



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

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GOVERNOR REVIEWS HONG KONG CONDITIONS
AT LONDON DINNER
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HONG KONG'S SUCCESS STORY, ITS PROBLEMS, ITS PEOPLES AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS -- THESE WERE THE MAIN FEATURES OUTLINED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEMOSE, IN HIS SPEECH TO THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL 'DRAGON BOAT' DINNER IN LONDON LAST (MONDAY) NIGHT.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD SUFFERED GREATLY FROM MISCONCEPTIONS AS TO THE SORT OF PLACE IT IS, AND ITS DYNAMIC PROGRESSIVENESS AND THE RAPID CHANGES TAKING PLACE WERE NOT ALWAYS FULLY APPRECIATED.

+EVOLUTION, RAPID EVOLUTION AND WILLINGNESS TO FACE AND PROMOTE CHANGE ARE AMONGST THE MOST STRIKING FEATURES OF HONG KONG.+ HE TOLD THE DISTINGUISHED GATHERING WHICH INCLUDED THREE FORMER HONG KONG GOVERNORS -- SIR DAVID TRENCH, SIR ROBERT BLACK AND SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM.

EARLIER, MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MADE A LAST-MINUTE ALTERATION TO HIS PLANS TO ENABLE HIM TO ATTEND A RECEPTION PRECEDING THE DINNER AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL. HONG KONG QUARTERS IN LONDON WELCOMED THIS AS A COURTEOUS GESTURE BY MR. CALLAGHAN AND SAW IT AS A SIGNIFICANT TOKEN OF HIS CONSIDERATION AND REGARD FOR HONG KONG. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS UNABLE TO STAY FOR DINNER AS HE HAD TO KEEP A LONG-STANDING ENGAGEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WHERE HE IS DUE TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OTHER E.E.C. COUNTRIES.

IN HIS ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR EMPHASISED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A LAISSEZ-FAIRE ONE AS IT HAS OFTEN MADE OUT TO BE. +IF IT HAD BEEN, HONG KONG COULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED THE CONDITIONS PRODUCED BY THE INFLOX OF IMMIGRANTS,+ HE SAID.

SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE SOCIAL FIELDS TO ENABLE PROGRAMMES TO BE DRAWN UP TO END THE DEFICIENCIES FORCED ON HONG KONG IN THE PAST, HE SAID. THE OBJECTIVES OF THESE PROGRAMMES WERE A SELF-CONTAINED HOME FOR ALL IN A REASONABLE ENVIRONMENT, SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL, THE TRIPLING OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, A DECISIVE EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, A ROLLING FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF INCREASING SOCIAL WELFARE, AND THE STEADY EXPANSION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

+THESE PROGRAMMES,+ SIR MURRAY STRESSED, +ARE ESSENTIAL IF CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG ARE EVER TO BE NORMALISED AND BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO ITS INHABITANTS, AND BE SOMETHING OF WHICH THEY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM MAY BE PROUD.+

/THE GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THESE PROGRAMMES WERE INTENSELY EXCITING, BUT +THEY ARE ALSO EXTREMELY COSTLY.+

HE ADDED, HOWEVER: +GIVEN NORMAL PROSPERITY THEY ARE WITHIN OUR MEANS, BUT FROM YEAR TO YEAR WE WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY AND KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON FINANCIAL REALITIES AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US FROM ALL SOURCES.+

REFERRING TO THE ECONOMY, SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY WORLD MARKETS, HONG KONG HAD SO FAR COME THROUGH BETTER THAN MOST, THANKS TO THE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS AND SPEED OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, HARD WORK, SKILL AND REALISM OF WAGE EARNERS.

+THE LATEST INDICATORS STILL SHOW A RATE OF ANNUAL GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OF ABOUT SEVEN TO EIGHT PER CENT, + HE SAID, +AND THE QUANTITY OF EXPORTS MANUFACTURED IN HONG KONG IN THE LAST QUARTER IS THE HIGHEST ACHIEVED, AS IS THE TONNAGE OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES SHIPPED.+

HE ADDED: +THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT AT THE MOMENT HONG KONG INDUSTRY IS MORE COMPETITIVE THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME YEARS, AND IT IS THEREFORE WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER DEMAND THERE IS IN THE REST OF THE WORLD.+

NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNOR WENT ON, THE GALES BLOWING IN WORLD MARKETS WERE TAKING THEIR TOLL IN HONG KONG AS ELSEWHERE. WHILE MOST INDUSTRIALISTS WERE ACHIEVING COMPARATIVE OVERALL SUCCESS, THIS WAS AT THE EXPENSE OF SQUEEZED MARGINS AND OF EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT AND ANXIETY. +AT THIS PRICE MOST ARE RIDING OUT THE SWELL OR MAKING PROGRESS, BUT SOME, AND PARTICULARLY SOME SMALLER FIRMS WITH SMALL RESOURCES OF FINANCE OR MANAGEMENT, ARE NOT.+

WORRIED

THE ASPECT SIR MURRAY FOUND MOST WORRYING WAS THAT EXPORTS, ALTHOUGH HIGH, HAD NOT PRODUCED FULL EMPLOYMENT AS IN THE PAST.

+ON THE CONTRARY, THE LABOUR MARKET IS COMPARATIVELY SLACK, AND THERE IS SOME UNEMPLOYMENT AND MORE UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THOUGH WAGES HAVE RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY, THEY HAVE NOT RISEN TO ANYTHING LIKE THE SAME EXTENT AS THE PRICES TO BE PAID FOR THE IMPORTED NECESSITIES OF LIFE.+

AS A RESULT, THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FALL-BACK IN REAL WAGES AFTER 10 YEARS OF STEADY RISE, AND MOST FAMILIES IN HONG KONG NOW HAD TO ECONOMISE IN A WAY THEY DID NOT HAVE TO IN YEARS.

SIR MURRAY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTED THIS SITUATION TO START CORRECTING ITSELF TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, PROVIDED NO NEW TURN TO INFLATION WAS GIVEN ELSEWHERE THAT AFFECTED PRICES IN HONG KONG, AND PROVIDED DEMAND FOR HONG KONG GOODS KEEP UP.

HONG KONG HAD ALSO HAD ITS UGLIER FEATURES IN RECENT YEARS, SIR MURRAY SAID, CITING THE SHARP RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME AND THE RECKLESS USE OF WEAPONS IN ROBBERY AND GANG FIGHTS WHICH HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF MURDERS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND RAISED THE RATE OF ROBBERY TO FIVE TIMES THAT IN LONDON.

+THIS, + HE SAID, +HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN HONG KONG TO THE USE OF THE DEATH SENTENCE.+

HE ADDED THAT +IT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH MOST PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY IN HONG KONG FEEL STRONGEST AT THIS TIME.+

THE GOVERNOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN EASED BY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CHINA. +THE RELAXATION OF TENSION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC IN GENERAL, AND IMPROVED SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN GREATLY TO HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGE.+

SIR MURRAY ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION AND TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO HONG KONG.

+THE STEADY SUPPORT AND PERSONAL INTEREST OF SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME AND OF SIR ANTHONY ROYLE WERE OF IMMENSE VALUE AND WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED, + HE SAID.

+THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S EARLY REAFFIRMATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ROBUST WORDS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AND LORD GORONBY-ROBERT'S IMMEDIATE SYMPATHY AND INTEREST -- THESE ARE THINGS THAT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN HONG KONG, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND SENSE OF BELONGING ON THE ONE HAND, AND SENSE OF NEGLECT AND ISOLATION ON THE OTHER.+

ASSURANCE

SIR ANTHONY ROYLE, A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND FORMER UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, ALSO SPOKE AT THE DINNER AND GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE OVERALL WISH OF MP'S OF BOTH PARTIES WAS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HONG KONG.

+THERE IS NO PARTY POLITICAL DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT BRITAIN HAS TO HONG KONG, + HE SAID, +AND THERE IS AN OVERALL ALL-PARTY DETERMINATION IN BRITAIN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO PROSPER AND THAT ALL WHO LIVE THERE SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE LINKS THEY HAVE WITH BRITAIN.+

SIR ANTHONY SAID HONG KONG'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ITS OWN AFFAIRS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, AS WAS THAT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN ITS OWN AFFAIRS.

HE WARNED HOWEVER: +WE MUST NOT ALLOW THESE PREOCCUPATIONS TO BE TALKED UP INTO MUTUAL CONFRONTATION. SUCH A CONFRONTATION COULD ONLY BE TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OF THIS IS BRITAIN'S POSITION ON THE WORLD STAGE.+

SIR ANTHONY SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH DETERMINATION AND GOODWILL IN TWO AREAS -- FIRST, AS REGARDS CHINA AND SECOND, AS REGARDS HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN BRITAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE E.E.C.

+HONG KONG,+ HE SAID, +CAN ONLY EXIST AND CONFIDENCE BE MAINTAINED WITH A FRIENDLY CHINA ON ITS BORDERS.+

THE LAST BRITISH ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA, HE SAID, WAS PROMPTED IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG'S INTERESTS= THE TRADING POSSIBILITIES WITH CHINA= AND THE DESIRABILITY OF HELPING CHINA WITH HER AIM TO PLAY A PART ON THE WORLD SCENE.

+THIS POLICY HAS MET WITH RESOUNDING SUCCESS AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL PLAY ITS PART IN MAINTAINING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AND ASSISTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AS A MAJOR TRADING NATION IN THE FAR EAST DURING THE YEARS AHEAD,+ SIR ANTHONY SAID.

THE WELCOMING SPEECH AT THE DINNER WAS GIVEN BY SIR MICHAEL HERRIES, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION.

GUESTS FROM HONG KONG INCLUDED SIR DOUGLAS CLAQUE, DR. LI CHOH-MING, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, AND MR. LI FOOK-KOW, SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION THIS EVENING.

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OPENING OF SHEK WU HUI PILOT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

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HONG KONG'S RESOURCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WILL GET A NOTABLE BOOST ON FRIDAY (JUNE 28) WITH THE OPENING OF THE PILOT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT SHEK WU HUI NEAR FAHLING.

THE PLANT, BUILT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$13.5 MILLION AND THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WILL BE FORMALLY OPENED BY MR. J.L. HARDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, AT 3.30 P.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT, SAID TODAY THAT APART FROM PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR SHEK WU HUI, THE PLANT WILL ALSO SERVE AS AN EXPERIMENTAL AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR MODERN TECHNIQUES IN THE BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF SEWAGE.

FOUR MAIN TYPES OF BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PROCESSES HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE PLANT AND THEY WILL BE EXTENSIVELY STUDIED TO ASSESS THEIR SUITABILITY UNDER CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN HONG KONG.

+BY EACH OF THESE PROCESSES, REMOVAL OF ABOUT 90% OF THE POLLUTANTS CAN BE ACHIEVED. INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM EXPERIMENTS ON THE VARIOUS TREATMENT PROCESSES WILL BE USED IN THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF FUTURE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS FOR ABATING POLLUTION AND THEREFORE RESULTING IN A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR HONG KONG.+

THE SHEK WU HUI PILOT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WAS DESIGNED BY CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MESSRS. J.D. AND D.H. WATSON, FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THE CONTRACTORS WERE MESSRS. JOHN LOK AND PARTNERS LTD., HUNG YUE AND CO. AND JARDINE ENGINEERING CORPORATION LTD.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THIS OCCASION. PRESS BUSES WILL LEAVE FOR SHEK WU HUI FROM THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING) AT 2.00 P.M. SHARP.

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PLANT IS BOXED SEPARATELY TODAY.

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SITE FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT A 28-ACRE SITE ON KOWLOON BAY WILL BE CLEARED ON THURSDAY (JUNE 27) FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

PART OF THE SITE WHICH IS AT PRESENT BEING OCCUPIED BY SOME 80 RESITE SHOPS IS IMMEDIATELY NEEDED FOR THE BUILDING OF THE AIRPORT TUNNEL ROAD AND A NEW LICENSED AREA AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LONG TERM PLAN TO PROVIDE HOMES FOR THE GENUINELY HOMELESS.

OF THESE RESITE SHOPS, 22 WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN CONVERTED FOR DOMESTIC USE AND THE OCCUPANTS HAVE BEEN OFFERED RESITE ACCOMODATION. APART FROM THESE, MOST OTHERS WERE NOT VIABLE AND ONLY 17 OF THEM WERE IN BUSINESS WHEN THE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT ITS INITIAL SURVEY.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT EMPHASISED THAT THE AREA MUST BE CLEARED AS SCHEDULED. +OTHERWISE, ALL THESE PLANNED PROJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD UP,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION BY SOME 80 ODD RESITE SHOP OPERATORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ANY SHOP OPERATORS WHO COULD PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIMS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEM FOR EARLY PROCESSING.

HE WENT ON: +THE EXISTENCE OR NON-EXISTENCE OF THE STRUCTURES INVOLVED IS TOTALLY IRRELEVANT AS REGARD THE FULFILMENT OF THE NECESSARY CRITERIA ON WHICH THE ELIGIBILITY OF ANY SHOPS EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE WILL HINGE.+

THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ARE: SHOP-OPERATORS MUST BE ABLE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT THEIR RESITE SHOP STRUCTURE OR THEIR PREVIOUS BUSINESS STRUCTURE WAS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE THE 1964 GENERAL SQUATTER SURVEY= THEY MUST BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT THEIR BUSINESS WAS CARRIED OUT CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE 1965 GENERAL SHOP SURVEY= AND FINALLY BUSINESS WAS BEING CARRIED ON AT THE TIME OF THE SCREENING SURVEY CONDUCTED IN MARCH 1972.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE EARLIER STAGES OF THE CLEARANCE OF KOWLOON BAY AND AGAIN SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE FIRE IN NOVEMBER 1973 THE ABOVE CRITERIA WERE ADOPTED.

MORE THAN 100 RESITE SHOP OPERATORS WHO COULD MEET THESE CRITERIA WERE PAID EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$250,000.

+FROM THIS, SHOP OPERATORS SHOULD REALISE THAT THEY ARE NOT SUBJECTED TO ANY UNFAVOURABLE TREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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THE 80 000 RESITE SHOP OPERATORS WERE OFFERED THEIR PRESENT SHOP SITE EITHER IN 1967 OR 1968 ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY RESETTLEMENT RIGHT ON EVENTUAL CLEARANCE.

THIS SPECIAL CONDITION WAS STAMPED ON THEIR TENANCY CARD TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NO RESETTLEMENT RIGHT WOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE BUSINESS FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF FUTURE DISPUTE.

+HOWEVER, MOST OF THESE SHOP OPERATORS WERE GIVEN DOMESTIC ACCOMODATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE PREVIOUS CLEARANCES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALLEGATION OF A VERBAL PROMISE THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN SHOP UNITS BY THE GOVERNMENT ON CLEARANCE WAS COMPLETELY UNTRUE.

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SEMINAR ON YOUTH CAREERS
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A SEMINAR ON YOUTH CAREERS IS TO BE HELD AT THE END OF THIS MONTH TO PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTHS LIVING IN SAU MAU PING HOUSING ESTATE.

THE SEMINAR IS BEING ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE TWO ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SAU MAU PING SUB-OFFICE, THE CHINESE Y.M.C.A. SAU MAU PING CENTRE AND THE PING NGON YOUTH SERVICE CENTRE.

IT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HALL OF SAU MAU PING (SOUTH) ESTATE WELFARE BUILDING FROM 2.30 TO 5.45 P.M. ON SUNDAY (JUNE 30) AND ABOUT 120 YOUTHS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

APART FROM TALKS ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, THERE WILL ALSO BE FILMS AND THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE AFTERNOON WILL BE A PANEL DISCUSSION FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. YOUNG PEOPLE IN A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART.

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VISIT TO INDUSTRIAL SITES ON TSING YI

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, WILL VISIT TSING YI ISLAND TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO SEE SITES FOR TWO MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH WILL GIVE A \$200 MILLION TECHNOLOGICAL BOOST TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

ONE SITE IS ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED BY OUTBOARD MARINE CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTBOARD ENGINE MANUFACTURING PLANT. THE OTHER SITE WILL BE DEVELOPED BY DOW CHEMICAL PACIFIC LTD WHICH WILL CONSTRUCT A PLASTICS MANUFACTURING PLANT.

THEY ARE THE FIRST COMPANIES TO OBTAIN SITES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MODIFIED INDUSTRIAL LAND POLICY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG.

AFTER HIS VISIT TO TSING YI, MR. MCGREGOR WILL BE GOING ON TO SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR A SHOP-FLOOR TOUR OF HONG KONG PAPER MILLS LTD WHERE HE WILL SEE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS.

THE COMPANY EMPLOYS OVER 80 WORKERS AND PRODUCES INDUSTRIAL PAPER FOR PACKAGING PURPOSES. ITS PAPER MILL IS SITUATED AT LOT NO. 1624, TSIU KENG, SHEUNG SHUI.

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER MR. MCGREGOR'S VISIT TO TSING YI AND HONG KONG PAPER MILLS LTD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

PREVENTIVE SERVICE LAUNCHES HAVE BEEN LAID ON TO CONVEY NEWS REPRESENTATIVES TO TSING YI. THEY WILL BE LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT PIER (EAST ARM), CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AT 9.15 A.M. SHARP. THE PIER IS ADJACENT TO THE OUTLYING ISLANDS FERRY TERMINAL.

AFTER THE VISIT TO TSING YI, THE LAUNCHES WILL CONVEY THE PRESS PARTY TO TSUEN WAN PUBLIC PIER WHERE ROAD TRANSPORT WILL BE WAITING TO TAKE THE PARTY ON TO SHEUNG SHUI.

FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO HONG KONG PAPER MILLS LTD, ROAD TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RETURN THE PRESS PARTY TO TSUEN WAN PUBLIC PIER WHERE LAUNCHES WILL BE WAITING TO CONVEY THE PARTY TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

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GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM LONDON
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL RETURN FROM LONDON BY AIR TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON FOLLOWING A BRIEF VISIT TO BRITAIN.

SIR MURRAY WILL BE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MR. DENYS ROBERTS= THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, LIEUT. GENERAL SIR EDWIN DRAMALL= THE HON. SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES AND THE HON. SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN (MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)= THE HON. P.C. WOO (SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) AND MR. RAMON RODRIGUEZ BENSON, CONSUL GENERAL FOR MEXICO AND THE DOYEN OF THE CONSULAR CORPS IN HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR IS DUE TO ARRIVE AT KAI TAK AT ABOUT 5.30 P.M. BY FLIGHT BA-920 (BOEING 747).

SIR MURRAY WILL NOT BE MEETING THE PRESS AT THE AIRPORT BUT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR HIM TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE A FEW DAYS AFTER HIS RETURN.

IN VIEW OF THIS, FACILITIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN ONLY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AIRPORT TOMORROW.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE GOVERNOR'S RETURN SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS ROOM, TERMINAL BUILDING, AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE AIRCRAFT.

G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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 SURVEYOR RETIRES
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MR. HARRY RIDSDALE, SENIOR MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR OF THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WILL BE RETIRING SHORTLY FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AFTER 27 YEARS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, MR. ERIC ROULEY, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, WILL PRESENT A SOUVENIR TO MR. RIDSDALE ON BEHALF OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ON THURSDAY (JUNE 27).

MR. RIDSDALE FIRST JOINED THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS A CLERK OF WORKS CLASS II IN DECEMBER 1947. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CLASS I IN 1963. IN 1967 HE WAS ADVANCED TO MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR AND TO HIS SUBSTANTIVE POST FIVE YEARS LATER.

 NOTE TO EDITORS: THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 4.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD. YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THE EVENT COVERED.

STUDY TOUR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
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THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IS TO SEND A YOUTH DELEGATION NEXT MONTH ON A TOUR OF TWO SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO STUDY THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICES.

ACCORDING TO MR. YEUNG WAI-TOANG, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR YAU MA TEI AND AN ADVISOR TO THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SUCH A TRIP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY TOUR WERE TO PROVIDE THE HONG KONG YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A GOODWILL VISIT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND TO BROADEN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S OUTLOOK.

THE DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF EIGHT ACTIVE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 25 WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE. SOME ARE STUDENTS WHILE OTHERS ARE WORKING YOUTHS AND ALL OF THEM HAVE HAD AT LEAST TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN VOLUNTARY SERVICES. IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR TRIP, THEY ARE NOW UNDERGOING PRE-PROGRAMME TRAINING CONSISTING OF DISCUSSIONS AND STUDY SESSIONS.

THE DELEGATION WILL SPEND FOUR DAYS IN THAILAND AND SIX DAYS IN SINGAPORE, DURING WHICH THEY WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF AGENCIES INCLUDING THE VOLUNTARY MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE ORGANIZATION IN THAILAND, THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF THAILAND, THE NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE, THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION, AND THE SINGAPORE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

MR. YEUNG EMPHASIZED THAT THIS TOUR HAS NOT BEEN ORGANIZED JUST FOR SIGHT-SEEING, BUT TO FACILITATE THE RECIPROCAL COMMUNICATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND OTHER COUNTRIES SO THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN OBTAIN AN INSIGHT INTO HOW OTHERS OPERATE ELSEWHERE.

ACCOMPANYING THE DELEGATION WILL BE FOUR OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, MR. CHAN YUI-TOONG, THE PRESIDENT, MR. CHAN UING-PONG, AN ADVISOR, MADAM LEE HOH-YING, THE CHAIRMAN, AND MR. LOONG KAI-NING, AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER.

LOCAL DISTRICT LEADERS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN FINANCING MEANINGFUL YOUTH PROGRAMMES AND WITH THEIR SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT, THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE FEELS MORE CAPABLE AND CONFIDENT THAN EVER IN PROMOTING AMBITIOUS COMMUNITY AND YOUTH PROJECTS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. COMMENTED MR. YEUNG WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN YAU MA TEI.

NOTE TO EDITORS: THE DELEGATION WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG ON MONDAY (JULY 1) BY THAI INTERNATIONAL, FLIGHT TG603, ETD 8.50 A.M.

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SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP
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THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WEST KOWLOON YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL, WILL BE LAUNCHING A SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP PROJECT NEXT MONTH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE CAMP WILL BE HELD FROM WEDNESDAY (JULY 10) TO FRIDAY (JULY 12) AT THE ADAM SCHALL RESIDENCE IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED FOR THIS OCCASION, INCLUDING TALKS, SEMINARS, VISITS, FILM SHOWS AND FOLK DANCES.

THE PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO HELP PARTICIPANTS DEVELOP THEIR PERSONALITIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME, ACQUIRE SOME ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS NECESSARY FOR LEADERSHIP IN ALL FORMS OF RECREATIONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES, SAID MR. SIT SUI-LUN, WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE CAMP IS OPENED TO YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 21 AND ON COMPLETION, THEY WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION CAN BE MADE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATED AT TONG YAM STREET IN TAI HANG TUNG DURING OFFICE HOURS. MR. SIT ADVISED YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENROL EARLY BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED NUMBER WHICH CAN BE ACCOMMODATED ON THIS TRAINING COURSE.

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NEW WORKING HOURS
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THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION, MR. J.V.G. MITCHELL, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 2, 1974 THE WORKING HOURS OF THE HEAD OFFICE AND BRANCH OFFICES OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: -

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS	9.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M.
SATURDAYS	9.00 A.M. TO 12.00 NOON

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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

LABORATORY TRAINING CAMP

A TRAINING CAMP USING THE LABORATORY METHOD TO HELP POTENTIAL YOUTH GROUP LEADERS DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIP AND THEIR SENSITIVITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT IS TO BE HELD FROM JULY 19 TO JULY 22.

THIS TRAINING CAMP IS ORGANIZED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH WORK UNIT WHOSE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, MR. KAM YING-TONG, SAID SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS AND WORKING PROJECTS WILL BE USED TO GIVE THEM MORE CONFIDENCE IN ASSUMING THE ROLE OF GROUP LEADERS.

THE CAMP IS INTENDED FOR YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 25 WITH AN EDUCATION LEVEL OF SECONDARY SCHOOL OR ABOVE. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE TSUNG TSAN YOUTH CENTRE IN TAI PO AND ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES FOR FULL ATTENDANCE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE YOUTH WORK UNIT OFFICES LOCATED AT ROOM 908, CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, (TEL. 5-712467) OR THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 18TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, (TEL. 3-884111 EXT. 331).

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MR. DENYS ROBERTS, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON FEBRUARY 8, 1974 ON CHENG WING-FEI SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A TERM OF 18 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

CHENG, WITH TWO OTHER ACCOMPLICES, WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF WONG FAT-NIP.

THE TWO ACCOMPLICES, TSE YUNG-TIM AND LAM KWOK-WAH, WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1973, BUT BOTH HAD HAD THEIR SENTENCES COMMUTED BY THE GOVERNOR ON MARCH 26, 1974, TO A TERM OF 18 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

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FIRE OFFICER RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS' SERVICE
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THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. HARRY WOOD, TODAY PRESENTED THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, HONG KONG ISLAND COMMAND, MR. CHENG WAI-CHI, WITH A CAMERA TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE.

MR. CHENG JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A SUB-OFFICER IN FEBRUARY 1950 AND FIRST SERVED AT CENTRAL FIRE STATION. HE LATER SERVED IN KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES, RETURNING TO CENTRAL LAST YEAR.

HE WAS AWARDED THE COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES' LONG SERVICE MEDAL IN 1965 AND A FIRST CLASP IN 1972. HE RECEIVED THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL (FIRE) IN 1971.

MR. CHENG WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRE SERVICES SPORTS AND WELFARE CLUB FOR THE PAST YEAR UP UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT.

AGED 53, MR. CHENG IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN. ONE SON IS STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TWO OTHERS ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA IN CANADA WHERE MR. CHENG IS GOING TO LIVE IN SEPTEMBER. HE HAS TWO DAUGHTERS.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE NORTH POINT AND QUARRY BAY AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS ON FRIDAY MORNING.

THE INTERRUPTION, BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M., IS TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS IN THE AREAS.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED BY THE SHORT INTERRUPTION ARE AT NOS. 865 TO 1021 AND NOS. 992 TO 1054 KING'S ROAD, INCLUDING NORTH POINT MODEL HOUSING, FINNIE STREET, HOI TAI STREET, HOI WAN STREET, TONG CHONG STREET, HOI KWONG STREET, PAN HOI STREET AND MT. PARKER ROAD.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

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	LIMITED	2.20	1.00	1.60
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.70
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.50	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.65	0.15	0.40
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.60	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	1.80	0.40	1.20
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.80
SPINACH	--	-	-	-
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.80	0.60	1.20
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.60	0.40	1.00
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.90	0.30	0.60
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.80	1.20	2.20

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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 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 PRICE (\$/CATTY) MODE
CHINA RICE		
SEE NEW		
- OLD CROP	---	---
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	---	---
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	---	---
CHU CHO	---	---
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.87
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.91
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	1.81
PAKISTAN RICE	---	---
TAIWAN RICE	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	NORMAL
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PROK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND



HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1974

DRAGON BOAT DINNER IN LONDON

THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION HELD A "DRAGON BOAT" DINNER AT SAVOY HOTEL IN LONDON TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL ON MONDAY (JUNE 24) EVENING.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SPOKE DURING THE DINNER. OTHERS WHO SPOKE WERE SIR ANTHONY ROYLE, AND SIR MICHAEL HERRIES, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:-

"I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THIS INVITATION, THOUGH I FEEL SOME DIFFIDENCE IN SPEAKING TO A BODY OF THIS SORT. MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG MUCH LONGER THAN MYSELF, AND MOREOVER IT CONTAINS THREE OF MY PREDECESSORS, OF WHOSE INFINITELY GREATER WISDOM AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY I AM ACUTELY CONSCIOUS. I THINK THAT AT LEAST THEY WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INTENSELY PERSONAL ABOUT BEING GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG. I HAVE BEEN AN ENTHUSIAST ABOUT HONG KONG FOR 34 YEARS, BUT I FIND THAT NOW MY PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITMENT IS INFINITELY MORE COMPLETE THAN IN ANY OTHER OF THE MANY SORTS OF APPOINTMENT I HAVE HELD ELSEWHERE. SO I THINK THAT IN ASKING ANY GOVERNOR TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT HONG KONG, YOU RUN A RISK. ONCE HE STARTS THE DIFFICULTY MAY BE TO GET HIM TO STOP.

"I WILL START WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG, PARTLY BECAUSE THIS IS AN ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESSMEN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS THE ECONOMY - THE EMPLOYMENT IT PROVIDES, THE INVESTMENT IT ATTRACTS, AND THE REVENUE IT YIELDS - WHICH IS THE BASIS ON WHICH ANY GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR HONG KONG MUST BE FOUNDED.

"I SUPPOSE THAT THE LAST THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST BAFFLING ECONOMIC PERIODS THAT THE WORLD HAS KNOWN FOR DECADES, AND THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS HAVE BEEN INFINITELY THE WORST.

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"WORLD MARKETS HAVE BEEN AND STILL ARE UNCERTAIN AND ADJUSTING TO NEW MONETARY FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE NEWS TO REPORT FROM HONG KONG THAT IS RATHER BETTER THAN YOU MUST HAVE EXPECTED. IN THIS NEW SITUATION, WHICH HONG KONG SHARES WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS AND SPEED OF REACTION OF OUR BUSINESSMEN, AND THE HARD WORK, SKILL AND REALISM OF WAGE-EARNERS, HAVE BROUGHT HONG KONG THROUGH, SO FAR, BETTER THAN MOST AND I SUSPECT AS WELL AS ANY. THE LATEST INDICATORS STILL SHOW A RATE OF ANNUAL GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OF ABOUT SEVEN TO EIGHT PER CENT. THE QUANTITY OF EXPORTS MANUFACTURED IN HONG KONG IN THE LAST QUARTER IS THE HIGHEST EVER ACHIEVED, AS IS THE TONNAGE OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES SHIPPED.

"THE PROSPECTS ARE DIFFERENT IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES, BUT TAKING THE SWINGS AS WELL AS THE ROUNDABOUTS INTO ACCOUNT, THE PROBABILITIES ARE THAT THIS SITUATION WILL TEND TO IMPROVE RATHER THAN DETERIORATE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR. THAT IS OF COURSE, ASSUMING THAT THE PROPHETS OF GLOOM ARE WRONG AND NO WORLD-WIDE RECESSION DEVELOPS. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT AT THE MOMENT HONG KONG INDUSTRY IS MORE COMPETITIVE THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME YEARS, AND IT IS THEREFORE WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER DEMAND THERE IS IN THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"NEVERTHELESS THE GALES BLOWING IN WORLD MARKETS ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL IN HONG KONG AS ELSEWHERE. AN ECONOMIST MIGHT JUSTIFIABLY TAKE A COMPLACENT VIEW OF AN ECONOMY REACTING CORRECTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY TO A NEW AND DIFFICULT SITUATION, BUT IT MAY SEEM RATHER DIFFERENT TO THE PEOPLE AFFECTED. MOST INDUSTRIALISTS ARE ACHIEVING COMPARATIVE OVERALL SUCCESS, BUT THIS IS AT THE EXPENSE OF SQUEEZED MARGINS AND OF EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT AND ANXIETY. AT THIS PRICE MOST ARE RIDING OUT THE SWELL OR MAKING PROGRESS, BUT SOME, AND PARTICULARLY SOME SMALLER FIRMS WITH SMALL RESOURCES OF FINANCE OR MANAGEMENT ARE NOT.

"THE ASPECT I FIND MOST WORRYING IS THAT THOUGH EXPORTS ARE HIGH THEY HAVE NOT PRODUCED FULL EMPLOYMENT AS IN THE PAST. ON THE CONTRARY THE LABOUR MARKET IS COMPARATIVELY SLACK, AND THERE IS SOME UNEMPLOYMENT AND MORE UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THOUGH WAGES HAVE RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY, THEY HAVE NOT RISEN TO ANYTHING LIKE THE SAME EXTENT AS THE PRICES TO BE PAID FOR THE IMPORTED NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

"IN CONSEQUENCE AFTER TEN YEARS OF STEADY RISE IN REAL WAGES - YEARS WHICH HAVE DRAMATICALLY TRANSFORMED THE STANDARD OF LIVING - IN THE LAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FALL-BACK. MOST FAMILIES IN HONG KONG ARE NOW HAVING TO ECONOMISE AND WATCH THEIR EXPENDITURE IN A WAY THEY HAVE NOT HAD TO FOR SOME YEARS. BUT UNLESS SOME NEW TURN TO INFLATION IS GIVEN ELSEWHERE THAT AFFECTS PRICES IN HONG KONG, AND PROVIDED DEMAND FOR HONG KONG GOODS KEEPS UP, I SHOULD EXPECT THIS SITUATION TO START CORRECTING ITSELF TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

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"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS A FINE RECORD OF GRAPPLING WITH THE MANIFOLD PROBLEMS THAT BESET IT, NOT LEAST THOSE FORCED ON IT BY THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE WHICH HAS QUADRUPLED THE POPULATION IN THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, AND OF DOING SO ON THE REVENUE RAISED FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES AND WITHOUT EXTERNAL AID. IT IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A LAISSEZ-FAIRE GOVERNMENT. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. IF IT HAD BEEN, HONG KONG COULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED THE CONDITIONS PRODUCED BY THE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS. SOCIAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION HAS BEEN IN FOUR MAIN FIELDS: SUBSIDISED HOUSING, FREE AND SUBSIDISED EDUCATION, SUBSIDISED OR FREE MEDICAL SERVICES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE UNFORTUNATE OR HANDICAPPED.

"PROGRESS HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE US NOW TO DRAW UP PROGRAMMES AIMING TO END THE DEFICIENCIES FORCED ON HONG KONG IN THE PAST. THE OBJECTIVES OF THESE PROGRAMMES ARE: A SELF-CONTAINED HOME FOR ALL IN A REASONABLE ENVIRONMENT, SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL, THE TRIPLING OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, A DECISIVE EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, A ROLLING FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF INCREASING SOCIAL WELFARE, AND THE STEADY EXPANSION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

"THESE PROGRAMMES, WHICH COVER A DECADE, ARE ESSENTIAL IF CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG ARE EVER TO BE NORMALISED AND BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO ITS INHABITANTS, AND BE SOMETHING OF WHICH THEY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WE MAY BE PROUD. THEIR SIZE AND SCOPE ARE INTENSELY EXCITING. THEY ARE ALSO EXTREMELY COSTLY. GIVEN NORMAL PROSPERITY THEY ARE WITHIN OUR MEANS, BUT FROM YEAR TO YEAR WE WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY AND KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON FINANCIAL REALITIES AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US FROM ALL SOURCES.

"THESE PROGRAMMES ARE A NATURAL EVOLUTION FROM WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST. EVOLUTION, RAPID EVOLUTION AND WILLINGNESS TO FACE AND PROMOTE CHANGE ARE AMONGST THE MOST STRIKING FEATURES OF HONG KONG. THIS IS AS EVIDENT IN INDUSTRY AS ELSEWHERE FROM SIMPLE BEGINNINGS IT HAS GREATLY CHANGED, IT HAS BECOME SOPHISTICATED, MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE AND LESS LABOUR INTENSIVE. THE TENDENCY IS FOR MORE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, OR AT LEAST MORE PRODUCTION TO BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAN THE PLANTS TO BE BETTER PAID AND BETTER EDUCATED. IN OTHER WORDS PRODUCTIVITY IS RISING AND INDUSTRY IS EVOLVING AND DIVERSIFYING.

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"THE NEW TYPE OF INDUSTRY REQUIRES MORE LAND. THIS IN TURN REQUIRES PROVISION OF ACCESS TO THE UNDEVELOPED LAND IN THE WEST AND NORTH OF THE COLONY, NEAR THE NEW TOWNS NOW BEING BUILT. WE ARE, THEREFORE, PUSHING AHEAD WITH MOTORWAYS AND TUNNELS TO THESE AREAS. WE ARE FAIRLY FAR ADVANCED WITH PLANS FOR OPENING UP ONE OR TWO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, AND WE ARE NOW OFFERING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN PROVISION OF LAND FOR NEW INDUSTRIES IF OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE ECONOMY, ALBEIT ON A HIGHLY SELECTIVE BASIS. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT PRESENT CONDITIONS ARE VERY FAVOURABLE FOR INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, AND THE THICKENING FILE OF ENQUIRIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY INDICATES THAT MANY REALISE THIS, AS, TO SOME EXTENT, DO THE RISING STOCK MARKET, AND THE NET INFLOW OF FUNDS.

"MIGHT I SAY HOW IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG IS THE SUPPORT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. HONG KONG DEPENDS SO HEAVILY ON THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE FEELING IN HONG KONG THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEFENCE OF ITS INTERESTS IS A VITAL ELEMENT IN CONFIDENCE. THINGS SAID BY MINISTERS HERE ARE THE STUFF OF WHICH THIS IS MADE. THE STEADY SUPPORT AND PERSONAL INTEREST OF SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME AND OF SIR ANTHONY ROYLE WERE OF IMMENSE VALUE AND WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S EARLY REAFFIRMATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ROBUST WORDS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AND LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS'S IMMEDIATE SYMPATHY AND INTEREST - THESE ARE THINGS THAT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN HONG KONG, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND SENSE OF BELONGING ON THE ONE HAND, AND SENSE OF NEGLECT AND ISOLATION ON THE OTHER.

"THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN EASED BY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THE RELAXATION OF TENSION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC IN GENERAL, AND IMPROVED SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN GREATLY TO HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGE.

"HONG KONG HAS HAD ITS UGLIER FEATURES IN RECENT YEARS. FOR INSTANCE THERE HAS BEEN A VERY SHARP RISE IN VIOLENT CRIME, WHICH HAS GREATLY DISTURBED THE POPULATION. THIS IS BEING TACKLED FROM A VARIETY OF ANGLES. BUT THE RECKLESS USE OF WEAPONS IN ROBBERY AND GANG FIGHTS HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF MURDERS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND RAISED THE RATE OF ROBBERY TO FIVE TIMES THAT IN LONDON. THIS HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN HONG KONG TO THE USE OF THE DEATH SENTENCE. THIS IS NOT A PLEASANT AFTER DINNER SUBJECT, BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST KNOW THAT IT IS THE ISSUE ON WHICH MOST PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY IN HONG KONG FEEL STRONGEST AT THIS TIME.

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"HONG KONG HAS ALSO BEEN IN THE NEWS ON ACCOUNT OF CORRUPTION. TO MASTER THIS LONG-STANDING DISEASE IS A DAUNTING TASK CALLING FOR GREAT EXPERTISE AND JUDGMENT AS WELL AS ENERGY AND INTEGRITY. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE SPECIAL INDEPENDENT COMMISSION THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE JOB IS HEADED BY SOME EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE AND DEVOTED MEN AND WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT OR EXPENSE TO SUPPORT THEM. THEY HAVE GOT OFF TO A GOOD START, BUT WE ALL REALISE THAT THEY HAVE A LONG AND DIFFICULT WAY TO GO.

"IT SEEMS TO BE THIS SORT OF UNPLEASANT ISSUE IN HONG-KONG WHICH IS MOST APT TO GET A MENTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MEDIA. THE CRASH OF THE STOCK MARKET, DRUGS, MURDER, CORRUPTION. THE MAIN THRUST OF HONG KONG'S STRIKING DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO DAILY REPORTING, AND CAN ONLY BE COVERED IN AN OCCASIONAL SPECIAL ISSUE - AS INDEED IT IS.

"BUT ANYONE WHO COULD NOT PLACE THESE SPICY SNIPPETS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE DYNAMIC PROGRESSIVE AND RAPIDLY CHANGING PLACE THAT HONG KONG IS, WOULD WONDER WHAT ON EARTH WAS GOING ON THERE. HONG KONG HAS SUFFERED GREATLY FROM MISCONCEPTIONS AS TO THE SORT OF PLACE IT IS. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO CORRECT THIS. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO THOSE WHO TAKE THE LEAD IN PUTTING THESE MISCONCEPTIONS STRAIGHT. THE WORK OF QUESTION AND ANSWER IN BOTH HOUSES IS OF COURSE CRUCIAL. I REALISE THAT THE STAUNCH PERFORMANCE OF LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS AND HIS COLLEAGUE IN THE LOWER HOUSE MAY EARN MORE KICKS THAN POLITICAL HA'PENCE HERE. BUT I CAN SAY WITH WHAT INTENSE INTEREST AND APPRECIATION THEY ARE FOLLOWED IN HONG KONG. THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IS ALSO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND I AM SO GLAD THAT BOTH THE CHAIRMAN, SIR PAUL BRYAN, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR DAN JONES, ARE PRESENT.

"BUT I WOULD LIKE TO END THIS SPEECH BY SAYING WHAT VERY GREAT VALUE WE IN HONG KONG ATTACH TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS ASSOCIATION IN ALL IT DOES TO PUT THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT HONG KONG, AND TO BRING THE FACTS WHENEVER APPROPRIATE TO THE NOTICE OF THOSE WHO OUGHT TO KNOW THEM. IT IS COMPOSED OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW HONG KONG WELL, AND MANY OF WHOM HAVE SERVED IT WITH THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION AND LEFT THEIR IMPRINT ON IT. IT MAINTAINS CLOSE LINKS WITH THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER AS WELL AS WITH MANY ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING ITS OWN BRANCH, IN HONG KONG. ITS WORK IS HIGHLY PRIZED IN HONG KONG, AND THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE RESPECT IT COMMANDS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. MIGHT I SAY, SIR, HOW MUCH YOUR CHAIRMANSHIP HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS, AS TO SO MANY OTHER INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG IS INDEED FORTUNATE IN ITS FRIENDS. BUT IT DESERVES THEM. COURAGE AND ENERGY, IMAGINATION AND HUMOUR, REALISM AND PATIENCE, THE WILL TO SURVIVE. THESE ARE THE VIRTUES THAT HAVE PRODUCED THE VIVID DYNAMIC COSMOPOLITAN CENTRE THAT HONG KONG NOW IS. IT IS THESE VIRTUES THAT HAVE SO CAPTIVATED THE SUCCESSIVE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS GOVERNMENT IN LONDON AND HONG KONG, AND WHICH INSPIRE SUCH AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH DEGREE OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN ITS OWN COMMUNITY. THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS A TERRITORY WHICH DESERVES ALL THE SUPPORT THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN GIVE IT, AND I AM SURE THAT ON THIS SUPPORT, EMPHATICALLY HONG KONG CAN REPLY."