



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974

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FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1984, INVOLVING MASSIVE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTING TO \$914 MILLION, WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

INTRODUCING THE WHITE PAPER, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, SAID THE AMOUNT WOULD ALSO ROUGHLY DOUBLE THE ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE TO ABOUT \$900 MILLION AT CURRENT PRICES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ANY CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME OF THE MAGNITUDE PROPOSED IN THE WHITE PAPER MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT OF THE \$914 MILLION EXPENDITURE PROPOSED, ABOUT \$690 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT BETWEEN NOW AND 1984 ON A LARGE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROJECTS ALREADY IN CATEGORIES A AND B OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

OTHERS INCLUDED HOSPITALS AND POLYCLINICS AT SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN, THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE DENTAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, AND THE THIRD NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AT CURRENT PRICES ON MEDICAL SERVICES WOULD RISE TO ABOUT \$800 MILLION WHEN THESE PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED -- SO THEIR TIMING WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND +AS MUCH ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO TAKE ON SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AS ON THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL WORKS.+

DR. CHOA SAID THE OTHER PROJECTS LISTED IN THE WHITE PAPER, AMOUNTING TO \$224 MILLION, WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED +AS SOON AFTER 1984 AS ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.+

IN A REFERENCE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS A RESULT OF PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON. SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, DR. CHOA SAID REPLIES WOULD BE APPARENT FROM THE CHANGES MADE IN THE WHITE PAPER FROM THE +GREEN+ PAPER PUBLISHED LAST OCTOBER.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAD VOICED THEIR CONCERN THAT EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCERNIBLE REACTION, THEIR COMMENTS HAD NOT BEEN OVERLOOKED, AND WHERE THEY WERE OF ANY VALUE, THEY WOULD BE PURSUED EITHER IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OR THROUGH THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS IT MET REGULARLY TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS.

/HE EMPHASISED

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HE EMPHASISED TWO POINTS :

- * NOT ONLY WOULD DEVELOPMENTS BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS IT COULD TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER, +HAVING REGARD TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND THE OVERALL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+
- * WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECTS IN THE WHITE PAPER, THERE WOULD BE A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THE MEDICAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS.

HOSPITAL BEDS

THE WHITE PAPER, DR. CHOA SAID, CONSIDERED IN DETAIL FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS UNDER HEADS SUCH AS HOSPITALS, CLINICS, REGIONALISATION, FEES FOR PATIENTS IN THE GENERAL WARDS OF HOSPITALS IN THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME, THE SUPPLY OF NURSES, A SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE AND A DENTAL SCHOOL, AND THE HEALTH SERVICE.

THE WHITE PAPER ACCEPTED THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF A GENERAL STANDARD OF 5.5 HOSPITAL BEDS PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION BY THE END OF 1982, ALTHOUGH IT FELT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TARGET -- DESIRABLE FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING -- WOULD +EXCEED THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BUILD, FINANCE, AND STAFF THE INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED.

THE WHITE PAPER ALSO ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT FOUR HOSPITALS -- IN SHA TIN, IN TUEN MUN, IN EAST KOWLOON AND IN SHAU KEI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND -- BE BUILT IN THE NEXT DECADE, BUT THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE BUILT WOULD REFLECT +THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPER MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE NEW TOWNS, AND THROUGH THEM, THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL WOULD BE A REGIONAL HOSPITAL WITH 1,200 BEDS SERVING RESIDENTS IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. IT WOULD BE DEVELOPED AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE CLINICAL TEACHING FACILITIES FOR THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND WOULD BE READY BEFORE 1984.

THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WOULD BE A DISTRICT HOSPITAL OF 1,200 BEDS SERVING RESIDENTS IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. IT WOULD ALSO BE READY BEFORE 1984.

THE SHAU KEI WAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR 1,000 BEDS, WOULD NOW BE REDUCED TO 500 BEDS ON EXPERT ADVICE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE +GREEN+ PAPER. THE OTHER 500 BEDS FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN OTHER HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

/WITH REGARD

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DAY BEDS

WITH REGARD TO CLINICS, POLYCLINICS OR SPECIALIST CLINICS WOULD BE SET UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND EAST, EAST KOWLOON, SOUTH KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, AND KWUN TONG.

GENERAL CLINICS WOULD BE PROVIDED AT NGAU TAU KOK, LAM TIN, TO KWA WAN, HA KWAI CHUNG, LEI MUK SHUE AND SHA TIN. THE VIOLET PEEL CLINIC, THE CENTRAL DISPENSARY, AND THE CLINICS AT SHAM SHUI PO AND SAI KUNG WOULD BE RE-PROVISIONED.

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THESE NEW POLYCLINICS AND CLINICS WOULD BE THE INCLUSION OF +DAY BEDS+ FOR PATIENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND CARE AFTER DISCHARGE, AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES.

DR. CHOA TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT, ACCORDING TO PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER, REGIONALISATION WOULD BEGIN ON APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR, WITH FOUR REGIONS TO START WITH -- HONG KONG ISLAND, WEST KOWLOON, EAST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND WEST NEW TERRITORIES.

A FIFTH REGION WOULD BE CREATED BY THE DIVISION OF EAST KOWLOON AND EAST NEW TERRITORIES WHEN THE NEW SHA TIN HOSPITAL HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED.

THE REGIONS WOULD HAVE THEIR OWN REGIONAL HOSPITALS, WITH ALL APPROPRIATE SPECIAL SERVICES, ONE OR MORE DISTRICT HOSPITALS WITH ORDINARY HOSPITAL FACILITIES, ONE OR MORE SPECIALIST CLINICS, AND A NUMBER OF GENERAL CLINICS.

THE INTENTION WAS TO BRING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TOGETHER -- TO THE ADVANTAGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES GENERALLY, BECAUSE REGIONALISATION WOULD HELP DETERMINE REGIONAL NEEDS AND THE FULLEST USE OF ALL AVAILABLE HOSPITAL BEDS.

STANDARDISATION OF FEES

AS SOON AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL STRUCTURE ALLOWED, THE ACCIDENT SERVICE WOULD IMPROVE WITH THE 'TWO-TIER' ORGANISATION OF DESIGNATED ACCIDENT CENTRES AND ACCIDENT CENTRES, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES, INCORPORATED INTO REGIONAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS RESPECTIVELY.

DR. CHOA SAID REGIONALISATION MEANT A STANDARDISATION OF GENERAL WARD FEES IN THE HOSPITALS, GOVERNMENT AND SUBSIDISED, WHICH WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHEME, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE DISPARITY OF CHARGES AT PRESENT OBTAINING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, WHICH WERE NOT ENTIRELY FREE EXCEPT ON APPLICATION FOR REMISSION, AND CERTAIN GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS, WHICH WERE TRADITIONALLY FREE.

+IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE FULL BENEFIT OF REGIONALISED SERVICES, THERE SHOULD BE A UNIFORMITY OF CHARGES, WITH A REMISSION SCHEME IN CASE OF NEED,+ HE EXPLAINED. +THE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO REVIEW THE METHODS OF SUBVENTING HOSPITALS INCLUDED IN THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME.+

ON THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS, DR. CHOA SAID WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ADVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE THAT A NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL BE SITED AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, IT FOLLOWED THAT THE NEW HOSPITAL AT SHA TIN BE DESIGNED AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL FROM THE OUTSET, AND THE TIMING OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT HOSPITAL AND THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL BE +CLOSELY CO-ORDINATED.+

WITH REGARD TO NURSES, THE THIRD GENERAL NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL WOULD BE LOCATED AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING SCHOOLS AT THE QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS.

OTHER POINTS

THE THIRD SCHOOL WOULD BE PLANNED FOR A CAPACITY OF 300 STUDENT NURSES A YEAR, BUT THE INITIAL INTAKE WOULD BE LIMITED TO 210 A YEAR.

DR. CHOA ALSO MADE THESE POINTS :

- * THE WHITE PAPER ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT A SCHOOL FOR THE TRAINING OF DENTAL NURSES BE ESTABLISHED +AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS GIVING DENTAL TREATMENT TO SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND A SITE HAD ALREADY BEEN EAR-MARKED IN THE MORRISON HILL AREA.+
- * SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, A NEW DIVISION HAD BEEN CREATED IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH THE TREATMENT OF, AND RESEARCH INTO, DRUG ADDICTION IN HONG KONG.
- * INTEGRATION OF FAMILY PLANNING INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE WAS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY, AND PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO +CONSOLIDATING AND DEVELOPING THESE SERVICES IN CONJUNCTIONS WITH THE WHITE PAPER'S PROGRAMME FOR NEW CLINICS.+
- * THE MEDICAL REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A CO-ORDINATED PLAN.
- * THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO BE IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE A COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE OWING TO OTHER MORE PRESSING NEEDS FOR NURSES, BUT THE MATTER WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.
- * A HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO AROUSE AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND HEALTH HAZARDS.

AFTER DR. CHOA'S SPEECH, DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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NARCOTICS BILL PASSED INTO LAW
MAXIMUM FINES RAISED TO \$5 MILLION
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DRUG OFFENDERS NOW RUN THE RISK OF SPENDING THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN PRISON AND PAYING FINES OF UP TO \$5 MILLION, UNDER THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE MOVED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND INVOLVED RAISING THE MAXIMUM FINE FROM \$100,000 TO \$5 MILLION FOR SERIOUS DRUG OFFENCES, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING, MANUFACTURING, POSSESSION OF DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAFFICKING, KEEPING A DIVAN, AND WILFULLY PERMITTING A PREMISES TO BE USED AS A DIVAN, OR FOR THE UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE OR STORAGE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

IN MOVING THE AMENDMENTS, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG SAID THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE IN INTRODUCING THE BILL BUT THEY FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINES TO \$1 MILLION +IS NOT QUITE ENOUGH.+

+IT IS THE EARNEST HOPE OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT THE AMENDMENTS WILL BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN, AS IS OUR INTENTION, THAT WE TAKE A GRAVER VIEW OF THE OFFENCES THAN HITHERTO,+ HE SAID.

IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE, \$5 MILLION WAS NOT AN INORDINATELY LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY, HE SAID POINTING OUT THAT THE SEVERITY OF FINE WAS NOT ALTOGETHER WITHOUT PRECEDENT AS EVASION OF INCOME TAX IN ENGLAND COULD DRAW A PENALTY OF THREE TIMES THE TOTAL TAX PAYABLE. AT ANY RATE, TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS WAS, BY COMMON CONSENT, RATHER MORE HEINOUS THAN EVADING TAX.

MR. CHEUNG EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IF ANY FINE IMPOSED WAS NOT PAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO INVOKE THE LAW OF BANKRUPTCY AND MAKE USE OF THE POWERS THERE CONFERRED, BOTH TO OBTAIN A RECEIVING ORDER AND TO QUESTION THE CONVICTED BANKRUPT AND ANY PERSON WHOM THE COURT MAY DEEM CAPABLE OF GIVING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BANKRUPT, HIS DEALINGS OR PROPERTY.

AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, A PERSON CONVICTED AND MADE BANKRUPT WAS BOUND TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HIS DEALINGS AND PROPERTY, AND MAY NOT REFUSE TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON THE GROUND THAT THE ANSWER MAY TEND TO INCRIMINATE HIM.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAW AS IT NOW STANDS MIGHT NOT PERMIT THE KIND OF QUESTIONING HE HAD IN MIND -- INTERROGATION WITH THE ONE BEING QUESTIONED COMPELLED TO GIVE ANSWERS AS TO HIS DEALINGS AND ASSOCIATES, SO AS TO DISCOVER HIS CONFEDERATES AND HIS AND THEIR DEALINGS IN DANGEROUS DRUGS.

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+IF THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THIS OR EVEN IF IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT DOES, I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL COME AND DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH US,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS A GATEWAY THAT OUGHT TO LEAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF NARCOTIC CONSPIRACIES AND THE SUPPRESSION OF TRAFFICKING.

MR. CHEUNG SAID HE WAS A BIT DISTURBED BY REPORTS -- IF THEY WERE ACCURATE -- THAT THE POLICE KNOW ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE BIG DRUG TRAFFICKERS, BUT LACK EVIDENCE TO CONVICT THEM IN COURT.

+IF SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS GROUNDED ON REASONABLE BELIEF,+ HE SAID, +I AM NOT AT ALL SURE WHY THE POLICE CANNOT PROCEED.+ HOWEVER, HE APPRECIATED THAT THE POLICE HAD A PROBLEM AND HE REPEATED HIS INVITATION TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

MR. CHEUNG WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD SHOW NO COMPASSION OR MERCY TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS, EXCEPT IN ONE EVENT, WHERE IN EARNEST REPENTANCE A CONVICTED BANKRUPT GAVE FULL DISCLOSURE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRADE AND ITS PERPETRATORS.

+TO ONE WHO MAKES FULL DISCLOSURE, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENACT SUITABLE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THAT SENTENCES IMPOSED ON HIM MIGHT BE MITIGATED.

+TO ONE WHO REFUSES TO MAKE DISCLOSURE, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO IMPOSE FURTHER SANCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE HON. HILTON CHEUNG-LEEN ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL AND CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE TOTAL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ALL-OUT EFFORT TO CLAMP DOWN ON ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS USELESS TO ENACT LAWS IF THEY COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED, AND SAID THE PUBLIC EXPECTED THAT ALL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE POLICE AND THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THE JUDICIARY WOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE LAWS WILL NOT BE FLOUTED AND THAT WITH MORE UNITED EFFORTS BY ALL CONCERNED THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ABATED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH MAKES MALE PERSONS CONVICTED FOR MAJOR DRUG OFFENCES GENERALLY COMMITTED FOR PROFIT, SUBJECT TO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

IN REPLY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SECRETARY FOR SECURITIES TOOK NOTE OF MR. CHEUNG'S PROPOSALS REGARDING EVIDENCE AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THEM.

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NEW LEGISLATION WILL ENSURE BUS COMPANIES COMPLY
WITH TERMS OF NEW FRANCHISES
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ADEQUATE SANCTIONS TO REQUIRE THE TWO BUS COMPANIES TO COMPLY FULLY WITH THE TERMS OF THEIR NEW FRANCHISES WILL BE PROVIDED IN LEGISLATION NOW BEING DRAFTED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, GAVE THIS ASSURANCE TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON. LO TAK-SHING.

BOTH KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THEIR PRESENT FRANCHISES, WHICH EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 14 NEXT YEAR, WILL NOT BE RENEWED ON THE PRESENT TERMS, AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW PROCEEDING ON THE NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

THESE WILL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF BOTH COMPANIES. THE INTENTION OF THIS, MR. HADDON-CAVE EXPLAINED, IS TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COMPANIES RUN THEIR AFFAIRS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO APPOINT DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF THE BUS COMPANIES WITHOUT ACQUIRING SOME PARTICIPATION IN THEIR EQUITY. +SUCH PARTICIPATION SHOULD ENABLE A REAL IMPROVEMENT IN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANIES TO BE ACHIEVED AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WAYS TO BE SOUGHT IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST THE COMPANIES IN THEIR OPERATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.+

HE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE GOVERNMENT TAKING AN EQUITY POSITION AND THEREBY UNDERLINING ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF EACH COMPANY.

AN ACQUISITION OF UP TO 10 PER CENT IN THE EQUITY OF EACH COMPANY, HE ADDED, WOULD SUFFICE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

MR. HADDON-CAVE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BUS COMPANIES REGARDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THEIR NEW FRANCHISES WOULD BE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY, AND HE SAW NO REASON TO THE CONTRARY.

+INDEED IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR THE TWO COMPANIES NOT TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY TO THIS END AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY ARE NOT DOING SO,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ASSURED COUNCIL THAT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FALLING THROUGH +THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE PLANS AVAILABLE FOR ENSURING THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF BUS SERVICES IN HONG KONG AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE PRESENT FRANCHISES.+

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PRACTICE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
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AS REGISTRAR OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, OR THE METHODS THEY USE, ACCORDING TO THE LAW.

FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO NOTHING +TO IMPROVE STANDARDS IN THE USE AND APPLICATION OF ACUPUNCTURE AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN HONG KONG,+ DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

DR. CHOA EXPLAINED THE REASON FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO ACT BY QUOTING A RELEVANT SECTION OF THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

THE SECTION READS: +SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 32, NOTHING IN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED TO AFFECT THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON OF CHINESE RACE, NOT BEING A PERSON TAKING OR USING ANY NAME, TITLE, ADDITION OR DESCRIPTION CALCULATED TO INDUCE ANYONE TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE OR SURGERY ACCORDING TO MODERN SCIENTIFIC METHODS, TO PRACTISE MEDICINE OR SURGERY ACCORDING TO PURELY CHINESE METHODS, AND TO DEMAND AND RECOVER REASONABLE CHARGES IN RESPECT OF SUCH PRACTICE.+

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IMPROVEMENT OF FIRE SERVICES' COMMUNICATIONS
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THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A WORKING PARTY WHICH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO WAYS TO IMPROVE AND MODERNISE THE FIRE SERVICES' COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT NEXT MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

THE WORKING PARTY WAS SET UP TO FORMULATE DETAILED PROPOSALS FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW BY CONSULTANTS. IT COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION OF THE POST OFFICE, AND THE DATA PROCESSING DIVISION OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

AS PART OF ITS STUDIES, MR. DAVIES SAID, A TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER OF THE POST OFFICE HAD VISITED THE UNITED KINGDOM LAST MONTH TO STUDY COMPUTERISED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS.

MR. DAVIES WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO.

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CONTROL OF HERBAL MEDICINE MIXTURES
CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LABELLING REQUIREMENTS
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DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, TODAY WARNED MANUFACTURERS OF HERBAL MEDICINES MIXED WITH OTHER PREPARATIONS THAT THEY ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION IF THEY FAIL TO COMPLY WITH LABELLING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE LAW.

HE WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, WHO HAD ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS +TO PREVENT THE SALE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS CONTAINED IN THE POISONS LIST MIXED WITH HERBAL REMEDIES.+

DR. CHOA SAID HERBAL MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS WERE EXEMPTED FROM THE CONTROL OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE ONLY IF THEIR CONTENTS WERE +INCLUDED IN THE CHINESE HERBAL MATERIA MEDICA.+ (THIS WAS A REFERENCE TO A FORMAL BOOK ON CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINES PUBLISHED IN CHINA SOME YEARS AGO, AND RECOGNISED IN HONG KONG AS THE DEFINITIVE STANDARD WORK ON THE SUBJECT.)

DR. CHOA EXPLAINED THAT IF A MEDICINAL PREPARATION CONTAINED A SYNTHETIC DRUG ON THE POISONS LIST, +A LABEL GIVING FULL PARTICULARS, INCLUDING ITS EXACT QUANTITY, MUST BE AFFIXED ON THE CONTAINER.+

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ITS SALE WAS CONTROLLED, ESPECIALLY IF THE PREPARATION CONTAINED POISONS WHICH COULD ONLY BE OBTAINED ON PRESCRIPTION.

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RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES
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DRIVING LICENCES MAY SOON BE RENEWED FROM THE DATE OF EXPIRY OF THE PREVIOUS PERIOD, INSTEAD OF FROM THE DATE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL AS AT PRESENT.

THE NECESSARY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION FOR THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE NEXT MONTH, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, AMENDMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) REGULATIONS TO PERMIT THE INTRODUCTION OF LAMINATED LICENCES.

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MAC'S PART-TIME HELPERS MAY BE PAID BY GOVT.

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL FOR FUNDS TO PAY PART-TIME COMMUNITY ORGANISERS WHO ARE HELPING THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

+THIS APPROACH WILL BE MADE, BECAUSE IN MY VIEW THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE THE BEST MEANS YET FOUND TO HELP PEOPLE CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER TO MAKE THEIR HOME SURROUNDINGS CLEAN AND SAFE,+ HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. +NOT ONLY THIS,+ HE ADDED, +BUT THEY HELP THOSE WHO JOIN TO GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE NEXT DOOR WHICH IS NOT EASY IN THE AVERAGE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING.+

MR. BRAY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER FUNDS HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO RETAIN OR EXPAND THE SERVICES OF THE TEMPORARY COMMUNITY ORGANISERS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS SAID THE PRESENT FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR STAFF FOR THE MAC'S REFLECTED THE FACT THAT THE SCHEME IS EXPERIMENTAL AND THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAD YET TO REVIEW IT AND DECIDE ON THE LONGER TERM FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

+CLEARLY THERE IS IMMENSE SOCIAL POTENTIAL IN THESE COMMITTEES AND IT WOULD BE SHORTSIGHTED TO LET THEM RUN DOWN THROUGH LACK OF OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT AT THIS STAGE,+ HE SAID.

UP TO THE END OF LAST MONTH, A TOTAL OF 1,512 MAC'S HAD BEEN FORMED. +THIS IS A GOOD START,+ SAID MR. BRAY, +BUT WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR HAVING AS MANY COMMITTEES AS ARE NEEDED.+

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TEMPORARY WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS AS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JULY 19) TO FACILITATE A TEST FOR LEAKAGE IN THE AREA.

THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IS BOUNDED BY YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD, ON NING ROAD, SAI TAI STREET AND KOK TING STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING IN CENTRAL CONDEMNED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 50 GAGE STREET IN CENTRAL DISTRICT TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION AND NO. 52 LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THESE THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION SINCE 1972 AFTER A COMPLAINT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

+BOTH BUILDINGS ARE IN A STATE OF EXTREME DETERIORATION AND THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEFECTS ARE FRACTURES AND MOVEMENT IN THE BRICKWORK AROUND THE REAR ENTRANCE OF NO. 50.

+THIS BRICKWORK IS IN SUCH A CONDITION THAT IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS A RISK OF FAILURE LEADING TO A COLLAPSE OF THE REAR PORTION. IN ADDITION THERE ARE MANY DEFECTIVE TIMBERS,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT NO. 52 GAGE STREET IS CONSIDERED LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AS THERE IS RISK OF FAILURE DURING OR AFTER THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 50. APART FROM THIS THERE IS DEFECTIVE TIMBER AND REINFORCED CONCRETE REQUIRING URGENT ACTION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WERE POSTED TODAY. HEARING WILL BE IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON AUGUST 13.

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CHINESE CHESS TOURNAMENT
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THE 1974 CHINESE CHESS TOURNAMENT, ORGANIZED BY THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD IN EARLY AUGUST FOR PLAYERS IN THE TSUEN WAN AREA.

THE CONTEST IS ONE OF THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE CENTRE AND AIMS AT PROMOTING HEALTHY AND CREATIVE HOBBIES. THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD IN THE CENTRE'S HALL.

LAST YEAR, 70 PLAYERS PARTICIPATED AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT AT LEAST A SIMILAR NUMBER WILL DO SO THIS YEAR. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO TOP WINNERS IN THE TOURNAMENT.

ANYONE OVER 16 YEARS CAN JOIN. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ROOM 213, 2ND FLOOR, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE, TAI HO STREET, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES BEFORE JULY 30 ON PAYMENT OF A \$1 ENTRY FEE. ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 12-402786.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974

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THINK +TECHNICAL+ STUDENTS URGED

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A FAIR PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S MOST GIFTED YOUNG PEOPLE MUST CHOOSE A SECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE BEFORE HONG KONG CAN ACHIEVE ITS ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL TARGETS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. ANDREW KINGWELL SAID TODAY.

+THIS WOULD REPRESENT A REVOLUTION OF THOUGHT AMONG STUDENTS AND MANY TEACHERS,+ HE TOLD THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SEMINAR FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE. +IT IS A REVOLUTION WHICH IS URGENTLY NEEDED.+

MR. KINGWELL SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT AN ADEQUATE SUB-STRUCTURE OF SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS A MATTER OF EXTREME URGENCY SO THAT SUITABLY QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COURSES AT THE POLYTECHNIC WHEN PHASE 1 OF ITS EXPANSION WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE 1976/77 ACADEMIC YEAR BY THEN THE POLYTECHNIC SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING 6,000 DAY STUDENTS COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT 2,600 AS WELL AS 20,000 EVENING STUDENTS.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID : +AS THE NEED WILL BE MUCH GREATER FOR TECHNICIANS AND SKILLED CRAFTSMEN THAN FOR TECHNOLOGISTS FOR WHICH THE POLYTECHNIC WILL MAINLY CATER, IT FOLLOWS THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE SUPPORTING TECHNICAL EDUCATION SERVICES MUST BE VERY CONSIDERABLE AND ON A BROAD FRONT.

+PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS TECHNICAL EDUCATION CANNOT BE CHANGED BY DECREE OR EVEN BY SPEECH MAKING AND PROPAGANDA ALONE. WHAT REALLY MATTERS WILL BE THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION PROVIDED. +THIS IN TURN DEPENDS UPON THE INSPIRATION AND THE ABILITIES AND THE EXPERTISE OF THE TEACHER.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS COLLEGE WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG.

TECHNICAL TEACHERS WOULD BE REQUIRED URGENTLY FOR THE TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHICH ARE DUE TO BE OPENED IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR. ONE OF THESE WILL BE AT KWAI CHUNG AND ONE AT KWUN TONG.

MORE TEACHERS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WHICH ARE DUE TO FOLLOW - ONE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN IN 1976 AND ONE AT SAN PO KONG IN 1977.

/+THE GREEN

+THE GREEN LIGHT IS EXPECTED SOON CONCERNING THREE MORE BY 1980 IN THE NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLYTECHNIC AND OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WAS ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUT NOT THE ONLY ONE.

+IF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE TO GET A FEEL FOR AND SYMPATHY WITH TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, THE CURRICULUM IN ALL SCHOOLS, NOT JUST SECONDARY TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED CRITICALLY. NEW SUBJECTS MUST BE INTRODUCED AND THE EXISTING SUBJECTS TAUGHT IN A MORE PRACTICAL WAY.

+WE ARE ANTICIPATING THE WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION BY THE END OF THE MONTH. I HOPE THAT IT WILL CONTAIN PROPOSALS WHICH, IF REALISTICALLY IMPLEMENTED, WILL MEAN THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL HAVE A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE TECHNOLOGIES AND THE INCREASING SYMPATHY FOR THE NEW TECHNICAL SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY WILL LIVE.

+THIS WILL BE A NEW FIELD WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED WITH GREAT CARE AND UNDERSTANDING IF THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS AGE GROUP, BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS, ARE TO BE SATISFIED,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE MAIN BURDEN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE SECONDARY FIELD WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FALL ON THE SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND MANY MORE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROGRAMME.

+IN FACT, SIX MORE MUST BE COMMENCED URGENTLY TO COMPLETE THE APPROVED 1976 TARGETS. HOWEVER, IN A SITUATION WHERE THE AVAILABILITY OF PLACES FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ON A FIVE-YEAR BASIS IS UNLIKELY TO EXCEED 40 PER CENT UNTIL 1980, THE ROLE OF THE PREVOCATIONAL AND SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY IMPORTANT.

+THESE SCHOOLS OFFERING A THREE-YEAR SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH A PRACTICAL BIAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. THEY HAVE ACHIEVED EXCELLENT RESULTS AND THEIR POPULARITY WILL ENSURE THEIR CONTINUED SUCCESS. ALL OF THESE SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES WILL REQUIRE TECHNICAL TEACHERS.+

TODAY'S CEREMONY MARKS THE INAUGURATION OF THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WHICH WILL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE OPERATE IN TEMPORARY PREMISES. ITS FIRST HOME THIS COMING SEPTEMBER WILL BE THE VACATED MORRISON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

+AS SOON AS A NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOL CAN BE BUILT TO REHOUSE THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL, THE BUILDING WHICH THEY VACATE WILL BE REPROVISIONED AS A MEDIUM TERM HOME FOR THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

/IN THE

IN THE MEANTIME, +PLANS CAN PROCEED FOR A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SPECIALLY DESIGNED, WHICH WILL SERVE THE NEEDS OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS IN HONG KONG FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.+

ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WILL BE ITS PROGRAMME FOR SERVING TEACHERS. +IT IS HOPED THAT SERVING TEACHERS WILL WELCOME THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTELLECTUAL AND TECHNICAL REFRESHMENT WHICH THIS COLLEGE WILL AFFORD,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT SOME OF ITS PROGRAMMES WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS OF NON-TECHNICAL OR ACADEMIC SUBJECTS IN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES. +IN THIS WAY, THESE TEACHERS MAY GAIN A GREATER SYMPATHY FOR AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE AIMS OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG IN THE LATE SEVENTIES AND EARLY EIGHTIES.+

MR. KINGWELL WENT ON : +WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS FOR WHITE COLLAR JOBS WHICH WILL NOT EXIST. +IF THE EDUCATIONAL PLANNERS WERE TO IGNORE THESE FACTS AND TO PROVIDE ONLY AN ACADEMIC FORM OF EDUCATION, WHICH MOST PARENTS SEEM TO PREFER FOR THEIR CHILDREN, IT COULD ONLY BUILD UP FRUSTRATION IN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOULD MEAN THAT THEY WILL BE ILL-PREPARED TO FACE THE WORLD OF WORK.+

REFERRING TO SURVEY FINDINGS BETWEEN 1967 AND 1970 WHICH INDICATED THAT HONG KONG NEEDS 250 TOOL AND DIE MAKERS A YEAR, MR. KINGWELL NOTED THAT SHORTAGE OF THIS TYPE OF SKILLED MANPOWER HAD LED OVERSEAS ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS TO LOOK TO OTHER CITIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA TO ESTABLISH BRANCH FACTORIES.

HONG KONG COULD NOT AFFORD TO CONTINUE LOSING THIS TYPE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, HE STRESSED,

MR. KINGWELL DESCRIBED THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, AND HE HOPED THAT IT

WOULD BE THE FORE-RUNNER OF A DEVELOPING PROGRAMME OF SEMINARS AND COURSES FOR SERVING TEACHERS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. KINGWELL'S SPEECH ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. PRESS ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR.

- 15 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1974

POKFULAM BUILDING 'FREEZE' MAY BE LIFTED THIS YEAR
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THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE POKFULAM AREA MAY BE LIFTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, BUT THOSE APPLYING TO THE MID-LEVELS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD.+

THIS WAS INDICATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL, WHEN MOVING A MOTION TO EXTEND THE RESTRICTIONS FOR A FURTHER YEAR UNTIL JULY 31, 1975. THE RESTRICTIONS WERE FIRST BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN JULY LAST YEAR. THEY WERE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, AND ARE DUE TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

MR. BELL TOLD COUNCIL THAT WHILE IT WAS HOPED TO LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS IN POKFULAM SO THAT THE ADDITIONAL FLATS WHICH COULD BE BUILT UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PLANNING CONTROLS MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO GO FORWARD, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT ALL THE PLANNED MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS WERE READY FOR OCCUPATION.

THE RELAXATION, HE WARNED, COULD THEREFORE GIVE RISE TO A FURTHER DEGREE OF CONGESTION. +NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THIS RISK SHOULD BE TAKEN, BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR FURTHER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO IN THE HOPE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS OR SO THE PUBLIC MAY TO SOME DEGREE HAVE BEEN INDUCED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT MORE AND PRIVATE CARS LESS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. BELL TOLD COUNCIL THAT IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SIMILAR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES AS THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN THE MID-LEVELS, NOTABLY THE BUS PRIORITY SCHEME.

HE NOTED THAT IN AUGUST 1973 THERE WERE NEARLY 9,000 FLATS IN THE POKFULAM AREA, INCLUDING THE WAH FU ESTATE, WITH A POPULATION OF 49,000. WHEN BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND APPROVED ARE COMPLETED THERE WILL BE ALMOST 11,000 FLATS AND A POPULATION OF ABOUT 59,000.

+THE LIFTING OF THE RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT WOULD MEAN THAT OVER 1,000 FURTHER FLATS COULD BE BUILT UNDER EXISTING LEASE CONDITIONS AND PLANNING CONTROLS,+ HE SAID. +THIS WOULD PRODUCE A FURTHER INCREASE IN POPULATION OF ABOUT 6,000 GIVING A TOTAL, OF 65,000 -- APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD ABOVE THE 1973 FIGURE.+

/MR. BELL

MR. BELL ADDED: +IT IS APPARENT FROM THESE FIGURES THAT THE COMPLETION OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT DEVELOPMENT ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND APPROVED WILL GENERATE PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC FAR IN EXCESS OF THE CAPACITY OF THE MID-LEVELS EASTBOUND TRAFFIC CORRIDOR.

+ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY AGGRAVATE THIS SITUATION EVEN FURTHER.+

THE DANGER OF TOTAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION, HE WENT ON, COULD NOT EVEN BE SOLVED BY THE MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED, SUCH AS THE FURTHER WIDENING OF POKFULAM ROAD, THE WATER STREET FLYOVER AND THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

+IT IS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL,+ HE SAID, +THAT THE TRAFFIC SITUATION SHOULD BE CONTAINED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE MOVEMENT OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS FIRE APPLIANCES AND AMBULANCES.+

IN THE CASE OF THE MID-LEVELS, MR. BELL SAID IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE NECESSARY +FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD.+

NOTING THAT MORE PEOPLE WERE TRAVELLING BY BUS SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN THE MID-LEVELS, MR. BELL SAID THAT SOME FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF THE SCHEME MIGHT BE POSSIBLE SUCH AS INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF BUSES, BUT THE EFFECT WOULD BE LIMITED BY THE NARROW CARRIAGEWAYS AND INADEQUATE PASSENGER LOADING FACILITIES.

WHEN THE RESTRICTIONS WERE BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER OF FLATS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA WAS JUST OVER 7,000 WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 29,000. WHEN BUILDINGS WHICH ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND APPROVED HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, THE NUMBER OF FLATS WILL HAVE INCREASED TO 11,000 WITH A TOTAL EXPECTED POPULATION OF ABOUT 44,000.

LIFTING OF THE PRESENT RESTRICTION WOULD MEAN THAT YET ANOTHER 2,800 FLATS COULD BE BUILT UNDER EXISTING LEASE CONDITIONS AND PLANNING CONTROLS, WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE POPULATION BY ABOUT A FURTHER 11,000. THE TOTAL, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD THEN BE AROUND 55,000, ALMOST TWICE THE 1973 FIGURE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974.

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LEGO APPROVES YAUMATI FERRY'S FARE REVISION APPLICATION
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A MOTION PROVIDING FOR A FARE REVISION OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY'S FERRY SERVICES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 29 YEARS WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMPANY'S ROYALTY PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974 HAVE BEEN WAIVED TOGETHER WITH THE \$20,000 MONTHLY FEES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF OPERATING A PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND HUNG HOM.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE MADE BECAUSE THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION WAS ESTIMATED TO DETERIORATE TO A POINT WHICH NECESSITATED REMEDIAL ACTION NOW.

FORECASTS SHOWED, HE SAID, THAT THE COMPANY WOULD FACE A \$2 MILLION DEFICIT IN 1974 EVEN IF THE ROYALTY WAS WAIVED AND THE PRESENT FARES INCREASED. THE FORECAST FOR 1975 WAS FOR A DEFICIT OF \$3.6 MILLION ON THE SAME BASIS.

+THE DEFICIT SITUATION THAT IS FORECAST CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO OCCUR AS THE COMPANY MUST CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON A VIABLE BASIS SO THAT IT MAY CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS NECESSARY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT NEEDS,+ SAID MR. HADDON-CAVE.

THE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE FARE STRUCTURE PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN ADULT FIRST AND ONE CLASS PASSENGER FARES FROM 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS, WITH CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS FROM 10 CENTS TO 20 CENTS.

SECOND CLASS PASSENGER FARES FOR ADULTS OR CHILDREN UNDER 16 ARE TO INCREASE FROM 10 CENTS TO 20 CENTS.

WHERE MONTHLY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE, THE PRICE IS TO INCREASE FROM \$8 TO \$12 FOR ADULTS AND FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16 FROM \$4 TO \$6.

ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS OF AGE WILL CONTINUE TO TRAVEL FREE. ALL FREIGHT IS TO BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF \$1.50 PER PICUL OR FOUR CUBIC FEET, WHILE VEHICLE RATES ARE SUBJECT MAINLY TO SMALLER PERCENTAGE INCREASES THAN PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT.

THE NEW FARES WILL COME INTO EFFECT NEXT MONDAY (JULY 22).

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT WITH THE FARE INCREASES AND THE WAIVING OF ROYALTY AND MONTHLY FEES, IT WAS FORECAST THAT THE COMPANY WOULD OBTAIN A RETURN ON NET ASSETS OF SOME 7 PER CENT IN 1974, 11.5 PER CENT IN 1975 AND 9 PER CENT IN 1976.

/+THESE FORECAST

+THESE FORECAST RATES OF RETURN ARE BASED ON A NUMBER OF OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTIONS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NO CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC OR THE VOLUME OF FREIGHT CARRIED, AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE OF FARES AND FREIGHT CHARGES.

+THE ESTIMATED RATES OF RETURN ARE MODEST, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE 15 PER CENT RETURN WHICH HAS NORMALLY BEEN REGARDED AS A FAIR RATE FOR EFFICIENTLY RUN TRANSPORT COMPANIES. THEY REPRESENT ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROFITABILITY OF THE COMPANY AND ARE, THEREFORE, APPROPRIATE TO THE SITUATION AND NO MORE THAN THAT,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE TWO MAJOR FACTORS WHICH HAVE LED TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE SAID, TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES HAD STEADILY INCREASED AND CONTINUE TO DO SO. BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION, THE ESTIMATED INCREASE IN THESE EXPENSES, COMPARING 1973 WITH 1974 AND 1975 AND EXCLUDING PAYMENT OF ROYALTY AND MONTHLY FEES, IS APPROXIMATELY \$17 MILLION (35%) AND \$23 MILLION (48%) RESPECTIVELY.

THE ELEMENT REPRESENTING THE COST OF FUEL OIL IN THE COMPANY'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES HAD ALSO RISEN BY ABOUT 180 PER CENT BETWEEN JANUARY 1973 AND MARCH 1974.

SECONDLY, HE WENT ON, TOTAL REVENUE IN 1973 FELL BY SOME \$9 MILLION (14%) FROM THAT OBTAINED IN 1972 AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, CROSS HARBOUR REVENUE, WITH THE OPENING OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IN 1972, DROPPED BY SOME \$11 MILLION (22%) IN 1973 COMPARED WITH 1972. THIS PARTICULAR REDUCTION WAS PARTIALLY OFFSET BY INCREASED REVENUE ON OTHER SERVICES.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID IT WAS PERTINENT THAT, PRIOR TO 1972, THE COMPANY'S VEHICULAR SERVICES WERE THE MOST PROFITABLE ELEMENT OF ITS OPERATIONS AND MUCH OF THAT PROFIT SERVED TO SUBSIDISE THE FARES ON THE PASSENGER SERVICES.

+THAT SUBSIDISATION, IN EFFECT, DELAYED THE INTRODUCTION OF A PROPER LEVEL OF VIABLE PASSENGER FARES, BUT THE LOSS OF REVENUE SINCE THE OPENING OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IN 1972 NO LONGER ALLOWED SUCH A SUBSIDY TO BE CONTINUED.

/+IN THESE

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COMPANY PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH FORM THE BASIS OF THIS MOTION AND WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE FELT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN THE COMPANY'S SERVICES WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MODERN VESSELS. PASSENGERS HAVE BENEFITED CONSIDERABLY FROM FASTER SERVICES AND THE ADDED COMFORT OF THE DE LUXE CLASS ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE ON SOME SERVICES, HE NOTED.

THE COMPANY HAD ALSO ATTEMPTED TO IMPROVE THE CLEANLINESS OF ITS FERRIES AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.

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WIDER DISCIPLINARY POWERS FOR MEDICAL COUNCIL

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THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, WHICH WIDENS THE DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL, PASSED ITS THIRD AND FINAL READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH IN COUNCIL DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG EXPRESSED WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE BILL SAYING THAT IT WOULD GIVE THE MEDICAL COUNCIL THE NECESSARY LEEWAY AND DISCRETIONARY POWERS.

DR. FANG NOTED THAT THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE HAD CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF EMBARRASSMENT, DECEPTION AND UNNECESSARY DISGRACE TO CERTAIN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

+THESE PRACTITIONERS HAVE, IT IS TRUE, BEEN GUILTY OF INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAW BUT THEIR OFFENCES HAVE BEEN OF A MINOR NATURE.

+IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE INFRINGEMENTS DO NOT WARRANT A PUBLIC DENOUNCEMENT OF THEIR ACTIONS BY USING THE DISCREDITABLE WORDS 'PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT' OR 'UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT',+ HE SAID. +THIS CAN BE MOST MISLEADING IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC AND MOST DAMAGING TO THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED.+

UNDER THE NEW PROVISIONS, THE MEDICAL COUNCIL WILL HAVE DISCRETION TO ISSUE WARNING LETTERS AND TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT ANY PARTICULAR WARNING LETTER SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN THE GAZETTE.

PREVIOUSLY, ANY ORDER MADE BY THE COUNCIL COULD BE SUSPENDED -- BUT WHATEVER DECISION WAS ARRIVED AT HAD TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974

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WORKERS' RIGHTS TO TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP
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AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ENTITLED THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, 1974 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE AMENDMENT, WHICH ADDS A NEW PART IIC TO THE ORDINANCE, GIVES LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES, AS MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS, IN RELATION TO THEIR EMPLOYERS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, SAID THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS THEMSELVES WERE FULLY DEALT WITH IN THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE. THE NEW AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE THUS DEALT WITH THE INDIVIDUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AND DID NOT CONFER ADDITIONAL RIGHTS ON TRADE UNIONS AS SUCH.

+THE BILL GIVES LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE GENERALLY-ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE THAT AN EMPLOYEE HAS THE RIGHT TO JOIN A TRADE UNION AND THAT UNION MEMBERSHIP SHOULD NOT WORK TO HIS DETRIMENT,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE BILL, WHICH WAS SIMILAR TO LEGISLATION APPLYING THE PROVISIONS OF ILO CONVENTION NO. 98 IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SHOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPLY WITH THE CONVENTION.

THE DEBATE WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILLS PASSED
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EIGHT BILLS PASSED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO BECOME LAW.

THEY WERE: THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE PROTECTION OF NON-GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE WATERWORKS BILL 1974, AND THE PORT CONTROL (CARGO WORKING AREAS) BILL 1974.

THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG WAS TABLED IN COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) 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 MEW		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.07
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	1.97
PO NGAI	--	--
CHU CHO	--	--
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.84
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.82
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.72
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.52
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	--	--
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.87
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.82
PAKISTAN RICE	--	--
TAIWAN RICE	--	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORKER (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)

GOOD

310

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 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	4.80	3.50	4.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.70	0.70	2.00
SQUID	LIMITED	6.50	2.50	4.20
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.00	0.80	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.60	1.40	1.80
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.60	0.80	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.00	1.30	1.60
MELON COAT	SCARCE	2.20	1.50	2.00
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.30	3.20	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.40	0.50	0.90
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	0.80	0.40	0.60
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	0.90	0.50	0.80
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	5.20	3.20	4.00
MELON SEED	NORMAL	2.60	0.90	1.80
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	7.50	5.00	6.00

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	1.50	0.50	1.00
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.40	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.35
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	2.40	1.00	1.80
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	3.50	1.00	2.00
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.20	0.20	0.70
SPINACH			NO SALE	
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	2.20	1.00	1.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.40	0.40	0.80
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
TOMATO	SCARCE	1.80	0.60	1.40