



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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DETAILS OF NEW HK-EEC TEXTILES AGREEMENT RELEASED
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THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED DETAILS OF THE NEW TEXTILES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS INITIALLED IN BRUSSELS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, WAS EXAMINED BY THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD AT A MEETING HELD YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON. THE BOARD ADVISED THAT, PENDING FORMAL RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT, HONG KONG SHOULD IMPLEMENT ITS PROVISIONS ON A DE FACTO BASIS FROM JANUARY 1, 1978.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ISSUED A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS EARLIER TODAY ADVISING THE TRADE OF DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT AND CALLING FOR SHIPMENT RETURNS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS BEING BROUGHT UNDER RESTRAINT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

MEANWHILE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IF THE NEW 1978 LIMITS FOR THE FOUR ITEMS WHICH HAVE FACED THE BIGGEST CUTBACK (COTTON FABRICS, WOVEN TROUSERS, WOVEN SHIRTS AND KNITTED BRIEFS) HAD BEEN APPLIED IN 1976, IT WOULD HAVE COST 8,500 JOBS AND ABOUT \$390 MILLION IN EXPORT EARNINGS.

THE DAMAGING IMPACT OF THESE CUTS WILL NOT, HOWEVER BE FELT SO KEENLY IN THE SHORT TERM. THIS IS BECAUSE 1977 HAS BEEN A POOR YEAR FOR EXPORTS TO THE EEC, WITH TRADE IN THESE FOUR ITEMS RUNNING AT ABOUT THE MAXIMUM LEVEL IT WILL BE ALLOWED TO REACH IN 1978.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE DAMAGE IS REMOVED. WHAT IS LOST, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TRADE TO GROW AS THE MARKET RECOVERS, WHICH IT IS SHOWING SIGNS OF DOING, AND THEREFORE FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THESE SECTORS TO INCREASE.

THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO THE CATEGORIES WHICH HAVE FACED THE MOST SEVERE CUTBACKS, BUT ALSO TO MOST OTHER MAJOR ITEMS IN CLOTHING EXPORTS TO THE EEC. LIMITS AND GROWTH RATES FOR THESE FROM 1978 ONWARDS ARE WELL BELOW THOSE TO WHICH HONG KONG COULD LEGITIMATELY HAVE ASPIRED UNDER THE RULES OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

AND, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED, THE EEC AGREEMENT RUNS FOR FIVE YEARS SO THE EFFECTS WILL BE OF LONG DURATION.

ALL IN ALL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE DAMAGE IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE IF THE ORIGINAL EEC PROPOSALS HAD BEEN FORCED UPON US.

THE CONSEQUENCES IN TERMS OF THE GROWTH OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. BUT IF OTHER MARKETS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS IN GROWTH POTENTIAL IN SALES OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TO THE EEC, THE GROWTH IN OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPLAINS DECISION
ON HUTCHISON HOUSE INCIDENT

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THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN HOBLEY STRESSED TODAY HIS DECISION TO PROSECUTE ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE HUTCHISON HOUSE INCIDENT ON OCTOBER 28 WAS NOT BASED UPON POLITICAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS BUT UPON THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HOBLEY SAID, +ON THE MATERIAL PUT BEFORE ME BY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, I COULD NOT HAVE DECIDED OTHERWISE THAN IN THE WAY I DID.+

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY IN RELATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW, ACTED WHOLLY INDEPENDENTLY.

+HE IS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTIONS FROM ANYONE, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR.

+THIS FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF OUR CONSTITUTION IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT AN ATTORNEY GENERAL IS FREE OF INFLUENCE AND EXTRANEOUS CONSIDERATIONS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HOBLEY SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INCIDENT NOW RATHER THAN LATER FOR TWO REASONS.

+FIRSTLY, I KNOW THAT MY DECISION IN THE MATTER HAS AROUSED PUBLIC CONCERN. THIS IS BECAUSE IT SEEMS ON ITS FACE TO RUN COUNTER TO FACTS WHICH TO MANY WHO ARE NOT FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS SEEM OBVIOUS AND INCONTROVERTIBLE.

+SECONDLY, PEOPLE WHOSE VIEWS COMMAND PUBLIC ATTENTION HAVE CONSEQUENTLY PORTRAYED MY DECISION IN AN UNFORTUNATE WAY, WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE RESPECT FOR THE LAW,+ HE SAID.

MR. HOBLEY ALSO EMPHASISED THAT NOTHING HE NOW SAID SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CONSTITUTING, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO THAT CASE.

EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO HIS DECISION ON THE INCIDENT, MR. HOBLEY SAID THE REPORT OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION PRESENTED A FAIRLY CLEAR PICTURE OF THE EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN ABOUT NOON AND SOME 20 MINUTES LATER ON THAT DAY.

+THE PICTURE IS BUILT ON STATEMENTS FROM OFFICERS OF THE ICAC AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,+ HE SAID.

/HE POINTED OUT

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE THREE OFFENCES MOST LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED ON THAT OCCASION WERE: TAKING PART IN AN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY= ASSAULT OF ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER= AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE.

HE SAID THE OFFENCE OF PARTICIPATING IN AN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY INVOLVED MORE THAN MERE PRESENCE.

+IT INVOLVES, AND I EMPHASISE THE WORDS, 'TAKING PART' IN AN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY.

MR. HOBLEY SAID THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY BY FIGHTING, THREATENING OR EVEN SHOUTING ENCOURAGEMENT PRESENTED NO DIFFICULTY AS HIS INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OR CONTINUANCE OF THE UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY WAS CLEAR.

BUT HE SAID THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO WAS MERELY PRESENT WITHOUT PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY WAS MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE ALTHOUGH HIS PRESENCE MAY IN FACT GAVE SOME ENCOURAGEMENT, THE CROWN HAD STILL TO ESTABLISH THAT HE WAS PRESENT WITH THE INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING THE FORMATION OR THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. HOBLEY POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS WERE ABLE TO PICK OUT FROM THE NUMEROUS AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENTS, A NUMBER OF PERSONS AS HAVING VARIOUS DEGREES OF RESEMBLANCE TO KNOWN POLICE OFFICERS, THAT STANDARD OF IDENTIFICATION FELL SHORT OF BEING SUFFICIENT ON ITS OWN TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF A PERSON AS A PARTICIPANT IN CRIME MERELY FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OR FILM TAKEN AT THE SCENE WAS NOT ADEQUATE UNLESS THE IDENTIFICATION FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS CERTAIN AND +THAT WAS NOT THE CASE HERE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HOBLEY SAID THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS IN THIS INCIDENT DID NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE SORT OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS OFTEN AVAILABLE TO THEM IN THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME, AND THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO FIND ANY POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS ABLE, OR WILLING, TO IDENTIFY ANY FELLOW OFFICER AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT.

+SO THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO ME BY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, CONTAINED, SAVE IN ONE CASE, NO EVIDENCE AT ALL AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENTS AND NO ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE EVEN AS TO WHO WAS PRESENT,+ MR. HOBLEY REMARKED.

IN THAT CASE, HE SAID, ONLY A PERSON WAS CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY IDENTIFIABLE AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE INVESTIGATORS TO WARRANT HIS BEING PUT ON AN IDENTIFICATION PARADE AS A SUSPECT.

+THAT MAN APPEARS IN A NOW WELL-KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH PULLING THE TIE OF AN ICAC OFFICER.

+WHEN THIS SUSPECT WAS PUT ON AN IDENTIFICATION PARADE, HE WAS NOT IDENTIFIED BY ANY OF THE THREE ICAC OFFICERS WHO BELIEVED THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE HIM AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

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APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. P.B. WILLIAMS, WILL LEAVE THE SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 1978 ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE. HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. J.N. HENDERSON.

MR. HENDERSON IS 48. HE HAS BEEN IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SERVICE SINCE MARCH 1962, HAVING SERVED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN KENYA FROM 1953 TO 1962.

SINCE HIS TRANSFER TO HONG KONG, HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF SENIOR POSTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE FINANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973.

MR. HENDERSON IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

MR. WILLIAMS WILL HAVE COMPLETED 25 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BY THE TIME HE LEAVES IN MARCH 1978.

HE FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS A CADET OFFICER IN 1953 AND ROSE THROUGH A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS TO THE RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, STAFF GRADE A IN AUGUST 1975.

HE HAS HELD MANY SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS INCLUDING DEFENCE SECRETARY, SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION BEFORE HIS PRESENT POST AS COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

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DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION IN ADVANCED STAGE
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THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE PROPOSED JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION HAD REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE AND A REQUEST FOR ITS REGISTRATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1977 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. DAVIES SAID ONCE THE SOCIETY WAS REGISTERED, ENROLMENT OF MEMBERS WOULD START IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THEN TO PROCEED TO ELECTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS BY SECRET BALLOT.

HE SAID THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION PROVIDED FOR REPRESENTATION AT UNIT LEVEL, UP TO DISTRICT LEVEL AND FROM THERE TO THE GOVERNING BODY.

+PROVISION IS ALSO INCLUDED SO THAT AT THE UNIT LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES WILL CONSIST OF ONE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER, ONE CONSTABLE, AND ONE FURTHER MEMBER OF EITHER RANK,+ HE ADDED.

/MR. DAVIES NOTED

MR. DAVIES NOTED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SUPPORT BY THE RANK AND FILE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH MEMBERS HAVING JOINED, EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO PLAY A PART IN ITS MANAGEMENT.

THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND THE HON. WONG LAM SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

IN HIS SPEECH, FATHER MCGOVERN APPEALED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION TO START OUT POSITIVELY.

+IT IS EASY TO BE AGAINST THINGS -- AGAINST THE ICAC, AGAINST AUTHORITY, AGAINST EVEN THE BLACK LOOKS OF THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID. +IT IS MUCH HARDER TO BUILD UP, HARDER TO BE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.+

HE HOPED THAT THROUGH THE HELP OF THE ASSOCIATION, EACH MEMBER OF THE RANK AND FILE WILL GET BACK +HIS LEGITIMATE CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF, IN THE FORCE HE SERVES AND IN THE PUBLIC HE SERVES.+

HE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF WHEN HE KNOWS HE IS DOING A COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL JOB AND NO ONE ELSE CAN DO THIS FOR HIM ALTHOUGH THE ASSOCIATION BY ITS SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT CAN HELP HIM.

IF THE ASSOCIATION CAN ACHIEVE THIS FOR ITS MEMBERS, IT WILL NOT BE LONG UNTIL THE PUBLIC WILL RESPOND AND SHOW APPRECIATION OF A WELL DONE JOB AND RESPECT FOR THE MAN WHO IS DOING IT, FATHER MCGOVERN SAID.

HE OFFERED SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTERS, POINTING OUT THAT 90 PER CENT OF THE CAUSES OF FAILURE OF STAFF ASSOCIATIONS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO FAILURE OF DEMOCRACY WITHIN THEM.

DEMOCRACY MUST BE SAFEGUARDED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF AN ASSOCIATION BY CLEAR AND STRINGENT RULES CONCERNING SECRET BALLOTS, HE SAID.

ALL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE A SECRET BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS. THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A BALLOT ALSO FOR ANY QUESTION CONCERNING NAMED PERSONS, EVEN AT COMMITTEE LEVEL, AS WELL AS FOR VOTES CONCERNING MAJOR MATTERS OF POLICY, HE SUGGESTED.

+OTHERWISE THE 'FACE' OF INDIVIDUALS WILL PREVAIL OVER THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION.+

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO DEMOCRACY, AN ASSOCIATION MUST TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN ITS WORK. +THE MINIMUM FOR ALL MEMBERS IS THAT THEY TAKE THE TROUBLE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE. OTHERWISE A SMALL GROUP CAN TAKE OVER CONTROL OF AN ASSOCIATION.+

THE SILENT MAJORITY MUST MAKE THE EFFORT TO BE HEARD IN ELECTIONS AND POLICY MAKING DECISIONS AND TO HELP THIS, METHODS SUCH AS A POSTAL BALLOT WITH SUITABLE SAFEGUARDS MUST BE SET UP.

ANOTHER METHOD SOMETIMES USED TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IS TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE YEARS ANY INDIVIDUAL MAY SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

FATHER MCGOVERN POINTED OUT A PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY IN A POLICE ASSOCIATION. HE SAID THE SYSTEM OF DEFERENCE TO THOSE OF HIGHER RANK OR GREATER SENIORITY IS NECESSARY IN THE WORKING LIFE OF A DISCIPLINED ORGANISATION, BUT WOULD KILL THE ASSOCIATION AT THE FIRST MEETING.

+IN AN ASSOCIATION EVERY MEMBER WHO PAYS HIS DUES IS OF COMPLETELY EQUAL STANDING WITH EVERY OTHER MEMBER. THIS IS PARTICULARLY VITAL IN ELECTIONS,+ HE STRESSED. IF IT HAPPENS THAT A MOST RECENTLY RECRUITED CONSTABLE IS JUDGED TO BE MOST SUITABLE,+WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR, THAT MOST RECENTLY RECRUITED CONSTABLE GETS THE VOTE+.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO THE SILENT MAJORITY IN THE FORCE +TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION, TO WORK FOR IT, TO VOTE FOR THE BEST LEADERS, AND TO USE THE ASSOCIATION NOT ONLY TO REMEDY GRIEVANCES BUT TO BUILD UP WHATEVER HAS BEEN KNOCKED DOWN.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS COMPRISED THE LARGEST NUMBER IN THE FORCE AND IT WAS FAIR AND REASONABLE THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN ASSOCIATION, SIMILAR TO THE OTHER THREE FOR THE OTHER RANKS.

IT WILL BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONS WITH THE UPPER RANKS, AND PARTICULARLY THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE FORCE, WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE EVEN FURTHER, HE ADDED.

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AMNESTY, IT IS THE WISH OF THE COMMUNITY THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORCE SHOULD FROM NOW ON WORK IN UNISON TO IMPROVE LAW AND ORDER. THE WAY IS NOW ALSO CLEAR FOR ALL OF THEM TO JOIN HANDS, WITHOUT BEING OVERSHADOWED BY MUTUAL DISTRUST OR PERSONAL ANXIETIES, TO TRANSFORM THE IMAGE OF THE FORCE,

THERE IS MUCH PUBLIC GOODWILL FOR THEM, WHO ARE AFTER ALL MAINLY HONG KONG MEN AND WOMEN, HE SAID. +IT IS UP TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORCE BY THEIR SENSE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND THEIR VERY ACTIONS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES, TO RETAIN THE GOODWILL, SUPPORT AND RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

MR. WONG LAM SUPPORTED THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION WHICH, HE SAID, WILL NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE RANK AND FILE AND THE VERY SENIOR OFFICERS.

AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF THE RANK STRUCTURE, THEY CANNOT BY-PASS THEIR IMMEDIATE SUPERIORS WHEN THEY WISH TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS. +THIS SORT OF THING IS NATURALLY ESSENTIAL WHEN CARRYING OUT POLICE FUNCTIONS, BUT IN THE SPHERE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IT MUST HAVE SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES,+ HE SAID.

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HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE NEW ASSOCIATION, IT SHOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR SENIOR OFFICERS WHO WISH TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE RANK AND FILE ON A PROCEDURAL STEP OR A PARTICULAR MATTER TO OBTAIN FROM THE ASSOCIATION A CONSENSUS WHICH IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THEM.

HE BELIEVED THERE WILL BE BETTER COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR RANKS, WHILE THE ASSOCIATION WILL BECOME AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE RANK AND FILE TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS ON ANY MATTER WITH WHICH THEY ARE DISSATISFIED.

+THIS WILL DEFINITELY HELP TO RAISE THE MORALE OF THE POLICE FORCE WHICH IN TURN WILL CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER AND OF PUBLIC STABILITY,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY , MR. DAVIES SAID THEIR REMARKS ABOUT THE POLICE FORCE GENERALLY AND THE BILL IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE FORCE AND TO THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION.

HE WOULD CERTAINLY SEE THAT THE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS OF FATHER MCGOVERN, BASED ON SUCH LONG AND WIDE EXPERIENCE, WERE PASSED ON TO THOSE WHO WERE ENGAGED IN FORMING THE ASSOCIATION.

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LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL
INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO TRY TO ACHIEVE A SENSIBLE BALANCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS CONCERNED BUT ALSO THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE IN ANY MATTER AFFECTING PERSONS WHOSE INTERESTS ARE AS POLARISED AS LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, SAID THIS TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

MR. SCOTT SAID THE AIM OF THE BILL WAS TO PERMIT SMALL RENT INCREASES FOR CONTROLLED DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC TENANCIES IN PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AND TO REGULATE THE PERIODIC RENT INCREASES PERMITTED IN DOMESTIC TENANCIES IN POST-WAR BUILDINGS CONTROLLED UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION.

ON PRE-WAR PREMISES, MR. SCOTT SAID THE BILL PROVIDED FOR INCREASES IN PERMITTED RENTS IN SUCH BUILDINGS OF THE ORDER OF 16.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC TENANCIES AND 32 PER CENT FOR NON-DOMESTIC TENANCIES, BRINGING PERMITTED RENTS TO STANDARD RENT PLUS 200 PER CENT IN THE CASE OF THE FORMER AND TO STANDARD RENT PLUS 500 PER CENT FOR THE LATTER.

+THESE PERCENTAGE FIGURES APPEAR VERY HIGH, BUT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THEY ARE BASED ON RENT LEVELS OBTAINING IN 1941, SOME 36 YEARS AGO,+ MR. SCOTT SAID.

+IN MONEY TERMS, BY COMPARISON, THE PROPOSAL WOULD MEAN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF THE ORDER OF \$20 PER MONTH IN THE CASE OF A DOMESTIC UPPER TENEMENT FLOOR, AND OF \$110 PER MONTH FOR A NON-DOMESTIC GROUND TENEMENT FLOOR.

+WHERE SUBLETTING OCCURS IN DOMESTIC TENEMENT FLOORS IT IS USUAL TO FIND THREE OR FOUR FAMILIES SHARING, SO THAT THE INCREASE IN RENT PER FAMILY WOULD BE SOME \$5 TO \$7 PER MONTH ONLY.+

MR. SCOTT SAID TENANCIES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED INCLUDED 6,500 TENEMENT FLOORS, 500 FLATS AND 3,000 NON-DOMESTIC TENEMENT FLOORS.

FOR OVER 20 YEARS UP UNTIL 1976, PERMITTED RENTS REMAINED UNALTERED AND, AS A RESULT, THEY NOW STOOD AT AROUND ONE FIFTH OF FAIR MARKET RENTS.

+THE SMALL INCREASE PROPOSED WOULD BRING RENTS UP TO ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF FULL MARKET RENTS,+ HE SAID.

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TURNING TO POST-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES, MR. SCOTT SAID THE BILL PROPOSED A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE FACTOR REGULATING THE BIENNIAL RENT INCREASES OF SUCH PREMISES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FACTOR WAS A PROPORTION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAIR MARKET RENTS AND CURRENT RENTS AND IT COULD BE VARIED TO REGULATE THE RATE AT WHICH RENTS WERE PERMITTED TO INCREASE.

+IF THE FACTOR WERE TO REMAIN CONSTANT, AND ASSUMING OTHER CONDITIONS DID NOT ALTER SIGNIFICANTLY, THE BIENNIAL INCREASES EXPRESSED AS THEY ARE AS A PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID WOULD BECOME PROGRESSIVELY SMALLER AND THE GAP BETWEEN CURRENT RENTS AND FAIR MARKET RENTS COULD NEVER BE CLOSED,+ MR. SCOTT SAID.

A FACTOR OF FIVE WAS APPROVED IN 1973 AND IT WAS REDUCED TO FOUR IN 1975.

+IT IS NOW CONSIDERED THAT THE FACTOR SHOULD BE FURTHER REDUCED FOR OTHERWISE THE PROCESS OF NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN REGULATED MARKET LEVEL RENTS WOULD SLOW DOWN PERCEPTIBLY.

+THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN THE CASE OF PREMISES FIRST BROUGHT INTO CONTROL IN 1970.

+THE REDUCTION IN THE FACTOR TO THREE WOULD MAKE THE PROPOSED INCREASES GENERALLY SIMILAR, IN MONEY TERMS, TO THE INCREASES OF 1974 AND 1976.+

MR. SCOTT SAID FROM THE LANDLORDS' VIEWPOINT THE REDUCTION OF THE FACTOR NOW PROPOSED WOULD FURTHER CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN CONTROLLED AND OPEN MARKET RENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TENANTS WERE PROTECTED BY THE OVER-RIDING RESTRICTION WHICH LIMITS INCREASES IN RENTS TO NOT MORE THAN 21 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT RENT, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF RELATIVELY FEW LUXURY FLATS AND HOUSES AND IN PRACTICE, AVERAGE INCREASES HAD IN THE PAST BEEN GENERALLY LESS THAN THE 21 PER CENT MAXIMUM.

+TENANTS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO HAVE SECURITY OF TENURE PROVIDED BY THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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NEW 10-CENT COIN TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1979-80

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE A NEW 10-CENT COIN IN 1979-80 PROVIDED THAT THE STORAGE CAPACITY NECESSARY TO COPE WITH THE CHANGE-OVER IS AVAILABLE, THE HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ON POSSIBLE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED 50-CENT COIN AND THE 10-CENT COIN IN CIRCULATION.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO, AND THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROPOSE TO WITHDRAW OR REDESIGN THE NEW 50-CENT COIN.

+THE QUEEN'S PROFILE IS DIFFERENT, THE 50-CENT COIN IS LARGER AND IT IS, OF COURSE, MARKED AS A 50-CENT COIN IN CHINESE CHARACTERS AND IN ENGLISH,+ HE SAID, ADDING, +BUT ANY DISTINGUISHABILITY PROBLEMS WILL ONLY BE TEMPORARY IN VIEW OF OUR INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A REDESIGNED 10-CENT COIN.+

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AS THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT ALL CENT DENOMINATION COINS SHOULD BE MADE OF NICKEL BRASS AND THAT THE DOLLAR SERIES BE MADE OF CUPRO-NICKEL, IT FOLLOWED THAT THE OLD 50-CENT CUPRO-NICKEL COIN WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED BY A COIN MADE OF NICKEL BRASS.

REFERRING TO ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE TO ISSUE A SMALLER DOLLAR COIN, HE SAID, +HAD THE NEW DOLLAR COIN BEEN INTRODUCED BEFORE THE 50-CENT COIN WAS CHANGED FROM CUPRO-NICKEL TO NICKEL BRASS THERE COULD HAVE BEEN CONFUSION BETWEEN THE NEW DOLLAR COIN AND THE OLD 50-CENT COIN.+

+IT WAS, THEREFORE, DECIDED TO REPLACE THE 50-CENT COIN BEFORE THE SMALLER DOLLAR COIN WAS INTRODUCED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE NEW DOLLAR COIN WOULD BE ISSUED IN AUGUST 1978, SAYING: +ON REFLECTION, PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO INTRODUCE THE DOLLAR COIN FIRST- BUT WE SHALL NEVER KNOW AS COIN IDENTIFICATION AND DISTINGUISHABILITY PROBLEMS THAT STEM FROM A PIECEMEAL RESTRUCTURING PROGRAMME TEND TO SURFACE ONLY WHEN NEW COINS ARE PUT INTO CIRCULATION.

+YET IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO INTRODUCE ALL CHANGES AT THE SAME TIME.

+THE MAIN PROBLEM IS ONE OF FINDING SUFFICIENT SECURE STORAGE SPACE TO HANDLE THE NEW COINS AS THEY ARRIVE FROM THE MINT AND SPACE TO HOLD THE OLD COINS AS THEY ARE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION PRIOR TO SELLING THEM OFF FOR THEIR SCRAP METAL VALUE.+

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REASON FOR INSTALLING 50-CENT TURNSTILE
AT HK YAUMATI FERRY PIER
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THE IDEA TO INSTALL A 50-CENT TURNSTILE FOR FERRY COMMUTERS TRAVELLING BETWEEN JUBILEE STREET AND JORDON ROAD WAS TO ENABLE PASSENGERS IN A HURRY TO GO THROUGH WITHOUT ANY DELAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. T.S. LO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. JONES SAID THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY INTRODUCED THE 50-CENT TURNSTILE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS WITHOUT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF 40-CENT TURNSTILES FOLLOWING REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

+ALTHOUGH, HOWEVER, THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN GOOD FAITH AND IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC DEMAND, IT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN WITHDRAWN BECAUSE IT WAS FOUND TO CONTRAVENE THE TERMS OF THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE.+

MR. JONES NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE DELAYS WERE EXPERIENCED BY PASSENGERS AT THE TURNSTILES, WHERE FOUR 10-CENT PIECES HAD TO BE INSERTED AND IT HAD NOT BEEN FEASIBLE TO DESIGN TURNSTILES CAPABLE OF TAKING THE FLANGED 20-CENT COINS OR OF GIVING CHANGE FOR A 50-CENT COIN.

HE SAID: +CHANGE COUNTERS HAVE BEEN SET UP AT THE TERMINALS, BUT AGAIN QUEUES HAVE BEEN FORMING AT THESE COUNTERS.+

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POLICE COMMISSIONER RE-EXAMINING DEATH OF LIU PING-HON
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THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO APPOINT A COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH OF MR. LIU PING-HON, THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN HOBLEY SAID TODAY.

REPLYING A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HOBLEY SAID HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING PUBLIC INTEREST, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAD ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION TO RE-EXAMINE THE MATTER WITH A VIEW TO SEEING WHAT FURTHER INQUIRIES, IF ANY, COULD BE MADE.

MR. HOBLEY ADDED: +IN VIEW OF THE COMMISSIONER'S DECISION, IT IS RIGHT THAT I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I DID NOT CONSULT HIM IN REACHING MY CONCLUSION THAT THE MATERIAL SUBMITTED WITH THE REPRESENTATIONS WHICH I RECEIVED FROM THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY.+

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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BILL TO PROVIDE FURTHER BENEFITS FOR INJURED WORKERS
INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO

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A BILL TO PROVIDE FURTHER BENEFITS FOR INJURED WORKMEN WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND READING OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1977, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS SAID ITS MAIN AIM WAS TO ENSURE THAT WHEN WORKERS SUFFERED INJURIES AT WORK, THE MEDICAL EXPENSES INVOLVED WERE MET BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

HE SAID: +AT PRESENT OUR LEGISLATION MAKES NO PROVISION FOR THIS, ALTHOUGH SOME GOOD EMPLOYERS MEET SUCH EXPENSES AS A NORMAL RESPONSIBILITY.

+BUT IN MOST CASES,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID, +INJURED WORKMEN GO TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WHERE THE FEES, ALTHOUGH VERY SIGNIFICANTLY SUBSIDISED, ARE MET BY THE WORKMEN THEMSELVES.+

HE SAID THE BILL ESTABLISHED A LIABILITY BY EMPLOYERS TO PAY WORKMEN'S MEDICAL EXPENSES.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD, INCIDENTLY, ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPLY FULLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION NO.17, HE ADDED.

MR. WILLIAMS REVEALED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD MADE A STUDY OF THE STANDARDS ADOPTED IN SEVEN NEIGHBOURING ASIAN COUNTRIES, TO PROVIDE INJURY BENEFITS FOR WORKERS -- IN JAPAN, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

THE STUDY SHOWED THAT ALL SEVEN COUNTRIES PROVIDED MEDICAL CARE AND ALLIED BENEFITS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, EITHER AS AN EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY OR THROUGH INSURANCE SCHEME TO WHICH EMPLOYERS WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS.

+THE PROPOSAL WOULD THEREFORE PLACE HONG KONG IN A COMPARABLE POSITION WITH ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL DOES LIMIT THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY TO A MAXIMUM CLAIM BY WORKERS OF MEDICAL EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT AT THE RATE OF \$10 EACH DAY FOR OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT AND \$20 EACH DAY FOR IN-PATIENT CARE IN HOSPITAL.

HE SAID: +THESE RATES HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT AFTER A STUDY OF THE PRESENT CHARGES MADE IN GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND IN SEVEN PRIVATE HOSPITALS.+

HE ADDED THAT THE RATES WOULD BE REVISED WHEN NECESSARY BY RESOLUTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE INJURED WORKMAN WOULD ALSO BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE INJURY.

/BY THIS TIME,

+BY THIS TIME,+ SAID MR. WILLIAMS, +HE SHOULD EITHER HAVE RECOVERED FROM HIS INJURY OR BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR PERMANENT INCAPACITY.+

THE BILL ALSO SETS OUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH EMPLOYERS MAY BE EXEMPT FROM LIABILITY, THE MANNER IN WHICH A WORKMAN MAY BRING A CLAIM AGAINST EMPLOYER FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES, THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH DISPUTES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN OVER MEDICAL EXPENSES MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, AND THE MEANS BY WHICH A WORKMAN MAY RECOVER MEDICAL EXPENSES FROM THE EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO DISCHARGE HIS LIABILITY.

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS LATER ADJOURNED.

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AMENDMENTS TO FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS
ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN PROPOSED.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENTS WAS FOURFOLD.

THE FIRST WAS TO MAKE THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE COVER THE NEW GRADE OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE HEAD OF FACTORY INSPECTORATE FROM LABOUR OFFICER (INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS) TO CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR.

THE SECOND WAS TO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF 'INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING' TO COVER THE LOADING, UNLOADING OR HANDLING OF GOODS AT AN AIRPORT TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION NO.90.

THE THIRD, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, WAS TO INCLUDE ANY UNDERTAKING WHICH IS NOT CARRIED ON BY WAY OF TRADE OR FOR PURPOSES OF GAIN, EXCEPT A REGISTERED SCHOOL, INTO THE SCOPE OF THE ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF CHILD EMPLOYMENT.

THIS AMENDMENT, MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT, WOULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPLY FULLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION NO.5.

FOURTHLY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO EMPLOY TEMPORARY CONSULTANTS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY FACTORY INSPECTORS AND GIVE ADVICE ON TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY. THESE TEMPORARY CONSULTANTS WOULD BE UNDER THE SAME RESTRAINTS AS ANY PUBLIC OFFICER AND WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM DIVULGING INFORMATION GAINED DURING THE COURSE OF INSPECTIONS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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REPORT ON LABOUR LAWS AND CONDITIONS IN SIX SOUTHEAST
ASIAN COUNTRIES

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A REPORT ON LABOUR CONDITIONS AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS OF SIX SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WAS BEING PREPARED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. P.B. WILLIAMS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE REPORT WAS BEING PREPARED BY TWO OFFICERS, ONE FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICE BRANCH, THE OTHER A LABOUR OFFICER, WHO VISITED THAILAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 19 AND NOVEMBER 18 THIS YEAR.

DURING THEIR VISITS, THEY COLLECTED UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON LABOUR LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE AS WELL AS SOCIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THESE COUNTRIES AND THE INFORMATION GATHERED WILL BE USED TO REVISE AND EXTEND THE SCOPE OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DOCUMENT ON THESE COUNTRIES.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE REPORT WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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DATE OF HEARING IN MAGISTRATE'S COURT EXPLAINED

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THE AVERAGE PERIOD BETWEEN THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF A DEFENDANT IN A MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND THE DATE FIXED FOR THE HEARING OF THE CASE WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS ARE DEFENDED IS ONE MONTH.

THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN HOBLEY SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT.

MR. HOBLEY SAID, +THERE IS NO APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IN THE TIME WHICH ELAPSES AS BETWEEN A CASE IN WHICH BAIL IS GRANTED AND A SUMMONS CASE.+

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO CUSTODIAL CASES WHERE THE USUAL PERIOD BETWEEN THE DEFENDANT'S FIRST APPEARANCE AND TRIAL IS 14 DAYS OR LESS.

ON CASES WHERE THE DEFENDANT IS REMANDED IN CUSTODY AND CASES WHERE BAIL IS GRANTED, MR. HOBLEY SAID THERE WERE NO AVAILABLE RECORDS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE CASES.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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LEGAL DEPARTMENT EXAMINING UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS
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TWO OFFICERS OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT ARE EXAMINING UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN CHINESE NEWSPAPERS SO THAT DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF MORE BLATANT CONTRAVENTIONS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.

THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN HOBLEY SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. HOBLEY SAID, +THIS EXAMINATION IS NOW ALMOST COMPLETE, WHEN WE SHALL ADVISE THE POLICE WHICH COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE PROSECUTION.

+IF PROSECUTIONS ARE ULTIMATELY INSTITUTED, I HOPE THAT THEY WILL SERVE TO REMIND ALL CONCERNED OF THE LAW,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HOBLEY ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAD LODGED WITH THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SPREADING OVER 220 ISSUES OF 29 DIFFERENT NEWSPAPERS ALLEGING ALTOGETHER MORE THAN 1,700 CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE, THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENT ORDINANCE, OR BOTH.

HE SAID, +THE VERY NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM THIS ONE SOURCE SINCE THE MIDDLE OF JULY SHOWS THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF THEIR EVEN TRYING TO DO SO.+

+EACH ADVERTISEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED FIRST, TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THE COMPLAINT IS WELL-FOUNDED.

+THE FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION OF THE WELL-FOUNDED COMPLAINTS IS TIME-CONSUMING BECAUSE IT INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TRANSLATIONS, CERTIFICATION OF THE ACCURACY OF TRANSLATIONS AND THE OBTAINING OF PARTICULARS OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEWSPAPERS CONCERNED AND THE IDENTITY OF THE ADVERTISER,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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ACTIVITIES OF ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATORS REDUCED
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE VARIOUS KINDS OF BETS NOW OFFERED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE PROVISION IN THE NEW GAMBLING ORDINANCE HAD REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY THE ACTIVITIES OF ILLEGAL OPERATORS TAKING BETS ON HORSE RACING, THE HON. SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. F.K. LI SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. LI SAID THOUGH BETS OFFERED BY THE CLUB WITH HUGE DIVIDENDS MIGHT ATTRACT PUNTERS, NO EVIDENCE WAS AVAILABLE ON WHICH IT COULD BE CONCLUDED THAT THESE BETS WERE POSITIVELY ENCOURAGING NEW GAMBLERS.

HE SAID: +I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THE PRE-DOMINANT EFFECT OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BETS INTRODUCED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS BEEN TO DIVERT PREVIOUSLY VERY EXTENSIVE ILLEGAL GAMBLING INTO A CONTROLLED LEGALISED SYSTEM.

+AS ILLEGAL OPERATORS GIVE DISCOUNT TO THEIR CUSTOMERS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO OFFER NOT ONLY THOSE TYPES OF BETS ALREADY HANDLED BY ILLEGAL OPERATORS BUT ALSO THOSE WHICH THEY CANNOT ACCEPT BECAUSE OF THE ATTRACTIVE ODDS.+

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ADEQUATE MEASURES TO ENSURE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
GIVEN TO APPLICANT

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS ADOPTED A THREE-TIER SYSTEM OF WORK TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DO NOT HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS TURNED DOWN.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT.

EXPLAINING THE SYSTEM, MR. LEE SAID WHEN AN APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED IN A SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT, THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE APPLICANT WERE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY A WELFARE ASSISTANT. THE INFORMATION WAS THEN ASSESSED BY A PRINCIPAL WELFARE ASSISTANT TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF ANY AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO WHICH THE APPLICANT WAS ENTITLED. THE ASSESSMENT WAS AGAIN CHECKED AND AUTHORISED BY THE SUPERVISOR OF THE FIELD UNIT AT THE RANK OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER.

+THIS THREE-TIER SYSTEM OF WORK IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DO NOT HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS TURNED DOWN.

+IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT SATISFIED, HE IS ENCOURAGED TO APPROACH THE SUPERVISOR OF THE FIELD UNIT DIRECT. HE CAN ALSO APPEAL TO ME PERSONALLY,+ MR. LEE EXPLAINED.

MR. LEE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO A PROPOSAL IN THE GREEN PAPER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY THAT AN APPEAL BOARD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE AN AVENUE OF APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION TAKEN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH REGARD BOTH TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO THE AMOUNT PAYABLE.

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE HON. T.S. LO EARLIER, MR. LEE ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS WERE WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO SHOW COMPASSION AND COURTESY TO ALL CLIENTS.

+ALL OFFICERS, BOTH TRAINED AND UNTRAINED, HAVE TO TAKE AN ORIENTATION COURSE WHEN THEY JOIN THE DEPARTMENT AND FOR THOSE WHOSE WORK BRINGS THEM INTO CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, THE INSTRUCTOR ALWAYS STRESSES THE NEED TO SHOW COMPASSION AND COURTESY TO ALL CLIENTS, PARTICULARLY AS MANY OF THOSE WHO SEEK HELP ARE IN DISTRESS OR SUFFERING FROM STRAIN OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER,+ HE EMPHASISED.

+THOSE MEMBERS OF MY STAFF WHO HAVE ARDUOUS DUTIES TO PERFORM, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SECURITY, WHERE MORE THAN 120,000 CASES ARE BEING HANDLED ACTIVELY, ARE ALSO REMINDED BY THEIR SUPERVISORS FROM TIME TO TIME EXHORTING THEM OF THE NEED TO TAMPER FIRMNESS WITH FAIRNESS AND KINDNESS,+ MR. LEE ADDED.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +IT HAS TO BE REALISED THAT THESE FRONT-LINE WORKERS HAVE AN INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION TO PERFORM WHICH IS TO PREVENT ABUSE OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH MAY NOT ALWAYS BE CONDUCIVE TO SMOOTH RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNSUCCESSFUL OR DIFFICULT APPLICANTS.+

NEED TO DIVERSIFY AND PRODUCE MORE HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS

HONG KONG WILL NEED TO DIVERSIFY AND PRODUCE MORE SOPHISTICATED AND HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES IN ORDER TO MEET ITS CHALLENGES OF INTENSIFIED COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES AND THE GROWING PROTECTIONISM IN OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THE HON. S.L. CHEN SAID THIS WHEN HE TABLED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1977 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. CHEN SAID IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INCREASED TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES, THE CENTRE BEGAN TO MOVE IN A NEW DIRECTION WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY BASED SERVICES.

AS A RESULT, HE SAID THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE WERE MORE SELECTIVE AND MORE CAREFULLY GEARED TO INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF PRODUCTIVITY AND THERE WAS A SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF THE CENTRE'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANCY AND ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING SERVICES, WHICH WAS MATCHED BY AN INCREASED RESPONSE FROM INDUSTRY.

HE NOTED THAT DURING THE YEAR THE CENTRE CONDUCTED COURSES FOR NEARLY 6,500 PARTICIPANTS AND COMPLETED 117 CONSULTANCY AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.

THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICES OF THE CENTRE WERE ALSO STRENGTHENED. +PLANS WERE DEVELOPED DURING THE YEAR FOR SETTING UP A PLASTIC TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION UNIT WHICH WOULD BE REGARDED AS A PROTOTYPE FOR SEVERAL SIMILAR UNITS TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE CENTRE ON TOPICS WHICH DESERVE HIGH PRIORITY IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ MR. CHEN SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CENTRE ACTED AS A CO-ORDINATING BODY FOR THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION CENTRE WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND HAS FORMULATED ITS THIRD FIVE-YEAR PLAN COVERING THE PERIOD 1977/82 WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING INDUSTRY WITH SHARPLY INCREASED TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES.

+GIVEN THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT AND THE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION OF INDUSTRY,+ MR. CHEN SAID, +I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CENTRE WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY A EVEN MORE EFFICIENT ROLE IN THE PRODUCTIVITY MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG.+

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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CALL FOR MORE GENEROUS PAYMENTS TO
DEPENDANTS OF THOSE KILLED IN WAR
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THE HON. T.S. LO HAS URGED THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE TO EXERCISE GENEROSITY AND TO RECONSIDER THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO DEPENDANTS OF THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, MR. LO SAID THE PRESENT PAYMENT SCHEDULE MADE LIFE VERY DIFFICULT TO ANYONE WHO HAD TO RELY ON THESE PAYMENTS ALONE TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE STANDARD OF LIVING.

MR. LO SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT FAIRLY GENEROUS INCREASES HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS BUT NOTED THAT THE SOCIETY DID OWE A SUBSTANTIAL OBLIGATION TO THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG.

+WE SHOULD ENSURE AT LEAST THAT THEIR DEPENDANTS ARE LOOKED AFTER REASONABLY WELL,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY, THE ACTING SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE HON. DAVID BOY SAID HE FELT SURE THE WAR MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE WOULD ACCEPT MR. LO'S REMARKS IN THE SPIRIT HE INTENDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE MEETING ON DECEMBER 14 TO REVIEW THE LEVEL OF PAYMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.

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SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME

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TEN PER CENT OF THE PUPILS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME AS COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF 13 PER CENT IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF SCHOOLS -- 34 PER CENT OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE PARTICIPATING COMPARED WITH 70 PER CENT OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. THONG POINTED OUT THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME WAS A VOLUNTARY AND CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME AND IT WAS UP TO THE SCHOOLS CONCERNED TO ENCOURAGE MORE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE.

+ALSO,+ HE ADDED, +AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THE EASY ACCESS TO OTHER SOURCES OF MEDICAL CARE IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.+

ON THE QUESTION OF THE LOWER ENROLMENT IN THE OVER 10 AGE GROUP, DR. THONG SAID THAT AS CHILDREN GREW OLDER, THE INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS AMONG THEM TENDED TO GET LOWER.

+IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT MOST PARENTS WILL BE LESS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

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COMMITTEE TO VET APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SITES

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BOARD HAD SET UP ITS OWN INTERNAL SELECTION COMMITTEE TO VET APPLICATIONS FOR SITES ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS CHAIRED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND COMPRISED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, AN UNOFFICIAL AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CORPORATION.

HE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON EACH APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD ITSELF WITH WHICH THE FINAL DECISION RESTS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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MEASURES OF DUST CONTROL AT CONSTRUCTION SITES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TRYING FOR SOME TIME TO CONTROL THE PROBLEM OF DUST CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES BY REQUIRING CONTRACTORS TO ADOPT A NUMBER OF MITIGATING MEASURES, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, MR. JONES SAID, CONTRACTORS WERE REQUIRED TO SPRAY WATER ON ACCESS TO SITES TO PREVENT DUST FROM RISING AND TO SWEEP AWAY MUD AND DUST DROPPED BY CONTRACTORS' VEHICLES ON ROADS NEAR THE SITE SO AS TO MINIMISE THE CREATION OF DUST CLOUDS BY OTHER PASSING VEHICLES.

FURTHERMORE, THEY HAD TO COVER THE TOPS OF EARTH-CARRYING VEHICLES WITH CANVAS TO PREVENT SOIL FROM SPILLING ONTO THE ROAD AND DUST FROM BEING BLOWN INTO THE AIR WHEN THE VEHICLE WAS IN MOTION, MR. JONES ADDED.

+IN ADDITION, AT SOME LOCATIONS SUCH AS TUEN MUN, ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO RE-ROUTE EARTH-CARRYING VEHICLES AWAY FROM DENSELY POPULATED AREAS= AND CONTRACTORS AT THESE PLACES ARE ALSO BEING REQUIRED TO SPRAY THE SURFACE OF SOIL STOCKPILES WITH BITUMEN TO PREVENT DUST FROM SPREADING.+

CONCEDING THAT IT WAS NOT EASY TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL THESE MEASURES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS, MR. JONES NOTED THAT PROSECUTIONS WERE BROUGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO CREATED A SERIOUS NUISANCE.

+FURTHERMORE, IN THE MOST FLAGRANT CASES OF ABUSE, THE CONTRACTOR'S LICENCE TO DISPOSE OF EARTH FILL CAN BE CANCELLED,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

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PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PRIVATE CLUBS
CONSIDERED
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THE HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF DISPENSING WITH PROPERTY TAX ON BUILDINGS USED FOR PRIVATE RECREATION AND NOT FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. S.L. CHEN, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSULT THE WORKING PARTY WHICH HAD BEEN EXAMINING FOR SOME TIME THE REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT CLUBS NOT DEEMED TO BE CARRYING ON A BUSINESS SHOULD BE TREATED ON A SIMILAR BASIS TO OWNERS OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES AND SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM PROPERTY TAX.

+CLUBS WHICH ARE DEEMED TO BE CARRYING ON A BUSINESS ARE LIABLE TO PROFITS TAX BUT ARE ALREADY, IN EFFECT EXEMPT FROM PROPERTY TAX,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MR. CHEN DID NOT GIVE ANY REASON FOR HIS SUGGESTION, HE WOULD STILL CONSIDER IT.

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STREET LIGHTING PLANS FOR CHUNG HOM KOK
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STREET LIGHTING WILL BE EXTENDED FROM REPULSE BAY TO THE CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD JUNCTION FROM JUNE NEXT YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, ABOUT STREET LIGHTING ON ROADS LEADING TO THE STANLEY AND TAI TAM AREA.

IN ADDITION TO THE STREET LIGHTING BETWEEN REPULSE BAY AND THE CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD JUNCTION, MR. MCDONALD SAID A PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE TO EXTEND THE SYSTEM TO STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD. HE SAID THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE 1978/79 STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME, AND IF APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE, THESE WORKS WOULD BE PUT IN HAND IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

MR. MCDONALD SAID IT WAS NOT PRESENT POLICY TO LIGHT RURAL ROADS WHERE LITTLE DEVELOPMENT EXISTS UNLESS TRAFFIC CONSIDERATIONS CAN JUSTIFY THE PROVISION.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THERE ARE NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO INSTALL LIGHTING ON THE TAI TAM ROAD AS THE AREA BETWEEN CHAI WAN ROAD AND STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD IS LARGELY UNDEVELOPED.

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NIGHT LIGHTING OF ROAD WORKS
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH PRESENT REGULATIONS GIVE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION TO THE PUBLIC, THESE ARE BEING CHANGED IN LINE WITH THE LATEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TO PROVIDE FOR AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIGHTING.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF NIGHT LIGHTING OF ROAD WORKS, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT +THE ROAD TRAFFIC (LIGHTING AND GUARDING OF ROAD WORKS) REGULATIONS PRESCRIBE THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY CONTRACTORS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE EFFECTS OF ROAD WORKS.

+THERE IS ALSO A SAFE ROAD WORKING CODE WHICH ILLUSTRATES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNS AND LIGHTING AT WORKS SITES.+

BUT MR. MCDONALD SAID UNFORTUNATELY NOT ALL CONTRACTORS COMPLY IN ALL CASES WITH THE LAID DOWN STANDARDS.

HE SAID THAT IN DECEMBER 1976 THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE STARTED CARRYING OUT NIGHT PATROLS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS.

HE SAID THAT SINCE APRIL POLICE HAVE ACCOMPANIED THESE PATROLS.

HOWEVER, MR. MCDONALD SAID STAFF RESOURCES ARE NOT UNLIMITED AND CONSEQUENTLY PATROL VISITS TO EACH SITE ARE NOT CARRIED OUT FREQUENTLY ENOUGH TO ENSURE COMPLETE AND CONTINUING COMPLIANCE.

MR. MCDONALD SAID IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO RELY, TO SOME EXTENT, ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS TO PROPERLY LIGHT THEIR WORKS SITES.

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HIRAMS HIGHWAY MANNED DURING PEAK HOURS

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DURING PEAK HOURS AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THERE IS ALWAYS ONE, AND SOMETIMES TWO, POLICE PATROL CARS IN THE CLEARWATER BAY ROAD AND HIRAMS HIGHWAY AREA.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

APART FROM DOING WHAT THEY COULD TO ASSIST TRAFFIC FLOW GENERALLY AND DEALING WITH VEHICLES WHICH BREAK DOWN, OFFICERS FROM THESE PATROLS WERE INSTRUCTED TO DIRECT THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC AT THE JUNCTION OF THESE TWO ROADS WHEN THE SITUATION WARRANTS IT, MR. JONES SAID.

+THERE ARE SOMETIMES HOLDUPS OF TRAFFIC TURNING RIGHT FROM HIRAMS HIGHWAY TOWARDS KOWLOON ALONG CLEARWATER BAY ROAD BUT, GIVEN OTHER PRIORITIES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE MANPOWER, THEY ARE NOT YET CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO JUSTIFY THE STATIONING OF AN OFFICER PERMANENTLY AT THIS POINT TO CONTROL TRAFFIC.+

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LAND FOR OFF-STREET DRIVER TRAINING

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO ALLOCATE LAND IN BUTTERFLY VALLEY TO THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION FOR A PILOT SCHEME OF OFF-STREET DRIVER TRAINING, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU ON GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO REDUCE INCONVENIENCE AND POLLUTION CAUSED BY LEARNER DRIVERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, MR. JONES SAID THE IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OFF-STREET SITES WHERE LEARNER DRIVERS COULD AT LEAST UNDERTAKE THEIR BASIC TRAINING.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SUCH SITES WERE DIFFICULT TO FIND AND THERE WERE MANY COMPETING CLAIMS FOR THEIR USE.

HE NOTED THAT THE INDOOR DRIVING TRAINING CENTRE OPERATED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT COULD HELP SOLVE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

+THIS TRAINING HELPS TO KEEP LEARNERS OFF THE ROAD UNTIL THEY HAVE ACQUIRED SOME COMPETENCE IN HANDLING A VEHICLE AND IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO PRODUCE DRIVERS OF ABOVE AVERAGE STANDARD,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE CENTRE OPENED IN 1974, MORE THAN 11,000 TRAINEES HAD RECEIVED BASIC INSTRUCTION AND THE NUMBERS OF APPLICANTS WERE STEADILY INCREASING.

THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION WAS RUNNING A SIMILAR FACILITY AT MARSH ROAD IN WAN CHAI, HE ADDED.

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HK TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977
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A BILL DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO SPEED UP THE RECRUITING OF STAFF RECEIVED ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THE BILL ALSO WAS DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO INTRODUCE A NEW STAFF RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEME.

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED TWO BILLS INTO LAW TODAY.

THESE WERE THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1977 AND THE LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1977.

FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THESE WERE THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1977.

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RECREATIONAL CENTRE PLANNED FOR SAI KUNG

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THE HONG KONG YOUTH CLUB IS PLANNING TO SET UP A RECREATION CENTRE -- INCLUDING ACCOMMODATION -- AND A CAMPING CLUB IN SAI KUNG TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THOUSANDS OF CAMPERS, HIKERS AND WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHO IS THE CLUB'S HONORARY PRESIDENT, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A BALL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CLUB.

HE SAID THE CLUB'S COMMITTEE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE 'AMBITIOUS PLANS' WITH THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE RECREATION CENTRE, HE SAID, WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR SEA ACTIVITIES.

AND, THE CAMPING CLUB IS PLANNED TO CATER FOR THE RAPIDLY GROWING INTEREST IN HIKING AND CAMPING AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND IN PARTICULAR SAI KUNG, FOR RECREATION AND ADVENTURE, HE ADDED.

+I AM SURE THAT WHATEVER THE HONG KONG YOUTH CLUB DOES, IT WILL DO WELL, AND ENCOURAGE AMONGST ITS YOUNG MEMBERS A DESIRE FOR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS IN WHATEVER THEY DO AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AT ALL TIMES,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CLUB AND DESCRIBED THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION DEMONSTRATED CONSISTENTLY BY THE CLUB OVER THE PAST YEARS IN ITS NUMEROUS AND WELL ATTENDED ACTIVITIES AS +SIGNS OF GROWTH AND HEALTH+.

HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO LESS THAN 8,000 PARTICIPANTS IN THE VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, AND THE NUMBER OF ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD COME FORWARD TO HELP IN ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLUB HAD STEADILY INCREASED.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION URGES MORE PLAY AND
RECREATION FOR STUDENTS

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AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. ARTHUR BROWN, TODAY CALLED FOR GREATER ATTENTION TO PLAY OR LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPING A BALANCED PERSONALITY WHEN HE ADDRESSED STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE LOK SIN TONG SCHOOLS.

+I REALLY BELIEVE THAT MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG DON'T GET ENOUGH PLAY, AND WHILE I CAN SEE WHY THIS HAPPENS FOR BUSY ADULTS, THERE IS NO EXCUSE IN THE CASE OF THE YOUNG,+ HE SAID.

+WE ALL NEED TO DEVELOP A BALANCED PERSONALITY,+ HE STRESSED, +THE ABILITY TO RELAX, DETERMINATION, AND THE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP. THESE QUALITIES ARE ALL HELPED IN DEVELOPMENT BY THE WAY WE SPEND OUR LEISURE, IN OTHER WORDS, OUR PLAY OR RECREATION.+

HOWEVER, MR. BROWN POINTED OUT, THIS DID NOT MEAN HARD WORK WAS UNDESIRABLE. +TO ENJOY PLAYING, YOU HAVE TO EARN IT BY WORKING HARD,+ HE SAID.

HE THOUGHT THAT BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS HERE POSSESSED THAT ABILITY TO WORK HARD, AND BECAUSE OF IT HONG KONG WAS IN SUCH A GOOD POSITION TODAY, TO COMPETE IN TRADE WITH MUCH LARGER NATIONS WITH FAR GREATER RESOURCES.

+WHAT IS NEEDED AS WELL, IS ACTIVE PLAY OR ACTIVE RECREATION,+ HE CONTINUED. +TO LEAD A REALLY WELL-BALANCED LIFE, WHATEVER OUR AGE, WE NEED TO WORK HARD, PLAY HARD IN REALLY ACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND ALSO SAVE A LITTLE TIME FOR THE MORE PASSIVE RELAXING PLEASURES OF T.V. OR A BOOK, OR SOME MUSIC TO LISTEN TO.+

THE MOST OBVIOUS THING FOR STUDENTS, HE SAID, WAS TO JOIN A SCHOOL SOCIETY WHICH WOULD HELP THEM TO DEVELOP A HOBBY OR THE NEW COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB GROUPS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOTS OF INTERESTING ACTIVITIES.

MR. BROWN TOLD TEACHERS NOT TO GIVE CHILDREN TOO MUCH HOMEWORK.

+MOST CHILDREN ARE LEARNING TOO MUCH AT SCHOOL ANYWAY, SO THERE REALLY IS NO NEED FOR TOO MUCH HOMEWORK AND IT REALLY DOES DO THE CHILD HARM.+

ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO PARENTS, MR. BROWN SAID: +PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN GET SOME TIME TO THEMSELVES TO ENJOY THEMSELVES, IT WILL PAY GREAT DIVIDENDS IN LATER LIFE. TRY TO GET THEM, DURING THAT TIME, TO DO SOMETHING ACTIVE AND ENJOYABLE, AND DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH FUSS OVER THEIR HOMEWORK, IF THEY SEEM TO FINISH IT TOO QUICKLY.+

HOMEWORK, HE SAID, SHOULD NOT TAKE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF HOURS.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. BROWN EXHORTED TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN WHAT CHILDREN DO IN THEIR LEISURE HOURS AT HOME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

RTHK TO INTRODUCE NEW PROGRAMME ON HONG KONG LAWS

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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3 P.M. AT BROADCASTING HOUSE, BROADCAST DRIVE, KOWLOON TO INTRODUCE A NEW TELEVISION PROGRAMME -- +THIS IS THE LAW+.

IN THIS 30-MINUTE PROGRAMME, THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE HONG KONG LAWS WILL BE EXPLAINED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN A LIGHT, SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD FORMAT.

THE PROGRAMME IS A CO-PRODUCTION OF RTHK AND HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY. IN EACH PROGRAMME, THERE WILL BE TWO DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAW SOCIETY PRESENT FOR DISCUSSION. THE SERIES WILL HAVE 13 EPISODES.

MR. DONALD KERR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH THE NEW PROGRAMME WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

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

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