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CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

CHANGE IN BASIS OF PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENT PROPOSED 1

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CLARIFIES LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON STANDARDISATION OF PLB FARES 4

YOUTH TO DISCUSS DRUG ABUSE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE YOUNG 5

96 'ESTATE TYPE' SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT AS PART OF EDUCATION EXPANSION PROGRAMME 6

DEMAND FOR FUTURE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SITES BEING ASSESSED 8

QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED TO RESIDENTS OF PROPOSED NEW RATING AREAS IN NEW TERRITORIES 9

NEW TYPE OF REFUSE COLLECTION POINT TO BE BUILT IN TSIM SHA TSUI 10

WATER SITUATION : PRESENT STORAGE NOW 80.9 PER CENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY 10

LUK KENG ROAD IN NEW TERRITORIES CLOSED FOR REPAIR WORKS 11

SPEED LIMIT ON TING KOK ROAD IN N.T. EXTENDED 11

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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CHANGE IN BASIS OF PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENT PROPOSED

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BUSINESSMEN WILL BECOME LIABLE TO A PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX NEXT YEAR AND WILL BE ASSESSED ON THE SAME CURRENT YEAR BASIS AS SALARIES TAXPAYERS, IF DRAFT LEGISLATION GAZETTED TODAY IS ACCEPTED.

THE CHANGE IN THE BASIS OF PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENT IS PROVIDED IN THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL WHICH SETS APRIL 1, 1975 AS THE TARGET DATE FOR THE CHANGEOVER.

FROM THAT DATE, PROFITS TAX WILL BE DETERMINED ON ACTUAL PROFITS MADE IN THE CURRENT YEAR OF ASSESSMENT, INSTEAD OF BEING BASED ON ASSESSMENTS OF PROFITS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS IS NOW THE CASE.

AT THE SAME TIME, PERSONS CHARGEABLE TO PROFITS TAX IN ANY YEAR OF ASSESSMENT WILL HAVE TO PAY A PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX CALCULATED, IN THE CASE OF A CONTINUING BUSINESS, BY REFERENCE TO ASSESSABLE PROFITS FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR OF ASSESSMENT.

THE PROPOSALS ARE IN LINE WITH A RECOMMENDATION BY THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE AND FULFILL AN UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS 1973 BUDGET SPEECH.

COMMENTING ON THE MERITS OF THE SCHEME, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TO ASSESS BUSINESS PROPRIETORS TO TAX BY REFERENCE TO THEIR ACTUAL PROFITS FOR THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT IS BOTH LOGICAL AND MUCH FAIRER THAN THE EXISTING SYSTEM WHICH DOES PRODUCE INEQUITIES TO THE TAXPAYER AND TO THE REVENUE IN VARYING SITUATIONS.

+FURTHER, THE NEW BASIS WILL BRING PROFITS TAX IN THE LINE WITH PROPERTY TAX, INTEREST TAX AND SALARIES TAX, ALL OF WHICH ARE PRESENTLY ASSESSED ON THE CURRENT YEAR BASIS.

+THE CONFUSION ARISING FROM COMPUTING PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, WHERE IT APPLIES, ON A MIXTURE OF CURRENT YEAR'S INCOME AND PREVIOUS YEAR'S INCOME WILL ALSO BE REMOVED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THE FIRST YEAR UNDER THE NEW BASIS (1975/76) THE PROVISIONAL TAX WILL BE BASED ON ACTUAL PROFITS MADE IN 1974/75, FINAL TAX PAYABLE FOR 1975/76 BEING ASCERTAINED IN 1976/77 WHEN THE ACTUAL PROFITS FOR 1975/76 ARE KNOWN.

PROVISION IS ALSO MADE FOR PART OR THE WHOLE OF THE PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX TO BE HELD OVER IF THE TAXPAYER CAN SHOW: -

* THAT HIS ACTUAL PROFIT IS LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE SUM ON WHICH THE PROVISIONAL TAX WAS CALCULATED, OR

* THAT HIS PROFIT IS REDUCED BECAUSE OF CESSATION OF BUSINESS, OR

/* THAT A .....

* THAT A CLAIM MADE FOR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT IS LIKELY TO REDUCE HIS ULTIMATE LIABILITY TO TAX, OR

* THAT THE AMOUNT OF ANY LOSS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR SET OFF HAS BEEN OMITTED OR IS INCORRECT, OR

* THAT HE HAS OBJECTED TO HIS ASSESSMENT TO PROFITS TAX FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR.

THE BILL CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR A TRANSITIONAL ADJUSTMENT IN THE YEAR PRECEDING THE YEAR OF CHANGE (1974/75), AND FINAL LIABILITY FOR THAT YEAR WILL BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF EITHER THE ACTUAL PROFITS OF THAT YEAR OR THE PROFITS OF THE PRECEDING YEAR WHICHEVER ARE THE GREATER. THIS FOLLOWS THE PRINCIPLE APPLIED TO THE YEAR OF TRANSITION WHEN THE BASIS OF ASSESSMENT OF SALARIES TAX WAS CHANGED TO THE CURRENT YEAR BASIS, BUT WITHOUT THE 115 PER CENT LIMITATION WHICH WAS APPLIED IN THE CASE OF SALARIES TAX.

THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN A PERIOD WHICH, DUE TO THE CHANGEOVER IN THE BASIS OF ASSESSMENT, IS NOT A BASIS PERIOD. AT PRESENT, ANY CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN SUCH AN INTERVAL PERIOD IS REGARDED AS EXPENDITURE IN THE SUBSEQUENT BASIS PERIOD AND RANKS FOR INITIAL ALLOWANCE WITH THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF THAT PERIOD. UNDER THE BILL, HOWEVER, A DEDUCTION FOR INITIAL ALLOWANCE IN ANY YEAR OF ASSESSMENT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ACTUALLY INCURRED IN THE BASIS PERIOD, ALTHOUGH CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN AN INTERVAL PERIOD WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY COUNT FOR ANNUAL ALLOWANCE.

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE PRINCIPLE THAT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND PLANTS AND MACHINERY, LESS ANY AMOUNT RECOVERED ON DISPOSAL, IS ALLOWED AS A DEDUCTION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME OR OVER THE WORKING LIFE OF THE PLANT, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

IF A BUSINESS SHOULD SUFFER LOSS IN A PERIOD PRIOR TO THE DATE OF CHANGEOVER (APRIL 1, 1975) TO THE NEW BASIS OF ASSESSMENT AND IF THIS LOSS WAS NOT SET OFF AGAINST PROFITS IN ANY ASSESSMENT BEFORE APRIL 1, 1975, THIS LOSS WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD AND SET OFF AGAINST PROFITS OF THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT ACCOUNTING PERIODS USED FOR ASSESSMENTS AFTER APRIL 1, 1975.

WHILE THE PERIOD APRIL 1 TO MARCH 31 WILL BE RETAINED AS THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT, PROVISION IS MADE TO SUBSTITUTE A BUSINESS ACCOUNT YEAR AS THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES NO CHANGE OF CONCEPT AND MAINTAINS CONTINUITY WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE SINCE BUSINESSES WHICH HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE COMMENCEMENT PROVISIONS FOR ASSESSMENT ARE ALREADY ASSESSED ON THE BASIS OF AN ACCOUNTING YEAR.

THE BILL ALSO REVISES THE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND PROVIDES FOR THE PERMITTED 10 PER CENT OF ASSESSABLE INCOME OR PROFITS TO BE APPLIED BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER, ANY DEDUCTION FOR PREVIOUS LOSSES.

/OTHER FEATURES .....

OTHER FEATURES OF THE BILL RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE INCLUDE :-

* ACCOUNTS MADE UP ANNUALLY ON THE BASIS OF THE CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THUS FOR PERIODS VARYING IN LENGTH FROM YEAR TO YEAR, WILL BE ACCEPTED AS A YEAR'S ACCOUNTS.

* WHERE PERSONAL ASSESSMENT APPLIES, POST-CHANGE LOSSES OF AN INDIVIDUAL INCURRED AS A SOLE PROPRIETOR OR HIS SHARE OF LOSS INCURRED AS A PARTNER IN A PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS, WILL BE SET OFF IN CALCULATING HIS TOTAL INCOME UNDER PERSONAL ASSESSMENT FOR THAT YEAR OF ASSESSMENT AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS OF THE ASSESSMENT UNTIL FULLY RELIEVED.

* CORPORATIONS HAVING POST-CHANGE LOSSES WILL BE ABLE TO SET OFF A SHARE OF A PARTNERSHIP LOSS IN THEIR COMPUTATION OF ASSESSABLE PROFITS, OR TO SET OFF A LOSS IN THEIR OWN BUSINESS AGAINST THEIR SHARE OF ANY PARTNERSHIP ASSESSABLE PROFIT.

* THERE WILL BE NO CESSATION TREATMENT WHERE THE BUSINESS DOES NOT IN FACT CEASE BUT IS CARRIED ON IN WHOLE OR PART BY A SUCCESSOR. THIS PROVISION ALSO ACTS AS PART OF THE TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ENGINEERED CESSATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT (IN 1975/76) ON GOVERNMENT REVENUE WOULD BE MINIMAL AND IN THE LONG TERM THERE SHOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YIELD UNDER THE REVISED SYSTEM PROPOSED AND YIELD UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM. HOWEVER, IN THE SHORT TERM, THE PROVISIONAL TAX SYSTEM WOULD CAUSE ANY PROGRESSION OR REGRESSION OF PROFITS TO HAVE AN EARLIER EFFECT ON YIELD, WITH OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES WHEN BUDGETTING FOR EXPENDITURE.

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NO MINIMUM FARES FOR PLB'S PROPOSED
PLANS ENVISAGE ONLY MAXIMUM FARES
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NO MINIMUM LIMITS ARE SET DOWN IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE STANDARDISATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

IN FACT, WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED IS MAXIMUM FARES ONLY, AND IF AND WHEN THESE PROPOSALS COME INTO EFFECT, PLB DRIVERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHARGE HIGHER THAN THE MAXIMUM LIMITS, BUT THEY WILL CERTAINLY BE FREE TO CHARGE ANY AMOUNT OF FARE BELOW THESE LIMITS, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THIS POINT WHILE COMMENTING ON SOME CHINESE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION PROVIDED FOR BOTH MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM FARES THAT COULD BE CHARGED.

+THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN INTENDED TO LAY DOWN ANY MINIMUM FARES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE PROPOSALS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO BY REPRESENTATIVES OF PLB ASSOCIATIONS FOLLOWING A NUMBER OF CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS, PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM FARES ONLY,+ HE SAID.

AND THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED CLEARLY TO THE PLB OPERATORS DURING THE MEETINGS, HE ADDED.

THE MAXIMUM FARE SCHEME HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS MADE BY PLB PASSENGERS THAT PLB DRIVERS CHARGED UNREASONABLY HIGH FARES.

+THE SCHEME IS INTENDED TO RULE OUT SUCH UNREASONABLE HIGH CHARGES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD ENABLE PLB OPERATORS TO HAVE A REASONABLE FINANCIAL RETURN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSALS, PEOPLE WOULD COMMIT AN OFFENCE IF THEY CHARGE HIGHER THAN THE MAXIMUM LIMITS LAID DOWN AND SHALL BE LIABLE, IN THE CASE OF A FIRST CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF $500 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS, AND, ON SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF $1,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE PROPOSAL PROVIDE FOR TWO TYPES OF MAXIMUM FARES - ONE FOR ORDINARY PERIODS AND THE OTHER FOR SPECIFIED PERIODS - BUT IN BOTH CASES, THE FARES CHARGED CANNOT EXCEED THE LIMITS.

THE HIGHEST FARE THAT COULD BE CHARGED IN ORDINARY TIMES FOR ROUTES ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD BE 60 CENTS, WHILE THE MAXIMUM ORDINARY FARE FOR A JOURNEY ELSEWHERE ON THE ISLAND WOULD BE $1.50. AS FOR A JOURNEY FROM ONE TO ANOTHER OF THESE TWO ZONES, THE MAXIMUM ORDINARY FARE WOULD BE THE HIGHEST FARE OF THE ZONES COVERED.

/THE HIGHEST .....

THE HIGHEST ORDINARY FARE THAT COULD BE CHARGED FOR A JOURNEY WITHIN KOWLOON WOULD ALSO BE 60 CENTS= WITHIN NEW KOWLOON, $1= AND WITHIN THE NEW TERRITORIES, $1.50. FOR A JOURNEY WHICH COVERS MORE THAN ONE ZONE, THE MAXIMUM ORDINARY FARE WOULD BE THE HIGHEST FARE OF THE ZONES COVERED, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A JOURNEY ORIGINATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TERMINATING IN KOWLOON OR NEW KOWLOON, OR VICE VERSA, WHERE THE HIGHEST ORDINARY FARE WOULD BY $2.

ANY JOURNEY THROUGH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WOULD HAVE A MAXIMUM ORDINARY FARE OF $2.

MAXIMUM SPECIAL FARES COULD BE CHARGED DURING SPECIFIED PERIODS, SUCH AS FROM 1 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND FROM 4 P.M. TO 8 P.M., ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND DURING TYPHOONS. THESE WOULD ALLOW FOR A SPECIAL FARE UP TO TWICE, BUT NOT EXCEEDING, THE MAXIMUM ORDINARY FARE TO BE CHARGED.

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YOUTH AND THE DRUG TIDE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE (EASTERN) WILL HOLD A YOUTH FORUM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M. THIS IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES ORGANISED BY THE C.Y.OS IN SUPPORT OF THE +KEEP HONG KONG DRUG FREE+ CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

THE FORUM WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE, ROOM 707, CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING. ABOUT 80 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTING ISLAMIC COLLEGE, GRAMMAR COLLEGE, LEE CHING DEA MEMORIAL COLLEGE, CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE WILL TAKE PART.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (EASTERN), MR. STEPHEN HO YUM-SUEN, WILL MAKE THE OPENING REMARKS.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM S.A.R.D.A. WILL GIVE TALKS ON +THE REASONS FOR DRUG-TAKING AND ITS EFFECTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE+. AN EX-ADDICT WILL ALSO PRESENT A VIVID PICTURE OF HIS TENIFYING EXPERIENCE IN TAKING DRUGS AND HOW THIS DESTROYED HIS SOCIAL LIFE AND FUTURE. GROUP DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW.

+IT IS HOPED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS BACK TO THEIR FELLOW-STUDENTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THIS ISSUE,+ SAID MR. LAM, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER (EASTERN).

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96 NEW +ESTATE TYPE+ SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT), MR. LI WANG-FAI, THIS AFTERNOON GAVE DETAILS OF A NEW STANDARD DESIGN +ESTATE TYPE+ SECONDARY SCHOOL.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE 1983 TARGETS SET IN THE WHITE PAPER, 161 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OF THESE, 96 WILL BE OF THIS TYPE AND +THEY WILL BE FOUND MAINLY IN THE THREE NEW TOWNS - SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN+ WHERE 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

MR. LI SAID: +THESE SCHOOLS WILL FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF A HOUSING ESTATE IN THESE TOWNS AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE DOMESTIC BLOCKS. LIKE THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THEY WILL BE BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY HANDED OVER TO SPONSORS TO RUN.

+IN THIS WAY, IT IS HOPED THAT THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES RESULTING FROM THE GROWTH IN THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TOWNS CAN BE MET BY THE CONCURRENT PROVISION OF THESE SCHOOLS.+

THE NEW STANDARD DESIGN IS FOR TWO SEPARATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE INTERLOCKED BY A THREE-STOREY CENTRAL BLOCK. TWO ASSEMBLY HALLS ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THIS BLOCK WILL SERVE EACH SCHOOL AND HALF OF THE GROUND FLOOR WILL BE USED AS A COVERED PLAYGROUND.

CONNECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL BLOCK AND AT RIGHT ANGLES TO EACH OTHER ARE THE TWO OTHER BLOCKS FOR CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL ROOMS RESPECTIVELY. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE OPEN SPACE FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL AND CLASSROOM BLOCKS ARE ALL BUILT TO A STANDARD SIZE. HOWEVER, THE SPECIAL ROOM BLOCK CAN BE OF TWO STANDARD TYPES TO CATER FOR THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF GRAMMAR AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. THE CLASS STRUCTURE IN ALL THESE SCHOOLS CAN BE EITHER SYMMETRICAL OR ASYMMETRICAL ACCORDING TO THE PREVAILING DEMAND.

MR. LI WAS ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE HONG KONG SZE YAP COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION CHAN NAM CHEONG MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN SHEK LEI ESTATE, TSUEN WAN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT +IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO EXPAND EDUCATION THROUGH THE AIDED SECTOR WHEREVER POSSIBLE. BESIDES THE SEVEN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, THE REMAINING ONES IN THE BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN VARIOUS FORMS TOWARDS THEIR CAPITAL AND RECURRENT COSTS. THIS WILL HELP INTERESTED AND COMPETENT BODIES IN THE COMMUNITY TO SPONSOR SCHOOLS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES IN EDUCATION.+

/STATISTICS IN THE .....

STATISTICS IN THE WHITE PAPER SHOW THAT SIX +ESTATE TYPE+ SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY BY SEPTEMBER 1976, ANOTHER 36 BY SEPTEMBER 1979 AND THE REMAINING 54 BY SEPTEMBER 1983.

THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL 161 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS UNDER THE PROJECTED SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMMES BY 1983 WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO PHASE OUT THE FLOTATION/EXTENDED DAY SYSTEM, WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE NEW SECONDARY PATTERN.

AS THE WHITE PAPER HAS STRESSED, PHASING OUT OF THIS SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED IF FINANCIAL OR OTHER DIFFICULTIES DELAY COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

MEANWHILE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSALS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPANSION CONTAINED IN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED WHITE PAPER.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY HAS MET THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, GRANT AND SUBSIDIZED SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BRIEF THEM AND ASK THEM FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND COMMENTS.

BASICALLY, THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED PROGRAMME IS TO ADVANCE ON FIVE FRONTS - THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SELECTION AND ALLOCATION PROCEDURES, ENHANCED CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT, THE EXPANSION OF TEACHER TRAINING COURSES AND THE DETAILED FINANCING NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE PROPOSALS.

+THE CORNERSTONE OF THE RAPID PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF PLACES ON TIME IS THE SMOOTH INTRODUCTION INTO EXISTING SCHOOLS OF THE FLOTATION/EXTENDED DAY SCHEME,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THEREFORE WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FULFIL THE AIMS OF THE AMBITIOUS TARGETS OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER, THE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL CONCERNED WILL BE REQUIRED, HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE NEW STANDARD DESIGN +ESTATE TYPE+ SECONDARY SCHOOL ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES THIS EVENING.

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ASSESSES DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SITES

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THE GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AN ASSESSMENT IS TO BE MADE OF THE POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR SITES IN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, NOW BEING CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, AND COMPANIES WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SITES ON EITHER A PURCHASE OR A RENTAL BASIS ARE INVITED TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT.

THE WORKING GROUP IS DEVOTING INTENSIVE STUDY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AS A FURTHER MEANS OF PROVIDING LAND FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE UNSUITABLE FOR HIGH-RISE FACTORY BUILDINGS.

THE INDUSTRIAL LAND COMMITTEE OF THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD IS ASSISTING THE STUDY, AND ITS VIEWS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WORKING GROUP.

PROVISION IS ALREADY BEING MADE FOR LAND AND CAPITAL INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES WHICH WOULD INTRODUCE NEW SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY TO HONG KONG TO OBTAIN SITES ON SPECIAL TERMS.

THE INTRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IS BEING CONSIDERED AS AN ADDITIONAL STEP TO HELP ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENT IN THIS SORT OF INDUSTRY.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE ESTATES, IF ESTABLISHED, WOULD BE BUILT AND MANAGED BY AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION SET UP UNDER STATUTE FOR THE PURPOSE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TWO LOCATIONS HAD BEEN PINPOINTED FOR POSSIBLE EARLY DEVELOPMENT, ONE AT YUEN LONG AND THE OTHER AT TAI PO. THE LIKELIHOOD WAS THAT THE TAI PO ESTATE WOULD BE DEVELOPED FIRST. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE A THIRD ESTATE AT JUNK BAY AS PART OF WIDER SCALE DEVELOPMENT THERE. EACH ESTATE WOULD CONTAIN OVER 100 ACRES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND, AND WOULD BE SERVED BY ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS ROADS, WATER, POWER AND TELEPHONES.

+MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE RESPONSE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN. +THE DETAILED STUDIES BEING MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT HAVE REACHED THE STAGE WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE LIKELY DEMAND FOR SITES. AN IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THE ESTATES ARE INTENDED FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AS WELL AS FOR INDUSTRIES TO BE ATTRACTED FROM OVERSEAS.+

A ROUGH ORDER OF COSTS HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE TAI PO ESTATE WHICH INDICATES A POSSIBLE SALE PRICE FOR FORMED LAND OF ABOUT $45 PER SQUARE FOOT OR A GROUND RENTAL CHARGE OF ABOUT $6.5 PER SQUARE FOOT PER ANNUM.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRY DIVISION OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONING MR. ROY PORTER (5-236509)= MR. ALEX PURVES (5-248280) OR MR. PETER LO (5-241578).

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RATING FORMS ISSUED TO NEW RATING AREAS

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS SENT OUT SOME 9,500 FORMS OF REQUISITION FOR PARTICULARS OF TENEMENTS (FORM R. 1G) TO OCCUPIERS OF PREMISES IN EIGHT DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHARGING RATES IN THE AREAS FROM APRIL 1, 1976.

IN THIS CONNECTION, PRELIMINARY WORK IS ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT IN THESE PLACES, NAMELY, YUEN LONG, TAI PO, LUEN WO MARKET, SHEK WU HUI, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD AND JUNK BAY.

COMMENTING ON THIS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THESE FORMS ARE BEING ISSUED IN PURSUANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF FURTHER EXTENDING RATING TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AS ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN 1972 AND AGAIN MENTIONED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN THE 1974 BUDGET.

THE FORM, PRINTED IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, SEEKS INFORMATION AS TO THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER= WHETHER THE PREMISES ARE OCCUPIED BY THE OWNER OR LET AND, IF LET, THE NAME OF THE OCCUPIER.

A TENANT WHO RECEIVES THE FORM BUT DOES NOT KNOW THE INFORMATION SOUGHT SHOULD GIVE THE FORM TO THE OWNER OR THE RENT COLLECTOR WHO SHOULD THEN COMPLETE AND RETURN IT TO THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT 1, GARDEN ROAD HONG KONG, USING THE PRE-PAID POSTAGE RETURN ENVELOPE PROVIDED, WITHIN 40 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE FORM.

ANYONE IN DOUBT AS TO HOW TO COMPLETE THE FORM SHOULD CALL AT, OR TELEPHONE, THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE AT 1, GARDEN ROAD HONG KONG (5-249021) WHERE ASSISTANCE WILL GLADLY BE GIVEN.

THE SPOKESMAN DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE FORM R. 1G IS A SPECIFIED FORM ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE RATING ORDINANCE, AND THAT IT IS IN THE OWNER AND OCCUPIER'S INTERESTS TO RETURN IT FULLY AND CORRECTLY COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME LAID DOWN.

EARLY NEXT YEAR, A FURTHER FORM (FORM R. 1A) WILL BE ISSUED SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE OCCUPATION AND RENTAL PARTICULARS IN RESPECT OF PREMISES IN THESE PROPOSED NEW RATING AREAS.

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REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WITH A DIFFERENCE

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A NEW TYPE OF OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT IS TO BE BUILT IN TSIM SHA TSUI AT THE JUNCTION OF MINDEN ROW AND THE PATH LEADING TO SIGNAL HILL.

COSTING OVER $170,000, THE COLLECTION POINT WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KOWLOON.

SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE THROUGH VENTILATION SO AS TO ELIMINATE OBNOXIOUS ODOUR. UNLIKE THE ORDINARY TYPE, IT WILL BE COMPLETELY ROOFED WITH OPENINGS ON THE WALLS.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE 1,260-SQUARE-FOOT COLLECTION POINT IS THAT ITS EXTERNAL WALLS WILL BE STUDDED WITH COLOURED TILES.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (FRIDAY) STOOD AT 54,421 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 80.9 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 59,005 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 38,470 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 45,959 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 76.2 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 2,112.3 MM (83.16 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,119.5 MM (83.44 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 0.34 PER CENT.

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ROAD CLOSURE AT LUK KENG

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE SECTION OF ROAD FROM LUK KENG TO BRIDE'S POOL ROAD IS CLOSED, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS TO THE DAMAGED CUTTING SLOPE.

THE AFFECTED SECTION MEASURES ABOUT 450 FEET STARTING AT THE 8-1/2 MILESTONE FROM TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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SPEED LIMIT EXTENDED

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE EXISTING 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT ALONG THE SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD IN TAI PO NEAR THE PLUMMER'S VILLAGE WILL BE EXTENDED ON BOTH ENDS AS FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 19).

THE NEW RESTRICTED SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD WILL BE ABOUT 1,017 YARDS LONG.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO INDICATE THE NEW RESTRICTED SECTION.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (FRIDAY) 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 PRICE ($/CATTY)
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW	GOOD	1.94
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.78
PO NGAI	GOOD	--
CHU CHO	GOOD	--
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.77
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.68
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.66
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.39
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.72
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.91
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.88
PAKISTAN RICE	GOOD	--
TAIWAN RICE	GOOD	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK ($/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 340 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE ($/CATTY) HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	NORMAL	5.50	2.00	4.30
BIG-EYES	NORMAL	3.50	2.00	2.80
SQUID	LIMITED	6.00	2.00	4.50
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.80	1.20	2.00
LIZARD FISHES	GOOD	3.50	1.40	2.40
CROAKERS	GOOD	2.50	1.30	1.80
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	3.50	1.60	2.60
MELON COAT	NORMAL	3.00	1.80	2.20
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.30	4.70	5.00
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.80	1.20	1.50
MACKERELS	SCARCE	6.00	5.50	5.80
RED GOAT FISH	--	NO SALE		
FORK-TAIL	--	NO SALE		
HORSE-HEAD	SCARCE	5.80	3.00	4.50
MELON SEED	LIMITED	3.30	1.50	2.40
POMFRETS	SCARCE	9.00	6.00	7.20
GAROUPAS	NORMAL	8.20	7.50	8.00
YELLOW CROAKER	NORMAL	6.80	3.50	4.50

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE ($/CATTY) HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	SCARCE	3.50	1.50	2.80
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	2.40	0.80	1.60
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	2.50	1.00	1.80
WATER SPINACH	SCARCE	1.00	0.30	0.60
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	3.40	1.50	2.60
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	2.60	1.50	2.20
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.60	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	SCARCE	3.50	1.20	2.50
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	3.50	2.00	2.80
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.60	0.80	1.80
CHINESE SPINACH			NO SALE	
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.00	2.00	3.00

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