



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1981

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1981

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BOOST TO RAISE LIVING STANDARD
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED FURTHER MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH WOULD MEAN A BOOST IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN REAL TERMS FOR THE RECIPIENTS.

FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR, THE BASIC RATES OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND ITS ASSOCIATED OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES, WILL BE INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT.

AND FROM NEXT MONTH, THE MAXIMUM LEVELS OF RENT ALLOWANCES UNDER THE SCHEME WILL GO UP BY 100 PER CENT FOR A SINGLE PERSON AND BY 50 PER CENT FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF MORE THAN ONE PERSON.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE TO REDUCE THE TWO-YEAR RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION TO ONE YEAR FOR ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED ADULTS SEEKING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND TO EMPOWER THE DEPARTMENT TO WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR HARDSHIP CASES.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, FOR A FULL YEAR, THE INCREASE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES WILL COST AN ADDITIONAL \$140 MILLION, AND THAT FOR MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE, AN EXTRA \$5.7 MILLION.

IN 1981-82, THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES WILL BE \$720 MILLION.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS A MONTHLY PAYMENT TO COVER BASIC LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT INCOME OR UNABLE TO EARN ENOUGH, WHILE OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES ARE ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC RATE INCREASE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WAS TO ENABLE THE RECIPIENTS TO SHARE IN THE GENERALLY IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID PREVIOUS ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES WERE SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT RESTORING THE PURCHASING VALUE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS TO KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN SIX SUCH ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PAST, THE LAST BEING A 22 PER CENT INCREASE IMPLEMENTED IN SEPTEMBER 1980, HE SAID, AND THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE AS NECESSARY.

+THE PRESENT INCREASE IS ADDITIONAL TO THESE ADJUSTMENTS AND INTRODUCES A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME SINCE IT WAS FIRST SET UP IN 1971,+ HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE RENT ALLOWANCE PAYABLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, MR LAW SAID THE EXISTING MAXIMUM LEVELS WERE EQUATED TO THE HIGHEST PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS.

/AT PRESENT.....

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, FOR THOSE LIVING IN PRIVATE HOUSING AND HAVING TO PAY RENTS HIGHER THAN THE ALLOWANCE LIMITS, THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORISES PAYMENT OF ACTUAL RENTS IF THEY ARE LONG-TERM RECIPIENTS ON THE WAITING LIST FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING. THIS HAS RESULTED IN HARDSHIP FOR SOME PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS FALLING OUTSIDE THIS CATEGORY.

+THE MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE INCREASED TO ENSURE THAT THESE RECIPIENTS CAN MAINTAIN A BASIC STANDARD OF LIVING,+ HE SAID.

THE INCREASE FROM NEXT MONTH WILL BE BASED ON A NEW FORMULA WHICH FIXES THE MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE AT 200 PER CENT OF THE HIGHEST PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS FOR A SINGLE PERSON, AND 150 PER CENT FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF MORE THAN ONE MEMBER.

MR LAW SAID THE MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE WOULD BE REVISED WHEN PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS WERE ADJUSTED, AND THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ADEQUACY OF THE ALLOWANCE LEVELS.

REFERRING TO THE RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION FOR ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED ADULTS APPLYING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, HE SAID THE REDUCTION TO ONE YEAR WOULD BRING THE REQUIREMENT IN LINE WITH THAT FOR OTHER APPLICANTS.

HE STRESSED THAT ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED APPLICANTS WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR JOBS FIRST.

THE NEW BASIC MONTHLY RATES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND ITS ASSOCIATED OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES ARE AS FOLLOWS (WITH THE EXISTING RATES IN BRACKETS):

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SINGLE PERSON LIVING ALONE	- \$350 (\$280)
EACH OF FIRST THREE MEMBERS OF FAMILY	- \$250 (\$200)
EACH OF SECOND THREE MEMBERS OF FAMILY	- \$215 (\$170)
EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER THEREAFTER	- \$165 (\$130)
OLD-AGE SUPPLEMENT (FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AGE 60 AND ABOVE)	- \$175 (\$140)
DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT (FOR PARTIALLY DISABLED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS)	- \$175 (\$140)
ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT (FOR THOSE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR 12 MONTHS OR LONGER)	
(A) FOR A SINGLE PERSON	- \$440 (\$355)
(B) FOR A FAMILY	- \$880 (\$700)

SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE	- \$350 (\$280)
OLD-AGE ALLOWANCE	- \$175 (\$140)

THE NEW MAXIMUM LEVELS OF RENT ALLOWANCE ARE AS FOLLOWS (WITH THE EXISTING LIMITS IN BRACKETS):

NUMBER OF PERSON

1	\$144 (\$72)
2 - 3	\$323 (\$215)
4 - 5	\$479 (\$319)
6 - 7	\$585 (\$390)
8 AND ABOVE	\$690 (\$460 FOR 8-9 PERSONS= \$637 FOR 10 AND ABOVE)

TAKING AN EXAMPLE OF AN ELIGIBLE FAMILY OF FOUR, MR LAW SAID THE TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PLUS MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE WOULD BE \$1 444 A MONTH AT THE NEW RATES, COMPARED WITH \$1 089 AT THE EXISTING RATES.

THE TOTAL IS MADE UP OF \$750 FOR THE FIRST THREE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY AND \$215 FOR THE FOURTH MEMBER, PLUS \$479 AS MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE, HE EXPLAINED.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO SPECIAL EXPENSES FOR EDUCATION OR DIETARY NEEDS PAYABLE TO THE FAMILY WHERE NECESSARY.

IF THERE IS A PERSON AGED OVER 60 YEARS IN THE FAMILY, AN EXTRA \$175 IS PAYABLE AS MONTHLY OLD-AGE SUPPLEMENT. IF THE FAMILY HAS RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN 12 MONTHS, IT IS ALSO ENTITLED TO \$880 A YEAR AS LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT.

AT THE MOMENT, THE DEPARTMENT'S 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS HANDLE 45 800 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 159 000 OLD-AGE ALLOWANCE CASES, AND 28 650 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

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CAR PARK CHARGES TO BE REVISED
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PARKING CHARGES AT GOVERNMENT CAR PARKS WILL BE REVISED FROM JUNE 1.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISION WOULD HELP TO REGULATE DEMAND FOR PARKING SPACES BY INCREASING THE TURNOVER, THEREBY REDUCING THE CONGESTION AND INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY VEHICLES QUEUING TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE PARKS.

+PARKING CHARGES ARE KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT SOME SPACES ARE AVAILABLE TO OTHER MOTORISTS AT MOST TIMES OF THE DAY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE LATEST EVALUATION OF THE PATTERN OF DEMAND FOLLOWING THE LAST ADJUSTMENT IN CHARGES IN NOVEMBER 1979 INDICATES THE NEED FOR A REVISION TO REGULATE THE UTILISATION OF CERTAIN CAR PARKS AT PARTICULAR TIMES OF THE DAY.+

/AT MULTI-STORY

AT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS WHICH ARE REGULARLY FULL, THE HOURLY RATE BETWEEN 8 AM AND 6 PM ON WEEKDAYS WILL BE RAISED FROM \$3 TO \$4. THE CAR PARKS ARE GARDEN ROAD, STAR FERRY, MURRAY ROAD, RUMSEY STREET AND CITY HALL. THE COST OF MONTHLY PASSES WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY FROM \$600 TO \$800.

TWO MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS WHICH EXPERIENCE HIGH DEMAND DURING THE EVENING AS WELL AS DAYTIME HOURS ARE MIDDLE ROAD AND YAU MA TEI. CHARGES AT BOTH CAR PARKS WILL BE STANDARDISED AT \$3 AN HOUR BETWEEN 8 AM AND MIDNIGHT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. THE COST OF MONTHLY PASSES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT \$600.

FOR THE SAME REASON, THE HOURLY RATE AT TAI KOK TSUI OPEN-AIR CAR PARK WILL BE RAISED FROM \$1 TO \$2 DURING THE HOURS OF 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT FROM MONDAYS TO SUNDAYS. THE COST OF MONTHLY PASSES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$200 TO \$300.

THE DAYTIME HOURLY RATE ON WEEKDAYS AT TWO POPULAR OPEN-AIR CAR PARKS, MURRAY BARRACKS AND HARBOUR ROAD, WILL BE RAISED FROM \$2 TO \$3. THE COST OF MONTHLY PASSES WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM \$300 TO \$400. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH DEMAND FOR SPACES DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE 'MEDIUM' HOURLY RATE APPLIES AT HARBOUR ROAD, THIS CHARGE WILL BE RAISED FROM \$1 TO \$2.

NO INCREASE IS PROPOSED IN THE HOURLY RATE AT HUNG HOM MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AS IT STILL HAS AMPLE SPARE CAPACITY. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MOTORISTS TO USE THE MAJOR TRANSPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE AT HUNG HOM, A 'PARK AND RIDE' INCENTIVE WILL BE OFFERED BY REDUCING THE COST OF MONTHLY PASSES FROM \$600 TO \$200.

OTHER EXISTING OFF-PEAK HOURLY RATES AT GOVERNMENT CAR PARKS AND ALL CHARGES AT GOVERNMENT LORRY PARKS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

MONTHLY PASSES ARE VALID FOR THE CAR PARK FOR WHICH THEY ARE BOUGHT AND ALL OTHERS OF AN EQUIVALENT OR LOWER MONTHLY CHARGE.

A NEW GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK IN ABERDEEN WILL BE OPENING IN JUNE, PROVIDING 351 SPACES. THE HOURLY RATE FOR THIS NEW FACILITY WILL BE \$2 BETWEEN 8 AM AND MIDNIGHT AND \$1 FROM MIDNIGHT TO 8 AM, APPLICABLE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AND MONTHLY PASSES WILL COST \$400.

IN ADDITION TO ABERDEEN, WORK IS IN PROGRESS ON THREE OTHER NEW MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS AT TSUEN WAN, KWAI FONG AND PING SHEK, ALL THREE ASSOCIATED WITH MTR STATIONS, AND WORK WILL START SHORTLY ON A NEW PARK AT YAU MA TEI.

OTHER CAR PARKS IN THE PLANNING STAGE INCLUDE KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN FERRY CONCOURSES AND ONE ADJACENT TO KOWLOON TONG STATION.

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HONG KONG HAS LONG-TIME ROLE IN MODERNISATION OF CHINA

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THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE HONG KONG IS EXPECTED BY PEKING AND LONDON TO PLAY IN THE MODERNISATION OF CHINA IS NOT A TEMPORARY SITUATION, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DENIS BRAY SAID THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

THE TASK OF MODERNISATION IN CHINA IS STAGGERING AND WOULD LAST A LONG TIME, HE TOLD A GROUP OF VISITING WALL STREET ANALYSTS AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE BANK OF AMERICA.

HONG KONG, HE SAID, WAS A GATEWAY AND A SHOWROOM TO CHINA, AND NEITHER PEKING NOR LONDON NOR WE OURSELVES WOULD BE HAPPY WITH A DETERIORATION IN OUR PROSPERITY.

DESCRIBING HONG KONG AS 'A WORKSHOP TO THE WORLD,' MR BRAY SAID ANYONE WITH A NEW PRODUCT CAN GET IT MADE HERE PROBABLY CHEAPER AND BETTER -- IN TERMS OF QUALITY CONTROL -- THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

+WE HAVE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING ENTERPRISE THAT CAN HELP ANYBODY WITH A BRIGHT NEW PRODUCT TO MAKE AND SELL IT,+ HE SAID. HONG KONG ALSO HAS ONE OF THE VERY VERY FEW DEEP WATER CONTAINER TERMINALS IN ASIA, AND AN INTERNATIONAL BANKING COMMUNITY.

MR BRAY NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS THIRD, AFTER JAPAN AND CHINA, IN THE LIST OF SUPPLIERS TO HONG KONG. IMPORTS FROM AMERICA WERE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THOSE FROM THE EEC, AND TWO-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE VALUE OF THOSE FROM BRITAIN.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, LOOKING AT AMERICAN EXPORTS TO ASIA, I THINK IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO SAY YOU ARE NOT TRYING IN HONG KONG,+ SAID MR BRAY, POINTING OUT THAT AMERICAN EXPORTS TO HONG KONG IN 1980 COMPRISED ONLY US\$2.5 BILLION COMPARED TO US\$20 BILLION TO JAPAN.

MOST COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, HE SAID, WOULD TRY TO BE SWEET AND KIND TO THEIR CUSTOMERS AND TRY TO STIMULATE TWO-WAY TRADE.

+BUT WHAT HAVE OUR MASTERS IN BRITAIN AND ONE OF OUR BIGGEST SUPPLIERS -- AMERICA -- ACTUALLY DONE? I DON'T REALLY THINK IT WAS DELIBERATE BUT THEY HAVE BOTH SELECTED OUR BIGGEST EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRY TO ATTACK IN A WAY THAT NO RESPECTABLE GATT SUPPORTER COULD COUNTENANCE.+

MR BRAY POINTED OUT THAT THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRY PROVIDED NEARLY HALF OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND NEARLY HALF OF ITS MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT.

+WE MAKE T-SHIRTS, JEANS, BLOUSES, SKIRTS, FASHION GARMENTS AND CRAZY SPORTS GEAR, AND WE MAKE IT WELL AND CHEAP.

/+YOUR FRIENDS

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+YOUR FRIENDS IN THE RETAIL BUSINESS WANT TO BUY IT BUT YOUR POLITICIANS HAVE DUG INTO THE PORK BARREL FOR YOUR MANUFACTURERS WHO THINK THEY ARE HURT BY US.

+YOU WILL SEE HOW RIDICULOUS IS THE CRY OF PAIN FROM YOUR TEXTILE PEOPLE WHEN YOU REALISE THAT AMERICAN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG CONSTITUTE A TINY 1.5 PER CENT OF US CONSUMPTION IN VOLUME WHEREAS US INDUSTRY SUPPLIES 87 PER CENT OF US CONSUMPTION.

HONG KONG'S IMPORTS OF FABRICS ALSO VASTLY EXCEEDED OUR EXPORTS. +OUR IMPORTS OF FABRICS AT 1.5 BILLION SQUARE YARDS ARE AROUND 90 PER CENT THE VALUE OF TOTAL US IMPORTS,+ HE SAID, ADDING, +WE ARE FIVE MILLION PEOPLE, YOU ARE 200 MILLION.+

+IN GOOD ADAM SMITH OR MILTON FRIEDMAN ECONOMICS WE CAN SURELY ARGUE THAT YOU SHOULD NOT SHUT OUT THE ONE THING WE CAN MAKE, THAT YOU WANT, BECAUSE WE ARE SUCH A USEFUL MARKET. EVEN IF YOU GET DOWN TO THE NARROW FIELD OF TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO CLOBBER US ON OUR SALES OF APPAREL WHILE TRYING TO SELL US FABRICS?+ HE ASKED.

MR BRAY SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME A FINANCIAL CENTRE EVEN THOUGH IT HAD NEVER OFFERED INDUCEMENTS, TAX HOLIDAYS OR ANY SUCH CONCESSIONS.

+WE WELCOME ANYONE WHO CAN MAKE MONEY — AND BE TAXED 16.5 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

WHILE HONG KONG WAS NO TAX HAVEN, HE ADDED, IT OFFERED IMPARTIALLY-ADMINISTERED LAW, POLITICAL STABILITY, QUITE EXCELLENT, RAPID AND EFFICIENT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, AND A CONGENIAL SOCIETY.

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NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT AND PROBLEMS

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF FINDING HOMES AND WORK FOR OUR PEOPLE, BUT CREATING PROBLEMS TOO.

SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO IMAGINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE FORMATION OF THE FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN 1923 AND THEN THE HEUNG YEE KUK IN 1926.

+THERE WAS A STABLE PATTERN OF LIFE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE 1920S, THE PASSING OF THE SEASONS AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THE RICE HARVEST THE MAIN SOURCES OF CONCERN- THE PROSPERITY OF TOWN AND VILLAGE ALIKE WAS CLOSELY TIED TO THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF CROPS AND THE PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE,+ HE SAID.

/LIFE IN

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LIFE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD NOT CHANGED MUCH IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND YET 50 YEARS AGO A NEED WAS DISCERNED FOR THIS NEW ASSOCIATION AS A MEANS OF MEETING THE CHANGE WHICH THE 20TH CENTURY WAS ALREADY BRINGING TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, TO DIRECT THE PACE AND DIRECTION OF CHANGE AND TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT NOT SIMPLY ABOUT INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES AND DISTRICTS BUT ABOUT MATTERS AFFECTING THE NEW TERRITORIES AS A WHOLE.

+THE WINDS OF CHANGE WERE BLOWING AND NEW CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE NEEDED,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

EVEN SO BY PRESENT STANDARDS THE CHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE WERE NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE: A FEW ROADS WERE BUILT, A FEW SCHOOLS WERE OPENED AND THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES INCREASED BETWEEN 1900 AND 1950 FROM 100 000 TO 200 000.

BUT BETWEEN 1950-1960 A GREAT WAVE OF PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE CAME TO SETTLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

LARGE-SCALE PIG AND CHICKEN BREEDING WAS INTRODUCED AND VEGETABLE FARMING BECAME WIDESPREAD.

IT WAS THEN A QUESTION OF COPING WITH PROBLEMS WITH NO COHERENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

BUT IT WAS ALSO A TIME DURING WHICH ELECTIONS FOR VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CREATION OF RURAL COMMITTEES WITH FORMAL CONSTITUTIONS TOOK PLACE- AND AFTER A TIME OF SOME UNCERTAINTY AND DISPUTE, THERE WAS A GREAT FORMALISATION OF THE CENTRAL ORGANISATION OF THE KUK, IN TIME FOR THE VAST CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 20 YEARS.

+I AM PROUD, MYSELF, TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE ELECTION OF THE 14TH TERM OF THE KUK IN 1960 AND TO HAVE SHARED THE EXPERIENCES OF THE LAST 20 YEARS WITH YOU ALL.

+WE HAVE GROWN OLDER AND HOPEFULLY WISER TOGETHER.+

MR AKERS-JONES SAID IN 1961 THE LAND EXCHANGE SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED SO AS TO LESSEN THE CONFLICT DURING THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN LANDOWNERS AND THE GOVERNMENT AND TO GIVE LANDOWNERS A SHARE IN THE INCREASING LAND PRICES BROUGHT ABOUT BY DEVELOPMENT.

+LITTLE DID WE KNOW IN 1961 THAT THE VALUE OF THOSE EARLY LETTER B'S WOULD BE WORTH IN 1981, 1 000 TIMES MORE THAN THEIR ORIGINAL VALUE,+ HE SAID.

+AND SO IN 1981 WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF FURTHER FAR-REACHING CHANGE.

+THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HAS SPREAD ITS TENTACLES INTO ALMOST EVERY CORNER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF FINDING HOMES AND WORK FOR OUR PEOPLE, BUT CREATING PROBLEMS TOO.

/+PROBLEMS OF

+PROBLEMS OF DISTURBANCE AND UPHEAVAL, OF NOISE, POLLUTION AND A TOTALLY CHANGED ENVIRONMENT.+

THE KUK HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE DURING THIS PERIOD GIVING TIMELY REMINDERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT THE FACT THAT THERE EXISTED A HEUNG YEE KUK TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS WAS IN ITSELF IMPORTANT AND ENSURED THAT WE DID NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE NEED FOR IMPROVED FACILITIES.

+NOW WE ARE WELCOMING ANOTHER TIDAL WAVE OF PEOPLE TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHOSE POPULATION WILL INCREASE BY 1.6 MILLION IN THE YEARS 1981-91.

+AND, AS IN THE PAST, SO IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THESE NEW ARRIVALS WITH A VOICE AND TO CREATE A NEW ORGANISATION TO DEAL WITH THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS CREATED BY URBANISATION.+

THE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE A MEETING PLACE BETWEEN THE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM OF THE RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE KUK AND THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS AND THE PROBLEMS OF THESE NEW ARRIVALS.

WE HAD TO BUILD COMMUNITIES OUT OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS= A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO WILL CARE, JUST AS YOU CARE, FOR THE PLACE THEY LIVE IN, WHO WILL JOIN TOGETHER TO CREATE THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES FOR LEISURE AND PLEASURE, WHO WILL SHOW CONCERN FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE, THE OLD, THE SICK AND THE DISABLED, AND WHO WILL JOIN TOGETHER TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF MODERN SOCIETY - OF CRIME, DRUGS AND POLLUTION.

+IN THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD, INEVITABLY THERE WILL BE CHANGES, BUT THE KUK HAS SHOWN BY ITS HISTORY OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS THAT IT IS ABLE TO ADAPT ITSELF TO THE NEEDS OF THE HOUR, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES, THE MEMBERS OF RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE KUK WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE,+ MR AKERS-JONES CONCLUDED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TUEN MUN

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A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TUEN MUN ON THURSDAY (MAY 7) IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WILL LAST FROM 11.30 AM UNTIL 6.30 PM, INCLUDE THE CLOSURE OF THE SECTION OF SAN TSING ROAD BETWEEN HO PONG STREET AND TUEN MUN ROAD.

THE SECTION OF SAN TSING ROAD BETWEEN THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD COMMITTEE BUILDING TO THE SQUARE AREA BESIDE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK WILL ALSO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

/THE EXISTING

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THE EXISTING CAR PARK AT THE WESTERN END OF SAN TSING ROAD
WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND USED FOR RESERVED PARKING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SNT TO OPEN TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING

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SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL
OPEN THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING AT SUN TSING ROAD, ON
THURSDAY (MAY 7) AT 3 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT AM 3214 WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT
1.45 PM. MR DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION
WILL BE AT TUEN MUN TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED
ON CHAN KAN-CHEUNG, CHAN KAN-SAU, WONG WING-TIM AND WONG YIK-FUN
ON NOVEMBER 16, 1979 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THEY WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LAM KENG-SHING IN
TSIM SHA TSUI ON DECEMBER 9, 1978.

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COURSE TO IMPROVE TEACHING METHOD

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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS CAN JOIN A
REFRESHER COURSE DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR
TEACHING METHODS.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH
COUNCIL TO RUN THIS COURSE ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
FROM JULY 31 TO AUGUST 27.

THE OBJECTIVES ARE TO IMPROVE PARTICIPANTS' CONFIDENCE IN
USING ENGLISH IN THE CLASSROOM, AND TO INTRODUCE THEM TO A RANGE
OF TEACHING TECHNIQUES RELEVANT TO PREPARING PUPILS FOR THE FORM
III SCALING TEST IN ENGLISH.

/THERE WILL

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THERE WILL BE A MORNING SESSION FROM 8.45 AM TO 12.15 PM AND FOR THOSE WHO PREFER TO ATTEND IN THE AFTERNOON, THERE WILL BE A SECOND SESSION FROM 1.45 PM TO 5.15 PM.

EACH SESSION WILL CATER FOR 20 TEACHERS AND IS OF 42 HOURS DURATION.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL, 5 EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

PRINCIPALS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS FOR THE COURSE SHOULD SUBMIT THE NOMINATIONS BEFORE JUNE 8 TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 5/F., HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 5-774001 EXT. 30.

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VACANCIES IN DESALTING PLANT
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THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS TO FILL THE POSTS OF SENIOR ARTISAN (DESALTING) AND ARTISAN (DESALTING) IN THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

THE SENIOR POST CARRIES A STARTING SALARY OF \$2 085 A MONTH, RISING TO \$2 205, AND THE JUNIOR POST, \$1 725 TO \$2 030.

APPLICANTS FOR THE FIRST POST SHOULD HAVE EITHER A HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, OR EQUIVALENT- OR HAVE COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP IN ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OR HAVE EQUIVALENT TRAINING AND A KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AT A STANDARD EQUIVALENT TO GRADE E IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B) IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED, AMONG OTHER DUTIES, TO ASSIST IN THE OPERATION OF BOILERS, GENERATORS, EVAPORATORS AND OTHER AUXILIARY PLANT, AND TO CARRY OUT ROUTINE OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING. THEY WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO WORK SHIFTS.

FOR THE SECOND POST APPLICANTS MUST HAVE COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP IN ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, OR HAVE FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE IN AN APPROPRIATE TRADE. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN A POWER GENERATING PLANT OR AN ALLIED FIELD WILL BE AN ADVANTAGE.

THE DUTIES OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT FOR THE SECOND POST INCLUDE MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE. SHIFT WORK MAY BE REQUIRED.

/THOSE INTERESTED

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1981

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THOSE INTERESTED IN THE POSTS SHOULD CALL AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE SERVICE, BRINGING WITH THEM THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE NUMBERS : 3-666615, 5-270276 OR 12-420154.

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WORK ON WATER PIPES

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS IN KOWLOON WILL BE CUT OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 7) TO FACILITATE WORK ON WATER PIPES.

AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, NGAU TAU KOK, JORDAN VALLEY, PING SHEK AND KOWLOON BAY.

IN ADDITION, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE CUT OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 8) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN CONNECTION WORKS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY AUSTIN ROAD, GASCOIGNE ROAD, SALISBURY ROAD AND CANTON ROAD, INCLUDING THE SEA FRONT.

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