORKER WITH THE HONG KONG WELFARE SOCIETY= AND MR. LAI TIT-YING, A WONG TAI SIN RESIDENT.

A SIMILAR DISCUSSION, BUT THIS TIME INVOLVING YOUTHS OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT, WILL BE HELD THE FOLLOWING DAY (FRIDAY) AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 8.00 TO 10.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY (JUNE 28) IT WILL BE THE TURN OF YOUNG PEOPLE, BOTH STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN TSUEN WAN, TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC WITH THE C.Y.O. FOR TSUEN WAN, MR. ALEXANDER FUNG, AND OTHERS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS IN THE TOWN. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM 8.00 TO 10.00 P.M.

THE FINAL FORUM OF THIS SUBJECT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE IN WANCHAI FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M. ON SATURDAY (JUNE 29) AT WHICH SOME 100 STUDENTS AND WORKERS LIVING IN THE DISTRICT ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

BESIDES THE C.Y.O. WANCHAI, MR. LAM HARK-CHEE, PANELISTS WILL INCLUDE MR. LAU KAI-CHUEN, A TRAINING OFFICER WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT= MR. LEE WAN-YUEN, A CIVIC LEADER= DR. CHUNG CHI-YUNG, PRINCIPAL OF THE HONG KONG SHUE YAN COLLEGE AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE'S TRIAD SOCIETY BUREAU AND JUVENILE PROTECTION OFFICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS. THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE IS SITUATED AT 104, CHING TAK STREET, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON.
THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IS LOCATED AT TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN, AND THE ADDRESS OF LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE IS 44, OI KWAN ROAD, WANCHAI.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WTRICES ($/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE:		
SEE KEW		
- OLD CROP	--	-
NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
S.C.JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	--	-
CHU CHO	--	-
THAI RICE:		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.87
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.88
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.77
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.57
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.85
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.87
AUSTRALIAN RICE	OOD GOOD	1.81
PAKISTAN RICE	--	-
TAIWAN RICE	--	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

		(ALL SOURCES)
AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK ($/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE ($/CATTY) HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	LIMITED	6.70	4.00	5.50
BIG-EYES	NORMAL	3.10	0.90	2.00
SQUID	LIMITED	7.50	2.80	6.00
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.50	1.00	1.80
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.50	1.50	2.70
CROAKERS	LIMITED	3.20	0.80	2.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	3.20	2.50	2.80
MELON COAT	SCARCE	2.40	1.80	2.20
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.50	5.00	5.30
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	3.00	0.70	2.00
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.50	4.00	4.80
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	0.90	0.50	0.70
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.50	1.00	1.40
HORSE-HEAD	SCARCE	7.20	4.50	6.50
MELON SEED	NORMAL	3.20	1.20	2.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	13.00	9.00	11.00
GAROUPAS	LIMITED	11.00	8.00	10.00
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	8.50	6.50	8.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

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

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE ($/CATTY) HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	2.20	1.00	1.60
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.50	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	1.80	0.40	1.20
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	--	-	-	-
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.40
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.50	0.40	1.00
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.60	1.20	2.00

TIME: 1405 HOURS
DATE: JUNE 26/FKC

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