



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1976

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METRICATION ADVISORY BOARD TO BE APPOINTED

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THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION ON METRICATION AND PUBLISH THE FOUR REPORTS PREPARED BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE METRICATION BILL 1976, DR. CHUNG SAID IT WAS +REGRETTABLE AND INDEED UNDESIRABLE+ THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE TO SET UP AN AUTONOMOUS METRICATION BOARD, AND INSTEAD DECIDED TO EXPAND ITS OWN METRICATION UNIT +TO HELP, PLAN, GUIDE, FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE METRICATION, INITIALLY AND PRIMARILY, IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.+

+THIS IS BECAUSE IT IMPLIES THAT METRICATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE AND THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD IN MATTERS CONCERNING METRICATION,+ HE SAID.

+IF THE METRICATION MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE METRICATION UNIT SHOULD NOT AND MUST NOT OPERATE IN ISLOATION WITHIN GOVERNMENT,+ HE STRESSED. +IT MUST NOT ONLY INVOLVE BUT INVOLVE HEAVILY WITH VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.+

TO MINIMISE THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION, THE COST OF CHANGE AND THE AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION, HE SAID, THE METRICATION UNIT, THOUGH ATTACHED TO THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT, SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS WORK UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF A METRICATION BOARD CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES BOTH OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

TURNING TO THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, DR. CHUNG SAID IT SHOULD BE REPLACED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE IT WAS OUT OF DATE AND HAD A NUMBER OF DEFICIENCIES.

+FIRST, THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ARE IN IMPERIAL AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE UNITS. SECONDLY, ONLY UNITS OF MASS, LENGTH AND VOLUME ARE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE. THIRDLY, IT SEEMS RATHER ODD IN MODERN DAY HONG KONG THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IS THE AUTHORITY TO CERTIFY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN STANDARDS BUREAU WHERE STANDARDS OF ALL THE METRIC UNITS, INCLUDING SI UNITS AND NON-SI UNITS, ARE KEPT AND THE ACCURACY OF MEASURING INSTRUMENTS CAN BE VERIFIED AND CERTIFIED.

/IN REPLY,

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IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO APPOINT A METRICATION ADVISORY BOARD WHICH WOULD COMMAND RESPECT, BOTH IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AND WHOSE ADVICE WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

HE SAID THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE METRICATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS IN THIS RESPECT WERE NOT VERY SUBSTANTIAL. +ESSENTIALLY THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WILL BE THAT THE BOARD WILL NOT BE AUTONOMOUS AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE THE FINAL WORD,+ HE SAID.

+BUT IN A MATTER AS IMPORTANT AS THIS, AND GIVEN THE WAY WE NORMALLY ARRANGE MATTERS IN HONG KONG WITH THE HELP OF ADVISORY BODIES WHOSE ADVICE IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE GOVERNMENT, I THINK THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT IS BEST SUITED TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TOWARDS METRICATION HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE WITHIN DEPARTMENTS, BUT THAT THE FURTHER WORK NEEDED WOULD REQUIRE CO-ORDINATION OF THE METRICATION UNIT.

WHEN THE UNIT IS STRENGTHENED AND WHEN THE METRICATION ADVISORY BOARD IS ESTABLISHED, THE BOARD AND THE UNIT TOGETHER COULD BEGIN THE TASK OF INTRODUCING METRICATION THROUGHOUT HONG KONG GENERALLY, HE ADDED.

HE AGREED WITH DR. CHUNG THAT THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE WAS OUT OF DATE, AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY PUT IN HAND A REVIEW OF ITS PROVISIONS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARDS BUREAU, AS WELL AS PUBLICATION OF THE REPORTS PREPARED BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE ADDED.

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RESTRICTIONS ON HK TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA UNDER REVIEW
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CLOSELY REVIEWING THE SITUATION ON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO ITS RIGHTS, AND AUSTRALIA'S OBLIGATIONS, UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. BILL DORWARD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO SEEK RECOURSE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THAT ARRANGEMENT WHEREVER THIS IS FEASIBLE, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL, AS IS ITS PRACTICE, RESPOND PROMPTLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ANY APPROACH THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES MAY TAKE IN THIS CONTEXT,+ HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN.

HE RECALLED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD, SINCE DECEMBER 1974, INTRODUCED A SERIES OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IN THE FORM OF TARIFF QUOTAS AGAINST TEXTILE IMPORTS.

+THE TARIFF QUOTAS FOR 1976, WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ANNOUNCED, REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER 1975 LEVELS, ALTHOUGH IN A NUMBER OF CASES THEY REMAIN STILL WELL BELOW ACTUAL TRADE FIGURES FOR 1973/74,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERY IN TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA AS A RESULT OF INCREASED TARIFF QUOTAS FOR 1976 MAY BE OFFSET BY THE IMPACT OF A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION IN COVERAGE OF THE TARIFF QUOTAS FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR, HE POINTED OUT.

THIS EXTENSION, HE SAID, TOOK IN THOSE ITEMS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO A BILATERAL RESTRAINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA WHICH LAPSED ON JUNE 30, 1976.

+AS FAR AS HONG KONG IS CONCERNED THEY NOW AFFECT ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TEXTILE PRODUCTS WE EXPORTED TO AUSTRALIA IN 1975,+ HE SAID.

+THE GLOBAL TARIFF QUOTAS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET FOR THESE NEW ITEMS ARE GENERALLY COMPARABLE TO, OR ARE HIGHER THAN, AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS IN 1975, SO THEIR EFFECT ON THE VOLUME OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS TO AUSTRALIA WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY OUR COMPETITIVENESS,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE A DEPRESSING EFFECT ON PRICES AND PROFIT MARGINS BECAUSE OF THE TRANSFER OF COMMERCIAL BARGAINING POWER TO AUSTRALIAN IMPORTERS WHO, AS QUOTA HOLDERS, COULD SELECT THEIR SOURCES OF IMPORT.

+THE EXPORT VALUE TO HONG KONG OF THE PRODUCTS NEWLY SUBJECTED TO TARIFF QUOTAS WAS \$180 MILLION IN 1975,+ HE SAID.

THOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE LIKELY DURATION OF THESE MEASURES, MR. DORWARD SAID THAT A FURTHER WIDENING OF THE COVERAGE MUST BE ASSUMED TO BE UNLIKELY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ANNOUNCING THESE MEASURES, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DESCRIBED THEM AS SHORT TERM MEASURES, PENDING RECEIPT LATER THIS YEAR OF A REPORT BY THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION ON THE LONG TERM PROTECTIVE NEEDS OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

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COMPETITIVE TELEVISION BRINGS BETTER PROGRAMMING
FOURTH REPORT OF TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD PUBLISHED
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KEEN COMPETITION BETWEEN THE RIVAL TELEVISION COMPANIES IS CLEARLY ACHIEVING ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF BETTER AND MORE VARIED TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT.

THIS IS STATED BY THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD IN ITS FOURTH REPORT WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY). THE REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD FROM MID 1974 UP TO THE END OF 1975.

HOWEVER, THE BOARD EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT THE COMPANIES HAVE NOT YET MET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING IN CHINESE FOR THE IMPORTANT MINORITY OF YOUNG VIEWERS IN THE 5 TO 9 YEAR OLD AND 10 TO 15 YEAR OLD AGE GROUPS.

ON THIS SUBJECT THE BOARD NOTED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THIS FIELD SINCE IT LAST REPORTED IN 1974.

+MORE RECENTLY, IT SAYS, THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE PROGRAMMES APPEALING TO YOUNG PERSONS BUT CONTAINING AN UNDESIRABLE AMOUNT OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN REDUCED BOTH BY THE VOLUNTARY ACTION OF THE LICENCEES IN EITHER LIMITING OR REPLACING OF THESE PROGRAMMES AND BY THE EXECUTIVE ACTION OF THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY IN CURTAILING SOME NEW SERIES OF A SIMILAR TYPE.+

THE BOARD SAYS: +THERE IS STILL A HEAVY RELIANCE BY THE STATIONS ON JAPAN AS A SOURCE OF PROGRAMMES WHICH APPEAL TO THE YOUNG. A NUMBER OF THESE PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY SOME OF THE MORE RECENT CARTOON SERIES, ARE EXCELLENT AND WE WELCOME THEIR ADDITION TO THE SCHEDULES= BUT WE ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THE GROWING MATURITY AND ABILITY OF THE LICENCEES IN THE FIELD OF THEIR OWN LOCAL PRODUCTIONS USED TO A GREATER EXTENT TO PROVIDE THE YOUNG OF HONG KONG WITH THEIR OWN POSITIVE, WHOLESOME AND ENTERTAINING TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

THE IMPACT OF TELEVISION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG CITIZEN IS A PROBLEM WHICH IS CONCERNING MOST AREAS OF THE WORLD WHERE TELEVISION VIEWING IS A MAJOR LEISURE ACTIVITY. HONG KONG, WITH ITS BI-SESSIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM WHEREBY HALF OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ATTEND THE AFTERNOON SCHOOL MAY BE STAYING UP LATE AND WATCHING TELEVISION PROGRAMMES UNTIL CLOSE-DOWN, PRESENTS A SPECIAL PROBLEM.

+WE WERE THEREFORE PLEASED TO LEARN DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1975 THAT THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY WAS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A STUDY BEING MOUNTED TO ENQUIRE FURTHER INTO THE VIEWING HABITS OF YOUNG PERSONS.+

/CONCLUDING

CONCLUDING ITS ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT DURING THE PERIOD, THE BOARD EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE FUTURE WOULD BRING DEVELOPMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE ACHIEVED IN ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION TO THE SPECIALIST AREAS OF INFORMATION, EDUCATIONAL AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING. +WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH PROGRESS CAREFULLY AND, WHEREEVER POSSIBLE, TO STIMULATE SUCH ENDEAVOURS,+ THE BOARD SAYS.

COMMENTING ON THIS STATEMENT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SAID TODAY THAT DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF 1976, SUBSEQUENT TO THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT, THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF ENCOURAGING INITIATIVES BY THE LICENCEES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES AND HE HOPED THAT THESE HERALDED A NEW ERA IN A MORE POSITIVE USE OF THE TELEVISION MEDIA.

THE BOARD ALSO NOTED A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF SOME LOCALLY PRODUCED TELEVISION COMMERCIALS. QUITE A NUMBER OF THESE IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD, WERE +COMPARABLE IN THEIR IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES WITH MANY BEING MADE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE THE INDUSTRY IS AT A MORE ADVANCED STAGE IN SUCH MATTERS.+

REFERRING TO ADVERTISING REVENUES, THE BOARD SAID THAT GROWTH WAS LIMITED TO SOME EXTENT BY ECONOMIC FACTORS AND BY THE FACT THAT THE NEW LICENCEES HAD NOT YET FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN OVERALL TELEVISION REVENUE DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOARD NOTED A MORE MARKED INCREASE IN THE COSTS TO LICENCEES OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THEIR SERVICES.

COMMENTING ON THIS ASPECT, THE REPORT SAYS: +THIS INCREASE FOR THE MOST PART IS A REFLECTION OF WORLD-WIDE INFLATIONARY TRENDS BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE POSITION MAY BE EXACERBATED BY THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE STATIONS FOR AVAILABLE TALENT AND PROGRAMME MATERIAL. SHOULD THIS IMBALANCE BETWEEN REVENUE GROWTH AND COST GROWTH CONTINUE IT SEEMS TO US POSSIBLE THAT PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME AREAS OF TELEVISION MAY NOT BE AS RAPID AS WE HAVE HOPED.

+HOWEVER, THE GENERAL ECONOMIC POSITION IS IMPROVING AND IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT REVENUE GROWTH WILL ADVANCE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. THERE MAY ALSO BE AREAS OF PROGRAMME PLANNING WHERE THE STATIONS CAN COOPERATE WITH ONE OTHER TO HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN AND WE WOULD VIEW ANY SUCH ACTION AS BEING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.+

ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF TELEVISION DEVELOPMENT, THE BOARD NOTED THAT THE OPENING OF THE THIRD STATION HAD CONFIRMED THE PRACTICABILITY OF THE TELEVISION FREQUENCY PLAN, AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED WIRELESS FREQUENCY ALLOCATION SCHEME FOR THE OPERATION OF ALL THE LICENCEE'S MAIN TRANSMITTERS AND NUMEROUS TRANSPOSERS. THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED IN 1972 BY THE POST OFFICE ON THE BASIS OF TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS MADE BY MESSRS. CABLE AND WRIELESS AND THE BOARD STATES, +IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MEET OUR TELEVISION TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS SUCCESSFULLY.+

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THE REPORT CONTINUES: +SIMILARLY, THE SCHEME FOR THE SHARING OF FACILITIES AND SITES AT TRANSMITTING STATIONS HAD PROVED A PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT.+

IT ADDS, HOWEVER, THE BOARD HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND QUALITY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE AND REQUESTED THE P.M.G. TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL MONITORING AND SURVEY SERVICE IN PARALLEL WITH THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY TO MONITOR PROGRAMME CONTENT.

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CONCESSION FOR NEW DOMESTIC PREMISES EXTENDED
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THE PRESENT CONCESSION, THROUGH WHICH ALL NEW DOMESTIC PREMISES COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1977 ARE TEMPORARILY EXEMPTED FROM CONTROLS OVER RENTS AND TENURE, WILL BE EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. D.P.H. LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE A MARKED REVIVAL OF CONFIDENCE IN PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, BUT ADDED IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY TO WHAT EXTENT THIS WAS DUE TO NATURAL CYCLICAL INFLUENCES, OR TO THE OLD CONCESSION.

HOWEVER, MR. LIAO SAID, IT WAS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST THAT PRIVATE DEVELOPERS SHOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST POSSIBLE EFFORT IN THESE TIMES, BECAUSE A BIGGER SUPPLY OF HOUSING WAS THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON LEGISLATION REGULATING RENTS AND SECURITY OF TENURE.

+IN THIS SITUATION WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT TO DEVELOPERS AND PURCHASERS OF FLATS,+ HE SAID.

MR. LIAO SAID IT HAD BEEN THEREFORE DECIDED THAT ALL NEW DOMESTIC PREMISES COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31, 1978 WOULD, FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION PERMIT, ENJOY FIVE YEARS' FREEDOM FROM ANY CONTROLS OVER RENT AND SECURITY OF TENURE THAT MIGHT THEN BE IN FORCE.

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UPSURGE IN DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE PREDICTED

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY CALLED FOR +AN IN-DEPTH AND LONG-RANGE APPRECIATION OF GOVERNMENT'S EVOLVING POLICY TOWARDS SUPPORTING CULTURAL GROWTH IN HONG KONG+.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT TOGETHER WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE MIGHT NOT BE IN SUM TOTAL ALL THAT INSIGNIFICANT.

IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM DESIRABLE, MR. CHEONG LEEN SAID, THAT A SEPARATE CULTURAL SERVICES DESK BE NOW SET UP IN THE HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING, EXPEDITING AND CO-ORDINATING THE PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT, ALL THIS WORK WAS IN THE HANDS OF A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY WHO WAS ALREADY BURDENED WITH OTHER IMPORTANT TASKS.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE JOB SHOULD BE GIVEN TO A +CULTURE-ORIENTED+ PERSON.

+IT APPEARS THAT HONG KONG CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A CULTURAL UPSURGE WHICH AUGURS WELL FOR A LOCAL CULTURAL IDENTITY TO EMERGE IF THERE IS CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, THE URBAN COUNCIL, AND SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS THE UNIVERSITIES, THE ARTS CENTRE, AND THE PRIVATE CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE SAME SUBJECT, THE HON. ALEX WU SAID HONG KONG, WHICH HAD MOUNTED SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS OF THE ARTS, WAS NOT A CULTURAL DESERT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT IT WAS A CULTURALLY UNDER-DEVELOPED AREA WHICH SIMPLY NEEDED AN +IRRIGATION PLAN+.

MR. WU STRESSED THAT THE EXPENDITURE OF EFFORT AND MONEY ON CULTURE SHOULD NOT BE PLACED FAR DOWN THE LIST AFTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

+HOWEVER COMMITTED WE ARE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER HARD WORKING OUR COMMUNITY, WE DO HAVE LEISURE TIME AND WE ARE ALREADY EXPOSED, COMMERCIALY, TO A VAST AMOUNT OF ENTERTAINMENT,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, MR. WU SAID THEY WERE STILL OF A KIND AND A RANGE WHICH REACHED ONLY AN ELITE FEW.

+THE NEXT STEP MUST LIE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND IT MUST INVOLVE A STATED GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT AND AN ELEMENT OF CONSTRUCTIVE PLANNING,+ HE SAID.

/HE ASKED

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HE ASKED FOR A DEFINITE STATEMENT ON THE BROAD ISSUE AND ON GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS IN PRACTICAL TERMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN REPLY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN OFFICER IN THE HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH SOLELY OR PREDOMINANTLY CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CO-ORDINATING AND DEVELOPING SOME ASPECTS OF CULTURAL SERVICES.

HE FELT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE NEED IN THE COMMUNITY TO DO MORE TO DEVELOP CULTURE IN HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN PROVIDING CULTURAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OPERAS, CULTURAL AND ARTS COMPETITIONS AND TEACHING OF CULTURAL SUBJECTS.

+AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, IT HAS PROVIDED AN IMPETUS TO PROVIDE BETTER CULTURAL SERVICES AT ALL FRONTS,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT A PROGRAMME IS BEING DRAWN UP, AS PART OF AN OVERALL GOVERNMENT SERVICES DEVELOPMENT PLAN, TO OUTLINE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT AND TO DEFINE THE SCOPE OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

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STIFFER LAW FOR ADMISSION OF CINEMA-GOERS SUGGESTED
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THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING LAWS TO RESTRICT ENTRY TO SPECIFIED FILMS TO PERSONS OVER A PARTICULAR AGE.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS KO SAID SHE APPRECIATED THAT SUCH LEGISLATION MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE, PARTICULARLY AS THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CRIME WAS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

BUT SHE ADDED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE INCREASING CRIME RATE WAS THE READY AVAILABILITY OF FILMS WHICH MADE CRIME AND VIOLENCE APPEAR THE NORM.

+PERHAPS ONE OF THE ANSWERS TO THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM MAY BE FOR CINEMA OPERATORS TO RESTRICT THEIR SALES OF ADVANCE BOOKINGS OR TO MAKE OTHER MANAGERIAL CHANGES,+ SHE SAID.

MISS KO REALISED THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE WELCOMED BY CINEMA OPERATORS. BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, WHEREBY SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ATTENDING UNSUITABLE MOVIES, SHE THOUGHT IT WELL WORTH THE BURDEN.

REFERRING TO INDECENT FILM ADVERTISEMENTS APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS, MISS KO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE DEALT WITH MORE FIRMLY UNDER THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE.

IN REPLY TO THE POINT ABOUT RESTRICTING ADMISSION OF VIEWERS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, SAID THE PROBLEM OF ENFORCEMENT WAS A DIFFICULT ONE.

+THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND FILMS HAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH THE INDUSTRY THE POSSIBILITY OF CINEMA MANAGERMENTS TAKING UP ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES BUT THE RESPONSE HAS NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING,+ HE SAID.

THIS ISSUE, HE ADDED, HAD BEEN KEPT UNDER REVIEW SINCE IT WAS LAST RAISED IN THE COUNCIL IN 1971.

MR. LI DOUBTED IF A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND UNTIL THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

AS REGARDS THE QUESTIONS OF OBJECTIONABLE MATERIALS APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS, HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL FILM ADVERTISEMENTS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS, WERE SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP.

OTHER FILM PUBLICITY MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS AND ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINES WAS ALSO MONITORED, MR. LI SAID.

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PROCEDURES TO SEARCH PREMISES

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY HE WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO CHANGE THE PROCEDURES SO AS TO OBLIGE POLICE AND ICAC OFFICERS TO RELY ON MAGISTRATES' WARRANTS IN THE SEARCHING OF HOMES OR NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES, EXCEPT ON OCCASIONS OF EMERGENCY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT ANY CHANGES IN THE LAW OR IN THE PROCEDURES OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THIS RESPECT COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HONG KONG'S FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

MR. DAVIES SAID PRIVATE PREMISES MIGHT BE ENTERED AND SEARCHED ONLY ON THE AUTHORITY OF A MAGISTRATE'S WARRANT EXCEPT IN CERTAIN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PARTICULAR ORDINANCES CONTAIN SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE OFTEN SUCH THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY, IF IT WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE AND WHICH WERE OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

+IN EACH CASE THE PARTICULAR SPECIAL PROVISION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED JUSTIFIED BY THIS COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE CONCERNED,+ HE EMPHASISED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE POLICE FORCE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HAD ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN FORCE REGULATING THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS OF ENTRY WITHOUT WARRANT.

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FOUR ADDITIONAL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS
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A BILL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PAID STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS IN HONG KONG FROM SIX TO TEN WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1976 PROVIDES ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND ALL NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, WITH FOUR EXTRA PAID HOLIDAYS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING SIX TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.

THE AMENDMENTS GAVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG THAT ONE OF THE ADDITIONAL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE A +FLOATING HOLIDAY+ TO BE DESIGNATED BY EMPLOYERS FOR EACH YEAR.

THIS WAS THE HOLIDAY ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED TO FALL ON THE FIRST WEEK DAY IN JULY OR ALTERNATIVELY THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST.

WITH THE INCORPORATION OF THESE AMENDMENTS, THE NEW STATUTORY HOLIDAYS ARE THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR= THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, THE CHINESE WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL OR ALTERNATIVELY, CHRISTMAS DAY, AND THE FLOATING HOLIDAY TO BE DESIGNATED BY EMPLOYERS FOR EACH YEAR. IF THE EMPLOYER DOES NOT DESIGNATE THIS HOLIDAY IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY FALL ON THE FIRST WEEK DAY IN JULY OR THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST.

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BILLS PASSED
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TEN BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AND BECAME LAW.

THEY WERE THE METRICATION BILL 1976, THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (EXEMPTION) BILL 1976, THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976, THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, AND THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

TWO BILLS -- THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS (ROAD TRAFFIC) BILL 1976 -- WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1976.

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U.K. ENTRY CERTIFICATES

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THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR U.K. ENTRY CERTIFICATES FROM HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS USUALLY TAKES ONLY FOUR DAYS TO COMPLETE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, HE SAID THAT IN SOME CASES THE APPLICATIONS MIGHT HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE U.K. AUTHORITIES, IN WHICH CASE COMPLETION MIGHT TAKE UP TO FOUR WEEKS.

PEOPLE WHO APPLY FOR SUCH ENTRY CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A STANDARD U.K. FORM CONTAINING 20 QUESTIONS AND TO FILL IN A SUPPLEMENTARY FORM IN CERTAIN CASES, HE ADDED.

+THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION IS REQUIRED TO ASCERTAIN THE THE APPLICANT'S FINANCIAL MEANS BUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY TO SCRUTINISE BANK STATEMENTS,+ MR. DAVIES EXPLAINED.

AS TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE, MR. DAVIES SAID THAT SO FAR, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WAS AWARE OF ONLY ONE RECENT COMPLAINT, MADE ANONYMOUSLY IN THE PRESS.

+UNFORTUNATELY THE COMPLAINANT HAS NOT RESPONDED TO AN INVITATION TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT AND CANNOT BE TRACED FROM THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN HIS LETTER,+ HE SAID.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MR. DAVIES SAID, IT WAS NOT PROPOSED TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE THE RED-TAPE FOR SUCH APPLICATIONS.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1976

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MTR-KCR INTERCHANGE STATION FEASIBLE
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THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY IT WAS FEASIBLE IN PRINCIPLE TO BUILD AN INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG WHICH COULD BE USED BY BOTH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

+HOWEVER, MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ITS PRECISE LOCATION, LEVEL AND LAYOUT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS THAT MIGHT USE IT CAN BE HANDLED BY BOTH RAILWAY STATIONS,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE DETERMINED, HE SAID, WHETHER THE TWO RAILWAY SERVICES COULD OPERATE SATISFACTORILY WHILE THE INTERCHANGE WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

MR. MCDONALD WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN WHO ASKED WHEN THE RESULT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG WOULD BE MADE KNOWN.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE STUDY WAS STILL IN PROGRESS AND WAS DEPENDENT ON OTHER INVESTIGATIONS PROCEEDING CONCURRENTLY, SUCH AS THE DOUBLE TRACKING AND REGRADING OF THE K.C.R. LINE THROUGH BEACON HILL AND PREDICTIONS OF PASSENGER PATRONAGE.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHEK O IMPROVED
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FOUR NEW MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHEK O ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HE SAID THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY HAD RESERVED A FLEET OF 30 DOUBLE-DECK BUSES FOR ROUTE 9 WHICH OPERATES BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND SHEK O.

+PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE NOT IMPEDED, THESE BUSES WILL OPERATE AT A TWO-MINUTE FREQUENCY,+ HE SAID.

PART OF THE CAR PARK HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A SUPPLEMENTARY BUS TERMINUS AND THE EXISTING PLB STAND HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE 50 PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, HE ADDED.

THERE IS ALSO A GREATER POLICE PRESENCE IN CONTROLLING TRAFFIC, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID.

+WHEN THE PLB STAND IS FULL, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE STOPPED AND TURNED ROUND AT THE JUNCTION OF SHEK O ROAD AND BIG WAVE BAY ROAD,+ HE ADDED.

+THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE IMPROVED THE SITUATION ALTHOUGH, WITH THE HEAVY DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT AT SHEK O ON FINE SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, SOME CONGESTION,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY, ARE KEEPING THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN ON LANTAU BUS SERVICES DURING HOLIDAYS, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WAS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING CONTRACT HIRE VEHICLES, SUCH AS SCHOOL BUSES, BROUGHT FROM URBAN AREAS TO TEMPORARILY SUPPLEMENT THE LANTAU FLEET DURING HOLIDAYS.

THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING DOUBLE DECKER BUSES TO LANTAU FOR USE ON SUITABLE ROUTES IS ALSO BEING INVESTIGATED, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY HAD, IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, EXPANDED ITS FLEET FROM 41 TO 45 VEHICLES.

+THIS, PLUS IMPROVED TIMETABLES, HAS MEANT A 22 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+ALTHOUGH THE VERY HIGH DEMAND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IS NOT MET, ON THESE DAYS THE SYSTEM CARRIES MORE THAN TWICE THE NORMAL WEEKDAY TRAFFIC,+ HE SAID.

BECAUSE BUSES ARE FULLY UTILISED ON HOLIDAYS AND GROSSLY UNDER-UTILISED ON WEEKDAYS, IT WOULD BE UNECONOMICAL TO FURTHER INCREASE THE LOCAL FLEET PURELY TO MEET PEAK DEMAND, HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1976.

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TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR FORMS V AND VI STUDENTS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, SAID ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANSWERING A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. MISS S. W. KO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES WERE A MATTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FIRMS AND UNDERTAKINGS.

HOWEVER, HE WENT ON, BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT LABOUR SHORTAGE IN SOME INDUSTRIES THERE WERE MUCH BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEMPORARY SUMMER EMPLOYMENT THAN DURING THE RECESSIONARY CONDITIONS OF THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT, PARTICULARLY IN THE ELECTRONICS AND ASSEMBLY INDUSTRIES, SUCH STUDENTS ARE FAIRLY EAGERLY SOUGHT, AND THAT SOME FACTORIES ARE EVEN RUNNING HALF-SHIFTS LARGELY TO CATER FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFERED A PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR JOB-SEEKERS, BUT IT WAS MAINLY GEARED TO THOSE SEEKING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TREAT FORM V AND FORM VI AS A SPECIAL GROUP, BUT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE WAS ALWAYS GIVEN BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JULY 9) TO ALLOW WATERWORKS STAFF TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD, TAI CHUNG ROAD, PUN SHAN STREET INCLUDING CHAI WAN KOK STREET, AND THE SEA FRONT.

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