



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MORE UNOFFICIALS COMMENT ON EDUCATION GREEN PAPER  
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TEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION AT THE RESUMED COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

HOWEVER THERE WERE ONLY NINE SPEAKERS BECAUSE THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN WAS INDISPOSED. HIS SPEECH WAS DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE HON. ALEX WU WHO ALSO EXPRESSED HIS OWN VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER.

THE OTHER SPEAKERS WERE: THE HON. JAMES WU, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, THE HON. T.S. LO, THE HON. S.L. CHEN, DR. THE HON. HENRY HU AND THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCILLORS' SPEECHES:

MR. JAMES WU: MORE RELEVANCE TO LOCAL BUSINESS AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

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THE HON. JAMES WU LISTED THE VARIOUS ADVANCES IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONAL AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IN RECENT YEARS AND POINTED OUT THAT GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES IN THE 20-29 YEAR OLD AGE RANGE HAVE MARKEDLY BETTER EARNINGS THAN THOSE OF THEIR CONTEMPORARIES WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE SAME EDUCATION.

HE SAID HOWEVER THAT LOCAL BUSINESS AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BENEFITTED CORRESPONDINGLY FROM THE OUTPUT OF OUR OWN UNIVERSITIES, AS RELATIVELY FEW GRADUATES WORK IN THESE SPHERES.

+IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS DUE TO THE CURRICULA HAVING BEEN DESIGNED TO CONFORM MORE TO FOREIGN INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS THAN FOR PREPARATION FOR LOCAL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES, SUCH AS IN THE UNITED STATES, ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS NORMALLY REFLECT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE COMMUNITIES.

+WITH HONG KONG HAVING BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING CENTRES IN TEXTILES, ELECTRONICS, PLASTICS-PROCESSING AND WATCH-MAKING AND WITH THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, IT SHOULD BE FERTILE GROUND FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN THESE FIELDS, AND I AM SURE THAT PAPERS ON SUCH TOPICS WILL HAVE GREAT ATTRACTION IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE,+ HE SAID.

/HE RECOMMENDED .....

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HE RECOMMENDED THIS APPROACH TO THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD HELP TO SOLVE SOME OF OUR PROBLEMS AND REDUCE THE NEED TO HIRE SO MANY FOREIGN EXPERTS.

HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A PILOT PROGRAMME OF PART-TIME DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITIES.

ON VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MR. WU FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE INSTITUTIONS WILL ACQUAINT THEIR STUDENTS WITH THE SLIGHTLY MORE ADVANCED THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THE OPERATION OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS AUTOMATED OR EVEN COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINES OF WHICH MORE WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED IN HONG KONG.

HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF TRAINING AT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS COLLEGE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE COLLEGE COULD TAKE IN HIGHER CERTIFICATE OR HIGHER DIPLOMA GRADUATES FROM THE POLYTECHNIC.

HE ALSO WELCOMED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CREDIT UNIT PROGRAMME OF STUDY IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHEREBY +COURSE UNITS+ MAY BE OBTAINED BY FULL-TIME, PART-TIME DAY OR BY EVENING STUDY, AND ENABLING THE STUDENT TO MOVE EVENTUALLY TO THE POLYTECHNIC WHERE THE +UNITS+ WOULD BE RECOGNISED.

HE REGRETTED THAT PLACES IN THE PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES ARE UNDER-UTILISED FOR THE STUDENTS FIND THE ONCE-A-WEEK INTERRUPTED MANNER OF ATTENDANCE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH THE EVENING CLASSES DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PLACES FOR APPLICANTS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE REALISTICALLY EVALUATED.

MR. WU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT, OR CONTINUING EDUCATION. HE SAID THE DEMAND FOR EDUCATION THROUGHOUT LIFE CAN BE EXPECTED TO GROW. +RECURRENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES REGARDLESS OF MINIMUM FORMAL EDUCATIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OR OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS,+ HE SAID.

HE THOUGHT A GREATER NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAN NOW WOULD SEEK SUCH OPPORTUNITIES AND AS A SPIN-OFF, ENERGETIC YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER SCHOOL YEARS MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO EMBARK ON A USEFUL PURSUIT IN CAREER RATHER THAN SUCCUMB TO EVIL TEMPTATIONS.

/MR. HILTON .....

MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN : ENCOURAGE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ASKED FOR A CONSCIOUS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENHANCE THE SOCIAL STANDING, MENTAL WELL-BEING, AND THE SELF-RESPECT OF THE SKILLED WORKER IN HONG KONG.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE AND REWARDING, AND MORE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS WOULD HAVE TO BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO RECEIVE SUCH TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN QUOTED THE EXAMPLE OF JAPAN WHERE THERE IS A NEW TREND TOWARDS VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND WHERE FUTURE CURRICULUM GUIDELINES HAVE JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED PERMITTING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS HOTEL MANAGEMENT, HAIR-DRESSING, TOURISM, PHOTOGRAPHY, COOKING, AND EVEN ACTING, BASEBALL PLAYING AND SUMO WRESTLING.

HE DID NOT ADVOCATE THAT WE SHOULD NECESSARILY FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE BUT STRESSED THAT, AS IN JAPAN, WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT OUR SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, AS IT BECOMES MORE UNIVERSAL, +IS FLEXIBLY ADAPTED TO OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CIRCUMSTANCES.+

+IN AIMING AT UNIVERSAL SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, WE WILL BE PLANNING FOR A HIGHER STANDARD OF KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY= THIS IN TURN WILL EQUIP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MORE EASILY ADJUST TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN THE DECADE OF THE 80'S,+ HE SAID.

ON THE ROLE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, MR. CHEONG-LEEN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MISTAKEN ZEAL TO PRESS IT TO CUT BACK AT THIS TIME ITS FOUR-YEAR DEGREE COURSES. ITS ROLE IS TO FOSTER CHINESE THOUGHT AND CULTURE, AND IT SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DO SO WITH FLEXIBILITY.

HE SAID IT WAS DISTRESSING THAT THERE IS A PAUCITY OF UP-TO-DATE TEXT-BOOKS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE SUITABLE FOR CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SUGGESTED THAT EDUCATION TELEVISION COULD MAKE UP THE DISINTEREST SHOWN IN THE TEACHING OF MANDARIN, OR P'U-T'UNG HAU, IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE A USEFUL AND HONOURABLE ROLE FOR THE APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WHEN THE PLANS ARE FINANLISED FOR SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

HE FELT THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO SET UP A CENTRAL BODY TO BETTER CO-ORDINATE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES AND TO CREATE A MEANINGFUL LONG-TERM PLAN. +GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE GREEN PAPER SEEMS TO BE NARROWLY LIMITED TO IMPROVING THE OPERATING STANDARDS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND-RATE +CAPUT+ SCHOOLS WHICH ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS SHOULD BE ABSORBED INTO THE CODE OF AID.

IF, ARISING FROM THE VARIOUS CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE PUBLIC TO FURTHER EXPAND FACILITIES AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, A FURTHER INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE IS CALLED FOR, MR. CHEONG-LEEN BELIEVED THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL GO ALONG WITH IT, EVEN IF IT MEANS INCREASES IN TAX RATES.

DR. HARRY FANG : OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG SOUGHT ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED STUDENTS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF RECEIVING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ITS FORWARD PLANNING OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THEM WAS ONLY CONFINED TO THREE SENTENCES IN THE GREEN PAPER.

+I AM REFERRING TO ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS FACED BY THESE STUDENTS, THE NEED FOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, RESOURCE TEACHERS AND OTHER PERIPATETIC SERVICES REQUIRED BY THEM.

+IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE DISABLED STUDENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND ORDINARY SCHOOLS BUT THE NEED TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

+THE DISABLED ARE ALREADY HANDICAPPED BY THEIR DISABILITY. IT IS HOPED THAT THEY CAN BE GIVEN THE FULL OPPORTUNITIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ENABLE THEM TO BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES IN LIFE,+ HE SAID.

MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH: PART-TIME UNIVERSITY COURSES

THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH SUGGESTED THAT PART-TIME UNIVERSITY COURSES, MAINLY AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL, COULD BE INTRODUCED TO TRAIN UP SPECIALISTS WHO AT PRESENT MUST BE RECRUITED FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT FOR ECONOMIC REASONS OR BECAUSE SUITABLE REPLACEMENTS ARE UNAVAILABLE, EMPLOYERS OFTEN HAVE EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN RELEASING THEIR EXPERIENCED STAFF FOR TRAINING OR FURTHER STUDY ON A FULL TIME BASIS, AND EMPLOYEES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD SUCH STUDY AS IT WOULD DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR IMMEDIATE INCOME.

FOR THOSE WHO LEFT SCHOOL AFTER FORM VI, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN THEIR PARTICULAR SPHERE OF WORK WITHOUT LEAVING HONG KONG, SUCH PART-TIME COURSES WOULD PROVIDE SCOPE FOR FURTHER SELF FULFILMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.

SHE SUPPORTED FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PART-TIME STUDIES AT ALL LEVELS FOR MATURE STUDENTS AND SHE STRESSED THAT THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE HOPE FOR HARD WORKING OR EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS TO ATTAIN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

/MRS. KWAN .....

MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH ALSO THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN A GENERAL EDUCATION AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL, BOTH IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS ONLY A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THEM WILL HAVE THE CHANCE OF A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE THOUGHT UNDESIRABLE AT PRESENT ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATION GROUNDS TO PROVIDE SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY PLACES FOR ALL STUDENTS, SHE THOUGHT UNIVERSAL SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION SHOULD BE THE LONG-TERM AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT.

SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES TO BE AVAILABLE IN POST FORM V COURSES WHICH SHE THOUGHT WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS AS HONG KONG ADVANCES TO A MORE DEVELOPED STAGE OF INDUSTRIALISATION WITH A CORRESPONDING DEMAND FOR A HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL IN THE LABOUR FORCE.

THE CURRICULA FOR THE SIXTH FORM, BOTH ONE YEAR AND TWO YEAR COURSES, SHOULD BE COMPLETE IN THEMSELVES AND THERE SHOULD BE ONE JOINT MATRICULATION EXAMINATION, EVEN THOUGH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY MAY RETAIN ITS FOUR-YEAR COURSES.

SHE FULLY AGREED WITH WHAT THE GOVERNOR SAID RECENTLY, THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO DESIGN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND THAT ANY PLAN WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE A PROPER USE OF THE REGISTERED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WOULD BE WASTING VALUABLE ASSETS.

SHE SUPPORTED THE VIEWS OF DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG ON THE NEED FOR POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES TO OFFER TWO OR FOUR YEAR COURSES AFTER FIFTH FORM LEVEL AND URGED THAT THE QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINABLE ON COMPLETION OF THESE COURSES BE TRANSFERABLE WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

SINCE A GREATER NUMBER OF STUDENTS WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE SIXTH FORM, SHE THOUGHT THOSE ENTERING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION SHOULD HAVE ATTAINED MATRICULATION STANDARD. PART-TIME COURSES FOR UNTRAINED SERVING TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION AND REFRESHER COURSES, AS WELL AS COURSES IN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE.

AS TO ADULT EDUCATION, SHE REGRETTED THAT THERE IS A LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, BOTH WITH REGARD TO QUALITY AND SCOPE, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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HON. T.S. LO: DEVELOP FULL POTENTIAL OF INTELLIGENT YOUNG PEOPLE

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THE HON. T.S. LO DEPLORED THE LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG FOR INTELLIGENT YOUNG PEOPLE AND WARNED OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY 2.5 PER CENT OF THOSE IN PRIMARY 6 TODAY WILL HAVE A CHANCE OF GOING TO A LOCAL UNIVERSITY.

ACCORDINGLY MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENDING THEIR CHILDREN ABROAD AND MANY MORE WHO CANNOT AFFORD IT HAVE HAD TO SUFFER THE FRUSTRATION OF KNOWING THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL NEVER BENEFIT FROM A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE THE NECESSARY INTELLIGENCE TO DO SO. MOREOVER, THE RECENT DRAMATIC INCREASE IN EDUCATIONAL COSTS ABROAD CAN ONLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WILL BE DENIED UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS.

+QUITE APART FROM THE OBVIOUS MORAL ISSUES INVOLVED, IT IS UNHEALTHY FOR ANY SOCIETY TO HAVE AN INCREASINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF FRUSTRATED AND INTELLIGENT PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE THAT GOVERNMENT AND QUASI-GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS HAVE IMPORTED VAST NUMBERS FROM OVERSEAS ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS AND WHO KNOW THAT GIVEN THE CHANCE MANY LOCALLY COULD EASILY HAVE ACQUIRED SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

ONE SOLUTION IS TO REMOVE THE PRESENT STATUTORY PROHIBITION AGAINST THE GRANTING OF DEGREES, AND THERE ARE THREE BASIC ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS:

- \* IT WOULD RESULT IN LOWERING OF STANDARDS WHICH WOULD BE BAD EDUCATIONALLY=
- \* IT MIGHT TEND TO DEPRECIATE THE COINAGE OF A DEGREE GRANTED BY A GOOD LOCAL UNIVERSITY= AND
- \* OUR SOCIETY NEEDS MANY MORE PEOPLE TRAINED IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY THAN HOLDING GENERAL DEGREES.

AGAINST THESE THREE ARGUMENTS, MR. LO REASONED THAT:

- \* PERMISSION TO GRANT DEGREES, IF ANYTHING, MUST TEND TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF TEACHING AND FACILITIES OF POST-SECONDARY ESTABLISHMENTS, RATHER THAN THE OPPOSITE=
- \* WE COULD ADOPT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF ACCREDITING CERTAIN UNIVERSITIES OR CERTAIN COURSES WITHIN A UNIVERSITY SO THAT THE GENERAL COINAGE OF A DEGREE WOULD NOT BE DEPRECIATED= BESIDES DEPRECIATING THE COINAGE IS NO BAD THING IF IT ACTS AS A BRAKE ON OUR BRAIN-DRAIN, AND
- \* WE CAN HAVE MORE DEGREES FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY= INDEED IF THE ORIGINAL ARGUMENT IS TO BE PAID MORE THAN LIP SERVICE, THE POLYTECHNIC ORDINANCE SHOULD NOW HAVE BEEN AMENDED TO PERMIT THE POLYTECHNIC TO GRANT DEGREES.

MR. LO SAID THAT BY A NUMBER OF ORDINANCES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GRASPED WIDE POWERS IN ORDER SEVERELY TO CONTROL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY PLACE OF LEARNING AND SEVERELY TO RESTRICT THE RIGHT TO GRANT DEGREES. HE THOUGHT IT IS WRONG EDUCATIONALLY AND UNWISE POLITICALLY TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION OF CONTROL WITHOUT HAVING THE WILL OR THE ABILITY TO EXERCISE IT PROPERLY.

+THE ADMINISTRATION MUST SELECT ONE OF TWO OPTIONS: IF IT INTENDS TO RETAIN THE STRANGLEHOLD THAT IT HAS ON EDUCATION THEN IT MUST REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS AND DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE. OTHERWISE IT SHOULD REDUCE CONTROL.+

HE WARNED: +ANY OUTDATED SYSTEM WHICH PREVENTS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF INTELLIGENT PEOPLE FROM FULLY DEVELOPING THEIR TALENTS AND ABILITY WILL BUILD UP UNCONTROLLABLE PRESSURES WHICH ARE SOCIALLY DISRUPTIVE.+

MR. ALEX WU : GREEN PAPER THINKING UNNECESSARILY UTILITARIAN

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THE HON. ALEX WU NOTED THAT THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN THE GREEN PAPER TO THE UNDESIRABILITY OF EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY TO EMPLOY THEIR TALENTS. THIS UNNECESSARILY UTILITARIAN THINKING REFLECTS AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE WHICH DESERVES EXAMINATION AND CLARIFICATION, HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT CONTRARY TO CHINESE IDEAS ON EDUCATION SOME WESTERN SOCIETIES HAVE VIRTUALLY ABANDONED MORAL AND ETHICAL TEACHING AS A FEATURE OF FORMAL EDUCATION, BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR MORALS - OR CULTURE - IN OUR SYSTEM.

PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TODAY HAVE RELAXED THEIR ATTITUDE TO TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO ACADEMIC EDUCATION. +BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN IGNORE THE DESIRE OR THE NEED FOR A BROAD EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS, WHATEVER THEIR ACADEMIC STATUS OR THEIR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS,+ HE SAID.

PERHAPS IT WAS THOUGHT THAT WE COULD ONLY AFFORD TO EXPEND OUR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON INSTRUCTION WHICH YIELDS A DIRECT RETURN IN INCREASED SKILLS AT WORK. EVEN THIS STERILE APPROACH IS OPEN TO SERIOUS QUESTION ON ITS OWN TERMS. +IN A WORLD OF RAPIDLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGY THE MOST EFFECTIVE WORK-FORCE IS THAT WHICH IS ADAPTABLE, RECEPTIVE TO NEW IDEAS AND CAPABLE OF LEARNING NEW SKILLS. THE PREREQUISITE IS A BROAD EDUCATION RATHER THAN A NARROW ONE.

+WE MUST NOT THINK OF EDUCATION AS A VOCATIONAL PREPARATION FOR A PATTERN OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT A POINT IN TIME, OR EVEN FOR A PREDICTABLE FUTURE. WE DO NOT HAVE A PREDICTABLE FUTURE. WE HAVE A FUTURE FULL OF CHALLENGE AND WE CAN ONLY SUCCEED BY BEING FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A SOUND GENERAL EDUCATION MUST LIE BEHIND ALL TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION, WITH A MUCH HIGHER STANDARD OF LANGUAGE SKILL, A MUCH WIDER BACKGROUND OF READING, AND FAMILIARITY WITH THE LEARNING PROCESS.

MR. WU DID NOT DOUBT THE NEED FOR AN INCREASED AMOUNT AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT TECHNICAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE THOUGHT OF AS A SECOND BEST FOR THE LESS GIFTED, WHICH WAS UNFORTUNATELY THE IMPRESSION WHICH CAME OVER FROM SEVERAL KEY PHRASES IN THE GREEN PAPER.

HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD BROADEN EVERY TYPE OF EDUCATION AND REGRETTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER INTRODUCING 'LIBERAL STUDIES' AS PART OF THE REGULAR CURRICULUM IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

HE DID NOT REGARD THE INTRODUCTION OF CLASSES IN ART AND DESIGN, DRESSMAKING AND COMMERCE AND SECONDARY IV AND V AS A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO BROADEN EDUCATION AND DID NOT ACCEPT THE RELUCTANCE OF THE GREEN PAPER TO DEAL CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF THE PURE ARTS AS OPPOSED TO THEIR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS.

HE DOUBTED THE GREEN PAPER'S CLAIM THAT MUSIC IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHEN MOST TEACHERS IN THE SUBJECT ARE UNQUALIFIED AND MOST SCHOOLS POORLY EQUIPPED.

HE ONLY REFERRED TO MUSIC BECAUSE THE REFERENCES TO MUSIC TEACHING IN THE GREEN PAPER EXEMPLIFY ITS FAILURE TO TREAT EDUCATION AS A COMPLETE CULTIVATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

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MR. FRANCIS TIEN : BALANCED PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION VITAL

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THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN, WHO WAS INDISPOSED AND WHOSE COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER WERE PRESENTED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE HON. ALEX WU, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DECREASING SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL COURSES AND ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INDUSTRY.

HE SAID WITH THE INCREASE IN SUBSIDISED PLACES IN FORMS IV-V AND THE DROP IN THE SIZE OF THE 15 YEAR-OLD POPULATION, IN 1986 SOME 63 PER CENT OF FORM III LEAVERS WILL HAVE SUBSIDISED PLACES.

THE REMAINING 37 PER CENT, OR 27,700 YOUNG PERSONS WILL ENTER EMPLOYMENT ONLY IF THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO, BUT MORE LIKELY THEY WOULD CONTINUE FULL-TIME EDUCATION TO FORMS IV AND V AND BEYOND.

IF THE NUMBER OF FORM IV PLACES IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS REMAINS AT THE CURRENT LEVEL, THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT PLACES FOR ALMOST ALL FORM III LEAVERS.

MR. TIEN FORESAW, IN THE SHORT TERM, A DISRUPTION OF THE MANPOWER SUPPLY TO INDUSTRY AT THE OPERATIVE AND CRAFT LEVELS, AND IN THE LONG TERM, WITH ALL YOUNG PERSONS TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE FORMS IV-V, VERY FEW OF THEM WILLING TO TAKE UP SUCH JOBS.

HE STRONGLY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION, WHICH HAS A CLOSER LINK WITH APPRENTICESHIP AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY EMPLOYERS.

THE ANNUAL INTAKE WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPANDED FROM THE PRESENT 3,000 TO ABOUT 10,000 A YEAR, AS ESTIMATED BY THE COMMITTEE ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THE TRAINING COUNCIL.

MR. TIEN AGREED WITH THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD NEED TO CONTINUE THEIR POST-FORM III EDUCATION ON A PART-TIME BASIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH EMPLOYMENT. HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR POST FORM III PLACES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

HE ALSO WANTED ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED TO CATER FOR THOSE FORM III LEAVERS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR GENERAL EDUCATION.

AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, MR. TIEN HOPED THAT POSTGRADUATE PRACTICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN INDUSTRY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL.

THESE ARE NECESSARY IF THE GRADUATES ARE TO HAVE PRACTICAL VALUE TO INDUSTRY AND NOT MERE +PAPER+ ENGINEERS.

HE THOUGHT IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A BALANCED GENERAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME GEARED TO THE DEVELOPING NEEDS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, IF WE ARE TO SUSTAIN OUR AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

DR. HENRY HU: HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE

DR. THE HON. HENRY HU OBSERVED THAT AS WE CANNOT PROVIDE EVERY YOUNG PERSON WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, IT IS ADVISABLE THAT HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE SO THAT STUDENTS MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO STUDY AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING OF COMPARABLE STANDARDS.

IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IF CLOSE COORDINATION AND LIAISON OVER THE COURSE OF STUDY COULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE INSTITUTIONS AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

DR. HU ALSO THOUGHT THAT HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE VARIED BECAUSE BOTH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MANIFOLD AND DIFFERENT.

HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO, IN SO FAR AS SENIOR AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IS CONCERNED, WHERE STUDENTS CAN HAVE MORE CHOICE TO SUIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE ADDED THAT IT IS ADVISABLE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF PROVIDING A THREE-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND A FOUR-YEAR ONE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

WITH SUCH VARIED AND MANIFOLD FORMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THERE SHOULD BE A CENTRAL AND INDEPENDENT BODY SUCH AS THE HK EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY TO AWARD DEGREES AND ASSESS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

DR. HU SAID THE AIMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE THREEFOLD:

- \* CULTIVATING VIRTUE AND A SPIRIT OF HUMANITY, AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPING A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE,
- \* PROMOTING FREEDOM OF LEARNING, TO ACHIEVE WORLDWIDE ACADEMIC DISTINCTION, AND
- \* MEETING THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF HONG KONG, BY TRAINING STUDENTS TO BE EFFICIENT AND WELL-BALANCED CITIZENS FOR VARIOUS SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY.

/HE FELT .....

HE FELT THAT THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED HIGHER EDUCATION BUT NOT AN ACADEMIC DEGREE SHOULD NOT BE BARRED FROM ENTERING CERTAIN PROFESSIONS IF THEY HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE COMPETENT BY ACTUAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

THIS WOULD MAKE OUR YOUNGER GENERATION MUCH MORE CONTENTED AND HARDER-WORKING. THE DEMAND FOR ENTERING A UNIVERSITY AND OBTAINING A DEGREE WOULD ALSO BE LESSENED AND SOCIAL PRESSURE GENERATED FROM THE TREMENDOUS DEMAND FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION WOULD BE ALLEVIATED.

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MR. S.L. CHEN: REDUCE NUMBER OF PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

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THE HON. S.L. CHEN CRITICISED THE EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR BEING TOO +EXAMINATION-RIDDEN+ AND SUGGESTED THAT THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION COULD BE ADOPTED TO SELECT STUDENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITIES TO DISPENSE WITH THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC ARGUMENT FOR THIS IS THAT NEITHER LOWER FORM VI NOR UPPER FORM VI MEET THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES FOR A COMBINED ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WHILE FORM V IS THE COMMONLY ACCEPTED TERMINAL POINT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THOSE SELECTED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG COULD BE GIVEN TWO FURTHER YEARS OF EDUCATION, WHILE THOSE FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY COULD BE GIVEN ONE MORE YEAR, AND WITHOUT A FURTHER EXAMINATION, THEY AND THEIR TEACHERS WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLECTUAL FACULTIES AND CAPABILITIES.

ON THE EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, MR. CHEN STRESSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO COMPROMISE IN QUALITY MERELY BECAUSE TARGET FIGURES HAVE TO BE REACHED BY A CERTAIN COMMITTED DATE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF BUILDING MANY MORE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MAXIMISING THE EXPANSION OF AIDED SCHOOLS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THEIR QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND OPERATION EFFICIENCY HAVE LONG BEEN PROVED AND GIVEN THE NECESSARY ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, THEY WOULD LIKELY RESPOND TO CATERING FOR THE ADDITIONAL NEEDS. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN CONCENTRATE ON SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT STANDARDS ARE ACCEPTABLE.

MR. CHEN FELT THAT IN OUR SECONDARY EDUCATION THERE SHOULD BE MORE EFFORT TO INCULCATE THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NOT ONLY ARE WE LIVING IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY, WE ALSO RELY ON INDUSTRY TO CREATE THE WEALTH UPON WHICH OUR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPEND, LEADING STUDENTS TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN AN INDUSTRIAL CAREER.

HE ASKED FOR A REALISTIC REVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY PLACES TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE 15-YEAR-OLD.

HE ESTIMATED THAT IN 1981, THERE WILL BE 46,800 SUBSIDISED FORM IV PLACES AND 25,000 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL PLACES, THAT IS, OUT OF THE TOTAL 93,650 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION, 21,850 WILL BE WITHOUT THESE PLACES.

IN 1986, THERE WILL BE 46,800 SUBSIDISED FORM IV PLACES AND 25,000 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL PLACES BUT WITH THE 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION DROPPING TO 74,500, 2,700 WILL BE WITHOUT THESE PLACES.

FURTHERMORE, HE EXPLAINED, AS STATED IN THE GREEN PAPER, EDUCATION CARRIES A HIGH ESTEEM IN HONG KONG SOCIETY= MOST OF THE FORM III LEAVERS WOULD PREFER TO PROCEED TO FURTHER FORMAL EDUCATION RATHER THAN TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND LESS STILL TO INDUSTRY.

MOST PARENTS, HAVING SAVED THE COSTS OF PROVIDING PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, WILL ALSO BE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO PROCEED TO FORM IV-V REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY CAN BENEFIT FROM IT. MOST PROBABLY, BY 1986 OVER 96 PER CENT OF OUR 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION WOULD AIM TO COMPLETE AT LEAST FORM V EDUCATION.

AS THERE WILL ONLY BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE AFTER FORM V, THE MAJORITY OF THE GRADUATES WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO ENTER EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRY OR COMMERCE.

WHILE SOME MAY SAY THAT IT IS GOOD TO HAVE A BETTER EDUCATION WORK FORCE, THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THEM WOULD THINK, NOT WITHOUT SOME JUSTIFICATION, THAT THEY ARE TOO GOOD FOR THE LEVEL OF WORK IN WHICH MOST OF THEM WOULD BE EMPLOYED, NAMELY CRAFT AND OPERATIVE.

AS THE BULK OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSES ARE AT THE CRAFT LEVEL, ENTRY TO WHICH IS FORM III, YOUNG PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED FORM V MAY ALSO FEEL TOO GOOD FOR SUCH COURSES.

THE GREEN PAPER STATED THAT IN HONG KONG, FOR EVERY ONE PERSON WORKING AT THE TECHNOLOGIST LEVEL THERE ARE MORE THAN FOUR AT THE TECHNICIAN LEVEL AND ABOUT 11 AT THE CRAFT LEVEL. MR. CHEN ASKED WHERE INDUSTRY IS TO FIND PEOPLE FOR CRAFT LEVEL TRAINING IF THE BULK OF OUR 15-YEAR-OLDS WILL CHOOSE TO CONTINUE SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

MR. CHARLES YEUNG: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EDUCATION

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THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE EDUCATION POLICY AND OBJECTIVES AS HE FELT THAT EVENTUALLY AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF EDUCATION WILL HAVE TO BE DEvised.

/HE POINTED .....

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GREEN PAPER, LIKE THE 1974 WHITE PAPER, COVERS ONLY ONE SECTOR OF THE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

MR. YEUNG ALSO ASKED FOR A REORGANISATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEAL CENTRALLY WITH THE FULL SPECTRUM OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, IN ORDER TO REPLACE THE PRESENT DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY, WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT LOOKING AFTER NURSERY SCHOOLS; THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AFTER THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC BEING AUTONOMOUS BODIES.

ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, MR. YEUNG THOUGHT THAT FULL OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS AS LONG AS THE FULL EDUCATION BILL IS BORNE BY THEM AND NOT BY THE PUBLIC.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, THE SAME OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE DENIED TO OTHER WORTHWHILE STUDENTS FOR WANT OF FINANCE, LEST THE COMMUNITY SHOULD SUFFER AS A WHOLE.

HE SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, SUCH STUDENTS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH TUITION FEES, LIVING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE AND, IN CASES OF HARDSHIP, SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO HELP THEM SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES.

IN SUCH CASES, HOWEVER, THE CHOICE OF STUDY WOULD HAVE TO BE GUIDED, IF NOT DICTATED, BY THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF THE COMMUNITY, HAVING REGARD TO THE INDIVIDUAL INCLINATIONS AND APTITUDES OF THE STUDENTS CONCERNED.

ACCORDINGLY, MR. YEUNG THOUGHT THAT PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT SUBVENTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND BE ALLOWED TO AWARD ACADEMIC DEGREES, TO EASE THE DEMAND ON SUBVENTED INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES SO THAT THERE CAN BE MORE PLACES FOR STUDENTS COMING FROM FAMILIES WITH MODEST MEANS.

HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON STUDENTS OF HAVING TO RECEIVE A GENERAL EDUCATION IN TWO LANGUAGES, ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

INADEQUATE TIME IS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH, RESULTING IN EXCESSIVE HOME WORK AND THE NEED FOR PRIVATE TUITION, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER OBJECTIVES OF GENERAL EDUCATION, SUCH AS MOULDING OF THE STUDENT'S CHARACTER, FOSTERING OF HIS SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS, BUILDING UP OF HIS BODY AND CULTIVATION OF HIS APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE.

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION MR. YEUNG SUGGESTED IS TO CONCENTRATE ON ONE LANGUAGE ONLY. IN ANY EVENT, HE THOUGHT A FULL EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

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SIR DENYS ACTING GOVERNOR  
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SIR DENYS ROBERTS, HAS ASSUMED THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR FROM YESTERDAY EVENING (JULY 5) FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE ON MASS TRANSIT LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM  
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON THE MASS TRANSIT LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM WHICH HE SPOKE ABOUT IN YESTERDAY'S SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR AT 3 P.M.

ALSO ON THE PANEL WILL BE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, DR. RICHARD BUTLER=MR. BRIAN MARTIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MARTIN AND VOORHEES, TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS= AND SENIOR ENGINEER ENVIRONMENT BRANCH, MR. KEN WOODHOUSE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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## COMPLEX PLANNING FOR COUNTRY PARKS

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HONG KONG'S 19 COUNTRY PARKS ARE BEING PLANNED AND LANDSCAPED TO SUIT THE INDIVIDUALITY OF EACH AREA, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. TED NICHOLS SAID THIS EVENING.

+CONSIDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS OVER SUCH AN EXTENSIVE AREA OF MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL LAND MASS, THERE IS A VERY REAL NEED TO IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUALITY OF EACH COUNTRY PARK AND EVEN SUB AREAS WITHIN EACH PARK, OTHERWISE A VERY MONOTONOUS STANDARDISED PATTERN COULD DEVELOP WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM LOSE MUCH OF THEIR ATTRACTIVENESS,+ MR. NICHOLS SAID AT A LIONS CLUB OF CASTLE PEAK DINNER AT THE PARK HOTEL.

AND, HE ADDED THAT THE INDIVIDUALITY OF A COUNTRY PARK COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT OUT BY A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHARACTER AND RESOURCES OF EACH PARK -- THE WORK OF A TRAINED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT-CUM-ECOLOGIST.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUCH AS PICNIC AND BARBECUE SITES, CAMPING AREAS AND NATURE TRAILS WHICH APPEAR IN THE COUNTRY PARKS WERE THE END PRODUCT OF A VERY COMPLEX PLANNING PROCEDURE AND NOT THE RESULT OF HAPHAZARD SELECTION.

MR. NICHOLS SAID THERE WERE 3.6 MILLION VISITORS TO COUNTRY PARK MANAGED AREAS LAST YEAR AND THAT HALF OF THE POPULATION OF 4.7 MILLION WAS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, ACTIVE AND KEEN TO BROADEN THEIR EXPERIENCE OF OUTDOOR LIFE AND IN A VERY REAL NEED FOR SPACE IN WHICH TO +LET OFF STEAM+.

+WE MUST THEREFORE ATTEMPT TO ANTICIPATE AND BUDGET FOR MEETING FUTURE NEEDS OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE VISITORS IF THEY ARE NOT TO DESTROY, BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS THE VERY NATURAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES WHICH THEY HAVE SET OUT TO ENJOY,+ HE SAID.

BESIDES LEGAL PROTECTION TO PARK AREAS, MANAGEMENT CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED SO THAT CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, CLEANSING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COULD BECOME EFFECTIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, 14 FORESTRY PROTECTION POSTS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO MANAGEMENT CENTRES. AND WITH AN AMBITIOUS FOUR-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME INITIATED RECENTLY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MANAGEMENT CENTRES AND SUB-CENTRES, COMPLETE WITH STAFF, NOW TOTAL 18. TWO MORE WILL BE COMPLETED LATER IN THE YEAR.

MR. NICHOLS SAID THERE WERE THREE AIMS IN THE COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME:

- \* CONSERVATION TO SAFEGUARD THE SCENIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE=
- \* RECREATION TO PROVIDE FOR INFORMAL OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR THE ORDINARY CITIZEN= AND
- \* EDUCATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC'S UNDERSTANDING AND THEREBY THEIR ENJOYMENT OF THEIR COUNTRYSIDE.

+EACH COUNTRY PARK PLAN IN ITSELF MUST REMAIN FLEXIBLE AND NOT 'STATUTORY' IN NATURE= AND EACH IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMME MUST LIKEWISE BE AN ESSENTIALLY PRACTICAL WORKING GUIDELINE, CAPABLE OF ADAPTATION TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF CHANGING GENERATIONS,+ SAID MR. NICHOLS.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

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THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL START ON SUNDAY (JULY 9) IN ABERDEEN.

TO MARK THE OPENING CEREMONY A PARACHUTE DEMONSTRATION AND A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD. THERE WILL ALSO BE A MARCHING BAND DISPLAY, +MOSQUITO MATCHES+, A VARIETY SHOW, FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCE, AND AMONG OTHER INTERESTING GAMES, A RIDE ON AN HOT-AIR BALLOON.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOCIAL WORK), MRS. EVELYN DOE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE THREE-HOUR CEREMONY, STARTING AT 2.15 P.M. AT THE WONG CHUK HANG FOOTBALL PITCH, WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A CHINESE OPERA TO BE STAGED BY THE LUNG CHEUNG OPERA GROUP.

THIS YEAR'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL COMPRISE MORE THAN 400 EVENTS, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY 53 LOCAL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE WIDE RANGE OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AIM AT ENABLING LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN TO MAKE USE OF THEIR SUMMER LEISURE TIME TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AND A HEALTHIER CHARACTER THROUGH GROUP LIFE.

THE PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING, YOUTH WORKING CAMPS, PHYSICAL TRAINING, COMMUNITY SERVICES, VARIETY SHOWS AND VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

ADMISSION TO SUNDAY'S OPENING CEREMONY IS FREE. TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE (SOUTHERN) AT 52-64 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (SOUTHERN) AT 22 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, OR AT ANY OTHER LOCAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN CENTRES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.15 P.M. AT THE WONG CHUK HANG FOOTBALL PITCH, WONG CHUK HANG ROAD, ABERDEEN.

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YUEN LONG'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

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YUEN LONG'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME GOT OFF TO A FLYING START TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FAMOUS +RED DEVILS+ PARACHUTE TEAM DELIGHTED MORE THAN 4,000 LOCAL STUDENTS WITH THEIR BREATH-TAKING DEMONSTRATION.

THE PARACHUTE DEMONSTRATION BY THE BRITISH FORCES WAS ONE OF THE MANY COLOURFUL PERFORMANCES AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY HELD AT THE YUEN LONG STADIUM.

OTHER PERFORMANCES INCLUDED BRASS BAND MUSIC, GYMNASTIC DISPLAY, SONGS AND DANCES, GAMES COMPETITION AND WORDPLAY BY 1,000 STUDENTS.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN TODD, OFFICIATED AT THE CEREMONY.

IN HIS ADDRESS, MR. TODD SAID THIS WAS THE TENTH YEAR OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE NOW WELL ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+THEY INVOLVE A GREAT NUMBER OF DIFFERENT BODIES INCLUDING VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES, THE BRITISH FORCES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND A VARIETY OF CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

+THIS CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES ENABLES A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE AIM OF ENCOURAGING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, HELPING THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE, SKILLS AND INTERESTS AND FOSTERING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY IN DIFFERENT WAYS,+ HE SAID.

MR. TODD ADDED THAT THESE OBJECTIVES CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN YUEN LONG AS SHOWN BY THE IMPRESSIVE LIST OF ALMOST TWO HUNDRED DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING THE PROGRAMMED PERIOD.

YUEN LONG'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME INCLUDES ALL FORMS OF SPORTS, CLASSES AND COMPETITION IN MUSIC, DANCING AND ART, CAMPING AND BOATING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAY.

MR. TODD PRAISED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR. TAI KUEN, OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, LOCAL SCHOOL HEADMASTERS AND RURAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN ORGANISING THE PROGRAMME.

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