



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975

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LEGCO CLEARS WAY FOR MTR WORK
GOVT. AUTHORISED TO GUARANTEE MTR CORPORATION LOANS
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PAVED THE WAY FOR WORK ON THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM TO PROCEED BY AUTHORISING THE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT GUARANTEES IN RESPECT OF LOANS AND OTHER INDEBTEDNESS INCURRED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

ONE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. LO TAK-SHING, VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION.

ANOTHER, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION BUT URGED CAUTION AND THE STRICTEST CONTROL AND MONITORING OF THE PROJECTS BUILDING COSTS.

SPEAKING AGAINST THE MOTION, MR. LO SAID IN PART: +TO PUT FAITH IN THE ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES FOR A PROJECT AS NEW AND AS LARGE AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WITHOUT A THOROUGH DOWNSIDE RISK STUDY IS, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, A TREMENDOUS GAMBLE AND ONE THAT I CANNOT IN ALL CONSCIENCE AGREE TO THE GOVERNMENT TAKING.

+HOWEVER, THERE IS NO LAW WHICH REQUIRES EACH GAMBLE TO BE A LOSING GAMBLE AND ALL THAT I ON MY OWN CAN USEFULLY DO TODAY IS TO WISH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION VERY SINCERELY ALL GOOD FORTUNE BECAUSE I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MOTION,+ MR. LO SAID.

SUPPORTING THE MOTION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN CALLED FOR THE STRICTEST POSSIBLE MONITORING AND CONTROL IN REGARD TO THE BUILDING COSTS OF THE PROJECTS OVER THE COMING YEARS.

+ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD THIS COUNCIL BE FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WHEREBY COSTS WILL HAVE ESCALATED TWO OR THREE TIMES AS HAS HAPPENED IN MANY OTHER CITIES WHERE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED.

+FURTHERMORE, IN THE EVENTUALITY OF COSTS GOING BEYOND THE SEVEN PER CENT ESCALATION PER ANNUM FIGURE ALLOWED FOR, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ALLOW THE CORPORATION TO GET TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKET TO MAKE UP FOR POTENTIAL DEFICIT AMOUNTS TO THE OVERALL DETRIMENT OF THE COMMUNITY,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

THE GOING AHEAD OF THE MASS TRANSIT PROJECT, HE ADDED, SHOULD BE A SIGN OF OUR FAITH IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE OF HONG KONG. +IT SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR LEADING UP TO CONCERN OVER THE FISCAL STRENGTH OR EVEN FISCAL STABILITY OF HONG KONG DUE TO RUNAWAY COSTS AT A LATER DATE.+

/IN REPLY

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IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID HE WOULD PASS ON MR. LO TAK-SHING'S GOOD WISHES TO THE BOARD OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND WOULD DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO THE POINTS RAISED BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THERE WAS SOME DOWNSIDE RISK IN ANY PROJECT AND IF WE INSISTED ON ALL RISKS BEING ELIMINATED +NOTHING WOULD EVER BE DONE.+

+BUT BECAUSE OF ITS SHEER SIZE, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS THE MOST METICULOUSLY RESEARCHED PROJECT THAT HAS YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG AND THE ENGINEERING RISKS AND THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS HAVE BEEN, I FIRMLY BELIEVE, THOROUGHLY EVALUATED.

+SO I WOULD SAY TO MY HONOURABLE FRIEND MR. LO THAT TO DESCRIBE THIS PROJECT AS A GAMBLE IS MISLEADING.

+AS WITH ALL GOOD BUSINESS PROJECTS IT CERTAINLY CONTAINS SOME RISKS, BUT THESE HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CALCULATED AND CONTINGENCIES MADE FOR THEM,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

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CLEAR-CUT POLICY ON POPULATION URGED
DISINCENTIVES FOR LARGER FAMILIES MAY BE NECESSARY, SAYS F.W. LI

THE HON. LI FOOK-WO TODAY AGAIN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A CLEAR-CUT POLICY ON POPULATION AND SAID THE TIME MAY HAVE COME TO CONSIDER DISINCENTIVES FOR LARGE FAMILIES.

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE, MR. LI SAID HE STRONGLY FELT THAT A DEFINITE GOAL SUCH AS A TARGET ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE WAS A BASIC AND ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR HONG KONG.

+GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO DELAY ANY LONGER IN FORMING A POSITIVE POPULATION POLICY TO BE PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED, EVALUATED AND CO-ORDINATED BY A CENTRAL POPULATION COMMISSION,+ HE SAID.

AMONG ITS MANY DUTIES, THE COMMISSION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING A BROAD AND INTENSIVE PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA TO MAKE EVERYONE AWARE OF POPULATION PROBLEMS.

THE COMMISSION, HE ADDED, WOULD ALSO MAKE IT EASIER TO ASSESS THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES FOR HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL, SOCIAL WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, ALL OF WHICH HAD A BEARING ON UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

MR. LI CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT ON SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND OPENING NEW CLINICS. BUT HE WARNED THAT THE EXPANSION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ALONE WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE TO PREVENT THE PROJECTED POPULATION EXPLOSION.

HE NOTED THAT MANY OF HONG KONG'S NEIGHBOURS ALREADY HAD EXTENSIVE POPULATION POLICIES, AND HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DELAY FURTHER IN THIS.

MR. LI ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MCKINSEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY.

HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WAS PROGRESSING, WHETHER THE NEW MACHINERY WAS FUNCTIONING WELL, WHETHER THE REORGANISATION HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PRESENT ECONOMY DRIVE AND, MOST OF ALL, WHETHER HONG KONG WAS GETTING VALUE FOR MONEY FROM THE MCKINSEY REPORT.

HE FELT THAT A FULL ASSESSMENT WAS NECESSARY AND IF IT WAS SHOWN THAT IMPLEMENTATION ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSULTANTS WAS NOT PRACTICAL, SOME ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

/ON THE ECONOMY

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ON THE ECONOMY, MR. LI SAID THAT FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S STOCK-TAKING IT APPEARED APPROPRIATE NOW FOR HONG KONG TO ASSESS AND CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITION.

+AS OUR POLICY FOR AN ACCELERATED AND DECISIVE ADVANCE IN THE MAIN FIELDS OF SOCIAL DEFICIENCY HAS BEEN MADE, WE ARE NOW IN A BETTER POSITION TO EVALUATE OUR PROGRAMMES AND THEIR ACTUAL IMPLICATIONS THAN EVER BEFORE,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHOULD TAKE A REALISTIC LOOK AT SUCH PROGRAMMES, CONSOLIDATE OUR EFFORTS IN WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED, AND REALIGN OUR LONG AND SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES WHERE NECESSARY.+

HE AGREED THAT MANY DESIRABLE SERVICES PROJECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED OR REPHASED, BUT HE WAS GLAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR EXPANDING SOCIAL SERVICES, DESPITE FINANCIAL SETBACKS.

LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, HONG KONG HAD SUFFERED FROM THE RECESSION AND ALTHOUGH INFLATIONARY PRESSURES SEEMED TO HAVE SUBSIDED, THE FUTURE REMAINED UNCERTAIN, HE SAID.

FOR HONG KONG, HE ADDED, THE ONLY RATIONAL CHOICE WAS TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF FREE TRADE AND TO REVIEW PRESENT CONDITIONS AND LAY THE GROUND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SO THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE READY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY UPTURN IN THE ECONOMY.

IN THIS RESPECT, HE APPLAUDED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS, PROVIDING INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND, IN GENERAL, CREATE MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO HONG KONG.

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MONEY FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS SHOULD COME
FROM TAXATION ON INCREASING WEALTH: J.H. BREMRIDGE
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THE HON. J.H. BREMRIDGE SAID TODAY SOME INCREASES IN THE BASE RATES OF TAXATION MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENABLE MORE TO BE DONE FOR THE LESS WELL-OFF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+MORE MUST BE DONE, AND BE SEEN TO BE DONE, FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOW EXPERIENCING CONDITIONS OF LIFE THAT ARE A REPROACH TO THOSE FEW OF US WHO ARE MORE FORTUNATELY PLACED,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT MUCH OF THE NEEDED MONEY WOULD COME FROM TAXATION ON INCREASING WEALTH. IN HIS VIEW, MODERATE TAXATION ON INCREASING WEALTH YIELDED MUCH MORE THAN HIGH TAXATION ON FROZEN WEALTH.

MR. BREMRIDGE BELIEVED THAT BASE RATES OF TAXATION MAY THEMSELVES HAVE TO BE MODERATELY INCREASED UNLESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS UNEXPECTEDLY RAPID.

HE SAID HE WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM THIS INCREASE PROVIDED THE CHANGES WERE SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND EASY TO PUT INTO EFFECT TO FORESTALL EVASION, AND IF IT WAS MADE PLAIN THAT THEY WOULD BE INFREQUENT.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO POSSIBLE NEW SUMPTUARY TAXES IF ADDITIONAL REVENUE HAD TO BE RAISED.

ON THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, MR. BREMRIDGE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF PLANS TO PRESS FORWARD WITH REFORMS RECOMMENDED BY THE MCKINSEY CONSULTANTS.

+GOOD ADMINISTRATION IS WIDELY NOW ACCEPTED TO BE MORE OF A SCIENCE THAN AN ART. EQUALLY WIDELY ACCEPTED IS THE BROAD PRINCIPLE OF MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVE, COUPLED WITH DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY IN SO FAR AS IS WISE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THE MAN IN AUTHORITY IN MOST GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT JOBS STILL HAD LITTLE IDEA OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE RAISING OF REVENUE OR THE CONTROL OF COSTS, BECAUSE THE POSITION WAS NOT USUALLY OR EASILY KNOWN TO HIM.

+I MUST MAKE A PLEA AS A FIRST STEP FOR THE MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF ANNUAL OPERATING PLANS -- AND FOR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID. THESE SHOULD TAKE THEIR PLACE IN SOUND ANNUAL BUDGETS AND LONG TERM PLANS.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE NEW EXPENDITURE NEEDED WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY EVENTUAL RETURNS. +IN FACT ONE FAILING IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS THE DIFFICULTY OF SEEING THE RETURN THAT COMES FROM DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE, OR THE OPTIONS THAT OPEN UP,+ HE SAID.

/HE PAID

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HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SECURITIES COMMISSION WHICH HE SAID HAD TO WORK +IN THE FACE OF UNBRIDLED SPECULATION, POOR AUDIT REPORTS, LEAKED INFORMATION, INSIDER DEALINGS, PRIVATE PROFIT FROM PUBLIC LOSS, TOO MANY STOCK EXCHANGES, AND THIEVERY AT THE TOP, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DIRECTORS EMOLUMENTS.+

MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE HOWEVER, AND HE ASKED THAT MORE MONEY BE SPENT ON NECESSARY STAFF, IN PARTICULAR IN THE COMMERCIAL CRIMES OFFICE.

MR. BREMIDGE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF SHIPPING TO HONG KONG AND HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE HONG KONG SHIPPERS' COUNCIL. +BUT WITH THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT SHOULD COME I BELIEVE A GREATER DEGREE OF CONCERN, IF TRUE INVOLVEMENT AS SUCH IS STILL PREMATURE,+ HE ADDED.

HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT THE PRESENT RELATIVE FREEDOM OF THE SEA WOULD GRADUALLY GIVE WAY TO BILATERAL TREATIES OF NAVIGATION, AND HE WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON HAVE TO ABANDON ITS LAISSEZ FAIRE POLICY FOR MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT.

+THE LESS THE BETTER= BUT SOME I BELIEVE MUST BE INEVITABLE. PRELIMINARY GROUNDWORK CAN NO LONGER BE DEFERRED,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG, IN COMMON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE WESTERN WORLD, WOULD SOON HAVE TO TAKE REGULATORY ACTION AGAINST CURRENT RUSSIAN LINER SHIPPING POLICY.

+THIS IS CLEARLY NOW BASED ON STRATEGIC RATHER THAN ECONOMIC AIMS, AND AMONGST OTHER UNPLEASANT FEATURES IS BASED ON THE EXPLOITATION OF CREWS WHO ARE PAID WAGES WELL BELOW THOSE CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY OTHERS - INCLUDING FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE.

+WHILE MERCHANTS, PARTICULARLY IN HARD-TIMES, WELCOME THE LOWEST POSSIBLE FREIGHT RATES, WHICH ARE NORMALLY MADE AVAILABLE BY AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF COMPETITION, IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO ALLOW MATTERS SO TO DRIFT THAT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN, OR SHARE OF, ANY IMPORTANT TRADE BECOMES IN ANY WAY DOMINANT. THE REASONS ARE PATENTLY OBVIOUS,+ HE SAID.

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CALL FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME
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A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME WOULD BE FEASIBLE FOR HONG KONG IF THE GOVERNMENT MADE AVAILABLE LAND TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AT THE SAME VALUE AS FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND AGREED TO ACCEPT PAYMENT BY LONG TERM INSTALMENTS, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG SAID TODAY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE LAND COULD BE AUCTIONED WITH SPECIFIC CLAUSES WRITTEN INTO THE LEASE THAT THE BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED WOULD CATER FOR PEOPLE WITH SMALL MEANS AND WITH A STIPULATION THAT THE FLATS COULD NOT BE RESOLD BEFORE 10 OR 15 YEARS.

AS A START, HE WENT ON, THE SCHEME SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BELONGING TO BOTH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE HOUSING SOCIETY, AND THOSE ON THE WAITING LISTS AS WELL AS TO SQUATTERS AND RESIDENTS IN LICENSED AREAS AND TENANTS IN OLD TENEMENT HOUSES.

THE HOME OWNERS, HE SUGGESTED, COULD PAY BY INSTALMENT OVER 15 TO 20 YEARS THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH MERCHANT BANKS OR THE HONG KONG BUILDING AND LOAN SOCIETY, WITH OR WITHOUT DOWN PAYMENT.

+THE SUCCESS OF THIS SCHEME,+ DR. FANG SAID, +LIES IN THE AVAILABILITY OF URBAN LAND AT A REASONABLE PRICE, AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF INSTALMENT PAYMENT, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AT CHEAPER INTEREST RATES.+

THE GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, COULD IMPROVE THIS PROPOSAL BY FINANCING THE SCHEME BY FUNDS SEPARATELY RAISED THROUGH ISSUING DESIGNATED HOUSING BONDS, MATURING AT FIVE-YEARLY INTERVALS OVER 20 YEARS AT AN ANNUAL INTEREST OF SEVEN OR SEVEN AND A HALF PER CENT, AND ALLOWING THE HOME OWNERS THE BENEFITS OF LONG TERM BORROWING AT A LOWER INTEREST RATE THAN THE MARKET RATE.

DR. FANG NOTED THAT THE HOME OWNERSHIP HAD WORKED EXTREMELY WELL IN SINGAPORE, AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD ALSO SUCCEED IN HONG KONG.

THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE SCHEME WAS MOST DESIRABLE, HE SAID, AND WOULD MAKE THE PARTICIPANTS FEEL THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAD A REAL STAKE IN HONG KONG. +THIS WILL CREATE A TRUE SENSE OF BELONGING AND OF RESPONSIBILITY.+

HE NOTED THAT HOMES HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR SOME 1.2 MILLION SINCE 1964, BUT OVER 800,000 SQUATTERS WERE STILL WAITING FOR PROPER HOMES. THIS WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND IF THE PRESENT POLICY WAS NOT RATIONALLY CHANGED +EVEN IF WE HAVE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE AND GIVEN IDEAL SITUATIONS WE WOULD STILL BE UNABLE TO BUILD FAST ENOUGH FOR OUR NEEDS UNLESS WE CAN CLEARLY IDENTIFY WHERE OUR NEEDS ARE.+

/HE PERSONALLY

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HE PERSONALLY SAW NO JUSTIFICATION IN PROVIDING ELABORATE AIR-CONDITIONED SUPERMARKETS AND NUMEROUS CAR PARKS IN HOUSING ESTATES. +BY CONFINING OURSELVES TO BASIC REQUIREMENTS WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD MORE AND BUILD FASTER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL.

+FOR PEOPLE WHO WANTED MORE THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BUY THEIR OWN FLAT WITH GOVERNMENT'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELP,+ HE ADDED.

DR. FANG EXPRESSED SHOCK THAT APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN FOR A REQUEST FOR OFF-COURSE BETTING FACILITIES IN HOUSING ESTATES. THIS ONLY LEND CREDENCE TO CRITICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING OUT OF ITS WAY TO ENCOURAGE HONG KONG TO GAMBLE. HE URGED THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER ALL THE IMPLICATIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE PROPOSAL.

HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SEVERELY AND MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WHO NUMBERED MORE THAN WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED.

+THEY REQUIRE INSTITUTIONAL AND NURSING CARE WHICH IS AT PRESENT NEITHER PROVIDED FOR IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE-YEAR PLAN NOR THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS USELESS TO THINK,+ HE ADDED, +THAT THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE OF \$180 WOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL THEIR NEEDS IN THEIR OWN HOMES.+

THE PARENTS DID NOT KNOW HOW THEY SHOULD BE CARED FOR, NOR WAS IT ECONOMICAL TO DIVERT ALL THE ENERGY AND TIME OF THE PARENTS TO ONE SINGLE CHILD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER CHILDREN AND THEIR WORK.

HE HOPED THAT THE MUCH AWAITED COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME ON REHABILITATION WOULD GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THIS VERY REAL PROBLEM.

HE NOTED THAT AFTER YEARS OF DETAILED WORK BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, A SPECIAL BUILDING CODE HAD BEEN COMPILED WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING ACCESS TO BUILDINGS FOR THE DISABLED AND TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS FROM INACCESSIBLE PLACES.

THE CODE WAS A MUCH IMPROVED VERSION BASED ON THOSE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD PUT HONG KONG TO THE FORE ON THE WORLD SCENE.

ON MEDICAL SERVICES, DR. FANG WELCOMED THE OPENING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT ON UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS WHICH, HE SAID, WAS +WELL-TIMED AND ECONOMICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS.+

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUCH NEEDED DENTAL SCHOOL MUST NOT BE DELAYED FURTHER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AS THE DENTAL HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WAS IN A +PRECARIOUS CONDITION.+

DR. FANG ALSO SUPPORTED A CALL BY DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN THAT HONG KONG MUST BE ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT THE DEATH PENALTY.

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TOUGHER PENALTIES URGED FOR SEX OFFENDERS
EXISTING PENALTIES NO DETERRENT, SAYS MISS KO SIU-WAH
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STIFFER PENALTIES AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS AND MORE FREQUENT AND ENERGETIC ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW RELATING TO SEX CRIMES, WERE ADVOCATED TODAY BY THE HON. KO SIU-WAH.

+IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO RE-EXAMINE SOME OF THE LEGISLATION CONCERNING SEXUAL OFFENCES AND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES,+ SHE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EXISTING PENALTIES FOR SOME SEXUAL OFFENCES DID NOT SERVE AS EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS, SHE SAID, CITING EXISTING PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DEFILEMENT OF GIRLS UNDER 13 AND THOSE BETWEEN 13 AND 16, AS WELL AS UNLAWFUL DETENTION OF FEMALES AND RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ON LICENSED PREMISES.

AT PRESENT, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR ATTEMPT OF CARNAL KNOWLEDGE OF A GIRL UNDER 13 OR BETWEEN 13 AND 16 YEARS OLD IS TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT -- THE SAME FOR THE OFFENCE OF DETAINING A FEMALE AGAINST HER WILL. FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ON LICENSED PREMISES, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

MISS KO SAID 899 SEXUAL OFFENCES WERE DETECTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1974 AND AUGUST 1975, BUT SHE BELIEVED THAT MANY SIMILAR OFFENCES WERE NOT REPORTED BECAUSE THEY WERE COMMITTED AGAINST YOUNG GIRLS WHO WERE AFRAID TO REPORT THE CRIME OR WHOSE PARENTS DID NOT WANT TO REPORT THEM FOR FEAR OF FURTHER HUMILIATION AND DAMAGED REPUTATION.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS ABOUT 3,000 GIRLS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING, OVER 50 PER CENT OF WHOM WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 16. SOME OF THEM WERE NOT LOCATED NOR RETURNED HOME. +WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT MANY OF THESE GIRLS BECOME HOSTESSES IN MUSIC PARLOURS, BARS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS OF ILL-REPUTE,+ SHE SAID. +WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT MANY OF THESE GIRLS ARE PHYSICALLY DETAINED BY CRIMINALS AND FORCED TO WORK IN SUCH PLACES.+

MISS KO WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A NEW BILL CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES AND SHE HOPED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD CONSIDER POINTS RAISED BY HER.

MISS KO ALSO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION RESTRICTING THE ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO CINEMA SCREENINGS OF FILMS CLASSIFIED AS "UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN".

/SHE NOTED

SHE NOTED THAT OF THE 417 FILMS SUBMITTED FOR CENSORSHIP BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND AUGUST 31 THIS YEAR, 30 WERE BANNED AND 182 CLASSIFIED AS UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN -- REPRESENTING 47 PER CENT OF THE FILMS PASSED BY THE CENSORS DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS THIS YEAR.

THE EFFECTS ON YOUNG AUDIENCES OF 'KUNG FU' FILMS AND THOSE WITH DESTRUCTIVE THEMES HAD BEEN WIDELY PROCLAIMED, SHE SAID, AND SHE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SETTING UP AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- WITH PUBLIC REPRESENTATION -- TO ASSIST THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND FILMS.

SHE THOUGHT THE TIME HAD COME TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SHOULD ALSO BE THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY. +SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN AS TO HOW ITS MEMBERSHIP COULD BE BROADENED PARTICULARLY BY HAVING A WIDER REPRESENTATION FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO VIEW TELEVISION,+ SHE ADDED.

MISS KO SUPPORTED A PLEA BY DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN FOR HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR VIOLENT CRIME, BUT SAID THAT CONTROL ALONE WAS NOT THE ANSWER AND SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF POSITIVE APPROACHES.

- * EXPANSION OF THE 'OUT-REACH' PROGRAMMES, PARTICULARLY FOR THE 12-14 AGE GROUP AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS. SUCH PROGRAMMES COULD REACH YOUNG PEOPLE ON STREET CORNERS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND OFFER COUNSELLING, GUIDANCE, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
- * EXPANSION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WHICH ALSO PLAYS A POSITIVE ROLE IN FIGHTING CRIME. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS WERE URGED TO CO-OPERATE MORE CLOSELY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN. MORE IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WAS REQUIRED TO MEET THIS NEED.
- * DEVELOPING MORE YOUTH LEADERS BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON THE BROADEST SCALE POSSIBLE, AND
- * PROVIDING MORE SCHOOL PLACES FOR THE 12-14 AGE GROUP.

ON SOCIAL WELFARE, MISS KO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING THE NECESSARY PRIORITIES DURING THE CURRENT RECESSION AND THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY WITH A VIEW TO RAISING THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES AND TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

+AN EXAMINATION OF THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IS ALSO NEEDED, IN ORDER TO SIMPLIFY THE MACHINERY, TO AVOID OVERLAPPING AND TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF MORE EFFICIENT PROGRAMMES,+ SHE SAID.

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IN THIS REGARD, SHE SUGGESTED THAT AN EVALUATION WORKSHOP COMPRISING PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD, MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BE ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO RECOMMEND SOUND GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION.

SHE ALSO EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR INCREASING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL WELFARE, AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE CO-ORDINATION MACHINERY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE PUBLIC PARTICULARLY AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN ORDER TO INVOLVE MANY MORE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY'S WELFARE.

SHE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT FUNDS WERE NOT AT PRESENT AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY, AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY.

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NEED FOR 'REAL DETERRENT' PUNISHMENT EMPHASISED

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PUNISHMENT WHICH CONSTITUTES A +REAL DETERRENT+ TO CRIMINALS IS URGENTLY NEEDED, THE HON. T.S. LO DECLARED TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER POINTED OUT THAT GANGSTERS WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES, SUCH AS THE KIDNAPPING AND RAPE OF YOUNG GIRLS TO FORCE THEM INTO PROSTITUTION, GET ONLY A FEW YEARS' IMPRISONMENT IF CONVICTED. AS A RESULT, +TODAY MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG BELIEVE THAT VIOLENCE AND CRIME DO PAY.+

IT IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO DETECT CRIMES, MR. LO SAID. IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO PUNISH THEM ADEQUATELY, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT +PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS DO NOT DISCOUNT THEIR PUNISHMENT AS A PETTY PROFESSIONAL TAX, A MINOR OVERHEAD EXPENDITURE.+

MR. LO MADE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS:

1. THAT OUR LAWS BE URGENTLY REVISED SO AS TO INCREASE DRASTICALLY THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON, SUCH AS ABDUCTION=
2. THAT LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO THE 1957 HOMICIDE ACT BE INTRODUCED, I.E. WHILE MOVING TOWARDS THE EVENTUAL ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY, THAT IT BE RETAINED FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF CRIMES=
3. THAT THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF THE REDUCTION OF SENTENCES FOR GOOD CONDUCT BE RECONSIDERED, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS COMMUTED LIFE SENTENCES=
4. THAT THE GOVERNOR EXERCISE THE ROYAL PREROGATIVE REGARDING THE COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE WITHOUT REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS DECISION BEING REVERSED.

TURNING TO THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION, MR. LO SAID THAT +FAR TOO LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO ENABLE OUR PEOPLE TO ENJOY THE SEA.+ HE SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH A UNIT TO CONSIDER HOW TO MAKE MORE OF THE SEA AVAILABLE FOR MASS RECREATION.

MR. LO ALSO MADE A PLEA FOR FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED TO A RESEARCH PROJECT BY HONG KONG'S TWO UNIVERSITIES ON CHINESE TRADITIONAL CURES. THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET REPLIED TO THE REQUEST FOR A SUM OF \$300,000 FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND FOR EACH OF THE ENSUING TWO YEARS OF THIS PROJECT, AND HE ASKED FOR +SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT+ FOR RESEARCH WHICH HAD SUCH CONSIDERABLE +SOCIAL RELEVANCE+ AND COST BENEFITS.

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CALL FOR RE-ORGANISATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT
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THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN TODAY CALLED FOR A RE-ORGANISATION OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND FOR THE DIRECTOR'S POST TO BE UPGRADED TO SECRETARY LEVEL SO AS TO KEEP HONG KONG ABREAST OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE.

WITH THE INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS IN TRADE MATTERS AND THE GROWING COMPLEXITIES IN TRADE RELATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED AND THE TIME HAD COME TO GIVE SOME RECOGNITION OF THE GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

MR. TIEN SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE SPLIT INTO NEW DEPARTMENTS -- ONE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH TEXTILES AND THE OTHER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE POLICY FOR ALL OTHER INDUSTRY. THEY WOULD BE CO-ORDINATED BY HIS PROPOSED SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

+THIS KIND OF RE-ORGANISATION WOULD ACHIEVE THE DESIRABLE OBJECTIVE OF HAVING INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE POLICIES DEALT WITH TOGETHER,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT TEXTILES MADE UP 50 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, AND HE FELT THAT A SEPARATE TEXTILES DEPARTMENT WAS NEEDED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE TEXTILE TRADE AND INDUSTRY COVERING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, THE NEGOTIATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AND POLICING.

THE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A RE-ORGANISATION, HE SAID, COULD COME FROM INCREASED FEES FOR TEXTILE LICENCES, A SMALL CHARGE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF TEXTILE QUOTAS, OR A COMBINATION OF THESE AND OTHER SIMILAR FISCAL MEASURES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE CALCULATED THAT IF ONE CENT WAS CHARGED FOR EACH EQUIVALENT SQUARE YARD OF TEXTILE QUOTA ISSUED, ABOUT \$120 MILLION IN REVENUE COULD BE RAISED EACH YEAR.

RECALLING THE GOVERNOR'S REMARKS THAT HONG KONG TODAY HAD COMPLETE AUTONOMY TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO PROCEED INTERNATIONALLY AND BILATERALLY IN ITS OWN BEST TRADING INTEREST= MR. TIEN SAID THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHAT WAS BEST FOR HONG KONG HAD A NUMBER OF IMPLICATIONS.

+ONE OF THEM IS THAT WE WILL BE EXPECTED INCREASINGLY TO LOOK AFTER OURSELVES IN MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. ANOTHER IS THAT CERTAIN EXTERNAL OBLIGATIONS, PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ON OUR BEHALF, WILL INCREASINGLY BE PUT ON OUR OWN SHOULDERS,+

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED : +IT MEANS THAT, HAVING ACQUIRED AUTONOMY, WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT OUR TRADE POLICIES AND THE MEANS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THEM ARE GEARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY'S COMPLEX WORLD OF TRADE.+

HONG KONG, HE STRESSED, +EXISTS OF TRADE, BY TRADE AND FOR TRADE+ AND IT WAS VITAL TO PRESERVE AND INCREASE IT.

HE BELIEVED THAT TEXTILES WOULD REMAIN HONG KONG'S LARGEST INDUSTRY AND EXPORT EARNER FOR SOME TIME TO COME, BUT IT WAS AN INDUSTRY SURROUNDED BY RESTRAINTS, MANY OF WHICH HAD HAD HIGHLY DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS.

+THERE SEEMS LITTLE CHANCE OF ANY OF THE EXISTING RESTRAINTS BEING DISMANTLED. ON THE CONTRARY, WE CAN EXPECT, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, DISCUSSIONS TO BEGIN ON THE CONTINUATION AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF THE MULTIFIBRE TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT.+

+THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON OUR TRADE - BENEFICIAL OR ADVERSE DEPENDING ON THE ATTITUDES OF OTHERS AND OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THOSE ATTITUDES,+ HE SAID.

MR. TIEN EMPHASISED THE NEED TO CONTINUE AND REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG IN MANY OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' GENERALISED PREFERENCES SCHEMES. HONG KONG MUST PRESS HARD TO SECURE ADMISSION TO THE SCHEMES OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH STILL EXCLUDED HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS ALTOGETHER.

+WE MUST CONTINUE TO PERSUADE THESE COUNTRIES WHICH MAINTAIN ILLEGAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST US TO HONOUR THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND TO TREAT OUR PRODUCTS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THOSE OF OTHER SUPPLIERS,+ HE STRESSED.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, MR. TIEN CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT AND ENACT, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, THE TRAINING COUNCIL'S PROPOSED APPRENTICESHIP BILL AS A FURTHER STEP TO HELP HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS AND TO ENHANCE THE PRODUCTIVE POTENTIALS OF WORKERS.

HE SAID: +WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY RELIED ON THE NATURAL SKILLS AND DEXTERITY OF OUR WORKERS. INCREASINGLY, HOWEVER, WE SHALL NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCTIVE POTENTIALS OF OUR WORK FORCE IS USED TO THE FULL.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, MR. TIEN SAID THAT WORKERS MUST BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE TRAINING WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH ORGANISED PRACTICAL TRAINING ON THE SHOPFLOOR AND, WHEN NECESSARY, SOME FORM OF FORMAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

/MR. TIEN NOTED

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MR. TIEN NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN PERSUADING EMPLOYERS TO ADOPT THE CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF MODERN APPRENTICE TRAINING.

HOWEVER, A STUDY ON THE INTAKE OF APPRENTICES INTO INDUSTRY AND THE NUMBER OF PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS SINCE 1971 INDICATED THAT THE LIMIT TO WHICH PROPER APPRENTICE TRAINING COULD BE PROMOTED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS HAD BEEN REACHED.

IT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPER APPRENTICE TRAINING IF THE SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES WERE TO BE ADEQUATELY MET.

MR. TIEN FULLY SUPPORTED THIS AND SAID LEGISLATION, WOULD SEEM, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT ONLY TO BE DESIRABLE BUT ESSENTIAL. +IT WOULD PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED FRAMEWORK FOR A PROPERLY CO-ORDINATED AND DIRECTED APPRENTICE TRAINING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

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DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE ADVOCATED
TO DISCOURAGE CRIMINAL TENDENCIES AMONG THE YOUNG
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THE HON. ALEX S.C. WU TODAY CALLED FOR WIDER PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IN HONG KONG AS A MEANS OF COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME.

HE SAID THERE WAS A WIDESPREAD +UNSATISFYING, AIMLESS AND MATERIALISTIC OUTLOOK ON LIFE+ AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS WHICH HAD DEVELOPED FROM HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND.

AS A RESULT, MOST YOUTHS SUFFER FROM A LACK OF APPRECIATION OF PERSONAL VALUES AND THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLES OF LIFE, AN ABSENCE OF SELF-CONTROL IN THE FACE OF MATERIALISTIC TEMPTATIONS, AND A FEELING OF GREAT INSECURITY WHICH FREQUENTLY LEADS TO IMPULSIVE ACTION.

WHAT HONG KONG NEEDED NOW WAS A NEW TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL WITH A DEVELOPED SENSE OF PERSONAL VALUES AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESPECT DUE TO OTHER PEOPLE.

SUCH YOUTHS COULD BE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE PRECEPTS OF CULTURE — THE ACT OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT BY EDUCATION, DISCIPLINE, SOCIAL EXPERIENCE, HE SAID, AND HE URGED THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO INJECT INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AN INTEREST IN CULTURE FOR ITS OWN SAKE, NOT AS AN OCCASIONAL SUBJECT TO BE TOUCHED UPON WHEN BUSINESS OF PASSING AN EXAMINATION PERMITS.

+I BELIEVE THAT A STRONG AND CONSTRUCTIVE EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS AT ALL STAGES AND LEVELS OF EDUCATION CAN PLAY AN EFFECTIVE PART IN HALTING A RELENTLESS DRIFT TOWARDS DISRESPECT FOR AND DISREGARD OF OTHER PEOPLE AND THEIR PROPERTY, + HE ADDED.

AS A START, HE SAID, WITH UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION NOW A REALITY IN HONG KONG, CHILDREN FROM AN EARLY STAGE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE TO APPRECIATE ALL THE FINER POINTS OF LIFE.

+THROUGH THE FELLOWSHIP CREATED IN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE, THEY WILL BE LESS INCLINED TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE AT A LATER STAGE NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF STRESS THEY ARE SUBJECTED TO,+ HE SAID.

HE ACCEPTED THAT HONG KONG HAD A FINE SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH A BALANCED CURRICULUM, FACILITIES OFFERED BY MANY ORGANISATIONS, AND ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE WHO HELP TRANSFORM HONG KONG INTO A CENTRE OF THE ARTS.

+BUT THE QUESTION IS, ARE THE PARENTS AND OUR EDUCATORS MAKING FULL USE OF THE FACILITIES,+ HE ASKED.

EMPLOYERS TOO COULD GAIN FROM THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE, BECAUSE A WORKER WHO IS INTERESTED IN FINER THINGS AND IS HAPPY, AND HAS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO BESIDES HIS DAILY WORK, PRODUCES MORE, HE SAID.

/MR. WU DID NOT

MR. WU DID NOT DISCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT ON THE BEHAVIOUS OF PEOPLE, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT CHINESE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS HAVE A POWER WHICH CAN AND SHOULD BE USED.

AS FOR THE PART PLAYED BY THE GOVERNMENT, MR. WU SAID HIS OWN CALCULATIONS SHOWED THAT \$77 MILLION, OR MORE THAN ONE PER CENT, OF THE CURRENT BUDGET WAS SPENT ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT COMPLAIN THE SUM, HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE COULD BE MORE COMMON SENSE AND ECONOMIC ACUMEN IN ITS EMPLOYMENT FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CULTURE.

BESIDES, HE SAID, WITH CONCERTED EFFORT, THE ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS AND RED TAPE WHICH HINDER THE CREATIVITY OF TALENTED PEOPLE MUST BE REMOVED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IN ADDITION TO THEIR COMMERCIAL GENIUS, ALSO HAD A REAL CAPACITY FOR CULTURAL EXPRESSION, BUT SOMEONE MUST GIVE A LEAD.

HE REMINDED EDUCATIONAL WORKERS THAT CULTURE WAS NOT JUST A LUXURY WHICH MUST TAKE A POOR SECOND PLACE TO MATERIAL PROGRESS AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

MR. WU NOTED THAT THE REORGANISATION OF THE POLICE FORCE AND THE NEW ROLES THE FORCE WAS EXPECTED TO PERFORM WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO IMPLEMENT, AND HE WONDERED WHETHER CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO EMPLOYING THE AUXILIARIES TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT TILL THE REORGANISATION OF THE REGULAR FORCE WAS COMPLETED.

HE ALSO ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO RECRUIT THOSE SERVICEMEN WHO WOULD BECOME REDUNDANT AS A RESULT OF THE RUNDOWN OF THE GARRISON, TO SERVE IN POLICE TACTICAL UNITS SO AS TO RELEASE EXPERIENCED POLICEMEN FOR BEAT DUTY.

+THE INCREASED FREQUENCY OF PATROLS COULD MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE ATTACKED AND INJURED,+ HE SAID.

HE WARNED THAT PEOPLE BECOME SUSPICIOUS AND DISTRUSTFUL OF THE AUTHORITIES WHEN THEY WERE CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE.

+SUCH AN ATTITUDE CAN ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR SOCIETY BECAUSE PEOPLE STOP THINKING OF THE COMMON GOOD AND ARE CONCERNED ONLY WITH PROTECTING THEIR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS.

+IF SUCH AN ATTITUDE BECOMES WIDESPREAD, THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY MUST DETERIORATE AS A RESULT,+ HE WARNED. +AT ALL COSTS, WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING IN HONG KONG.+

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TEN BILLS PASSED

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TEN BILLS COMPLETED THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO BECOME LAW.

THEY WERE: THE FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES DEPOSIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION BILL, THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE CHATER MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL.

FOUR OTHER BILLS WERE TABLED IN COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING. THESE WERE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL, THE RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL BILL, AND THE SUPREME COURT BILL.

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64 MILL
HARD-SIZED

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MR. MICHAEL CLINTON RETIRES
NEW SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION APPOINTED

THE DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY, MR. M.D.A. CLINTON, WILL RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE EARLY NEXT MONTH AFTER A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER. AFTER HIS RETIREMENT THE POST OF DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY WILL LAPSE.

MR. CLINTON, WHO IS 57, HAS BEEN AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SINCE 1946 AND HAS OCCUPIED A NUMBER OF VERY SENIOR POSTS INCLUDING DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ECONOMIC SECRETARY AS WELL AS HAVING ACTED AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND COLONIAL SECRETARY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY IN JANUARY 1969 AND IN JUNE 1971 WAS MADE A COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE (CMG). IN 1973 HE AGREED TO DEFER HIS RETIREMENT FOR TWO YEARS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE.

MR. CLINTON WAS BORN IN LONDON IN 1918 AND WAS EDUCATED AT BEAUMONT COLLEGE, WINDSOR AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS AND WAS AWARDED THE GEORGE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY TWICE - FIRST IN 1942 AND AGAIN IN 1943.

ALTHOUGH HE WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. CLINTON WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE HONG KONG WHEN HE SUCCEEDS SIR RONALD HOLMES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A NEW POST OF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION IS TO BE CREATED, AT THE SAME LEVEL AS OTHER SECRETARY POSTS IN THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

MR. P.B. WILLIAMS, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACTING AS SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, IS TO BE APPOINTED TO ACT IN THE NEW POST.

MR. WILLIAMS, 49, WAS RECENTLY PROMOTED TO STAFF GRADE A AND HAS HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE SINCE JOINING THE SERVICE IN 1953 IN MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE POLICE FORCE (AS CIVIL SECRETARY), AND VARIOUS SECRETARIAT BRANCHES MAINLY DEFENCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES. HE HAS ALSO SERVED IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE, RESETTLEMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS.

IN HIS NEW JOB AS SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION HIS MAIN ROLE WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE OVERALL MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY AND THAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONTINUOUSLY SOUGHT AND IMPLEMENTED. HE WILL BE IN DIRECT CHARGE OF THE MANAGEMENT UNIT AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORKING OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT AS A WHOLE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

PICTURES OF MR. CLINTON AND MR. WILLIAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES THIS EVENING.

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HARD-SIZED

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MORE BUSES FOR
TSING YI
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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS IN THE PIPELINE FOR MORE FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF TSING YI ISLAND, THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. PETER MILLER, SAID, TODAY.

HE SAID THE FIRST BUS SERVICE TO AND FROM THE ISLAND, ROUTE NO. 44, HAD PROVED POPULAR CARRYING A LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS DURING THE FIRST DAY OF ITS OPERATION ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 20).

+WE HAVE LONG-TERM PLANS FOR MORE BUS ROUTES LINKING THE ISLAND WITH VARIOUS PARTS OF KOWLOON AS WELL AS WITH TSUEN WAN, AND THESE WILL BE TIED IN WITH THE OPENING OF NEW ROADS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ON THE ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

MR. MILLER RECALLED THAT THE FRANCHISE OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WAS EXTENDED TWO YEARS AGO TO COVER OPERATION OF BUS SERVICES ON TSING YI ISLAND AND THAT A SERVICE WOULD BE INTRODUCED ONCE THE NECESSARY ROADWORKS WERE READY.

ON MONDAY, HE SAID, WITHIN HOURS OF THE COMPLETION OF A NEW ROAD LINKING TSING YI BRIDGE AND TSING YI TOWN AS WELL AS AN ARMY-BUILT ACCESS BRIDGE, THE COMPANY STARTED ROUTE NO. 44 TO CATER FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE ISLAND RESIDENTS.

THE NEW SERVICE RUNS BETWEEN TSING YI TOWN AND LAI CHI KOK WHERE INTERCHANGE FACILITIES ARE READILY AVAILABLE TO OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES THROUGHOUT KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND, HE SAID.

ROUTE NO. 44 OPERATES AT 30 MINUTE FREQUENCY AT A 30-CENT FARE VIA THE NEWLY-OPENED PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, WHILE IN THE EVENING HOURS, JOURNEYS ARE ROUTED VIA THE ROAD INTERCHANGE SOUTH OF THE HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DAY ROUTE WHERE ROADWORKS ARE IN PROGRESS.

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MILLER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975.

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WATER CUTS

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A NUMBER OF PREMISES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE WITHOUT WATER SUPPLY FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. THIS SATURDAY (OCTOBER 25) TO ENABLE LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY WING WO STREET TO MORRISON STREET= AND BONHAM STRAND TO SEAFRONT.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TAI HO ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET.

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POSTAL SERVICES TO CANADA SUSPENDED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT DUE TO POSTAL STRIKE IN CANADA, THE CANADIAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES HAVE REQUESTED THAT ALL AIRMAIL DESPATCHES TO CANADA BE SUSPENDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT= AND ALL SERVICE MAIL DESPATCHES TO BE SUSPENDED AFTER OCTOBER 24 (FRIDAY) UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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