HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1974

CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

BUS PRIORITY SCHEME FOR MID-LEVELS TO BE RELAXED 1

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION RETIRING 3

BAN ON GOODS VEHICLES ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO BE EXTENDED 4

MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS MORE COMPREHENSIVE DATA 5

CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY 6

NEW AGREEMENT REACHED ON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO SWEDEN 6

COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION HOPES TO LOOK INTO ALTERNATIVES TO RATING 7

MORE THAN 500 FAMILIES ACCEPTED ACCOMMODATION IN LICENSED AREA SITES 8

MR. ALEC PURVES RETURNS TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT 9

PRESS CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT GREEN PAPER 9

TRANSPORT GREEN PAPER TO BE DISCUSSED AT LEGCO TOMORROW 10

PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF STREET LIGHTING TO SAM KAR TSUEN LICENSED AREA 11

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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MID-LEVELS BUS-ONLY LANE SCHEME RELAXED

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THE BUS-ONLY LANE INTRODUCED UNDER THE MID-LEVELS TRAFFIC SCHEME IS TO BE OPENED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 11 P.M. TO 7 A.M., STARTING TONIGHT.

THE DECISION IS TO ALLOW MOTORISTS TO REVERT TO A NORMAL TWO-WAY SYSTEM DURING THESE NIGHT-TIME HOURS, WHEN FEW BUSES WILL BE RUNNING , WAS ONE OF SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS OF THE BUS PRIORITY SCHEME WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS EMPHASISED THAT THE SCHEME HAD ACHIEVED ITS MAJOR OVERALL OBJECTIVE, THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE AREA, AND THAT ITS INTRODUCTION HAD BEEN VITALLY NECESSARY NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF TODAY'S TRAFFIC PROBLEMS BUT ALSO THOSE OF THE FUTURE.

THE MID-LEVELS PLAN HAS LED TO A 30 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF BUS PASSENGERS, AND BUS JOURNEY TIMES HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED. THE SCHEME HAS BEEN GENERALLY WELCOMED BY THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY IT, THE BUS USERS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHANGES FOLLOWS THE NEWS OF A MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT FACILITY FOR MANY MID-LEVELS RESIDENTS - THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICES FOR THE CONDUIT ROAD/PO SHAN ROAD AND OLD PEAK ROAD AREAS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT EVER SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MID-LEVELS SCHEME ON APRIL 15, STAFF OF THE THREE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING IT - THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE TRAFFIC DIVISION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE - HAD BEEN SCRUTINIZING ITS OPERATION IN CLOSE DETAIL TO SEE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS WERE DESIRABLE AND POSSIBLE.

+IN PARTICULAR, WAYS HAVE BEEN SOUGHT OF ELIMINATING DIFFICULTIES OR INCONVENIENCES ENCOUNTERED BY MOTORISTS, SO LONG AS THE CHANGES WOULD NOT VITIATE THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME.

+THIS SURVEY OPERATION HAS INVOLVED CONTINUOUS OBSERVATIONS AND TIME CHECKS CONDUCTED ON THE ROADSIDE. IT HAS ALSO INCLUDED A FULL AND CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF ALL THE SUGGESTIONS AND POINTS MADE BY THE PUBLIC WHETHER IN LETTERS OR TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE GOVERNMENT OR THE BUS COMPANY, IN LETTERS TO THE PRESS OR THROUGH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICIALS.

+SEVERAL REFINEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED ON A COMMON-SENSE DAY-TO-DAY BASIS IN THE COURSE OF THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE SCHEME'S OPERATION. FURTHER MODIFICATIONS CAN NOW START BEING IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF THE OVERALL REVIEW.+

ON THE DECISION TO LIFT THE ONE-LANE MEASURE FROM 11 P.M. TO 7 A.M. THE SPOKESMAN SAID:

/+THERE .....

+THERE WERE ARGUMENTS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST THIS. THE ESSENCE OF A GOOD SCHEME IS SIMPLICITY AND ARGUABLY SIMPLICITY CALLS FOR A 24-HOUR APPLICATION.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS NOTHING RIGIDLY DOCTRINAIRE ABOUT THE SCHEME, AND MANY MOTORISTS HAVE QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR ITS PROVISIONS TO BE APPLIED AT A TIME WHEN BUSES ARE NOT RUNNING. THIS SUGGESTION, LIKE THE MANY OTHER POINTS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC, WAS TREATED IN THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS MADE, AND THE BALANCE OF OPINION WAS THAT THE RELAXATION WAS POSSIBLE AND SHOULD BE ADOPTED.+

IN ADDITION TO THE NIGHT-TIME RELAXATION, THE OTHER MODIFICATIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING :-

* THE IMMEDIATE OPENING OF THE BUS LANE IN ROBINSON ROAD EAST OF THE JUNCTION WITH CASTLE ROAD TO THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES OPERATING THE NEW CONDUIT ROAD/ PO SHAN ROAD SERVICE DURING EVENING PEAK HOURS (5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.)

* PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPENING OF THE BUS LANE TO ALL PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES (FOR EXAMPLE, SCHOOL LIGHT BUSES AND SIMILAR VEHICLES SERVING THE OCCUPANTS OF A PARTICULAR BUILDING). THIS WILL MEAN THAT SMALLER AS WELL AS FULL-SIZED SCHOOL BUSES WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE LANE.

* THE REOPENING OF BREEZY PATH TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AS SOON AS ADDITIONAL SIGNALS CAN BE INSTALLED, THEREBY OBVIATING A DETOUR WHICH MANY MOTORISTS HAVE HAD TO MAKE.

COMMENTING ON SUGGESTIONS THAT TAXIS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE THE BUS LANES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +I'M AFRAID THAT THIS IS ONE CHANGE THAT WE JUST CANNOT MAKE, MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO.

+WE'RE UP AGAINST THE INESCAPABLE FACT THAT AT THE EVENING PEAK HOURS TAXIS MAKE UP 25 TO 30 PER CENT OF THE VEHICLES ON THE ROADS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA.

+IF WE WERE TO ALLOW THIS PROPORTION OF VEHICLES ON TO THE BUS LANES, THE BUSES COULD BE BADLY DELAYED - WHICH WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING BEFORE AND WHICH WAS DESTINED TO GET MUCH WORSE IF NOTHING WAS DONE.+

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS, WITH SINGAPORE, A +REGIONAL FRONT-RUNNER+ IN THE INTRODUCTION OF A BUS PRIORITY SCHEME. SIMILAR SCHEMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN STARTED IN VARIOUS NON-ASIAN TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN.

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+OF THE NEED TO APPLY THE SCHEME THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT. THE PUBLIC RIGHTLY EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT TO ANTICIPATE EVENTS AND NOT TO BE OVERTAKEN BY THEM - TO PLAN FOR TO-MORROW AND THE DAY AFTER AND NOT JUST FOR TODAY.

+STARING US IN THE FACE IN MID-LEVELS WAS A TRAFFIC SITUATION WHICH WAS LEADING REMORSELESSLY TO A CONDITION OF CHAOS IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS. SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE, AND DONE IN GOOD TIME.

+SOMETHING HAS BEEN DONE AND IT HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE. THE SCHEME WORKS. LIKE ALL NEW SCHEMES IT HAS NOT BEEN PERFECT, ESPECIALLY ON THE OUTSET. AS EXPECTED, IT HAS BEEN CAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENT. IT HAS BEEN IMPROVED, IS BEING IMPROVED AND WILL DOUBTLESS BE FURTHER IMPROVED.+

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RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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MR. YEUNG KWONG-SHIU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY), WILL GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE LATER THIS MONTH AFTER 22 YEARS' SERVICE.

HE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A GIFT FROM HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ON JUNE 20. THE PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. CHARLES LOWE.

MR. YEUNG WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON JUNE 30 TO JOIN HIS FAMILY IN VANCOUVER.

HE BEGAN HIS CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT EDUCATION OFFICER IN 1952. NINE YEARS LATER HE WAS PROMOTED TO EDUCATION OFFICER. IN 1969 HE BECAME SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER AND WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN OCTOBER 1971.

MR. YEUNG ATTENDED A ONE-YEAR COURSE FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND HEAD-TEACHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ON A COMMONWEALTH TEACHER TRAINING BURSARY IN 1961.

FROM SEPTEMBER 1970 TO JUNE 1971, MR. YEUNG ATTENDED A COURSE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY COVERED. IT WILL BE HELD AT 11.30 A.M. ON JUNE 20 IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOODS VEHICLES
TRAVELLING ALONG CLEARWATER BAY ROAD
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THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME BEING IMPLEMENTED AT CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, KOWLOON, ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER LONGER HOURS.

THIS SPECIAL HOLIDAY TRAFFIC SCHEME HAS BEEN IN OPERATION DURING THE PAST THREE SUMMERS AND HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL. THIS YEAR, IT STARTED ON APRIL 15 AND WILL END ON OCTOBER 28.

AS FROM NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 24), THE EXISTING PERIOD FROM 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON, DURING WHICH EASTBOUND GOODS VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND FEI NGO SHAN ROAD, WILL BE EXTENDED BY TWO HOURS UP TO 2 P.M.

AT THE SAME TIME, WESTBOUND GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL ON THE ROAD'S SECTION BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND ANDERSON ROAD BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 7 P.M., ALSO ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THESE MEASURES WERE INTENDED TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING LORRIES AND BY HEAVY VEHICLES BREAKING DOWN ALONG THE ROAD.

THE BASIC AIM, HE SAID, IS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PASSENGER TRANSPORT FOR A FEW HOURS ON HOLIDAYS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO HAVE REASONABLY QUICK ACCESS TO BEACHES AND OTHER RECREATIONAL SPOTS IN THE AREA.

HE SAID THE SCHEME ALSO AIMED AT REDUCING THE DANGER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN VIEW OF THE STEEP GRADIENT OF THE SECTIONS OF THE ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW GOODS VEHICLES TO MOVE ON THESE SECTIONS OF CLEARWATER BAY ROAD DURING THE RESTRICTED HOURS WHERE THIS IS ESSENTIAL AND WHERE NO ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

THOSE LIVING IN THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT SHOULD APPLY TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER, SAI KUNG, WHO WILL FORWARD THE APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT. ALL OTHER APPLICANTS SHOULD APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT AT 2, MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG.

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NEW-LOOK MONTHLY DIGEST
COVERS WIDER FIELD
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THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS NOW ON SALE HAS TAKEN ON A NEW FORMAT WITH MORE COMPREHENSIVE DATA FOR READERS.

SOME 19 NEW TABLES HAVE BEEN ADDED IN THE REVISED EDITION OF THE DIGEST, EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF OBSERVATION TO COVER SUCH TOPICS AS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING, WATER SUPPLIES, INFECTIOUS DISEASES, CRIME, INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES, SHARE INDICES AND TURNOVER, WHOLESALE PRICES, LABOUR STOPPAGES, RICE STOCKS AND CONTAINERISED TRADE.

FOUR OTHER TABLES HAVE BEEN REMOVED EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW TABLES, OR BECAUSE THEY WERE FELT TO BE SUPERFLUOUS, A CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED. THESE INCLUDED SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE NUMBER AND TOTAL COST OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH, POSTAL REVENUE ETC.

THE REVISED EDITION CONTAINS 74 TABLES AS AGAINST 68 BEFORE.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE REVISED EDITION OF THE DIGEST IS TWO SERIES OF SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL TABLES TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY AND JULY ISSUES RESPECTIVELY, COVERING EDUCATION AND POPULATION STATISTICS.

+THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR REVISION EFFECTED SINCE THE DIGEST WAS PUBLISHED IN ITS PRESENT FORM IN JANUARY 1970, AND IS THUS BOTH MEANINGFUL AND SIGNIFICANT,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

ANY COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OF THE REVISED EDITON ARE MOST WELCOMED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

+THE EXISTING QUARTERLY SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLES ON DIFFERENT STATISTICAL TOPICS OF CURRENT PUBLIC INTEREST WILL CONTINUE TO BE PUBLISHED,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE REVIEW ARTICLE CARRIED IN THE CURRENT REVISED ISSUE FEATURES THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS IN HONG KONG.

THE DIGEST IS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG AT THE OLD PRICE OF $5 PER COPY.

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CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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THE CHUK YUEN RECEPTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS CELEBRATING ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH.

TO MARK THE OCCASION THE CENTRE WILL BE HOLDING A PARTY FOR THE EIGHTY-NINE CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN ITS CARE ON THURSDAY (JUNE 20), FOLLOWED THE NEXT DAY BY AN OPEN DAY FOR VISITORS.

ESTABLISHED IN 1964, THE CENTRE TAKES CARE OF CHILDREN FROM INFANCY UP TO THE AGE OF EIGHT IN AN ENVIRONMENT MEANT TO PROMOTE THEIR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE CHILDREN TAKEN INTO THE CENTRE ARE THOSE WHO ARE ABANDONED, FOUND WANDERING THE STREETS, ILLEGITIMATE, OR OTHERWISE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.

THEY USUALLY STAY AT THE CENTRE FOR SIX MONTHS, THOUGH THIS PERIOD MAY BE EXTENDED, UNTIL MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THEIR FUTURE WELFARE THROUGH TRANSFER TO OTHER CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS WHERE THEY WILL RECEIVE LONG-TERM CARE AND SCHOOLING, OR UNTIL THEY ARE ADOPTED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE CENTRE'S OPEN DAY ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21, FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 12.00 NOON, OR FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 4.30 P.M.

THE CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE IS LOCATED AT NO. 1, LUNG FUNG STREET, CHUK YUEN, KOWLOON.

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NEW AGREEMENT ON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO SWEDEN

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A NEW AGREEMENT COVERING EXPORTS OF HONG KONG TEXTILES TO SWEDEN ON A PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT BASIS HAS BEEN REACHED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT.

THE HONG KONG NEGOTIATING TEAM WAS LED BY MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WHO HAS NOW RETURNED TO HONG KONG.

MR. MILLS ALSO HELD TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE HAVE BEEN ADJOURNED TO ALLOW FURTHER DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE.

THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JULY 1 FOR ONE YEAR. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER AFTER CONSIDERATION BY THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD.

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ALTERNATIVES TO RATING
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THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR. RAYMOND FRY, TODAY EXPRESSED INTEREST TO STUDY IN DETAIL A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES TO RATING -- SUCH AS A LOCAL INCOME TAX, SITE RATING AND CAPITAL VALUE RATING -- WHICH HAVE BEEN ADVOCATED IN BRITAIN DURING RECENT YEARS.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE KIWANIS CLUB, MR. FRY ADDED THAT IN THIS COMPUTERISED AGE THERE WERE, OF COURSE, MANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES OPEN.

COMMENTING ON THESE NEW SYSTEMS, HE FELT THAT A LOCAL INCOME TAX WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE IN HONG KONG WHERE RATES ARE NOT, AS THEY ARE IN BRITAIN, LEVIED ON A LOCAL BASIS BY A NUMBER OF SEPARATE AUTHORITIES.

+SITE RATING IS AN INTERESTING SYSTEM PERHAPS KNOWN TO SOME OF YOU, BUT IT IS REALLY OF MORE RELEVANCE WHERE THERE IS A NEED TO ENCOURAGE REDEVELOPMENT -- NOT USUALLY THE CASE IN HONG KONG.

+CAPITAL VALUE RATING IS BEING LOOKED AT IN BRITAIN MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE PAUCITY OF DOMESTIC RENTS, BUT IS NEVERTHELESS AN INTERESTING CONCEPT AND ONE WHICH, WITH INCREASING OWNER-OCCUPATION, MIGHT BE UNDERSTOOD BETTER BY SOME THAN OUR ANNUAL VALUE SYSTEM.+

ON RATING IN HONG KONG, THE COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED RATES AS AN OLD AND WELL-ESTABLISHED TAX WHICH STILL WORKS FAIRLY AND WELL IN THE LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

+IT IS A VERY SURE TAX, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO EVADE BECAUSE IT RELATES TO AN ACTUAL PIECE OF PROPERTY, AND IT IS NOT EXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER OR COLLECT. IN REVENUE TERMS IT RANKS SECOND AFTER INLAND REVENUE AND TOTAL RATES THIS YEAR WILL EXCEED $650 MILLION.+

IN ADDITION, HE SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE USED RATEABLE VALUES AS THE BASIS FOR COLLECTING PROPERTY TAX.

MR. FRY POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN TASK OF HIS DEPARTMENT WAS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISION OF THE RATING ORDINANCE. +BUT WE HAVE MANY OTHER TASKS, TOO= THE BEST KNOWN OF WHICH IS, I SUPPOSE, RENT CONTROL.

+WE ALSO ACT AS AGENTS FOR GOVERNMENT IN THE RENTING OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND QUARTERS FOR STAFF= WE ARE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL ADVISERS ON RENTAL MATTERS AND ARE CONSULTED BY ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS REGARDING RENTS= WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMBERING BUILDINGS AND WE ALSO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS, SCRUTINISE AND PROVIDE VALUATIONS IN STAMP DUTY TRANSACTIONS AND ASSIST IN OTHER TAX CASES INVOLVING THE VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY.+

/MR. FRY .....

MR. FRY SINGLED OUT RATING AS THE MAIN THEME OF HIS SPEECH. HE SPOKE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF RATING IN HONG KONG, EXPLAINED WHAT RATES WERE ALL ABOUT, AND TALKED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RATING FIELD.

HE NOTED THAT APART FROM THE TWO PER CENT CHARGE FOR WATER, RATES HAD BEEN CREDITED DIRECT TO GENERAL REVENUE AND NOT APPROPRIATED TO ANY PARTICULAR SERVICES BETWEEN 1888 AND 1973. THUS RATES FORMED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LOCAL TAXATION SYSTEM.

HOWEVER, SINCE APRIL 1, LAST YEAR, TWO-FIFTHS OF THE RATE CHARGED IN THE URBAN AREAS GOES TO THE RECONSTITUTED URBAN COUNCIL TO PAY FOR MANY OF THE SERVICES FOR WHICH IT IS NOW RESPONSIBLE.

HE SAID RATES WERE BASED ON RENTS WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF RATEABLE VALUES DEPENDING ON MARKET RENTS.

THE IMPORTANT THING WITH RATING, HE SAID, WAS TO ENSURE THAT ASSESSMENTS WOULD COMPARE FAIRLY AND THUS ALL THIS WORK WAS DONE BY PROFESSIONAL VALUERS WHO ARE QUALIFIED CHARTERED SURVEYORS.

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FAMILIES ACCEPTED ACCOMMODATION IN LICENSED AREA

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MORE THAN 500 FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE KOWLOON BAY CLEARANCE SCHEDULED ON JUNE 27 HAVE TAKEN UP LICENSED AREA SITES OFFERED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

IN FACT, MANY OF THEM HAVE ALREADY MOVED INTO THEIR NEW HOMES IN SUCH A SITE ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION, LEAVING ONLY A FEW FAMILIES WHICH HAVE STILL NOT APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT FOR SITE ALLOCATION.

THE LAND TO BE CLEARED WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE BUILDING OF THE AIRPORT TUNNEL ROAD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL SQUATTERS IN THE AREA THAT THERE WERE ONLY 7 DAYS LEFT BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE WOULD START.

+THEY SHOULD MAKE GOOD USE OF THE TIME AVAILABLE TO MOVE OUT THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS OR MACHINERY, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE REITERATED THAT THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE LAND THERE WAS ILLEGAL, AND THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE ANY PROPERTY LEFT ON THE SITE AFTER JUNE 26, 1974 WOULD BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN ON EXPIRY OF THE STATUTORY NOTICES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN POSTED.

IN ADDITION, ANY PERSONS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS NOTICE RENDER THEMSELVES ON CONVICTION TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10,000 AND 6 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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NEW HEAD FOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

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MR. ALEC PURVES HAS RETURNED TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TO HEAD THE INDUSTRY DIVISION AFTER EIGHT MONTHS' WORK IN THE OIL SUPPLIES UNIT, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED LAST NOVEMBER.

THE UNIT WAS SET UP AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE AFTER THE CUT-BACK IN MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCTION CREATED THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCED SUPPLIES TO HONG KONG.

MR. PURVES TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR OF OIL SUPPLIES IN APRIL, REPLACING MR. ROY PORTER WHO IS NOW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ADMINISTRATION AND INDUSTRY).

NOW THAT HONG KONG'S OIL SUPPLY SITUATION IS BACK TO NORMAL, THE ORIGINAL UNIT HAS BEEN SCALED DOWN TO A SMALL GROUP WHICH WILL WORK WITHIN THE INDUSTRY DIVISION OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

ITS FUNCTION WILL BE TO MONITOR THE MONTHLY SUPPLY SITUATION AND ALSO THE QUANTITIES HELD IN STOCK.

MR. PURVES HAS TAKEN OVER AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (INDUSTRY) FROM MR. JUSTIN YUE WHO IS RETURNING TO COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WORK.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT GREEN PAPER

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE DEALING WITH THE GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT WILL BE HELD AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE 35 MM THEATRE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

KM ATTENDING WILL BE MR. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. BRIAN WILSON, COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. AUGUSTINE CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MR. JOSEPH WONG, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT BRANCH.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE, ADVANCE COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN THE 35 MM THEATRE FROM 10 A.M. ONWARDS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AWAY UNTIL AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

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GREEN PAPER ON TRANSPORT TO BE DISCUSSED

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THE GREEN PAPER ON +TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG+ WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.

IT WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WHO WILL OUTLINE SOME OF THE BASIC FEATURES PROPOSED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSPORT.

THE WHITE PAPER ON DANGEROUS DRUGS IN HONG KONG, PUBLISHED IN MARCH, WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT TOMORROW'S MEETING WHEN THE UN-OFFICIALS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

IN ADDITION, THE UNOFFICIALS WILL RAISE 15 QUESTIONS CONCERNING A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THE $10 MILLION TENDER DEPOSIT FOR THE CONCESSION OF SELLING DUTY FREE ARTICLES AT THE AIRPORT, A SEPARATE COURT OF APPEAL FOR HONG KONG, FACILITIES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES, TREATMENT OF CANCER VICTIMS, CONTROL OF TOUTING AT KAITAK AIRPORT, AND LUNCH FACILITIES FOR WORKERS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE, AND ANOTHER TO EXTEND THE POWERS OF ALL THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS UNTIL 1975.

SIX NEW BILLS WILL BE TABLED AT THE COUNCIL TOMORROW FOR FIRST READING, AND THE DEBATE ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED. THEY ARE THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC) BILL 1974, RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, RATING (AMENDING) (NO.2) BILL 1974, STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, AND THE WATERWORKS BILL 1974.

THREE OTHER BILLS WILL PASS THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING. THEY ARE THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

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PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF STREET LIGHTING

STREET LIGHTING HAS NOW BEEN PARTLY REINSTALLED IN THE SAM KAR TSUEN LICENSED AREA, SHUNG SHUN STREET AND A LENGTH OF CHA KWO LING ROAD WHERE LIGHTING WAS CUT OFF LAST DECEMBER BY THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE ILLEGAL TAPPING BY SQUATTERS.

CHINA LIGHT TECHNICIANS HAVE COMMENCED WORK ON RE-LAYING CABLES IN THE AREA WHICH WERE BADLY DAMAGED BY ILLEGAL TAPPING. THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ANOTHER WEEK TO FINISH.

ON COMPLETION, THE 10,000 RESIDENTS OF THE AREA WILL FIND IT MUCH MORE CONVENIENT TO TRAVEL AT NIGHT, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE TO GO TO OR RETURN FROM THE PUBLIC FERRY PIER IN SHUNG SHUN STREET.

THE PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF STREET LIGHTING TO THE SAM KAR TSUÉN AREA WAS THE RESULT OF STRENUOUS EFFORTS MADE BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE KWUN TONG CDO, THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION OF THE PWD, THE ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIART AND THE POLICE.

CHINA LIGHT AGREED TO REINSTALL THE STREET LIGHT AFTER A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS WHO OFTEN HAVE TO TRAVEL AFTER DARK.

RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ARE HOWEVER WARNED THAT THESE LIGHTS MIGHT BE SWITCHED OFF AGAIN IF ILLEGAL TAPPING IS DETECTED IN FUTURE.

IN ADDITION, ANYONE CAUGHT FOR OBTAINING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BY ILLEGAL TAPPING MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO COURT.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (TUESDAY) 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	WHOLESALE PRICES($/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	--
S.C.JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	--	--
CHU CHO	--	--
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.94
10-15% BROKENS	--	--
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.77
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.57
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.85
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.87
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.87
PAKISTAN RICE	--	--
TAIWAN RICE	--	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - NORMAL

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK ($/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

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	NORMAL	4.20	2.80	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.40	0.60	1.50
SQUID	LIMITED	7.50	2.00	6.00
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.00	1.00	1.60
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.40	1.30	2.40
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.60	0.50	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	2.10	1.20	1.60
MELON COAT	SCARCE	2.00	1.40	1.60
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.50	2.50	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	LIMITED	1.70	0.50	1.00
MACKERELS	SCARCE	4.50	4.00	4.20
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	0.60	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.50
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.00	3.50	4.50
MELON SEED	GOOD	1.80	0.60	1.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	12.00	9.50	10.00
GAROUPAS	LIMITED	11.00	7.00	9.00
YELLOW CROAKER	LIMITED	7.50	5.50	6.50

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	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.70
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.00	0.40	0.60
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	1.40	0.40	0.80
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.00	0.30	0.80
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.25	0.70
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.60	1.20	2.00

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