



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SIR MURRAY EXPLAINS HONG KONG'S SUCCESS .....	1
ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY DIVERSIFICATION COMMITTEE .....	5
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED GOVERNMENT STAFF CONSULTATION .	7
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:	
REVIEW OF BANK LICENSING POLICY .....	10
PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL READY FOR LARGER ROLE .....	11
REASONS FOR NON-OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS .....	12
CIVIL DEBT ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES MAY BE CHANGED .....	13
POWERS TO COUNTER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EXTENDED ONE YEAR .....	14
JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE RECEIVES MORE DONATIONS .....	14
RESTRICTIONS ON DIRECT ISSUE OF DRIVING LICENCES .....	16
POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO COVER MORE NT AREAS .....	17
PLEADING BY LETTER TO ID CARD OFFENCE .....	17
SHORTER TIME REQUIRED TO REPLACE ID CARDS .....	18
PROHIBITION ON FORTUNE-TELLERS UNNECESSARY .....	18
MTR SAFETY ASSURED .....	19
FURTHER STUDY ON PERMANENT EXHIBITION CENTRE .....	19
PLANS FOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION FACILITIES .....	20
MORE TAXIS WILL PLY IN THE NT .....	20
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FIGURES .....	20
SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED .....	21
FOUR BILLS PASSED .....	21
HK/US TEXTILE TALKS START NEXT WEEK .....	21
CLEAN CANOPIES OPERATION IN TSUEN WAN .....	22
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED .....	22
WATER CUT .....	23

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 1 -

SIR MURRAY EXPLAINS HONG KONG'S SUCCESS

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THE PHENOMENON OF THE OWNING AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS BY HONG KONG OWNERS EVOLVING SO RAPIDLY ON SUCH A LARGE SCALE HAS NOT BEEN A CASE OF SO-CALLED 'CHEAP EASTERN COMPETITION', THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TOLD THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING AT THEIR DINNER IN LONDON THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

+IT HAS BEEN THE PRODUCT OF A COMBINATION OF A FISCAL AND FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT, WITH GREAT MANAGERIAL SKILL AND DRIVE, PRODUCING RATHER HIGH RATES OF RENEWAL OF TONNAGE AND CONSEQUENTLY RATHER LOW RATES OF INSURANCE= AND ALSO AS IT HAS TURNED OUT, OFTEN WITH ECONOMIES OF SCALE DUE TO AN AVERAGE SIZE OF SHIP LARGER THAN THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY EXPLAINED THAT ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN HONG KONG'S RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY WAS THE FREEDOM GIVEN TO MARKET FORCES.

+THERE ARE NO EXCHANGE CONTROLS, NO SUBSIDIES, NO PROTECTION OF LOCAL INDUSTRY. HARD WORK, INVENTIVENESS, MANAGERIAL SKILLS, THE RISKS OF INVESTMENT, ARE ALL ALLOWED MAXIMUM REWARD, UNFETTERED BY RED TAPE OR A DEPRESSING FISCAL SYSTEM, AND SUSTAINED BY A HIGHLY DEVELOPED FINANCIAL SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO TOLD THE SHIPPERS THAT THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW LEADERSHIP IN CHINA AND ITS NEW ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL POLICIES HAD AROUSED INTENSE INTEREST ALL OVER THE WORLD AND STIMULATED NEW INTEREST IN EASTERN MARKETS.

+HONG KONG,+ HE SAID, +IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS GROWTH AREA, RIGHT IN THE CENTRE OF ITS SEABORNE AND AIRBORNE COMMUNICATIONS, A MAJOR MARKET AS WELL AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, AND WITH THE CLOSEST CONNECTIONS WITH ENORMOUS DEVELOPING CHINA.+

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

+WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR CHAIRMAN'S VERY KIND INVITATION TO ADDRESS A DINNER OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING ON NOVEMBER 5 I WAS SURPRISED SINCE I AM NO SHIPPING EXPERT AND WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE DATE, BUT YOU, SIR, HINTED THAT YOUR OBJECT WAS TO GIVE THIS GATHERING OF THE COUNCIL A FAR EASTERN FOCUS, AND I DEDUCED THE SCENARIO TO BE THAT WHILE SIR OLIVER CHESTERTON WOULD SPEAK ABOUT SHIPS MAGNIFICENTLY AND HILARIOUSLY, AND WHILE YOU WOULD SPEAK ABOUT SHIPS WITH YOUR USUAL WIT AND WITH THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR OFFICE, I WAS NOT EXPECTED TO SPEAK ABOUT SHIPS AT ALL BUT RATHER ABOUT THE FAR EAST AND HONG KONG, SO I CAME WITH PLEASURE AND CANCELLED THE ORDER TO SEARCH THE CELLARS.

THE FAR EAST -- THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC BASIN -- IS ONE OF THE GREAT ECONOMIC GROWTH AREAS OF THE WORLD, AND AT ITS CENTRE -- IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY, COMMUNICATIONS, COMMERCE AND FINANCE -- IS HONG KONG, THE LATEST, MOST MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, AND UNIQUELY SUCCESSFUL PHENOMENON IN THE LONG HISTORY OF SINO/ BRITISH RELATIONS.

/IT IS .....

IT IS THE PRODUCT OF TWO THINGS, A MAGNIFICENT PEOPLE WITH THE WILL TO SURVIVE THROUGH WORK, AND A MAGNIFICENT HARBOUR IN WHICH THERE ARE ABOUT 200 SHIPS AT ANCHOR AT ANY ONE DAY, AS CONRAD WROTE OF ENGLAND 'IT IS A PLACE WHERE MEN AND SEA INTERPENETRATE', IT IS NOT SURPRISING THEREFORE THAT IT IS THE HOME OF OWNERS OF OVER 50 MILLION TONS DEADWEIGHT OF SHIPPING, AND THAT THEIR VOICES ARE INCREASINGLY HEARD IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AFFAIRS. THEY ARE TYPICAL PRODUCTS OF THE MODERN FAR EAST OF WHICH HONG KONG IS THE FOCAL POINT.

SOME OF YOU KNOW THE FAR EAST, TO OTHERS IT MAY SEEM FAR OFF AND IMPLAUSIBLE, BUT ITS MAIN FEATURE NOW IS CHANGE, FOR THE FAR EAST HAS CHANGED AND CHANGED QUICKLY, AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT, IF LEAST ADVERTISED, DEVELOPMENTS HAS BEEN THE COMPARATIVE STABILITY IT HAS ACHIEVED -- A STABILITY WHICH NO-ONE WOULD HAVE FORECAST 15 YEARS AGO, IT IS HARD TO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS SOUTH EAST ASIA FOR WHICH THE SO-CALLED DOMINO THEORY WAS EVOLVED, THE THEORY THAT IF ONE COUNTRY FELL TO COMMUNISM, ONE AFTER ANOTHER WOULD ALSO FALL RIGHT THROUGH THAILAND AND THE MALAYAN ARCHIPELAGO, BUT THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED, NOBODY FORESAW THE VIGOUR AND SUCCESS AND SELF-RELIANCE OF SUCH STATES AS MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND.

OF COURSE VIETNAM HAS BEEN A DESTABILISING INFLUENCE, BOTH IN ITSELF, AND AS A SOVIET SATELLITE, AND A MEMBER OF COMECON, BUT EVEN IF THERE IS NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT TO VIETNAMESE PRESENT IN KAMPUCHEA, THERE ARE RESTRAINTS ON VIETNAM, HER OWN CRYING NEED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC REHABILITATION, AND OF COURSE THE ENORMOUS AND SOBERING PRESENCE OF CHINA ON HER NORTHERN FRONTIER, THESE ARE POTENT SAFEGUARDS, I SEE NO SIGN OF THE DOMINOES STARTING TO FALL.

STABILITY WAS IN ANY CASE EMERGING AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORT OF INDIVIDUAL STATES THEMSELVES, BUT IN RECENT YEARS, OF ALL THE STABILISING FACTORS IN THE AREA, I WOULD UNHESITATINGLY NAME AS THE MOST IMPORTANT THE NEW SITUATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. ITS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND ALSO WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA, LIFTED A CLOUD OF UNCERTAINTY WHICH HUNG OVER EAST ASIA FOR SO LONG, AND PERSONALITY AND POLICY CHANGES HAVE REINFORCED CHINA'S CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE AREA. IDEOLOGY HAS GIVEN WAY TO COMMONSENSE, TO AN APPROACH THAT IS PRAGMATIC AND TO US COMPREHENSIBLE. AS PRACTICAL PEOPLE WE ALL WARM TO A CHINESE LEADER WHO SAYS HE DOES NOT MIND WHETHER A CAT IS BLACK OR WHITE, SO LONG AS IT CATCHES MICE.

/WITH STABILITY .....

WITH STABILITY HAS COME MODERNISATION, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT FAR EASTERN COUNTRIES ARE BECOMING LIKE THE WEST — THEY ARE NOT, THEY CLING TO THEIR OWN TRADITIONS. BUT MANY HAVE CARRIED OUT PROGRAMMES OF CONSISTENT AND DRAMATIC GROWTH OVER THE LAST 10 - 15 YEARS. THEY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING MODERN INDUSTRY AND IMPORTING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND IT IS WORKED WITH WILLING HANDS. INVESTMENT IS FLOWING IN AND FAR EASTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT ONLY INCREASING THEIR SHARE OF EXISTING MARKETS, BUT ARE BECOMING THEMSELVES NEW MARKETS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. ASIANS WILL TELL YOU THAT THE DYNAMIC CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IS UNDERGOING AN HISTORIC SHIFT FROM WEST TO EAST. HOWEVER, THAT MAY BE, SUCH AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS AS 11 PER CENT IN KOREA, 6 PER CENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, 9 PER CENT IN SINGAPORE, 8 PER CENT IN THAILAND, AND 9 PER CENT IN HONG KONG ARE MOUTH-WATERING IN COMPARISON TO THE 4 PER CENT OF OECD COUNTRIES. CERTAINLY THE FAR EAST AND SOUTH EAST ASIA IS AN AREA IN WHICH OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS. IT HAS BEEN DOING SO FOR SOMETIME, BUT IN RECENT YEARS WITH GROWING INSISTENCE AND ITS SUMMONS IS BEGINNING TO BE HEARD.

I THINK THE MOST DECISIVE SINGLE FACTOR IN THIS REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN EASTERN MARKETS HAS AGAIN BEEN THE EMERGENCE IN CHINA OF A NEW LEADERSHIP. ITS NEW ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL POLICIES HAVE AROUSED INTENSE INTEREST ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHILE THE MODERNISATION OF CHINA MAY NOT DEVELOP ON THE GROUND AS FAST AS SOME EXPECTED, LIKE MANY OTHERS I SEE THESE NEW POLICIES AS THE BEGINNING OF ONE OF THE GREAT HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF OUR TIME. THIS PROSPECT HAS STIMULATED NEW INTEREST IN THE AREA AS A WHOLE BOTH IN THE MARKETS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, AND ALSO INTEREST IN SUITABLE PLATFORMS, AS IT WERE, FROM WHICH TO TRADE WITH THEM AND WITH THE NEW CHINA THAT IS EMERGING AND WILL CONTINUE TO EMERGE OVER THE COMING DECADES.

AND THIS BRINGS ME BACK TO HONG KONG, BECAUSE THERE IT IS, ONLY 16 HOURS FLIGHT TIME AWAY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS GROWTH AREA, RIGHT IN THE CENTRE OF ITS SEABORNE AND AIRBORNE COMMUNICATIONS, A MAJOR MARKET AS WELL AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, AND WITH THE CLOSEST CONNECTIONS WITH ENORMOUS DEVELOPING CHINA. AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT RATHER BUREAUCRATIC PHRASE IS THAT MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE AS CHINA, HAVE RELATIONS THERE, AND VISIT THEM REGULARLY, BUT UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN TO HONG KONG YOU WILL NOT KNOW THE EXTRAORDINARY VIGOUR AND WILL TO GET ON THAT POSITIVELY RADIATES FROM ITS PEOPLE. IT IS EXHILARATING TO LIVE WITH SUCH PEOPLE WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS AND HARBOUR. ONE FEELS THEY WILL NOT SINK UNDER PROBLEMS BUT SURMOUNT THEM, AND PROBLEMS THERE ARE, LARGELY RESULTING FROM OVER-POPULATION AND OVER-IMMIGRATION, BUT HONG KONG CONTINUALLY AND BUOYANTLY RISES TO MEET THEM. HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE MAY BE LARGELY DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC POLITICAL FORCES, BUT THEY ARE UNDETERRED BY THEM BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEM WELL AND BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE HONG KONG HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN ITS RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY IS THAT MARKET FORCES ARE GIVEN FREEDOM TO WORK. THERE ARE NO EXCHANGE CONTROLS, NO SUBSIDIES, NO PROTECTION OF LOCAL INDUSTRY. HARD WORK, INVENTIVENESS, MANAGERIAL SKILLS, THE RISKS OF INVESTMENT, ARE ALL ALLOWED MAXIMUM REWARD, UNFETTERED BY RED TAPE OR A DEPRESSING FISCAL SYSTEM, AND SUSTAINED BY A HIGHLY DEVELOPED FINANCIAL SECTOR.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE PHENOMENON OF THE OWNING AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS BY HONG KONG OWNERS HAS EVOLVED SO RAPIDLY ON SUCH A LARGE SCALE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN A CASE OF SO-CALLED 'CHEAP EASTERN COMPETITION'. IT HAS BEEN THE PRODUCT OF A COMBINATION OF A FISCAL AND FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT, WITH GREAT MANAGERIAL SKILL AND DRIVE, PRODUCING RATHER HIGH RATES OF RENEWAL OF TONNAGE AND CONSEQUENTLY RATHER LOW RATES OF INSURANCE= AND ALSO AS IT HAS TURNED OUT, OFTEN WITH ECONOMIES OF SCALE DUE TO AN AVERAGE SIZE OF SHIP LARGER THAN THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS. IT IS NATURAL THAT HONG KONG OWNERS SHOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE UNCTAD'S CARGO-SHARING PROPOSALS. THEY REGARD THEM AS PROTECTIONIST AND DISCRIMINATORY IN PRINCIPLE AND AS EXPENSIVE TO THE CONSUMER IN PRACTICE.

I MUST APOLOGISE FOR HAVING STARTED TO TALK ABOUT SHIPS INSTEAD OF THE FAR EAST WHICH IS MY SUBJECT.

THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY FOR EUROPE TO FORGET THE EAST COMMERCIALLY. THE REASONS ARE NOT CLEAR, PERHAPS IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED TO BE A JAPANESE OR AMERICAN PRESERVE= PERHAPS THE RIVAL ATTRACTIONS OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICAN MARKETS HAVE DISTRACTED ATTENTION, AND PERHAPS IT MAY SEEM TO SOME EUROPEANS TO BE A PART OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATED WITH AN ERA WHICH FOR THEM HAS ENDED. MY THEME IS THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, A NEW AND MUCH HAPPIER ERA OF THE FAR EAST HAS ALREADY BEGUN. AN ERA OF VAST POSSIBILITY, AN ERA WITH WHICH ALL WHO CAN SHOULD COME TO TERMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE APT TO BE PUT OFF BY KIPLING'S JINGLE:

EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST,  
AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET,  
TILL TWO STRONG MEN STAND FACE TO FACE,  
AT GOD'S GREAT JUDGEMENT SEAT.

IT IS EXCESSIVELY OLD HAT, BUSINESSMEN OF EAST AND WEST MEET JUST AS EASILY AS THOSE OF EUROPE OR AMERICA, AND EVEN IF ONCE THE EAST WAS IMBUED WITH THE MYSTERY OF INACCESSIBILITY THAT TOO HAS GONE AS A RESULT OF CHEAP AIR FARES -- BUT I LEAVE THAT TO YOUR CHAIRMAN.+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 5 -

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY DIVERSIFICATION COMMITTEE  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A NUMBER OF WIDE-RANGING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF DIVERSIFICATION WHICH WILL HAVE IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL IMPLICATIONS, AND WHICH WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

THE BOARD, APPOINTED RECENTLY, WILL PLAN, MONITOR AND ADVISE ON VARIOUS PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES, TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH,+ EXPLAINED A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLISHED ITS REPORT IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND MADE A TOTAL OF 47 RECOMMENDATIONS COVERING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, FINANCIAL AND RELATED FACILITIES, LAND, HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND THE CONDUCT OF THE TERRITORY'S EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

THE REPORT WAS THE CULMINATION OF TWO YEARS' STUDY BY THE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN 1977. ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON +WHETHER THE PROCESS OF DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, CAN BE FACILITATED BY THE MODIFICATION OF EXISTING POLICIES OR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICIES.+

OVER THE LAST 10 MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED OUTSIDE BODIES, BEEN CAREFULLY STUDYING THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 336-PAGE REPORT, IF AND HOW THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF DOING SO.

IN ADDITION TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT THE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE WOUND UP.

+THIS HAS NOW BEEN DONE,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD IS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SPLIT INTO TWO BODIES - THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD AND THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD.+

IT HAS ALSO BEEN AGREED THAT A NEW STATUTORY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE CREATED TO ORGANISE INDIVIDUAL AREAS OF MANPOWER TRAINING.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ALSO SUGGESTED TWO COURSES OF ACTION IN RELATION TO OIL EXPLORATION, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

/ONE WAS .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 6 -

ONE WAS THAT TO ENSURE HONG KONG BENEFITTED IN ANY EXPLOITATION OF OIL FIELDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA PLANS FOR THE PROVISION OF A SITE FOR A LOGISTICS SUPPORT BASE SHOULD BE ACTIVELY PURSUED.

+THESE STUDIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED QUITE SOON,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN OIL REFINERY IN HONG KONG. A STUDY IS NOW UNDER WAY.

ALSO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE LAYOUT OF INDUSTRIAL AREAS AND MODIFICATIONS TO LEASE CONDITIONS TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPERS TO ACCOMMODATE INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIALISED NEEDS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING RIGHTLY ASSUMED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS PAID CLOSE HEED TO THE NUMEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE FORECAST OF DEMAND FOR QUALIFIED PEOPLE MADE BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BE REVIEWED REGULARLY TO ENSURE THE OUTPUT FROM TECHNICALLY-BASED COURSES IS ADEQUATE.

TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT STUDIES ON THE EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE OF RECENT GRADUATES. INDEED, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC IS ALREADY DOING SO.

+ONE OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS FIELD WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ENDORSED,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +WAS THAT THE TRAINING SCHEMES PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.+

THE COMMITTEE HAD NOTED IN ITS REPORT THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES.

AS WELL AS THE SCHEMES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES THE COUNCIL HAS PREPARED TRAINING SCHEMES FOR THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY (CONTRACTING SECTOR), THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY (WEAVING SECTOR).

THE COUNCIL ALSO PROPOSED ANOTHER SCHEME TO PROVIDE NECESSARY POST-GRADUATE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR ENGINEERING GRADUATES.

YET ANOTHER COMPREHENSIVE, INDUSTRY-WIDE TRAINING SCHEME RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL WOULD PROVIDE +SOUND BASIC TRAINING+ TO THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES IN KEY ENGINEERING TRADES SUCH AS FITTERS, MACHINISTS, TOOL-MAKERS AND PLASTIC MOULD MAKERS.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT +TRAINING IN ALL THE FIELDS MENTIONED IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY EFFORT AIMED AT UP-GRADING PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS, AND AT FACILITATING THE DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY.+

/+THIS DECISION .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 7 -

+THIS DECISION WILL NO DOUBT BE WELCOMED BY INDUSTRIALISTS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

ON TRADE PROMOTION THE COMMITTEE MADE THE POINT THAT ADVICE SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON HOW AN EXHIBITION CENTRE SHOULD BE CREATED, IF ITS VIABILITY WAS ESTABLISHED.

+THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST SHOWN IN THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE MATTER VERY CLOSELY. THE CONSULTANTS HAVE COMPLETED STAGE 1, AND A REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SOON.+

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IF STAGE 1 WAS APPROVED - IT DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF DEMAND FOR AN EXHIBITION CENTRE - THE SECOND STAGE WOULD THEN GO AHEAD, EXAMINING DETAILS SUCH AS MANAGEMENT AND COSTINGS.

+THIS SECOND STAGE WOULD THEN BE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER HONG KONG WOULD HAVE AN EXHIBITION CENTRE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE WERE JUST SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND WHICH WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED GOVERNMENT STAFF CONSULTATION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

ON SEPTEMBER 17, THE STANDING COMMISSION SUBMITTED A REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE TO THE GOVERNOR. IN THE REPORT, THE COMMISSION MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN STAFF AND MANAGEMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONSULTED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUPPORT THEM.

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MAY BE SUMMARISED UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

/DEPARTMENTAL .....

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT FORMAL DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS CONSISTING OF BOTH STAFF AND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH 100 STAFF OR MORE. (AT PRESENT THERE ARE 23 SUCH COUNCILS IN BEING).

THE STAFF SIDE REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ELECTED BY STAFF THEMSELVES. CANTONESE SHOULD BE USED IN MEETINGS WITH JUNIOR STAFF, AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY

INSOFAR AS CONSULTATION AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL IS CONCERNED, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT A +JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL+ SHOULD BE SET UP TO REPRESENT JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, INCLUDING MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF, (WHO ARE AT PRESENT NOT REPRESENTED ON THE EXISTING SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL) SO THAT THEIR VOICE MAY BE HEARD AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A REVIEW OF THE 1968 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE THREE MAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS, UNDER WHICH THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL WAS SET UP, BE UNDERTAKEN JOINTLY BY BOTH PARTIES, TO SEE IF THE 12-YEAR-OLD AGREEMENT STILL MEETS PRESENT-DAY NEEDS.

POLICE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY

THE COMMISSION RECOGNISED THAT POLICE OFFICERS ARE NOT PERMITTED BY LAW TO JOIN TRADE UNIONS AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE POLICE CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS AND THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH BE STRENGTHENED, AND THAT THE POLICE COUNCILS SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE TWO MAIN CIVIL SERVICE COUNCILS.

RESOURCES FOR STAFF SIDE ACTIVITIES

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, FOR EXAMPLE, MORE STAFF, OFFICES, BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE STAFF SIDE OF THE EXISTING SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL AND OF THE PROPOSED JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

STAFF-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STAFF RELATIONS/MANAGEMENT UNITS IN ALL MAJOR DEPARTMENTS TO PROMOTE STAFF-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. IT ALSO SUGGESTED THE PROVISION OF SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO STAFF AS A CONTINUING GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT.

## COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THE SETTING UP OF A PROPER PROCEDURE IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO DEAL WITH STAFF COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES.

## ROLE OF THE STANDING COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED CAREFULLY WHETHER IT SHOULD TAKE UP THE ROLE OF +ARBITRATOR+, +ADJUDICATOR+ OR +MEDIATOR+ IN DISPUTES BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIL SERVANTS, BUT ENDORSED THE MAJORITY VIEW PUT TO IT THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT BE SO INVOLVED. AT THE SAME TIME THE COMMISSION AFFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CONSULTATION AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF STAFF-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS.

## CONCLUSION

THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE COMMISSION ON CONSULTATION IS BEST SUMMED UP IN CHAPTER 8 OF THE REPORT, AN EXTRACT FROM WHICH READS:

+HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS IN THE PAST THREE DECADES HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE OF ITS WORK-FORCE, THE FLEXIBILITY AND ENTERPRISE OF MANAGEMENT BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND THE STABILITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL SCENE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY CIVIL SERVICE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY SHOULD BE VIEWED NOT AS AN END, BUT RATHER AS A MEANS TO BETTER STAFF RELATIONS, IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND A MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. IN OTHER WORDS, SUCH MACHINERY MUST BE GEARED TO THE PRACTICAL NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG, AND NOT INTRODUCED OR EXPANDED SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS THOUGHT TO BE A FASHIONABLE THING TO DO. WE CONSIDER THAT JOINT CONSULTATION SHOULD BE THE IMMEDIATE GOAL.+

## IMPLEMENTATION

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW WORK OUT THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT IN CONSULTATION WITH HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 10 -

REVIEW OF BANK LICENSING POLICY

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A REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA AGAINST WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR BANKING LICENCES WERE CONSIDERED, AND OF BANK LICENSING POLICY GENERALLY, HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BUT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO FINALISE THE REVIEW NOW, PENDING PROGRESS ON THREE OTHER ISSUES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG, SIR PHILIP SAID THE THREE ISSUES WERE:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONETARY STATISTICS ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WILL, INITIALLY AT ANY RATE, PLACE A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE RESOURCES OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AND SIR PHILIP SAID HE DID NOT WANT THE SUCCESS OF THIS EXERCISE PREJUDICED BY OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS.

INCORPORATION OF A NEW HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS

THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE SOUGHT LATER THIS MONTH AS TO WHETHER A BILL TO INCORPORATE SUCH AN ASSOCIATION, TO TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION, SHOULD BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR ENACTMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS PARTICULAR REFORM OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BEFORE WE COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE SIZE OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

REVISION OF THE BANKING AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE

A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION EXERCISED OVER THE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

AT THE SAME TIME, SIR PHILIP SAID, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS AND HE ARE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO DEFINE THE TYPE OF BUSINESS WHICH BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CAN UNDERTAKE AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MARKET AS A WHOLE AND FOR MONETARY POLICY OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF DEFINING THE BORDERLINE.

+THIS QUESTION OF DEFINITION IS CLEARLY A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION ON WHICH DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSING VIEWS ARE HELD, AND IT NEEDS TO BE SETTLED BEFORE REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GRANT FURTHER BANK LICENCES,+ HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP HOPED THESE TASKS WOULD BE COMPLETED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR. +WE SHALL THEN PROCEED, IN A LOGICAL SEQUENCE, TO COMPLETE OUR REVIEW OF BANK LICENSING POLICY,+ HE SAID.

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PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL READY FOR LARGER ROLE

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HONG KONG NEEDS AN IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE AND A STRONGER INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM TO COPE WITH THE MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES, THE HON S.L. CHEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WAS IN A STRONG POSITION TO PLAY AN ENLARGED ROLE IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT TO FACILITATE THE DIVERSIFICATION DRIVE IN HONG KONG PROVIDED IT RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MR CHEN WAS SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE 1979-80 REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND CENTRE ON WHICH HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW WAS ONE OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR IT REPRESENTED A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE.

+WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, THE CENTRE WILL BECOME THE ORGANISATIONAL FOCUS OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AND BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING AND CO-ORDINATING ACTIVITIES IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE FACILITATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE PROVISION OF A TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE.+

DURING THE PAST YEAR, MR CHEN SAID, THE CENTRE WAS ENGAGED IN DETAILED PLANNING OF DIVERSIFICATION RELATED ACTIVITIES AND HAD SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR FUNDING SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

- \* TO ESTABLISH A METAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT UNIT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGICAL BASE ON WHICH THE METALS AND RELATED LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRY CAN FURTHER DEVELOP AND DIVERSIFY-
- \* TO EXPAND THE EXISTING TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE TO ENABLE THE CENTRE TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF ITS SERVICE TO COVER MORE INDUSTRY SECTORS- AND
- \* TO SET UP A SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY EXTENSION SERVICE TO OFFER SPECIALISED ASSISTANCE IN A FEW CRITICAL AREAS WHERE HELP IS MOST NEEDED.

ON THE THIRD PROPOSAL, MR CHEN SAID THE AREAS CHOSEN WERE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND WASTE CONTROL AND RECYCLING.

+THESE THREE SUBJECTS ARE INTER-RELATED AND ARE STRONGLY LINKED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADEQUATE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT BASE ON WHICH INDUSTRY CAN GROW AND DEVELOP,+ HE SAID.

/MR CHEN.....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 12 -

MR CHEN ALSO REPORTED THAT THE CENTRE CONDUCTED 274 CONSULTANCY PROJECTS LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 60 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 300 TRAINING PROGRAMMES WERE ORGANISED FOR 6 500 PARTICIPANTS, OF WHICH OVER 40 PER CENT WERE SPECIALISED TECHNOLOGY COURSES FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRY SECTORS.

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REASONS FOR NON-OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACHIEVING AN ALLOCATION RATE FOR NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS OF 97.7 PER CENT, AND AN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY RATE OF 97.4 PER CENT, IN THE LATTER CASE EXCLUDING QUARTERS UNDER DECORATION OR ALLOCATED TO OFFICERS ABSENT ON SHORT ANNUAL LEAVES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN FURTHER REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR ROWLANDS SAID THE AVERAGE PERIOD OF NON-OCCUPANCY WAS ABOUT SIX WEEKS.

AS FOR THE REASONS FOR NON-OCCUPANCY, MR ROWLANDS SAID A MINOR ONE WAS THAT THERE WERE SOME OFFICERS WHO RETAINED QUARTERS WHILE ABSENT ON LEAVES LONGER THAN TWO MONTHS.

+THIS IS ONLY A MINOR REASON AS IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES WE ARE ABLE TO FIND TEMPORARY TENANTS, PARTICULARLY FROM AMONG SINGLE OFFICERS.

+ANOTHER MINOR CAUSE OF NON-OCCUPANCY IS THAT SOME QUARTERS ARE NOT WELL LOCATED IN RELATION TO SCHOOLS AND PLACE OF WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE MAIN REASON FOR NON-OCCUPANCY, HE SAID, WAS THAT IN AN EXPANDING SERVICE OF THE PRESENT SIZE, WHERE THE PROVISION OF QUARTERS IS A CONDITION OF SERVICE FOR MANY OFFICERS, +WE MUST KEEP ABREAST OF OR A LITTLE AHEAD OF DEMAND+.

IN EXPLANATION OF THE OCCUPANCY FIGURES, MR ROWLANDS SAID THERE WERE ALTOGETHER 2 287 NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS AS AT SEPTEMBER 25, 1980.

/+166 OF .....

+168 OF THESE WERE NEW FLATS RECENTLY COMPLETED AT MT BUTLER AND STILL IN THE PROCESS OF INITIAL ALLOCATION. A FURTHER 74 NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS WERE DUE SHORTLY FOR DEMOLITION OR DISPOSAL AND WERE THEREFORE CLASSED AS TEMPORARY QUARTERS. THESE TWO GROUPS OF QUARTERS, TOTALLING 242, NEED TO BE EXCLUDED IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT MEANINGFUL OCCUPANCY FIGURES. OF THE BALANCE OF 2 045 NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS, THE NUMBER LEFT UNALLOCATED ON SEPTEMBER 25 WAS 48 (2.3 PER CENT),+ MR ROWLANDS SAID.

EXCLUDING QUARTERS BEING REDECORATED IN READINESS FOR THE NEW OCCUPANT, AND EXCLUDING ALSO QUARTERS WHERE THE TENANT WAS ABSENT ON SHORT ANNUAL LEAVE, ALL EXCEPT FIVE NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS WHICH HAD BEEN ALLOCATED WERE ACTUALLY OCCUPIED.

THESE FIVE WERE QUARTERS WHICH HAD BEEN RETAINED BY OFFICERS ABSENT ON LEAVES LONGER THAN TWO MONTHS. TAKING THESE FIVE QUARTERS INTO ACCOUNT THE NUMBER OF NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS LEFT UNOCCUPIED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1980 WAS 53 (2.6 PER CENT), HE SAID.

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#### CIVIL DEBT ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES MAY BE CHANGED

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES RELATING TO CIVIL DEBTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER C WONG TODAY.

IN THE REVIEW, THE VIEWS OF 16 ORGANISATIONS AND PERSONS IN HONG KONG WERE SOUGHT, IN ADDITION TO CANVASSING THE LAWS APPLIED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. FOLLOWING THAT REVIEW AND THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED, CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENT WERE FORMULATED.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SENT TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR SO THAT THE VIEWS OF THE JUDICIARY COULD BE OBTAINED.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTED EXISTING JUDICIAL POWERS AND PRACTICE, AND SO HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO ANNOUNCE THEM UNTIL HE HAD RECEIVED THE VIEWS OF THE JUDICIARY.

+BECAUSE OF MR WONG'S PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT I WILL BE PLEASED TO SEND HIM DETAILS OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN AGREED.

+I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 14 -

POWERS TO COUNTER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION  
EXTENDED ONE YEAR  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AGREED TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF TWO ORDINANCES, AIMED AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, BY A FURTHER YEAR TO DECEMBER 31, 1981.

THE PROVISIONS IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE GOVERN THE REMOVAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG AT ANY TIME AND DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

THOSE IN THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE ALLOW FOR THE FORFEITURE OF SHIPS INVOLVED IN CARRYING EXCESS PASSENGERS.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE SEASONAL INFLUX OF BOAT REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM MIGHT CONTINUE NEXT YEAR AND THE EXTENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA AND MACAU HAD BEEN A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN.

THERE IS THEREFORE NO INDICATION THAT THE POWERS PROVIDED WILL CEASE TO BE REQUIRED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE UNWISE NOT TO BE ARMED WITH THESE PROVISIONS DURING THE COMING YEAR, HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS ALSO TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT A NEW MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO GIVE PERMANENT PROVISIONS TO DEAL WITH, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, THE QUESTION OF EXCESS PASSENGERS.

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JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE RECEIVES MORE DONATIONS  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE ANOTHER \$30 MILLION TO THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SHA TIN.

THE DONATION BRINGS THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE PROJECT TO \$55 MILLION.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE HON LI FOOK-WO WHEN HE TABLED THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1980 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BOARD, MR LI SAID, WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THIS GENEROUS GESTURE WHICH +UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CENTRE TO OUR SPORTSMEN AND ATHLETES, AND INDEED TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE+.

TOGETHER WITH \$82.5 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND A FURTHER \$12.5 MILLION FROM THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE FUND, THE TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR THE CAPITAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS NOW \$150 MILLION.

/+A FURTHER .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 15 -

+A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NOTE WAS A DONATION PLEDGED BY MOBIL OIL HONG KONG LIMITED TOWARDS THE COST OF PURCHASING WEIGHT AND STRENGTH TRAINING EQUIPMENT.

+THIS IS THE FIRST DONATION EMANATING FROM THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, AN EXAMPLE WHICH THE BOARD HOPES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MANY OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CORPORATIONS+.

MR LI POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE YEAR, SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AND IN THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS COACHING TEAM.

+FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR ARCHITECTS, CONTRACTS WERE LET FOR SITE FORMATION AND PILING FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION.

+TENDERS FOR THE MAIN BUILDING, EXTERNAL WORKS AND A NUMBER OF ANCILLARY ITEMS HAVE SINCE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

+HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE WHOLE OF THE SITE FORMATION TOGETHER WITH PART OF THE DRAINAGE WORK FOR THE FIRST PHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND THE PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CENTRE IS SO FAR ON SCHEDULE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE RECRUITMENT OF COACHES, MR LI SAID ONE IN TENNIS AND ANOTHER IN SWIMMING HAD BEEN APPOINTED, BRINGING THE NUMBER UNDER THE CHIEF COACH TO SEVEN.

FURTHER COACHES WILL BE RECRUITED IN LINE WITH THE PLANNED AND CONTROLLED EXPANSION OF THE CENTRE, HE SAID.

BUT HE STRESSED THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CENTRE WOULD BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS ROLE AND OBJECTIVES IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS.

+WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE LOCAL SPORTS COMMUNITY AT LARGE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CENTRE WILL BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR TRAINING AMENITIES OF HONG KONG IN A FEW YEARS' TIME,+ MR LI ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 16 -

RESTRICTIONS ON DIRECT ISSUE OF DRIVING LICENCES  
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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) REGULATIONS MAY BE AMENDED TO RESTRICT THE DIRECT ISSUE OF HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES TO PRIVATE CAR AND MOTOR CYCLE DRIVERS ONLY.

+IT IS NOT CONSIDERED CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE TO DIRECTLY ISSUE LICENCES FOR HEAVY GOODS OR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES,+ THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM, MR JONES SAID THE ADVICE OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THIS PROPOSAL, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

+THE OPPORTUNITY WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO INTRODUCE A SIMILAR REQUIREMENT IN RESPECT OF TEMPORARY DRIVING LICENCES,+ HE ADDED.

MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CONSULAR STAFF, HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES WERE ONLY DIRECTLY ISSUED TO HOLDERS OF VALID LICENCES ISSUED IN THE COUNTRIES LISTED IN THE FIFTH SCHEDULE OF THE REGULATIONS.

BEFORE ANY COUNTRY MAY BE INCLUDED IN THIS SCHEDULE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAS TO BE SATISFIED THAT DRIVER TESTING STANDARDS IN THAT COUNTRY ARE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE IN HONG KONG. AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR.

DURING THE SIX MONTHS APRIL TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ISSUED 7 260 DRIVING LICENCES IN EXCHANGE FOR OVERSEAS DRIVING LICENCES.

IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS, 5 835 DRIVING LICENCES WERE SIMILARLY ISSUED. THE MAJORITY OF THESE LICENCES WERE ISSUED TO PEOPLE STAYING IN HONG KONG FOR A SHORT PERIOD, MR JONES SAID.

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- 17 -

POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO COVER MORE NT AREAS

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EXPANSION OF THE POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL TAKE PLACE AS FAST AS RESOURCES PERMIT, CONCENTRATING INITIALLY ON SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, THE FRONTIER DIVISION AND TAI PO, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, MR DAVIES SAID THE BEAT RADIO SYSTEM ALREADY OPERATED IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG.

THE EARLIER INTENTION TO EXPAND THE SYSTEM TO INDIVIDUAL URBAN CENTRES GAVE RISE TO OPERATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND STAFFING DIFFICULTIES, AND IT WAS DECIDED TO DEFER ACTION ON THIS BASIS PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF AN INTEGRATED UHF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND, ULTIMATELY, THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE.

THE INTEGRATED SYSTEM, WHICH IS THE MOST DESIRABLE LONG TERM SOLUTION, NECESSITATES A DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE FIRST STEPS IN THIS PROCESS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN UTILISING THE SERVICES OF CONSULTANTS.

SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY, EVALUATION OF ITS RESULTS, AND THE DRAWING UP OF DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS, EXPANSION OF THE BEAT RADIO SCHEME WILL TAKE PLACE AS FAST AS RESOURCES PERMIT, HE EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE INTERIM, LIMITED BEAT RADIO SCHEMES, UTILISING EXISTING EQUIPMENT, HAD BEEN INTRODUCED WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH THE MOST URGENT OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

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PLEADING BY LETTER TO ID CARD OFFENCE

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THOSE WHO FAIL TO CARRY AND PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY WILL BE ABLE TO PLEAD GUILTY TO THE OFFENCE BY LETTER, FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF A MOTION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

INTRODUCING THE RESOLUTION UNDER THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE, THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G.P. NAZARETH SAID PLEAS OF GUILTY BY LETTER NOT ONLY SAVE MAGISTRATES AND THE PROSECUTION TIME AND EFFORT, +BUT THEY ALSO SAVE DEFENDANTS WHO DO NOT WISH TO DISPUTE THE CHARGE, THE INCONVENIENCE OF HAVING TO ATTEND AND PLEAD GUILTY IN PERSON.+

HE SAID OFFENCES FOR WHICH THIS SHOULD BE ALLOWED SHOULD CLEARLY INCLUDE THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED ONE OF FAILURE TO CARRY AND PRODUCE PROOF OF IDENTITY UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, AND THE SIMILAR ONE UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS REGULATIONS FOR FAILURE TO CARRY AND PRODUCE AN ID CARD IN SPECIFIED AREAS.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 18 -

SHORTER TIME REQUIRED TO REPLACE ID CARDS

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY THAT TWO STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO EXPEDITE THE REPLACEMENT OF LOST IDENTITY CARDS: THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS DEPLOYED FOR THIS WORK HAS BEEN INCREASED, AND SOME SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES HAS BEEN INTRODUCED.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR DAVIES ADDED HOWEVER THAT BEARING IN MIND THE EXISTING WORKLOAD IN REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF CARDS, AS WELL AS THE ISSUE OF REPLACEMENTS, IT TAKES ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM APPLICATION BEFORE A REPLACEMENT IS ISSUED.

+THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION IS CONSIDERING WHAT FURTHER STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THIS PERIOD.

+IN THE MEANTIME THE DOCUMENT GIVEN BY AN ROP OFFICE TO A PERSON WHO HAS LOST HIS CARD IS ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HE MAY PRODUCE TO PROVE HIS IDENTITY OR TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

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PROHIBITION ON FORTUNE-TELLERS UNNECESSARY

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THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1980, WHICH REMOVES THE PROHIBITION ON FORTUNE TELLING EXCEPT IN REGISTERED CHINESE TEMPLES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING ITS SECOND READING IN THE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY SAID THE GENERAL PUBLIC SCARCELY SEEMED TO BE IN NEED OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF FORTUNE TELLERS WHO DO NOT OTHERWISE BREAK THE LAW BY, FOR INSTANCE, CRIMINAL FRAUD OR BLACKMAIL.

HE NOTED THAT OVER THE LAST 22 YEARS THERE HAD BEEN TWO PROSECUTIONS FOR FORTUNE TELLING UNDER THIS SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE -- NEITHER OF WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL.

+WE MAY BELIEVE WITH FRANCIS BACON THAT 'MEN MUST PURSUE THINGS WHICH ARE JUST IN PRESENT, AND LEAVE THE FUTURE TO THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE' BUT THOSE WHO WISH TO SEEK SOLACE FROM FORTUNE TELLERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO WITHOUT FEELING THEY ARE PATRONISING CRIMINALS,+ MR BRAY SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 19 -

MTR SAFETY ASSURED  
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TO DATE NO ACCIDENTS OR OCCURRENCES HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON THE MTR THAT HAVE WARRANTED THE APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF AN INSPECTOR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG.

HE ADDED THAT THE MTR CORPORATION WAS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF EVERY ACCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE IN ITS PUBLIC AREAS, AND ALL REPORTS WERE CLOSELY SCRUTINISED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MTR WAS DESIGNED AND IS OPERATED WITH 'SAFETY FIRST' AS A PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATION. +IT IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED TO INCORPORATE THE MOST ADVANCED RAILWAY SAFETY FEATURES AVAILABLE,+ MR JONES SAID.

PRIOR TO ITS COMMISSIONING, HE ADDED, THE RAILWAY WAS INSPECTED AND FOUND SAFE IN ALL RESPECTS BY INSPECTORS FROM THE UK RAILWAY INSPECTORATE.

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FURTHER STUDY ON PERMANENT EXHIBITION CENTRE  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT THAT FORMS STAGE I OF A FULL STUDY AIMED AT THE BUILDING OF AN EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GO FORWARD TO STAGE II THIS MONTH, IF WE GET ADEQUATE ANSWERS TO THE FURTHER QUESTIONS WE HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO PUT TO THE CONSULTANTS,+ HE ADDED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN.

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PLANS FOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION FACILITIES

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THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE HAS CARRIED OUT 7 425 EXAMINATIONS SINCE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, ALL OF THEM ON GOODS VEHICLES.

THIS FIGURE WAS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE ADDITIONAL CENTRES PLANNED FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND TSUEN WAN ARE BOTH IN CATEGORY B OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+IT IS PROPOSED TO UPGRADE THEM TO CATEGORY A AT THE NEXT REVIEW AND, IF THEY ARE THEN AWARDED SUFFICIENT PRIORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN NEXT YEAR, THEY SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL IN THREE TO FOUR YEARS' TIME,+ MR JONES ADDED.

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MORE TAXIS WILL PLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, DISCLOSED THAT A HUNDRED MORE NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES WOULD BE ISSUED LATER THIS YEAR.

A DETAILED ASSESSMENT WILL THEN BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER FURTHER LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED, HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID THE NUMBER OF NT TAXIS HAD REMAINED CONSTANT, AT 738, SINCE THEY WERE FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1977.

THE DECISION TO ISSUE MORE LICENCES WAS MADE BECAUSE THE POPULATION IN THE AREAS THEY SERVE IS INCREASING RAPIDLY, HE SAID.

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VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FIGURES

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THERE WERE 25 250 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES STILL IN CAMPS IN HONG KONG AWAITING RESETTLEMENT AS AT 9 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 4), THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR DAVIES SAID THAT OF THIS NUMBER, 5 796 ARRIVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

+THESE FIGURES EXCLUDE 4 154 PERSONS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY SETTLED IN CHINA AND ARE BEING DETAINED PENDING REPATRIATION THERE,+ HE ADDED.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$126 MILLION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1979-80.

IN MOVING FOR THE APPROVAL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID \$33 MILLION OF THE AMOUNT WAS REQUIRED TO AUGMENT PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS SUBHEADS ON ACCOUNT OF THE 1979 SALARIES REVISION, \$30 MILLION TO REPAY A LOAN MADE TO GENERAL REVENUE IN 1975, \$27 MILLION FOR A TRANSFER OF EXPENDITURE FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BORDER FENCES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, AND \$10 MILLION WAS REQUIRED TO MEET THE INCREASED COSTS OF AND REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL DRUGS FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

+THIS SCHEDULE,+ SIR PHILIP SAID, +BRINGS THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR 1979-80 TO \$2 638 MILLION.+

+BUT, BECAUSE OF SAVINGS IN OTHER SUBHEADS, ACTUAL GROSS EXPENDITURE AT \$13 872 MILLION FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR 1979-80 WAS, IN THE EVENT, ONLY \$1 418 MILLION MORE THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE,+ HE ADDED.

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## BILLS PASSED

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FOUR BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1980, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (VALIDATION) BILL 1980.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1980 WAS ADJOURNED.

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## HK/US TEXTILE TALKS START NEXT WEEK

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED TODAY THAT TALKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 13 - 15 IN CONNECTION WITH THE HK/US TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENT.

EXPLAINING THAT THE TALKS ARE BEING HELD AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT, THE TWO SIDES WILL CONSULT, AT THE REQUEST OF EITHER SIDE, ON ANY QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT.+

THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY AMBASSADOR REITER WEBB, THE CHIEF U.S. TEXTILE NEGOTIATOR, AND THE HONG KONG DELEGATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, MR PETER TSAO.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 22 -

### CLEAN CANOPIES OPERATION IN TSUEN WAN

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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY LAUNCHED A DISTRICT-WIDE CLEAN CANOPIES AND SHADES OPERATION AND A FREE DOMESTIC 'JUNK' COLLECTION SERVICE AT TSUEN WAN. THE EXERCISE TOOK PLACE AT YI PAI SQUARE AND SAM PEI SQUARE AREAS.

IT WAS AIMED AT AROUSING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ENCOURAGING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CURRENT ANTI-LITTER DRIVE, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

MORE THAN 100 CLEANSING STAFF OF THE TSUEN WAN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE AND 10 REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES WERE DEPLOYED TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN REMOVING REFUSE FROM MULTI-STOREY DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

BEFORE THE OPERATION, HEALTH INSPECTORS HAD CALLED ON THE RESIDENTS AND SHOPKEEPERS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, ADVISING THEM OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR CANOPIES AND SHADES FREE FROM REFUSE.

SPEAKING ON THE RESPONSE OF THE PUBLIC, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING AS MOST OF THE CANOPIES AND SHADES IN THE AREA WERE TODAY GIVEN A FACELIFT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CLEANSING STAFF.

A BROADCAST VAN WAS ALSO AT THE SCENE EXHORTING THE RESIDENTS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE FREE JUNK COLLECTION SERVICE.

AS A RESULT OF THE CLEAN-UP, ABOUT 500 KILOGRAMS OF REFUSE WERE COLLECTED TODAY.

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### BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED HELD IN TSUEN WAN

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MORE THAN 500 HANDICAPPED PEOPLE FROM SEVEN CENTRES IN TSUEN WAN TODAY WATCHED A BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATED BY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE FROM OTHER DISTRICTS.

THE TOURNAMENT WAS ONE OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE SECOND TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL WHICH BEGAN LAST SATURDAY.

FOUR TEAMS FROM KOWLOON AND HONG KONG TOOK PART IN THE MATCHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TSUEN WAN DID NOT AT PRESENT HAVE ITS OWN BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

IT IS HOPED, HE SAID, THAT THEY WILL BECOME INTERESTED IN PLAYING THE SPORT THEMSELVES AFTER WATCHING OTHER HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IN ACTION.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1980

- 23 -

THE EVENT WAS HELD IN THE NEW KWAI CHUNG INDOOR GAMES HALL, WHICH IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE HANDICAPPED TO PLAY VARIOUS SPORTS.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDED A WHEELCHAIR TABLE TENNIS DEMONSTRATION MATCH, A WHEELCHAIR SLALOM AND A CHINESE DANCE PERFORMANCE BY THE DEAF. OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, AND THE PRINCIPAL RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR DICKEN YUNG.

TODAY'S EVENT WAS THE NINTH IN THIS YEAR'S TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL WHICH HAS A TOTAL OF 54 ITEMS OVER THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

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#### INTERRUPTION OF WATER SUPPLY

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WATER SUPPLY TO CENTRAL DISTRICT AND TO AN AREA OF KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 7) NIGHT TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE WATER CUT WILL BEGIN AT 11 PM IN CENTRAL DISTRICT. THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY POTTINGER STREET, LYNDHURST TERRACE, GAGE STREET, ABERDEEN STREET, WELLINGTON STREET, AND THE SOUTH SIDE OF QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

IN KWAI CHUNG, SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF AT MIDNIGHT. THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY TAI WO HAU ROAD, WO TONG TSUI STREET, HING FONG ROAD AND KWAI HING ROAD. SUPPLY TO KWAI HING ESTATE AND KWAI HING LICENSED AREA WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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