



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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GREEN PAPERS ON SOCIAL WELFARE OUTLINED

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TODAY OUTLINED THE DETAILS OF THE THREE GREEN PAPERS ON SOCIAL SECURITY, SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK FOR YOUTH.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR. LEE SAID, +IF THEY ARE APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED, THEY WILL MARK A SUBSTANTIAL STEP FORWARD IN THE COVERAGE AND IMPACT OF OUR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.+

+WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE FORWARD AS FAST AS IS PRACTICABLE= AND THAT WE SHALL DO. BUT EQUALLY WE MUST NOT TRY TO MOVE FORWARD SO FAST THAT WE OVERREACH OURSELVES,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WAS BADLY EXECUTED MIGHT WELL BE WORSE THAN NO PROGRAMME AT ALL.

HE SAID, +WE SHOULD DO LITTLE SERVICE TO HONG KONG IF WE WERE TO RAISE PEOPLE'S HOPES WITH NEW PROPOSALS BUT THEN, BY FAILING TO IMPLEMENT THEM EFFECTIVELY, REPLACE HOPE BY DISAPPOINTMENT.+

MR. LEE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE TO DELIVER AN EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC INSPITE OF THE EXPANSIONS UNDER THE NEW PROGRAMMES.

+I HOPE THAT WITHIN FOUR MONTHS A MANAGEMENT REVIEW TEAM NOW AT WORK IN MY DEPARTMENT WILL COME UP WITH ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING OUR EFFICIENCY WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO FULFILL THE TASKS BEFORE US,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE GREEN PAPER ON SOCIAL SECURITY, MR. LEE REVEALED THAT IT WOULD BE PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1978. THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE:

- \* FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN 18 MONTHS WILL RECEIVE A SUPPLEMENT TO THEIR MONTHLY ALLOWANCE OF \$200 AND SINGLE PERSONS, \$100=
- \* PERSONS OVER 60 RECEIVING ASSISTANCE WHO DO NOT ALSO RECEIVE A DISABILITY OR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WILL RECEIVE A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT OF \$100 TO HELP WITH THE EXPENSE OF OLD AGE= AND
- \* THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO REGISTER FOR WORK WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP, AS AN INCENTIVE, HALF THEIR EARNINGS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$100 IN ALL.

MR. LEE FURTHER REVEALED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE PROPOSED THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE NON-MEANS TESTED DISABILITY AND OLD AGE ALLOWANCES SHOULD BECOME PAYABLE TO THOSE IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARDS SHOULD BEGIN OPERATION.

/THE NEXT STEP .....

THE NEXT STEP TO FOLLOW, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO EXTEND THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SCHEME TO COVER THOSE AGED 70 - 75.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES — ONE IN OCTOBER 1978 AND THE OTHER IN APRIL 1979. IN OCTOBER, THE AGE LIMIT WOULD BE LOWERED TO 73 AND IN APRIL 1979 TO 70.

+IT WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE TO AIM TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO COVER THE LARGE NUMBER ELIGIBLE IN ONE STAGE — THERE ARE ALMOST 150,000 AGED BETWEEN 70 - 75. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO INVITE PRECISELY THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID,+ HE EXPLAINED.

AS REGARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR. LEE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, A MODEST INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HOME HELPERS, NINE MORE SOCIAL CENTRES AND UP TO 500 MORE PLACES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED INCLUDING CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND ANOTHER 500 PLACES IN HOSTELS FOR OLD PEOPLE.

+I ALSO HOPE TO PROVIDE FOR A MODEST MEASURE OF SPECIAL TRANSPORT FOR OLD PEOPLE AND FOR TWO DAY-CARE CENTRES AND TWO HANDICRAFT CENTRES ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUTH, MR. LEE SAID THAT THE MAIN THRUST WOULD BE IN THREE AREAS, NAMELY THE EXPANSION IN PLAY LEADERSHIP SCHEMES AND YOUTH GUIDANCE ON A DISTRICT BASIS= AN EXPANSION IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK.

TURNING TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR. LEE SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULAR ENCOURAGED BY THE WELCOME THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME AND DISCLOSED THAT AN ACTUARIAL STUDY OF THE SCHEME WAS BEING PUT IN HAND SO THAT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ASSESSED THE RESPONSE TO THE GREEN PAPER ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

+IF IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESPONSE AND THE STUDY, THE DECISION IS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SCHEME, A DETAILED DRAFT SCHEME WILL BE PREPARED FOR CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATIONS,+ HE SAID.

ON CONTRACTING-OUT ARRANGEMENTS, MR. LEE SAID, +IT WOULD BE SIMPLER NOT TO HAVE ANY CONTRACTING-OUT ARRANGEMENTS. BUT I DOUBT WHETHER THAT WOULD BE FAIR TO THOSE FORWARD LOOKING EMPLOYERS, WHO HAVE INTRODUCED THEIR OWN SCHEMES, WHICH MAY BE VALUED BY EMPLOYEES. EMPLOYERS DO NOT HAVE TO CONTRACT-OUT= BUT I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD THE POSITION OF AN EMPLOYEE WHO CHANGED JOBS, AND THAT PROPOSALS WERE MADE IN THE GREEN PAPER TO DEAL WITH THIS ASPECT.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE A SAVINGS ELEMENT IN THE SCHEME, MR. LEE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK INTO THIS, BUT HE FEARED THAT IT MIGHT MAKE THE SCHEME UNDULY COMPLEX.

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AS TO CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEME, MR. LEE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING EMPLOYEES TO PAY, VOLUNTARILY, A HIGHER CONTRIBUTION, THOUGH WITHOUT ANY MATCHING HIGHER CONTRIBUTION FROM THE EMPLOYER AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER.

+I BELIEVE THAT SOME CONTRIBUTION FROM THE EMPLOYEE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WAY THE SCHEME WOULD WORK= BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF WHAT IS SAID ABOUT THE RATE OR CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE,+ HE SAID.

+THE SHAPE THE PROPOSALS ARE TAKING WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AN EARLY STAGE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THIS WILL ENABLE THE VIEWS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTION TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT,+ HE STRESSED.

+PRELIMINARY AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BY THE MANAGEMENT REVIEW TEAM WITH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ARE IN FACT ALREADY TAKING PLACE,+ HE ADDED.

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PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND FORM 3 PUBLISHED IN GREEN PAPER  
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PUBLISHED IN A GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT ALL LEVELS BEYOND THE NINE-YEAR COURSE OF GENERAL EDUCATION THAT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL FROM SEPTEMBER 1978.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT IN FORMULATING ITS PROPOSALS THE GOVERNMENT HAD ENDEAVOURED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF STUDENT AND PARENTAL PRESSURE FOR PLACES, THE CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY TO ABSORB HIGHLY-EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE AT SALARIES WHICH WILL SATISFY THE RECIPIENTS AND THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITH THE ABILITY TO MEET THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSES TO BE PROVIDED.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS +RIGHT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF YOUNG PERSONS TO CONTINUE THEIR POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION ON A PART-TIME BASIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH EMPLOYMENT.+ SOME PLACES FOR FORM 3 LEAVERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED ON A PART-TIME DAY OR EVENING BASIS IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES. A DROP OF ABOUT ONE-THIRD OVER 10 YEARS IN THE NUMBER OF 15 YEAR-OLDS BY 1986 WAS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTOR WHEN CONSIDERING THE PACE OF FUTURE EXPANSION.

/THESE THEMES WERE .....

THESE THEMES WERE TAKEN UP BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO, WHEN DESCRIBING THE GREEN PAPER'S PROPOSALS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. HE EMPHASISED THAT THE POLICY PUT FORWARD IN THE GREEN PAPER WAS THAT +EXPANSION SHOULD BE KEPT AT A PACE THAT WILL ENABLE ADMISSION STANDARDS TO BE MAINTAINED, GOOD QUALITY FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED, AND TERTIARY EDUCATION GRADUATES TO HAVE SATISFACTORY PROSPECTS OF FINDING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT+.

#### FEATURES OF THE GREEN PAPER

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##### MORE PLACES FOR THOSE COMPLETING FORM 3

THE TARGET FOR SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL BE RAISED TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACES, WITH SUBSEQUENT PROGRESSION TO FORM 5, FOR 50 PER CENT OF THE 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION IN 1981. THIS COMPARES WITH THE 40 PER CENT TARGET IN THE 1974 WHITE PAPER AND THE 17 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WHO PROCEEDED TO A SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACE IN 1977.

TO ACHIEVE THE 50 PER CENT TARGET, THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN EACH OF FORMS 4 AND 5 WILL BE RAISED FROM 19,600 TO 46,800.

THIS WILL BE DONE FIRSTLY BY CONTINUING THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME : BETWEEN 1976 AND 1978, 54 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL HAVE BEEN OPENED AND A FURTHER 48 WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1981.

SECONDLY, THE FORM 4-5 PLACES IN PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF FORM 4-5 CLASSES IN MANY SUCH SCHOOLS WILL BE INCREASED BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FORM 1-3 CLASSES (AS THE POPULATION IN THE YOUNGER AGE GROUP DECLINES).

THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FORM 3 LEAVER TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE GREEN PAPER NOTES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PRIORITY IN RECENT YEARS TO THE BUILDING OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, MOST OF WHOSE COURSES ARE DESIGNED FOR THE FORM 3 LEAVER.

THE NEW HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WHICH OPENED IN 1977 BROUGHT THE NUMBER OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES UP TO FOUR. BY THE TIME THAT THE KOWLOON TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE ANNEX TO MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (BOTH DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1979) BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL MEET THE EDUCATIONAL DEMAND FROM NEARLY 14 PER CENT OF THE 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION IN 1981.

/THUS, CONSIDERING .....

THUS, CONSIDERING TOGETHER SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, THERE WILL BE SUBSIDISED PLACES FOR SOME 64 PER CENT OF THE 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION IN 1981 UPON COMPLETING FORM 3.

SOME OF THE REMAINDER OF THE POPULATION WILL OCCUPY OTHER PUBLICLY-PROVIDED PLACES, SUCH AS THOSE ON EVENING COURSES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES, IN SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE POLICE CADET SCHOOL, IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOLS OR IN SCHOOLS PROVIDING SPECIAL EDUCATION.

MOREOVER, SOME STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO GO ON AN UNASSISTED BASIS TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, EVEN WHEN SUFFICIENT PUBLICLY-PROVIDED PLACES ARE AVAILABLE.

IN THE PERIOD AFTER 1981 THE NUMBER OF FORM 4-5 PLACES WILL BE HELD CONSTANT, ALTHOUGH THE 15-16 YEAR-OLD POPULATION WILL FALL.

THIS MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE A SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACE FOR SOME 63 PER CENT OF THE 16-YEAR-OLD POPULATION IN 1986.

ALSO, IT IS PROPOSED TO BUILD A NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT TUEN MUN IN THE EARLY 1980'S IF JUSTIFIED BY DEMAND. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE PROPORTION OF PLACES AVAILABLE IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WOULD RISE TO 20% OF THE AGE-GROUP IN 1986. SO THAT BY 1986 THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 83% TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION ON A SUBSIDISED BASIS IN SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AFTER COMPLETING FORM 3, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES MENTIONED ABOVE.

THE GREEN PAPER ASSERTS THAT +WITH ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, IT IS RECKONED THAT DURING THE 1980'S THERE WILL BE AMPLE PUBLICLY-PROVIDED PLACES IN RELATION TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION IN THE AGE-GROUP.+

#### SIXTH FORMS

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE THE POLICY DERIVED FROM THE 1974 WHITE PAPER OF PROVIDING A SUBSIDISED LOWER FORM 6 PLACE FOR UP TO ONE-THIRD OF STUDENTS ENTERING SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACES TWO YEARS PREVIOUSLY, PROVIDED THAT SUFFICIENT STUDENTS ARE FORTHCOMING WHO ARE FITTED FOR THE EXACTING ACADEMIC STANDARDS THAT A SIXTH FORM COURSE REQUIRES.

IT IS PLANNED THAT SIXTH FORM PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR NEARLY 20% OF THE 17-YEAR-OLD POPULATION IN 1986, COMPARED WITH 5-1/2% IN 1977.

#### THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

MUCH EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AT ALL STAGES. THE PLANNED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FULLY AIDED AND PER CAPUT GRANT SCHOOLS WILL ENABLE STUDENTS TO TAKE THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS THAT HAVE PURPOSE-BUILT ACCOMMODATION WITH SUFFICIENT WORKSHOP AND LABORATORY FACILITIES, AND THE RESOURCES TO EMPLOY TRAINED TEACHERS OF GOOD CALIBRE.

EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE SENIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM, OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES WILL BE DEVELOPED AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES EXPANDED AND IMPROVED. MUCH WEIGHT IS ATTACHED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS.

CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON DIVERSIFYING THE CURRICULUM IN FORMS 4-5, IN PARTICULAR TO ENABLE AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE A PRACTICAL OR TECHNICAL SUBJECT. A BROADENING OF THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM IS ENVISAGED ALSO.

ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN ALSO TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHER-TRAINING. ENTRANCE STANDARDS AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL BE RAISED AND THE LENGTH OF THE BASIC PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE EXTENDED FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS. COURSES FOR UNTRAINED SERVING TEACHERS WOULD BE EXTENDED ALSO. A SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMME WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR IN-SERVICE RETRAINING OF TEACHERS WHO HAVE BEEN SOME YEARS IN THE SCHOOLS.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES WHO ENTER THE TEACHING PROFESSION WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A COURSE OF TEACHER TRAINING.

#### TERTIARY EDUCATION

THE PROPORTION OF STUDENTS IN THE AGE-GROUP PROCEEDING TO COURSES OF TERTIARY EDUCATION PROVIDED OR WHOLLY SUBVENTED BY GOVERNMENT WILL NEARLY DOUBLE OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

THE POLYTECHNIC, WHICH HAS EXPANDED RAPIDLY IN RECENT YEARS, WILL GROW AT THE RATE OF 5% ANNUALLY OVER THE TRIENNIUM 1978-81 AND THEREAFTER STABILISE AT A POPULATION OF 12,000 FULL-TIME AND EQUIVALENT PART-TIME, PROVIDING OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 29,600 STUDENTS BY ALL MODES OF ATTENDANCE.

THE POLYTECHNIC WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE MAIN PROVIDER OF TECHNICIAN LEVEL COURSES, THOUGH SUCH COURSES ARE ALSO PROVIDED IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. WHILE INITIALLY THE BULK OF ORDINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAMMES MUST BE AT THE POLYTECHNIC, DURING 1980'S INCREASED EMPHASIS MIGHT BE PLACED ON HIGHER TECHNICIAN AND TECHNOLOGIST PROGRAMMES, WITH SOME ORDINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAMMES BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, PROVIDED THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WERE JUSTIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREDIT UNIT PROGRAMMES OF STUDY WILL ENHANCE MOBILITY BETWEEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE POLYTECHNIC. THE RANGE OF COURSES PROVIDED AT THE POLYTECHNIC WILL BE BROADENED AS IT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR VARIOUS PROFESSIONS RELATED TO THE MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES.

IT IS PREPARED THAT THE COMBINED STUDENT POPULATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD GROW FROM THE TARGET OF 8,850 IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR TO IN EXCESS OF 12,000 BY THE MID 1980'S, WITH THE PROPORTION OF THE RELEVANT POPULATION WHO RECEIVE A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION BEING NEARLY TWICE WHAT IT IS IN 1977-78. THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE DENTAL SCHOOL AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY REPRESENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE COLLEGES REGISTERED UNDER THE POST SECONDARY COLLEGES ORDINANCE WILL REMAIN AS PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE THE LIMITED SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY STUDENTS WITH THE UNAVOIDABLY HIGH TUITION FEES A COLLEGE MUST CHARGE IF IT IS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES.

#### ADULT EDUCATION

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO GIVE ATTENTION TO RAISING THE QUALITY OF ADULT EDUCATION.

IT BELIEVES THAT THE APPROPRIATE FIRST STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATING STANDARDS OF COURSES PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION, BY PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO LABORATORIES AND OTHER SPECIAL ROOMS, BY ESTABLISHING A SMALL SPECIALIST TEAM FOR ADULT EDUCATION WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND BY STRENGTHENING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ADULT EDUCATION COURSES.

THE NEED TO ASSIST VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WITH SELECTED ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ALSO.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE GREEN PAPER WILL BE READ WIDELY AND THAT ALL THOSE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT - WHETHER FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER - WILL MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN.

COMMENTS SHOULD BE SENT BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 1978 TO:

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING),  
LOWER ALBERT ROAD,  
HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THE GREEN PAPER AND OF A SUMMARY LEAFLET IN CHINESE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

ALSO PUBLISHED TODAY IS THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON SELECTION AND ALLOCATION FOR POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION.

MR. TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL +THAT THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THIS REPORT WERE ARRIVED AT COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY AND WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE GREEN PAPER.+

HE CONGRATULATED MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH THEY HAVE TACKLED A COMPLEX PROBLEM.

THE DIRECTOR SAID: +THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MOST RELEVANT TO THOSE OF THE GREEN PAPER AND DISCUSSION OF BOTH REPORTS MUST GO IN STEP.+

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE WORKING PARTY REPORT SHOULD BE SENT BY THE END OF DECEMBER 1977 TO:

/THE DIRECTOR OF .....

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,  
ATTENTION: SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (PLANNING),  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,  
LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR,  
HYSAN AVENUE,  
HONG KONG.

FEATURES OF THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT

THE 1974 WHITE PAPER ENVISAGED THAT, FOLLOWING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF 100% PROVISION OF JUNIOR SECONDARY PLACES AND THE ABOLITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (SSEE), A NEW PUBLIC EXAMINATION, THE HONG KONG JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, WOULD BE HELD AT THE END OF FORM 3 (FOR PUPILS NOT REQUIRED TO SIT FOR THE SSEE) FIRSTLY TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF FORM 3 AND SECONDLY, TO SELECT AND ALLOCATE PUPILS FOR FORM 4-5 PLACES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, WHICH WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR 40% OF THE 15-16 AGE GROUPS.

THE WORKING PARTY EXAMINED THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF VARIOUS METHODS OF SELECTION, RANGING FROM SCALED INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS TO A FULL PUBLIC EXAMINATION IN ALL SUBJECTS.

ASSUMING THE INEVITABILITY OF SELECTION AND CONSIDERING THAT THE PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED MUST BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE AND MUST HAVE THE LEAST BACKWASH EFFECT ON THE CURRICULUM, AN EXAMINATION IN CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS SCALED BY THE SAME EXAMINATION, IS PREFERRED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY.

THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMEND THAT INITIALLY THE EXAMINATION SHOULD BE GIVEN A HEAVIER WEIGHTING, AND THAT THIS WEIGHTING SHOULD BE PERIODICALLY REDUCED UNTIL THE EXAMINATION AND THE SCALED SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS COUNT EQUALLY.

DETAILS ARE LEFT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT RESEARCH SHOULD BE INITIATED INTO THE RELATIVE MERITS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF TESTS OR COMBINATIONS OF TESTS WHICH WILL GIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS.

THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS TERRITORY-WIDE ALLOCATION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF +FEEDER-SCHOOL+ ARRANGEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE 1978 PRIMARY 6/FORM 1 ALLOCATION SYSTEM SO THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, PUPILS SELECTED TO PROCEED TO FORM 4 WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS.

ON THE QUESTION OF CERTIFICATION, THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE AWARDED TO ALL FORM 3 LEAVERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE SELECTION AND ALLOCATION SYSTEM, AND THAT WHILE THE ISSUING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CERTIFICATE FOR THE HEAD OF SCHOOL TO RECORD HIS/HER OBSERVATIONS OF THE PUPIL'S CHARACTER, POTENTIAL AND NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

THE REPORT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE SUBJECT OF SELECTION AND ALLOCATION FOR POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION IS A CONTROVERSIAL ONE, AND THAT THE WORKING PARTY DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON ALL THE MATTERS DISCUSSED. THE QUESTIONS WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SELECTION AT ALL, AND IF SO, WHETHER A PROVISION RATE OF 40% IS ADEQUATE, ARE ONES ON WHICH THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

A NUMBER OF MEMBERS PUT FORWARD ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE 1974 WHITE PAPER. AMONG THESE PROPOSALS ARE:

- \* TEN YEARS OF SUBSIDISED EDUCATION FOR ALL WHO WANT IT, INVOLVING NO SELECTION=
- \* FIVE YEARS OF ASSISTED SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL WHO WANT IT BY UTILISING BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, ALSO INVOLVING NO SELECTION= AND
- \* INCREASING THE PERCENTAGE OF FULLY-SUBSIDISED FORMS 4-5 PLACES TO AN ACCEPTABLE FIGURE AND PROVIDING MORE ATTRACTIVE FORMS OF CAREER-ORIENTATED EDUCATION FOR OTHER FORM 3 LEAVERS, WHICH IMPLIES THAT SELECTION AT THE END OF FORM 3 IS NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE.

THE WORKING PARTY POINTS OUT THAT THE MEMBERS WHO MADE THESE PROPOSALS HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE AN INFORMED PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF PROVISION FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF THE REPORT AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE THEIR PROPOSALS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WHEN THE WHITE PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IS DRAFTED.

THE 26-MEMBER WORKING PARTY, CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, CONSISTED OF HEADS AND TEACHERS OF SCHOOLS OF ALL KINDS AND OFFICERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PRIMARY 6 PUPILS TAKING THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION BY APRIL 1978 AS ANY SELECTION AND ALLOCATION PROCEDURE FOR POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION TO BE ADOPTED MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THEIR CHOICE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. TOPLEY WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER AND THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED.

PRESS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO BRING WITH THEM COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER AND THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT DISTRIBUTED TODAY BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES. SINCE THERE IS A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THE TWO DOCUMENTS, EXTRA COPIES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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### REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT PLANS REVEALED

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A CENTRAL HEALTH UNIT, A COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND EXPERIMENTAL DAY CENTRES FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED WILL BE SET UP BEFORE THE END OF NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

THESE ARE AMONG THE MANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REHABILITATION FIELD REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, MR. HO SAID THE EXPERIMENTAL DAY CENTRES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THREE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BEFORE THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

+IN THE MEANTIME WORK HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS, EVEN BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER, ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PSYCHIATRIC WING OF 1,304 BEDS AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, AND THE PROVISION OF 288 BEDS FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED WITHIN THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE EXTENSION SCHEME.

+THESE PROJECTS ARE DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1980 AND 1978 RESPECTIVELY.+

MR. HO NOTED THAT DURING 1978/79 THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL BE SETTING UP A CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES= A COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME TO PROVIDE ROUTINE OBSERVATION FOR ALL INFANTS AGED BELOW FIVE YEARS AND AN ORTHOPTIC UNIT TO TREAT DEFECTIVE EYE MOVEMENTS.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRE-VOCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH.

+UNLESS THERE ARE UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBVENTING MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S CENTRES FROM APRIL 1978.+

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROVISION OF BRAILLE TEXTBOOKS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR.

IN THE FIELD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, MR. HO SAID VISION SCREENING WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL PRIMARY ONE STUDENTS IN 1978. OTHER SCREENING SERVICES AND GROUP TESTING PROGRAMMES WILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER ALL PRIMARY STUDENTS AS QUICKLY AS RESOURCES PERMIT.

IN ADDITION, HE EXPECTED THAT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR THE DATA PROCESSING DIVISION WILL COMPLETE A STUDY ON THE BEST FORM IN WHICH STATISTICS ON THE DISABLED SHOULD BE COLLECTED AND COLLATED.

/REGARDING THE .....

REGARDING THE PLANNING OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CENTRES, MR. HO SAID, HIS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR REHABILITATION WAS CURRENTLY VISITING SOME SUCH CENTRES IN WEST GERMANY WHICH WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE WORLD.

+ON HIS RETURN HE WILL BE REPORTING ON HOW SIMILAR CENTRES MIGHT BE OPERATED AND ADMINISTERED HERE HAVING REGARD TO OUR DISTINCTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG IN THE DEBATE, MR. HO SAID THE ROLE OF THE REHABILITATION UNIT NEWLY SET UP WITHIN HIS BRANCH WAS PRIMARILY TO CO-ORDINATE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PLANNING OBJECTIVES IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WHICH CROSS SEVERAL DEPARTMENTAL BOUNDARIES.

+IN ORDER THAT THIS AIM IS ACHIEVED, IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THIS SMALL UNIT SHOULD BE GIVEN EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS WHICH MUST REMAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENTS. ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO CONFER THE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER ON THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT,+ HE SAID.

MR. HO ALSO ASSURED REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT THAT HER SUGGESTIONS FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF NEW CODES OF AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN PARTICULAR THOSE PROVISIONS RELATING TO STAFF, ESTABLISHMENT AND GRADING WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY A SMALL WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE WHETHER SUBVENTION PROCEDURES TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS COULD BE STREAMLINED WITHIN EXPANDED CODES OF AID.

ON THE NEED FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND TRAINED STAFF TO MEET NEEDS OF THE REHABILITATION PLAN AND OTHER SPHERES OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, HE SAID PENDING THE DETAILED STUDY BY THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE TRAINING AND MANPOWER NEEDS FOR REHABILITATION WORK AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REVIEWS BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PROJECTIONS OF MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE VARIOUS FIELDS CAN ONLY BE ROUGH APPROXIMATIONS.

TURNING TO EDUCATION, MR. HO SAID BECAUSE OF THE WANT OF ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL, IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO INTRODUCE AN OPEN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME FOR WHICH THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE SCOPE WAS A PILOT PROGRAMME OF PART-TIME DEGREES DESIGNED FOR MATURE STUDENTS RATHER THAN SCHOOL LEAVERS.

ON THE GROWTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THAT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES SHOULD GROW BY THREE PER CENT ANNUALLY AND IT ENVISAGED THAT THIS RATE OF EXPANSION WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PERIOD SO THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENT POPULATION WOULD EXCEED 12,000 BY THE MID 1980'S.

HE SAID THE POLYTECHNIC WAS PLANNED TO REACH A STUDENT NUMBER TARGET OF 11,400 FULL-TIME AND EQUIVALENT PART TIME BY 1980-81 AND THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THAT IT SHOULD THEREAFTER BE STABILISED AT A POPULATION OF 12,000 FULL-TIME AND EQUIVALENT PART-TIME.

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MR. HO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENTER TERTIARY EDUCATION WILL BE IMPROVED BY THE SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN THE 17 TO 19 YEARS OLD POPULATION.

THE FIRST YEAR PLACES AT THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC WILL INCREASE FROM ABOUT 13 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT POPULATION IN 1977 TO NEARLY 23 PER CENT BY 1986.

HE NOTED THAT THE PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS EVIDENT FROM ITS EXPENDITURE HAVING RISEN FROM \$33 MILLION IN 1965-66, WHEN THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE CAME INTO BEING, TO A PROVISION OF MORE THAN \$350 MILLION IN 1977-78 ESTIMATES.

ON THE TURNOVER OF DOCTORS IN PUBLIC SERVICE, MR. HO SAID RECORDS SHOWED THAT THERE WAS AN AVERAGE ANNUAL TURNOVER OF ABOUT 13 PER CENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCTORS WHOSE SERVICES ARE IN STRONG DEMAND, THIS TURNOVER RATE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE EXCESSIVE.

HE SAID IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE REWARDS TO DOCTORS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE WERE MUCH GREATER, GOVERNMENT DOCTORS HAD ASKED FOR CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, PROMOTION PROSPECTS, SPECIALIST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERSEAS STUDY LEAVE AND SOME OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS.

THESE REQUESTS, HE SAID, WERE BEING LOOKED INTO AND HE HOPED THAT SOME IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE QUITE SOON.

MR. HO ALSO REVEALED THAT LEGISLATION ON PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE WAS BEING DRAFTED AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE A BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED  
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STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN - SEPARATE FROM PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION - TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN REPLY TO A POINT RAISED BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG WHO STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER CO-ORDINATION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

MR. TOPLEY SAID: +ALL THAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS FINAL AGREEMENT AS TO ITS COMPOSITION.

+IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE SET UP A DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WHICH IS ALREADY PREPARING MATERIAL FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE WHEN IT IS CONVENED.+

HE STATED THAT MUCH ATTENTION WAS GIVEN IN THE GREEN PAPER TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AND MAKING IT SUITABLE TO CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY A TECHNICAL SUBJECT AT FORMS 4 AND 5 LEVEL. THE NEW SCHOOLS WHICH ARE BEING BUILT WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT LABORATORY AND WORKSHOP FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE.

+IT IS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CONVERSIONS IN EXISTING SCHOOLS TO ENABLE TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TO BE DEVELOPED. CENTRAL WORKSHOPS WILL BE PIONEERED ON A PILOT BASIS FOR THE PARTICULAR USE OF THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE INSUFFICIENT SPACE TO DEVELOP FACILITIES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, MR. TOPLEY SAID, THE QUALITY OF TEACHING MUST IMPROVE AND IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE STANDARD COURSE AT COLLEGES OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE LENGTHENED FROM TWO YEARS TO THREE YEARS.

+COURSES OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF TEACHERS HAVE BEEN A FEATURE OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE. IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE REGULAR COURSES OF REFRESHER TRAINING DURING A TEACHER'S CAREER.

+IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE ADOPTED IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY MR. ALEX WU, TO USE THE PREMISES OF ONE OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AS AN INTERIM HOME FOR A PROFESSIONAL ARTS TRAINING CENTRE,+ MR. TOPLEY POINTED OUT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, MR. WU WOULD BE INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED TO DEVELOP MUSIC AT THE SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL.

/SPEAKING BRIEFLY .....

SPEAKING BRIEFLY ON THE BUILDING PROGRAMME, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT PUTTING ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT THE 18 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS REFERRED TO BY THE GOVERNOR, 54 OF THE NEW SCHOOLS PLANNED WOULD BE IN OPERATION BY 1978, AND THE REMAINING 30 TO BE COMPLETED BY 1981.

+OF THESE 84 SCHOOLS, 16 WILL BE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 17 IN KOWLOON AND 51 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, CHIEFLY IN THE NEW TOWNS. THE ADDITIONAL 18 SCHOOLS WILL ALL BE ON THE MAINLAND, THE MAJORITY OF THEM AGAIN BEING BUILT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE RESULTS OF THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE THAT THE NUMBER OF BOUGHT PLACES IN THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WILL BE REDUCED AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED. THE ADDITIONAL 18 SCHOOLS WILL ALSO ENABLE US TO REDUCE THE DEGREE OF ASYMMETRY IN THE NON-PROFIT-MAKING PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHO WILL THUS BE ABLE TO OFFER PLACES ABOVE THE FORM 3 LEVEL TO A HIGHER PROPORTION OF THEIR OWN PUPILS, AND WILL ALSO ENABLE US TO ACHIEVE 50 PER CENT PROVISION OF PUBLIC SECTOR PLACES IN FORMS 4 TO 5.+

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT HIS POWERS TO COMPEL ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL WOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER BY 1980 ALL CHILDREN UP TO THEIR 15TH BIRTHDAY.

+THIS MEANS THAT FROM 1980 IF I CONSIDER ANY PARENT OF A CHILD UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE TO BE KEEPING THAT CHILD FROM ATTENDING SCHOOL WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE I SHALL, AFTER INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SERVE AN ATTENDANCE ORDER UPON THE PARENT REQUIRING HIM TO HAVE HIS CHILD ATTEND A SCHOOL NAMED BY ME.

+ANY CHILDREN WHO HOWEVER HAVE COMPLETED THE FORM 3 COURSE BEFORE THEIR 15TH BIRTHDAY WILL NOT BE COMPELLED TO CONTINUE AT SCHOOL.+

HE ADDED: +AS SOME MEMBERS HAVE REMARKED, THE POSSESSION OF THE POWERS AND MY USE OF THEM HAVE BY NO MEANS COMPLETELY ELIMINATED NON-ATTENDANCE IN THE PRIMARY SECTOR.

+I TAKE THIS POINT, AND I AM ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF THE CHILDREN OF THE BOAT PEOPLE. I HAVE RECENTLY INITIATED A STUDY OF THE PROBLEM OF THIS SECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM IS LARGELY ONE OF RESETTLEMENT.

+WHILE A PROPORTION OF THESE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PERIPATETIC HOMES, IT WILL REMAIN WELL-NIGH IMPOSSIBLE TO ENSURE PROPER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY THEIR CHILDREN.

+THERE WILL ALSO BE PROBLEMS WITH CHILDREN IN THE REMOTE AREAS WHO WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS.

+I FORESEE THAT GENERALLY THE 'ENFORCEMENT' OF ATTENDANCE COULD WELL BE MORE DIFFICULT AT THE SECONDARY, OR 13-14 YEARS, LEVEL. TO ASSIST ME IN THIS MATTER I AM SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICER POSTS WHICH WILL HAVE AS PART OF THEIR DUTIES INVESTIGATION OF CASES OF NON-ATTENDANCE.

+ANOTHER FEATURE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN MENTIONED BY MEMBERS, IS THE NEED TO AVOID CAUSING HARDSHIP AMONG THE LESS WELL-OFF IN THE COMMUNITY.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE IN DEALING WITH CASES OF NON-ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL TO SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS IN A POSITION TO HELP IN CASES OF GENUINE HARDSHIP.+

ON THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN THE LABOUR LEGISLATION PROHIBITING EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT HE AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATION, HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE, IN THE CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG, TO PROHIBIT ALL KINDS OF WORK TO THE UNDER 15'S.

+SOME FORMS OF WORK SHOULD STILL BE ALLOWED, PROVIDED A CHILD'S SCHOOLING IS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING OUR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATION ACCORDINGLY. THE TYPES OF WORK ALLOWED, AND THE AMOUNTS PERMITTED, WILL REQUIRE UNAMBIGUOUS DEFINITION, AND MEASURES OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL, BY BOTH THE EDUCATION AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS, WILL REQUIRE TO BE CAREFULLY FORMULATED,+ MR. TOPLEY STRESSED.

CLARIFYING BRIEFLY WHAT IS MEANT BY ABOLITION OF FEES, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT +FROM SEPTEMBER 1978 ALL STANDARD FEES IN FORMS 1 TO 3 IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS WILL BE DONE AWAY WITH. FROM THE SAME DATE THE GOVERNMENT WILL MEET THE ENTIRE FEES CHARGED IN BOUGHT PLACES IN FORMS 1 TO 3 IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

+AS MANY MEMBERS WILL APPRECIATE THAT IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY. THERE ARE IN OUR AIDED SCHOOLS CERTAIN CHARGES UPON THE PUPILS, NORMALLY REFERRED TO AS 'TONG FAI' OR SUBSCRIPTIONS, WHICH ARE GAZETTED AS PART OF THE APPROVED INCLUSIVE FEE. REVENUE FROM THESE ADDITIONAL CHARGES IS USED TO PAY FOR SUCH ITEMS AS REPAYMENT OF LOANS, THE SCHOOLS' PORTIONS OF THE COST OF MAJOR REPAIRS AND THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

+THE QUESTION OF 'TONG FAI' OR SUBSCRIPTIONS IS A FAIRLY COMPLICATED ONE AND IS STILL BEING STUDIED. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHOULD NOW MEET, IN THE JUNIOR SECONDARY SECTOR, THE COSTS OF PROVIDING A REASONABLE LEVEL OF EDUCATION AT PRESENT BEING PAID FOR OUT OF 'TONG FAI' OR SUBSCRIPTION ACCOUNTS.

+TO THIS END A REVIEW OF THOSE ACCOUNTS IS BEING CONDUCTED AND CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANT AND SUBSIDISED SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCILS IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE.

+THERE ARE CLEARLY GOING TO BE SOME DEMARCATION PROBLEMS IN ESTABLISHING WHAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR A REASONABLE LEVEL OF PROVISION, BUT LINES WILL NEED TO BE DRAWN IF PUBLIC FUNDS ARE TO BE PROPERLY AND PRUDENTLY SPENT. AGREEMENTS WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE REACHED WITH THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ABOUT WHAT ARE REASONABLE FEE LEVELS AND AGAIN LINES WILL REQUIRE TO BE DRAWN.+

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO WORKING PARTIES - ONE TO REVIEW PRE-PRIMARY AND THE OTHER PRIMARY EDUCATION - UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A STEERING COMMITTEE, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 19 IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME JOINT MEETINGS OF THE WORKING PARTIES AND FOR THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY EDUCATION TO EXTEND ITS CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE SECONDARY EDUCATION SECTOR WHERE IT DEEMED THIS NECESSARY.

+THESE REVIEWS WILL BE ANOTHER MAJOR STEP IN OUR ATTEMPT TO SEE OUR SYSTEM AS A WHOLE SO THAT WE MIGHT TACKLE ITS PROBLEMS IN WAYS WHICH RECOGNISE INTER-RELATIONSHIPS AND CONSEQUENTIAL EFFECTS MUCH MORE THOROUGHLY THAN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

MR. TOPLEY THEN TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES RAISED BY OTHER UNOFFICIALS.

HE SAID: +DR. RAYSON HUANG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AS A RESULT OF THE IRREGULAR AGE PATTERN OF OUR PRIMARY PUPILS ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE (SOME 10%) WILL ACTUALLY BENEFIT FROM THE EXTENSION OF MY COMPULSORY POWERS. IN FACT 45% OF PUPILS ARE OF THE AGE 11 YEARS OR LESS ON ENTERING PRIMARY 6 AND SHOULD THUS HAVE ENTERED FORM 3 BEFORE THEIR 15TH BIRTHDAY. A FURTHER 35% ARE AGED 12 ON ENTERING PRIMARY 6 AND SHOULD THUS ENTER FORM 2 BEFORE THEIR 15TH BIRTHDAY. I DO NOT VISUALIZE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THESE GROUPS IN FINISHING THE JUNIOR SECONDARY COURSE.

+IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGE STRUCTURE IS IRREGULAR BUT IT IS BECOMING MORE REGULAR EACH YEAR. THIS IS A MATTER TO WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN STUDY AND WHICH WILL, I KNOW, BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY EDUCATION.

+I TAKE DR. HUANG'S POINT ABOUT COMPELLING CHILDREN TO ATTEND UNSATISFACTORY SCHOOLS, THOUGH I MUST HASTEN TO ASSURE HIM THAT WE ARE NOT BUYING UNSATISFACTORY PLACES.

+IT IS TRUE THAT WE INTEND TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC SECTOR THROUGH A BUILDING PROGRAMME WHICH WILL RESULT IN OUR NO LONGER BUYING MANY OF THE PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHICH WE ARE TAKING AT PRESENT.

+THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO IMPROVE FACILITIES IN ENTERPRISES LEGALLY ENTITLED TO MAKE PROFITS.

+THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS, THOUGH THE PRESENT PLACES THEY PROVIDE ARE ADEQUATE, WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS SUFFICIENTLY TO MEET THE HIGHER STANDARDS WE SHALL REQUIRE AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR PROVISION. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE REPLACEMENT OF MANY PLACES NOW IN URBAN SCHOOLS WILL HAVE TO BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES:

/TURNING TO .....

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TURNING TO DR. HUANG'S COMMENTS ON THE CURRICULUM OF JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, MR. TOPLEY SAID: +IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT THE SYLLABUSES AND GUIDES INITIALLY PRODUCED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO MEET THIS PROBLEM OF CATERING FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY EITHER PROCEED WITH THEIR FORMAL SCHOOLING OR LEAVE SCHOOL FOR EMPLOYMENT EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

+INDEED WITHOUT KNOWING IN ADVANCE WHICH STUDENTS ARE TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THEIR EDUCATION, AND WITH OUR AMBITIOUS STUDENT POPULATION IT WAS A FORMIDABLE TASK AND ONE WHICH OUR CURRICULUM DEVELOPERS HAD NOT TACKLED BEFORE.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THIS PROBLEM AND HAS GIVEN CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS VARIOUS SUBJECT COMMITTEES TO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF LESS ACADEMICALLY ABLE STUDENTS WHO ARE LIKELY TO LEAVE AT THE END OF FORM 3.

+WITH ITS POLICY OF CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS, AND MAKING PROGRESSIVE CHANGES TO MEET DEFICIENCIES THE COMMITTEE IS WELL PLACED TO MEET THE FULL NEEDS OF HONG KONG STUDENTS BUT THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT.+

IN REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, MR. TOPLEY EXPLAINED THE DELAY IN THE AWARD OF A SET OF SCHOLARSHIPS LAST YEAR WAS CAUSED LARGELY BY THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF APPLICANTS AND A SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD.

+THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF THIS DELAY,+ MR. TOPLEY ASSURED.

ON MISS BENNETT'S COMMENTS ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, IN PARTICULAR HER PROPOSALS FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHER TRAINING AND THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CLASS TEACHER RATIO IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, MR. TOPLEY SAID THEY WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY EDUCATION.

AS REGARDS INCREASED STAFFING RATIOS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HE SAID: +I ACCEPT THAT THE REVISED CURRICULA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGES IN OUR SENIOR SECONDARY COURSES, INCLUDING FORM 6 COURSES, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REQUIRED SOME ADDITIONAL STAFF.

+THE CASE FOR AN 'ACROSS THE BOARD' INCREASE, HOWEVER, WILL NEED TO BE VERY COMPELLING IN THE LIGHT OF THE OTHER DEMANDS UPON OUR RESOURCES,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANSWERS CRITICS OF +HABITUAL  
TRADER+ TAX  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, REJECTED CRITICISMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON TAXATION OF +HABITUAL TRADERS+ WAS DAMAGING THE STOCK MARKET.

+NO ONE HAS PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT'S LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES ARE REALLY DAMAGING THE MARKET,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE DECLARED AT THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE WHICH RESUMED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO REFUTED CHARGES THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAD CAUSED GENERAL CONFUSION IN THE MARKET RESULTING IN PEOPLE HOLDING BACK FROM BUYING AND SELLING SHARES, THUS REDUCING THE LIQUIDITY OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES AND DAMAGING THEIR ABILITY TO PERFORM THEIR VITAL ROLE OF RAISING CAPTIAL.

+ON THE CONTRARY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS, FOR MANY YEARS, ASSESSED PROFITS ON TRADING IN STOCKS AND SHARES AND PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF STOCK BROKERS, THOSE IN ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES AND THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE ENGAGED IN SHARE TRADING IN A SUBSTANTIAL WAY,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT.

+TO PUT THIS WHOLE MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE, 97 PER CENT OF THE PERSONS THE COMMISSIONER (OF INLAND REVENUE) IS ASSESSING AT THE PRESENT TIME ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE STOCK BROKING BUSINESS,+ HE EMPHASISED.

REFERRING TO THE DIFFICULTIES IN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN CAPTIAL GAINS AND THE TRADING PROFITS, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THESE COULD BE RESOLVED BY THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN CRITERIA KNOWN AS THE +BADGES OF TRADE+ WHICH, THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ENDORSED, HAD 'STOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND COULD NOT BE BETTERED'.

+PROFESSIONAL TAX ADVISERS ARE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE BADGES OF TRADE AND HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN ADVISING CLIENTS ON THEIR APPLICATION TO THEIR AFFAIRS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT +WHILST PERSONS WHO MAKE PROFITS CLAIM TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN RECOGNISING THEMSELVES AS TRADERS, THE SAME IS NOT TRUE OF LESS SUCCESSFUL BUYERS AND SELLERS OF SHARES WHO QUICKLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS TRADERS IN ORDER TO CLAIM THEIR LOSSES AGAINST OTHER FORMS OF INCOME.+

ON THE QUESTION OF REDUCING THE PRESENT RATE OF STAMP DUTY -- \$4 PER MILLE ON SHARE TRANSACTIONS -- TO STIMULATE ACTIVITY ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT IT WAS INCREASED IN 1973 AS +A MEANS OF RAISING ADDITIONAL REVENUE AND NOT FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES AS IS SO OFTEN INCORRECTLY ALLEGED.+

+NO HARD EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRODUCED TO SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT \$4 PER MILLE ON TRANSACTIONS IS INHIBITING INVESTORS,+ HE SAID.

+IF IT COULD BE SHOWN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GET MORE REVENUE FROM A REDUCED RATE OF DUTY, THEN I MIGHT CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY. OTHERWISE, THE RATE MUST STAY AS IT IS,+ HE ADDED.

## OVER TWO MILLION USED CDO'S

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OVER TWO MILLION PEOPLE MADE CONTACT WITH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND +IN THIS QUIET AND UNSPECTACULAR WAY+ A VAST AMOUNT OF USEFUL INFORMATION WAS DISSEMINATED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. JOHN WALDEN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN HE OUTLINED THE VARIOUS POINTS OF CONTACT AT WHICH VIEWS ABOUT GOVERNMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES CAN BE FREELY EXPRESSED THROUGH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES' SCHEMES.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 10 CDO'S AND 12 SUB-OFFICES +WHERE ANY CITIZEN MIGHT GO IN THE SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WOULD BE COURTEOUSLY TREATED AND HELPFULLY ADVISED.+

ORDINARY PEOPLE KNEW THE CDO BEST BECAUSE OF THEIR PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS WHERE THEY COULD GET DIRECT HELP AND INFORMATION ON A GREAT VARIETY OF PRACTICAL MATTERS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO THEM, OR THEY COULD BE DIRECTED TO WHERE THE HELP THEY NEEDED COULD BE GOT, MR. WALDEN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME TO EXTEND THE OPENING HOURS OF CDO'S WAS INTRODUCED EARLIER THIS MONTH AND WAS ONE OF THE MANY IMPROVEMENTS THE DEPARTMENT WAS PUTTING INTO EFFECT AS A RESULT OF THIS YEAR'S REVIEW OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

APART FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES, HE SAID THERE WAS ALSO A SYSTEM FOR REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE THROUGH LIAISON OFFICERS IN EACH CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

MR. WALDEN SAID THESE OFFICERS, USUALLY YOUNG UNIVERSITY GRADUATES, WERE HELPED BY PART-TIME STAFF WHO WORKED MOSTLY IN THE EVENINGS AND THEIR JOB WAS TO CONTACT PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES OR PLACES OF WORK TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THINGS GOING ON AROUND THEM.

+THE PEOPLE THEY TALK TO COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND SINCE THEY ALL HAVE FAMILIES AND MANY OF THEM BELONG TO ORGANISATIONS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER THEY NOT ONLY EXPRESS THEIR OWN OPINIONS BUT ALSO TRANSMIT THE VIEWS OF THE GROUPS THEY MIX WITH.

+IN THIS WAY A CDO IS ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT A LARGE NUMBER OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT ARE THINKING OR WORRYING ABOUT.

+THESE VIEWS COLLECTED FROM ALL OVER HONG KONG AND KOWLOON PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BROAD INDICATION OF PUBLIC OPINION ON ANY ISSUE. THE TECHNIQUES OF COLLECTING AND PRESENTING THIS INFORMATION ARE CONTINUALLY BEING IMPROVED AND THE CONTACTS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY CHANGED.

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS OUT-REACHING COMMUNICATIONS WORK, HE SAID, WAS DIRECTED AT PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER.

+CDO'S HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN IDENTIFYING THESE POTENTIAL AREAS OF FRICTION AND ARRANGING FOR STAFF FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO MEET PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE INCONVENIENCED.

+IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REMOVE THE CAUSE OF DISRUPTION BUT IT IS OFTEN POSSIBLE TO MINIMISE ITS EFFECT AND, OF COURSE, THE REASON WHY THE DISRUPTION IS OCCURRING HAS TO BE FULLY AND PATIENTLY EXPLAINED,+ HE ADDED.

SUPPLEMENTING THIS PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, MR. WALDEN SAID THERE WAS ALSO REGULAR GROUP CONSULTATION BETWEEN 10 CDO'S AND CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THEIR DISTRICTS WHICH CONSISTED OF CHAIRMEN OF AREA COMMITTEES, OTHER MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVANTS.

+THESE GROUPS ARE EXPANDED WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE CONSIDERATION OF AN IMPORTANT ISSUE.+

TURNING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. WALDEN SAID A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE TRAINING NEEDS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICER GRADE HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE JUNE THIS YEAR AND ITS REPORT SHOULD BE FINALISED THIS WEEK.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO STRENGTHEN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

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PUBLIC HOUSING RENT WITHIN TENANTS' MEANS  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S RECENTLY APPROVED RENT POLICY WILL ENSURE THAT THE AUTHORITY HAS A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE MEANS OF ITS WIDE RANGE OF TENANTS AND THE PROSPECTIVE TENANTS.

THIS WAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. A.J. SCOTT, WHO ADDED THAT PARTICULAR ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO THE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED IN NEED.

+THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 374,000 FLATS, BUILT OVER A PERIOD OF 23 YEARS, WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF RENTS AND COSTS,+ SAID MR. SCOTT.

+IT IS CHARGED WITH, AND FULLY ACCEPTS ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR, PROVIDING AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION, WITHIN THEIR MEANS, FOR BOTH EXISTING TENANTS AND FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED PUBLIC HOUSING AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR IT.+

/GOING OVER THE .....

GOING OVER THE MAIN POINTS IN THE NEW RENT POLICY, MR. SCOTT SAID RENTS OF POST-1973 ESTATES WOULD BE KEPT AT THEIR CURRENT LEVELS FOR THE TIME BEING, BEING REVIEWED PERIODICALLY IN FUTURE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION INCREASING MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE COSTS AND GENERAL INCOME LEVELS.

FOR NEW ESTATES, RENTS WOULD BE DETERMINED AFTER AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIVE VALUE OF EACH NEW ESTATE AS COMPARED WITH OTHER ESTATES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS SUCH AS LOCATION, AMENITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES.

FOR PRE-1973 ESTATES, RENTS WOULD BE REVIEWED EVERY TWO YEARS, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD BEING GIVEN TO GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

REPLYING TO POINTS MADE BY REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN, MR. SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT IF RENTS WERE FIXED STRICTLY ACCORDING TO THE COST OF EACH ESTATE WHEN IT WAS BUILT, A PERSON WHO WAS IN PUBLIC HOUSING NOW WOULD OVER THE YEARS ENJOY A PROGRESSIVELY GREATER BENEFIT COMPARED WITH A PERSON WHO ENTERED PUBLIC HOUSING AT A LATER DATE, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUOUS INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

HE SAID: +I THINK THESE FACTS ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE - CERTAINLY BY THE 'MAN IN THE STREET' WHO IS NOT YET THE 'MAN IN PUBLIC HOUSING.'+

TURNING TO ANOTHER RECENT SUGGESTION THAT RENTS BE BASED SOLELY ON AMORTISED CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND RECURRENT COSTS ESTATE BY ESTATE, MR. SCOTT SAID THAT IF THIS WERE DONE, THE AUTHORITY COULD NOT ACHIEVE A BALANCED RENT STRUCTURE AND WOULD BE COMPELLED TO CONSIDER SUBSTANTIAL RENT INCREASES FOR 60 PER CENT OF PRESENT FLATS.

+I MUST EMPHASISE THAT NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE MIND OF THE AUTHORITY,+ HE SAID.

ON HOME OWNERSHIP, MR. SCOTT SAID GOOD PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

ON A SUGGESTION THAT THE SCHEME BE EXTENDED IN SOME WAY TO ASSIST HOUSEHOLDS EARNING BETWEEN \$3,500 AND \$6,000 A MONTH, HE SAID IT APPEARED THAT SUCH HOUSEHOLDS COULD ALREADY ACQUIRE HOMES ON CURRENT MARKET TERMS WITHOUT UNDUE FINANCIAL STRAIN.

THE INCOME LEVEL FOR ELIGIBILITY, AS WELL AS OTHER CRITERIA, WOULD BE REVIEWED REGULARLY, BUT FOR THE PRESENT ATTENTION SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON LESS WELL-OFF HOUSEHOLDS.

IMPROVEMENTS IN LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE PIPELINE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS TODAY GAVE A BROAD OUTLINE OF HIS PLANS TO FURTHER IMPROVE LABOUR CONDITIONS UNDER THE WORKMEN COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

AT THE RESUMED ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. WILLIAMS ALSO TOUCHED ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND THE NEED TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

REFERRING TO WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, MR. WILLIAMS SAID HE WOULD BE MAKING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP. HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO CONSULT INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE AFTER THREE AMENDING BILLS — ONE INTRODUCING THE SILICOSIS SCHEME, ANOTHER TO IMPROVE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVIDING ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND APPLICANCES AND A THIRD TO PROVIDE OTHER IMPROVED PROCEDURES — HAD BEEN ENACTED.

APART FROM SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, MR. WILLIAMS SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE INTRODUCING THREE MORE SETS OF REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, IN THE SAFE HANDLING OF CARGO AND TO DEAL WITH THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN FACTORIES.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID: +A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PREPARATORY WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE AND IN ALL THREE CASES WE SHALL SEEK AS WIDE CONSULTATION AS POSSIBLE.+

FINALLY, HE SAID, SOME AMENDMENTS WERE NEEDED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

APART FROM THE NEED TO CONSIDER REMOVING THE PRESENT BAR ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE TO NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING OVER \$2,000 A MONTH HE WOULD BE PROPOSING SOME AMENDMENTS CONCERNED WITH POWERS OF ENTRY AND POWERS TO MAKE REGULATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE LATER IN THE SESSION.

THESE AMENDMENTS, MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT, WOULD BE REQUIRED AND PROBABLY NEEDED TO BE DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTROL OF CHILDREN IN NON-INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

HE SAID THAT CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WOULD INITIALLY BE APPLIED TO CHILDREN UNDER 14, THAT IS THE 12 AND 13 YEAR OLDS, AND THEN BE EXTENDED IN ALL SECTORS TO CHILDREN UNDER 15, THAT IS THE 14 YEAR OLDS.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING MR. WILLIAMS SAID THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S WORK WOULD NEED INCREASING ATTENTION AS DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY DEVELOPS.

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+THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN DEVISING TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE NEW AND MORE COMPLEX SKILLS NEEDED AS INDUSTRY EXPANDS AND CHANGES WILL BE INVALUABLE.+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MR. WILLIAMS SAID IT WAS A LONG PROCESS OF EDUCATION, REGULATION, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND ADDED THAT A FIRMER POLICY OF PROSECUTION WAS NEEDED WHERE ADVICE, EXPLANATION AND WARNING DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

HOWEVER, HE CONCEDED THAT IN THE END SUCCESS IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY WORK RESTS WITH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS RECOGNISING THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS TO AIM AT AND ACHIEVE SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES.

HE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE RECRUITING MORE STAFF -- 20 OR SO ASSISTANT FACTORY INSPECTORS THIS YEAR AND AT LEAST 30 MORE NEXT YEAR -- TO STRENGTHEN, IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE STATUS AND PRESTIGE OF THE FACTORATE INSPECTORATE.

ONE HUNDRED LABOUR INSPECTORS, IN TWO BATCHES OF 50, WILL ALSO BE RECRUITED. THIS INCREASE REPRESENTS A FIRST PHASE NEEDED TO COVER EXPANDING INDUSTRY AND TO CARRY LABOUR INSPECTION INTO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

FOR THE ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICER GRADE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE RECRUITING ABOUT 20 THIS YEAR AND ANOTHER 40 NEXT YEAR.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, LIKE OTHER DEPARTMENTS, FACED STIFF COMPETITION IN ATTRACTING THE KIND OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN NEEDED AND THEREFORE A REVIEW ON THE DUTIES OF THIS GRADE OF OFFICERS WAS BEING CARRIED OUT TO SEE IF CHANGES WERE NEEDED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN THEM.

HE THEN REFERRED TO THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK, ALL OF WHICH HE SAID HAD DEVELOPED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

HE GAVE PARTICULAR MENTION TO THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE IN THEIR HANDLING OF LABOUR DISPUTES.

+INDEED I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD TO SAY HOW UNSPECTACULARLY LABOUR DISPUTES HAVE FIGURED DURING THE LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID.

+THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN BY ITSELF, AND MUCH CREDIT IS DUE TO THE PRECAUTIONARY AND PREVENTIVE -- BUT LOW-PROFILE -- DAMPENING OF POTENTIAL 'BRUSH-FIRES'.+

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

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SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT HONG KONG ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 13) IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING THE TWO WORLD WARS.

AS LAST YEAR, THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE CENOTAPH WILL BE SIMPLIFIED WITH NO RELIGIOUS SERVICE, BAND, OR GUARD OF HONOUR DUE TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY'S CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

IT IS INTENDED TO RESUME THE TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT THE CENOTAPH IN FUTURE YEARS AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT.

AMONG THOSE LAYING WREATHS AT THE CENOTAPH WILL BE THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE= THE ACTING COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, BRIGADIER D.T. CRABTREE= THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR GEOFFREY BRIGGS= THE CAPTAIN-IN-CHARGE HONG KONG, THE COMMANDER RAF, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMANDING OFFICERS' COMMITTEE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MERCHANT NAVY, COMMONWEALTH COMMISSIONERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, SERVICE UNITS AND EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.

SIR MURRAY WILL ARRIVE AT 10.18 A.M. AND WREATH-LAYING WILL BEGIN AT 10.20 A.M. THE WHOLE CEREMONY IS EXPECTED TO END AT 10.35 A.M. BY WHICH TIME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND SERVICE OFFICERS WHO WISH TO LAY WREATHS AT THE CENOTAPH MAY DO SO.

AT 10.55 A.M. SIR MURRAY WILL ATTEND A REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THE TRADITIONAL TWO-MINUTE SILENCE WILL BE OBSERVED.

EARLIER ON THE SAME DAY, A BRIEF CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. AT THE CHINESE WAR MEMORIAL IN THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANIC GARDENS.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE ACTING COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES WILL LAY WREATHS THERE. THEY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, CHINESE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, AND CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES WILL ALSO BE HELD AT STANLEY FORT AND SEK KONG GARRISON CHURCH AT 10.30 A.M. AND 10.50 A.M. RESPECTIVELY.

/AT THE BRITISH .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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AT THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL IN KING'S PARK, A SPECIAL SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

CENOTAPH CEREMONY

THE FIRST FLOOR BALCONY OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS COVERING THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE CENOTAPH. THERE WILL BE NO PRESS POSITIONS WITHIN THE STATUE SQUARE PERIMETER.

SPECIAL LAPEL BADGES WILL BE ISSUED TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE CEREMONY. THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. DUTY OFFICERS AT THE NEWS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL SERVICE

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PICTURES AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CATHEDRAL BEFORE THE CHURCH SERVICE BEGINS. NO PHOTOGRAPHING WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL.

CHINESE WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONY

EDITORS ARE ADVISED THAT REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE ROPE CORDON AROUND THE CHINESE WAR MEMORIAL IN THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANIC GARDENS. THEY CAN STAND EITHER ON THE EAST OR WEST SIDE OF THE ROPE CORDON, BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAND ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MEMORIAL ARCH.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED, IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED ACCOMMODATION, TO OBSERVE THE DIRECTION OF POLICE OFFICERS ON DUTY.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT SEK KONG,  
STANLEY FORT AND BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL

THE PRESS ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SERVICES.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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HK GOVERNMENT'S BRANCH OFFICE IN EDINBURGH OPENED  
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON OPENED A NEW BRANCH OFFICE IN EDINBURGH YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) TO EXPAND ITS WORK AMONG THE ESTIMATED 7,000-STRONG HONG KONG CHINESE COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND AND NORTH-EAST ENGLAND.

THE BRANCH OFFICE, SHARING PREMISES WITH THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK IN HANOVER STREET, WILL BE IN THE CHARGE OF MR. DAVID MAN TIN IP. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE AND ASSIST HONG KONG PEOPLE NOW LIVING AND WORKING IN THE REGION WHO HAVE PROBLEMS, EITHER IN THE U.K. OR HONG KONG.

MR. IP AND HIS STAFF WILL ALSO BE READY TO HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH CHINESE RESIDENTS.

THE NEW BRANCH OFFICE WAS FORMALLY OPENED BY THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN THE U.K., MR. DENIS BRAY. GUESTS INCLUDED THE LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH, THE RT. HON. KENNETH BORTHWICK.

MR. BRAY SAID: +WE HAVE REALISED FOR SOME TIME THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS BRANCH SHOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THAT SITUATION.

+IT WILL SERVE AS A BASE FOR THE THREE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON SECTION OF MY OFFICE WHO WORK IN SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND. THEY ARE HERE TO ADVISE AND ASSIST HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO WORK AND LIVE IN THIS GENERAL AREA AND WHO MAY HAVE PROBLEMS EITHER HERE OR IN HONG KONG WITH WHICH MY CHINESE-SPEAKING STAFF CAN ASSIST. THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

+BESIDES THE LIAISON STAFF, THIS BRANCH WILL BE USED BY OUR COMMERCIAL STAFF, STUDENT ADVISERS, VISITING STUDENTS, APPOINTMENTS OFFICERS RECRUITING FOR WORK IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND TRAINING OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+WE LOOK FORWARD TO PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE SERVICE FOR THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY AND CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE MANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WHOSE AREAS THEY LIVE.+

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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BETTER HOUSING FOR YUEN CHAU TSAI SQUATTERS  
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YUEN CHAU TSAI SQUATTERS IN TAI PO WILL BE MOVING FROM THEIR SQUATTER AREA OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS INTO MODERN PUBLIC OR TEMPORARY HOUSING.

THEIR PHASED REMOVAL IS TO ENABLE WORK TO START ON A DIVERSION RIVER CHANNEL AND AN INTERCHANGE THAT FORM PART OF A \$250 MILLION TRUNK ROAD LINKING SHA TIN AND TAI PO.

THE TRUNK ROAD WILL EVENTUALLY GO NORTH TO JOIN YUEN LONG, FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI PROVIDING A FAST VEHICULAR ROUTE ALONG THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST PHASE REMOVAL INVOLVING 96 FAMILIES IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MID-DECEMBER. MOST OF THEM WILL GO TO THE NEARBY YUE KOK TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, AND THE REST TO WO CHE ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

TO HELP THE SQUATTERS, THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE HAS PRODUCED A LEAFLET WHICH OUTLINES WHAT ASSISTANCE CONCERNING REMOVALS THEY CAN OBTAIN FROM THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THIS MORNING, HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF, ASSISTED BY DISTRICT OFFICE OFFICIALS, HANDED OUT THE LEAFLETS TO THE SQUATTERS.

THE LEAFLET LISTS THE OFFICE ADDRESSES OF THE DEPARTMENTS IN TAI PO WHICH ARE READY TO HELP THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS THEY MAY ENCOUNTER.

THE YUEN CHAU TSAI SQUATTERS, DEPENDING ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY, WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN WO CHE ESTATE IN SHA TIN AND TAI HING ESTATE IN TUEN MUN, OR A SPACE IN THE YUE KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

WHEN PHASE ONE OF THE TAI YUEN ESTATE IN TAI PO IS READY BY 1980, PEOPLE LIVING IN THE YUE KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WILL MOVE TO THE NEW ESTATE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO PAY EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES TO ELIGIBLE SHOPS, WORKSHOPS AND CULTIVATORS.

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS IN TAI PO ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADVICE ON FAMILY SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS, AS WELL AS ON LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

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/28 .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

REWARDS FOR FAKE WATCHES

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IN ANOTHER MOVE TO STOP COUNTERFEITING OF WATCHES, THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH SWISS AND JAPANESE WATCH MANUFACTURERS IS TO PAY REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO SEIZURES OR ARRESTS.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SWISS AND JAPANESE WATCH INDUSTRIES.

THE COUNTERFEITING OF WATCHES IS A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS PROFITS INVOLVED. IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG HAS BEEN STEPPING UP ITS FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFIC IN FAKE WATCHES.

THE TRADE INVESTIGATION BRANCH OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS IN HONG KONG.

FROM JANUARY LAST YEAR UP TO THE PRESENT, THE BRANCH HAS SEIZED A TOTAL OF 26,748 COUNTERFEIT WATCHES AND RELATED ITEMS RESULTING IN THE PROSECUTION OF 10 PEOPLE -- FOUR OF WHOM WERE IMPRISONED FOR PERIODS OF NINE TO 18 MONTHS AND THE REMAINDER RECEIVED HEAVY FINES.

TODAY'S AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BY MR. ROY PORTER, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS; MR. CHARLES DUBOIS OF THE SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY INFORMATION CENTRE, AND MR. TATSUO SHIMIZU REPRESENTING SEIKO WATCHES.

THE AGREEMENTS SET OUT THE PROCEDURES FOR JOINT PAYMENT OF REWARDS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE OF FAKE WATCHES AND MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT OR THE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTERFEITING.

SPEAKING AFTER THE SIGNING MR. DUBOIS SAID, +WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN COMBATING THIS PROBLEM.+ HE ADDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF THIS ILLEGAL TRADE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AS A RESULT OF THE T.I.C. DEPARTMENT'S DETERMINATION TO STAMP IT OUT IN HONG KONG.

THE REWARDS WILL COVER ALL SWISS WATCH BRAND NAMES AS WELL AS SEIKO WATCHES.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1977

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RECONSTRUCTION OF SECTION OF JAVA ROAD  
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TENDERS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF JAVA ROAD BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND TONG SHUI ROAD WILL BE INVITED LATER THIS WEEK BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. HO KWOK-YU, ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (HK) DIVISION, SAID TODAY THAT THE WORK WOULD START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND TAKE FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

IT WILL INVOLVE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SECTION OF THE ROAD SURFACE IN 250 MM THICK REINFORCED CONCRETE WITH FOOTPATH ON EACH SIDE.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE DURING THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK TO MINIMISE CONGESTION AND INCONVENIENCE TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GRADUATION PARADE OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS  
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A TOTAL OF 34 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, HALF OF THEM WOMAN OFFICERS, WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 11) AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND, SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY.

THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR. R.E. DOWNING, WILL INSPECT THE PARADE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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CAR PARK TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE GARDEN ROAD CAR PARK IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WOULD BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M. ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 13) BECAUSE OF THE REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES.

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