



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVT DETERMINED TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE IN HONG KONG	1
SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS IMPROVE FURTHER	2
MARKED REDUCTION OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS NOW ESSENTIAL, SAYS GOVERNOR	3
HK STILL CARRYING GREATER BURDEN OF VR'S	5
ECONOMIC PROSPECTS PROMISING	6
BUSINESS COMMUNITY URGED TO HELP CURB INFLATION	7
GOVERNMENT DECIDES ON LOWER PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION TARGET	9
GOVERNMENT POLICIES ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES	10
CENTRALISED CONTROL OVER CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN HK	13
SUBVENTION SYSTEM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES BEING REVIEWED	15
SURPLUS STILL EXPECTED IN 1979/80 ACCOUNTS	16
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION STIMULATES STAFF CONSULTATION	17
EXPANSION OF LEGAL SCHEMES TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC	18
MORE LAND TO BE PUT ON MARKET	19
REVIEW OF HK'S TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS	19

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A MORE UNIFIED APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT'S WORK IN URBAN AREA	21
INDUSTRIAL SAFETY: EMPLOYERS, WORKERS MUST DO THEIR SHARE	23
COMPULSORY SUPERVISION FOR YOUNG PERSONS DISCHARGED FROM PRISON PROPOSED	24
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON COMMERCIAL LAW	25
POLICE FORCE IN BETTER SHAPE	26
DENTAL CARE PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN STARTS NOVEMBER	27
PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION GREEN PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED SOON	28
NEW DIMENSION TO HONG KONG'S TOURIST INDUSTRY	29
GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO LEGCO MEMBERS	30
VALEDICTORY TO TWO RETIRED LEGCO MEMBERS	31
DISPENSERS BACK TO WORK NEXT WEEK	32
WATER CUT	32

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 1 -

GOVT DETERMINED TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE IN HONG KONG

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RE-EMPHASISED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION NOT TO BE DEFLECTED FROM ITS PURPOSE TO BUILD A BETTER, FULLER, AND EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE IN HONG KONG.

+IN SUCH A GRAND DESIGN, STRETCHING OVER A DECADE OR MORE OF VARIED ENDEAVOUR, PROGRESS IS BOUND TO BE UNEVEN AS FORTUNE GOOD AND BAD AFFECTS US,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, EVEN WHERE THIS YEAR THE PACE HAS EASED, WE HAVE STILL MADE PROGRESS THAT IN MOST OTHER COMMUNITIES WOULD BE CONSIDERED VERY SUBSTANTIAL. AND CONSIDERED OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS AS A WHOLE, THE PROGRESS HAD BEEN PHENOMENAL.

+FROM THIS WE CAN DRAW BOTH HOPE AND COURAGE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID, +FOR I AM DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF HOW MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE.+

SUMMING UP HIS ADDRESS TO THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG HAD PASSED THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR OF REASONABLE PROSPERITY ILLUMINATED BY A TRULY MAGNIFICENT EFFORT BY OUR EXPORT INDUSTRY, AND IN WHICH SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE PROGRAMMES ON WHICH THE FUTURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF HONG KONG DEPEND.

THE BULK OF THE PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL ADVANCE WERE ON TARGET AND ONLY WHEN CAPITAL WORKS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED HAD SOME REPHASING BEEN NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH EVEN IN THIS FIELD IT LOOKED AS IF THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASE OF SEVEN PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE LAST YEAR.

+IF WE HAD TO PROGRESS A LITTLE SLOWER IN SOME FIELDS THAN WE HAD ONCE HOPED, IT IS THE PRICE WE HAVE HAD TO PAY TODAY FOR CONTINUED AND HEALTHY EXPANSION TOMORROW,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

NO PRUDENT GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY, HE SAID, AND +I HAVE ALWAYS EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN IMPLEMENTING YEAR BY YEAR OUR LONG TERM PROGRAMMES.+

GIVEN FIVE OR SIX YEARS OF REASONABLE PROSPERITY ON THE ONE HAND AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSEVERANCE ON THE OTHER, HE SAID, +WE HAVE EVERY PROSPECT OF SEEING GRADUALLY EMERGE FROM THE DUST AND THE RECLAMATIONS, FROM THE CLEARANCES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE NEW RAILWAYS AND HIGHWAYS, THAT TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE WHICH I AM CONVINCED CAN BE AND MUST BE ACHIEVED IF HONG KONG IS TO DEVELOP TO PLAY ITS RIGHTFUL ROLE.+

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS IN THE PROSPECT OF SEEING TWO FURTHER YEARS OF ADVANCE TOWARDS THIS GOAL THAT HE WAS PLEASED AND HONOURED TO PRESIDE OVER THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 2 -

SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS IMPROVE FURTHER

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SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS, INCLUDING RELATIONS OVER HONG KONG, HAVE FURTHER IMPROVED DURING THE YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

CHAIRMAN HUA GUOFENG'S VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM LATER THIS MONTH WOULD BE THE FIRST BY SUCH A SENIOR CHINESE LEADER, HE POINTED OUT.

LOCALLY, THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES OF THE EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA- SIR MURRAY SAID NOTING THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGZHOU BY RAIL, AIR AND SEA, HAD ALL GREATLY IMPROVED. AND HE HOPED THAT AIR LINKS WITH OTHER CITIES WOULD ALSO IMPROVE DURING THE YEAR AHEAD.

WATER SUPPLIES HAD ALSO BEEN USEFULLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED, AND HONG KONG LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER TALKS WITH THE WATER AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG ON HOW TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND IN THE LONGER TERM.

LAST MARCH, THE GOVERNOR AND SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN VISITED BEIJING AND GUANGZHOU ON THE INVITATION OF CHINESE LEADERS AND HELD CONSTRUCTIVE AND ENCOURAGING TALKS WITH THEM.

+THESE, LIKE SUBSEQUENT REMARKS BY CHINESE LEADERS, REFLECTED A POSITIVE VIEW OF HONG KONG'S ROLE IN CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME WHICH WAS BOTH CONSTRUCTIVE AND ENCOURAGING,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

HE SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SEES HONG KONG AS PLAYING A PART IN THEIR MODERNISATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WHICH PROVIDE FOR OVERSEAS INVESTMENT.

+CERTAINLY HONG KONG IS ABLE TO DO SO, AND PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE WILLING TO DO SO, AND THE PROCESS HAS STARTED,+ HE SAID. +OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AND NEED FOR INVESTMENT IN GUANGDONG.+

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH AS A GOVERNMENT AND AS A BUSINESS COMMUNITY WE CONSTANTLY BEAR THESE NEW POSSIBILITIES IN MIND AND STUDY WAYS OF ADVANCING THE PROCESS - CONSISTENT, OF COURSE, WITH WHAT IS COMMERCIALY, AND IN OTHER WAYS ACCEPTABLE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG STANDS ON THREE LEGS - ITS OWN PROSPERITY AND COHESION, CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA AND THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

HE SAID THE EVOLVING SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS AS WELL AS A MORE REALISTIC APPRECIATION IN THE UK OF HONG KONG AS A MARKET, AND AS A POINT OF CONTACT WITH CHINA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, WOULD ADD NEW SUBSTANCE TO THE UK/HK RELATIONSHIP.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT ASSURANCES OF BRITISH SUPPORT IN ANY EVENT HAVE NEVER BEEN LACKING AND LAST YEAR IN HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.+ WE HAVE HAD MOST HELPFUL AND POSITIVE SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.+

+BUT FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP TO BE SOUND IT MUST BE A TWO-WAY AFFAIR, AND BASED ON A COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS A POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS FELT TO BE BOTH WELCOME AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

+IT IS THEREFORE A HAPPY AUGURY THAT THE MINISTERS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG SHOULD BOTH HAVE VISITED US SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE, AND THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS IN A YEAR WHICH IT LOOKS AS IF BRITISH EXPORTS TO HONG KONG WILL BE OVER 400 MILLION POUNDS STERLING.

+FOR OUR PART WE HAVE RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG-BRITISH RELATIONS BY ESTABLISHING A STRONG AND VIGOROUS COMMISSION IN LONDON AND BY THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BRITISH COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN HONG KONG AND BY CULTURAL AND OTHER EXCHANGES,+ HE SAID.

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MARKED REDUCTION OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS
NOW ESSENTIAL, SAYS GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DISMISSED SPECULATION THAT THE LEVEL OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA REPRESENTED A DELIBERATE POLICY OF DILUTING LIVING STANDARDS IN HONG KONG AND DISPOSING OF UNDER-EMPLOYED POPULATION IN GUANGDONG.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN RESTRICTING THE FLOW ARE GENUINE,+ SIR MURRAY TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+NEVERTHELESS,+ HE ADDED, +WE CANNOT DISREGARD THE EFFECT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING.+

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG WAS SET ON A COURSE TOWARDS BECOMING A HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND RELATIVELY HIGH WAGE ECONOMY, WITH INDUSTRY STEADILY BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED AND THEREFORE MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE.

+I BELIEVE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS IN THE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE ON THIS COURSE, JUST AS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OUR PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN HOUSING CONDITIONS, EDUCATION AND MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES SHOULD SUCCEED,+ HE SAID.

+TO DO SO WE MUST HAVE A REASONABLE DEGREE OF POPULATION CONTROL.+

/SIR MURRAY

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT SINCE JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR, THE GAIN FROM LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HAD BEEN OF THE ORDER OF 230 000, +AND THE NEW RASH OF SQUATTER HUTS ON THE HILLSIDES IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE.+

+WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE RECENT INFLUX OF NEW ARRIVALS FROM CHINA, A MARKED REDUCTION IN BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS NOW, THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL.+

DURING THE 12 MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1978 TO SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR, HE SAID, ABOUT 83 000 HAD ENTERED HONG KONG LEGALLY -- ALMOST ALL OF THEM NOMINALLY ON VISITS, BUT ONLY THREE PER CENT HAD RETURNED TO CHINA.

THE DAILY ARRIVAL RATE REACHED A PEAK OF 310 FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1978 AND IS NOW AVERAGING 170.

+IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT THIS FIGURE HAS NOT CONTINUED TO DROP AS WE HOPED IT WOULD AND AS WE WERE ASSURED IT WOULD,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

AS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, ABOUT 60 000 HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RETURNED TO CHINA DURING THE SAME 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM OCTOBER TO SEPTEMBER.

+THE LARGE NUMBERS ARRESTED REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON THE SECURITY FORCES, BUT IN SPITE OF ALL THEIR EFFORTS, THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ENTERING AND JOINING THE HONG KONG POPULATION REMAINS HIGH,+ SIR MURRAY SAID. +PROBABLY FROM OCTOBER 1, 1978 TO AUGUST 31, 1979 IT WAS ABOUT 96 000.+

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG HAD SOUGHT TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS BY CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND ALSO BY REINFORCING THE GARRISON AND STRENGTHENING OTHER ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MEASURES.

+THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TOOK HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL MOVEMENT INTO HONG KONG IN JUNE AND JULY AND THE ARREST RATE DROPPED FROM A PEAK OF 465 PER DAY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY TO 20 PER DAY IN JULY.

+HOWEVER, THE IMPROVEMENT HAS SLIPPED SIGNIFICANTLY AND ARREST RATES HAVE CLIMBED BACK TO AN AVERAGE OF 180 A DAY IN SEPTEMBER,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN INCREASED EFFORT ROUND THE ENTIRE LAND AND SEA PERIMETER.

RECENTLY, HE NOTED, A MILITARY HOVERCRAFT AND SMALL FAST PATROL CRAFT HAD BEEN BROUGHT OUT TO AUGMENT PRESENT STRENGTH, AND NINE NEW LARGE POLICE LAUNCHES HAVE BEEN ORDERED AND WILL BE COMMISSIONED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR.

+THERE WILL ALSO BE SUCH A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF GURKHA TROOPS AVAILABLE TO US BY NOVEMBER THAT IT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE EXTRA UK BATTALION,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+IMMEDIATE FURTHER REINFORCEMENT WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE AT VERY SHORT NOTICE FROM BRUNEI IF WE NEED THEM. BUT I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE KEY TO THIS PROBLEM LIES IN GUANGDONG.+

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 5 -

HK STILL CARRYING GREATER BURDEN OF VR'S

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THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG AWAITING OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT IS MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE REGION DESPITE A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE OFF-TAKE RATE AFTER THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID RESETTLEMENT FROM HONG KONG HAD BEEN SLOW AND THERE WAS A DANGER THAT FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE, INTERNATIONAL INTEREST WOULD DECLINE OR FOCUS ON SOME OTHER INDO-CHINESE ISSUE WHILE IN HONG KONG THE PROBLEM REMAINED VERY MUCH WITH US AS THE FIGURES SHOWED.

+THERE ARE STILL 65 000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG AWAITING RESETTLEMENT,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE RATE OF ARRIVALS, HERE AND ELSEWHERE, HAD DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY THOUGH SOME REFUGEES HAVE CONTINUED TO ARRIVE.

ONLY 12 900 REFUGEES IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN RESETTLED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+HOWEVER THE RATE HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WE ARE NOW HOPING TO REACH AND MAINTAIN A MONTHLY DEPARTURE RATE OF AT LEAST 4 000,+ HE ADDED.

SIR MURRAY SAID IF THERE WERE NO FURTHER LARGE SCALE ARRIVALS OF REFUGEES,+ WE CAN HOPE THAT THE PROBLEM WILL GRADUALLY DIMINISH OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO.+

+THIS, OF COURSE, DEPENDS ON THE MANY RECEIVING COUNTRIES CONTINUING AND INCREASING THEIR EFFORTS, AND ON HONG KONG GETTING ITS FAIR SHARE OF RESETTLEMENT PLACES.

+IT ALSO DEPENDS ON THE OUTWARD FLOW NOT RESTARTING. IF IT DOES, IT WOULD ONLY BE AS THE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE AND CALLOUS DECISION BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

+THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL THIS MOVEMENT WAS AMPLY PROVED WHEN THEY STOPPED IT AT THE TIME OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD DONE SO MUCH TO ASSIST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS.

THE UNHCR HAD AGREED TO COVER THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG FROM SEPTEMBER 1, HE SAID. UP TILL THIS DATE, THE DIRECT RECURRENT AND CAPITAL COSTS INCURRED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE REFUGEES AMOUNTED TO \$66.5 MILLION.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 6 -

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS PROMISING

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE WAS NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HONG KONG'S PROSPECTS IN 1980, DESPITE A POSSIBLE SLOW-DOWN IN ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS.

+A SLOW-DOWN IN ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR MAJOR MARKETS MAY NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THERE WILL BE A SIMILAR DROP IN SALES OF THE SORT OF THINGS HONG KONG SUPPLIES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WERE NOW RUNNING VERY CLOSE TO THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS +AND SO SUCH RAPID GROWTH IN OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AS THIS YEAR SHOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.+

+THIS OF COURSE MEANS THAT TRADING UP, AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW MARKETS AND NEW PRODUCTS MUST BE UNREMITTING,+ HE STRESSED.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD IN MANY RESPECTS PERFORMED BETTER THAN EXPECTED. FUTURE PROSPECTS, THOUGH HARD TO FORECAST WITH ACCURACY, ARE FAR FROM BAD, HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED TO HONG KONG'S RE-EMERGING ROLE AS AN ENTREPOT.

+ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY CONCLUSIVELY THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ASSUME THAT THE RE-EXPORT TRADE, TOGETHER WITH THE TERTIARY SERVICES IN GENERAL AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR AND TOURIST SECTOR IN PARTICULAR, WILL BECOME RELATIVELY MORE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OUTLOOK FOR 1980, HE SAID ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE UNCERTAIN, PARTICULARLY AS THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR THE WORLD CONTINUES TO BE DOMINATED BY THE OIL SITUATION.

+ALTHOUGH PRESENT FORECASTS POINT TO A MUCH SLOWER RATE OF INCREASE IN OPEC PRICES IN 1980 THAN IN 1979, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL STILL HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT BOTH ON WORLD INFLATION AND ON THE GROWTH RATE OF WORLD OUTPUT IN 1980.

+WHAT THIS WILL MEAN TO HONG KONG WILL DEPEND ON A HOST OF OTHER FACTORS= BUT WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VOLUME OF WORLD TRADE IN MANUFACTURES BEING FORECAST TO SLOW DOWN FROM SEVEN PER CENT IN 1979 TO ABOUT FIVE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT IN 1980, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING HONG KONG MAY BE LESS FAVOURABLE,+ HE SAID.

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TURNING TO THE PROSPECTIVE DEMAND FOR OUR PRODUCTS, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GROWTH IN OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ONLY A MEAGRE THREE PER CENT THIS YEAR, REFLECTING THE SHARPER THAN EXPECTED SLOW DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY FROM FOUR PER CENT IN 1978 TO LESS THAN TWO PER CENT IN 1979. HOWEVER, AN UPTURN IN THE UNITED STATES GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH RATE WAS EXPECTED TOWARDS THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

ON THE WEST GERMAN MARKET, SIR MURRAY SAID PRESENT FORECASTS POINTED TO A SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, FROM FOUR PER CENT THIS YEAR TO LESS THAN THREE PER CENT FOR NEXT YEAR. +IF THIS SLOWING DOWN MATERIALISES, IT MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR US,+ HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS YEAR, HE SAID, WAS IMPRESSIVE DESPITE A SHARP SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF UK FROM OVER THREE PER CENT IN 1978 TO ONLY HALF A PER CENT IN 1979. THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE CONSUMER DEMAND IN THE UK, THOUGH SLACKENING, IS STILL GROWING AT THE RATE OF OVER FOUR PER CENT. BUT THIS IS EXPECTED TO SLOW DOWN IN 1980, SO THE PRESENT GROWTH RATE OF EXPORTS TO THE UK SEEMS UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE.

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY URGED TO HELP CURB INFLATION

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THERE COULD BE NO RELAXATION IN OUR EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE GROWTH OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND INFLATION, AND CALLED ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

REVIEWING HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID WHILE SOME OF OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE BEGINNING TO SUBSIDE, SOME PERSISTED. +IN PARTICULAR, INFLATION, BOTH IMPORTED INFLATION AND DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION, IS RUNNING AT AN UNCOMFORTABLE RATE.+

HE SAID EXCESS OVERALL DEMAND STILL PERSISTED WITH CONSEQUENT PRESSURE ON PRICES. +WITH WORLD PRICES ACCELERATING AT THE SAME TIME DUE, IN PART, TO SHARP INCREASES IN OIL PRICES, CONSUMER PRICES IN HONG KONG ARE NOW INCREASING AT AROUND 11 PER CENT. BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE INCREASING AT THE EXTRAORDINARY RATE OF NO LESS THAN 30 PER CENT TO 40 PER CENT.+

SIR MURRAY SAID: +IT MUST BE THE OBJECT OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY ALIKE TO PLAY THEIR PART IN MODERATING DEMAND BEFORE EXCESS IMPOSES ITS OWN PAINFUL REMEDY.+

FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE SAID, THIS INVOLVED THE FOREGOING OF SOME SHORT-TERM PROFIT FOR THE SAKE OF LONG-TERM STABILITY AND EVENNESS OF GROWTH.

/+THIS IS

+THIS IS A HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY ABOUT IMPORTANT MATTERS, AND THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH CALLS FOR RESPONSIBILITY BY ALL,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT ALL THE EVIDENCE NOW INDICATED THAT IN 1979 THE TENDENCY WAS FOR ADJUSTMENT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND LISTED THE FOLLOWING WELCOMING TRENDS:

- * GROWTH RATE OF DEMAND IS MORE IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE AND SO THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IS SLOWING DOWN=
- * DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE GROWING QUICKLY -- OUR EXPORTERS HAVE DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB-- SO THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IS NOW FASTER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS, REVERSING THE WORRYING TREND IN 1978=
- * OUR VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT HAS NARROWED AND THIS, TOGETHER WITH HIGHER INTEREST RATES, IS HELPING TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR=
- * THERE HAS BEEN A MOST WELCOME SHIFT IN THE RE-DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES IN FAVOUR OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR=
- * THE MONEY SUPPLY IS NOW GROWING AT A RATE ACTUALLY LOWER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES= AND
- * THE GROWTH RATE OF BANK ADVANCES HAS SLOWED DOWN, THOUGH NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY.

SIR MURRAY ALSO NOTED THAT VARIOUS MEASURES WERE TAKEN IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO HELP SLOW DOWN THE GROWTH RATE OF OVERALL DEMAND TO A LEVEL MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY'S OUTPUT.

THESE INCLUDED A SLOW DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING PARTICULARLY WITH A VIEW TO EASING PRESSURES ON THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. STEPS WERE ALSO TAKEN TO INFLUENCE THE MONETARY AGGREGATES SO THAT THEY GREW IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH OUR ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY INCLUDED MEASURES TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT BALANCES THAT COULD BE ON-LENT BY BANKS= POWER TO ALTER MINIMUM LIQUIDITY RATIOS AND THE RAISING OF INTEREST RATES.

BUT, HE SAID, TO REDUCE OVERALL DEMAND IN AN ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG'S IN WHICH THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS RELATIVELY SMALL, +CLEARLY IT IS THE ACTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT IS IMPORTANT.+

NEVERTHELESS A CONTRIBUTION BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS ESSENTIAL AND ACCORDINGLY, THE GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE WAS REDUCED FROM 25 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE PERIOD 1977/78 -- 1978/79 TO 7.5 PER CENT IN THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATES, HE SAID.

+THIS DECISION WAS DEVISED SO AS TO LEAVE RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED THE PLANS LAID DOWN IN WHITE PAPERS FOR THE EXPANSION OF EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

+BUT IT BORE DOWN HEAVILY ON PUBLIC WORKS, BECAUSE OF THIS VERY RAPID GROWTH, COST INFLATION, AND THE OVER EXTENSION OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 9 -

GOVERNMENT DECIDES ON LOWER
PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION TARGET

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED ON A LOWER PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION TARGET OF 35 000 UNITS A YEAR BUT THIS IS STILL ABOUT DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S FIGURE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT TO ATTEMPT EVEN TO APPROACH THE ORIGINAL TARGET OF 45 000 UNITS A YEAR WOULD ONLY BE AT THE EXPENSE OF INTOLERABLE STRAIN ON THE WHOLE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ADDITIONALLY 30 000 FLATS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS CATERING FOR A WHOLE RANGE OF MASSIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORKS.

+AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, AND THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE GENERALLY, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED ON A LOWER TARGET OF 35 000 UNITS A YEAR FOR RENTED AND HOME OWNERSHIP ACCOMMODATION.

+THIS IS STILL ABOUT DOUBLE LAST YEAR (FIGURE) AND AN EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION, AND WHEN COUPLED WITH THE 30 000 UNITS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SHOULD MAKE STEADY IN-ROADS INTO THIS CHRONIC PROBLEM OF HOUSING SHORTAGE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY NOTED IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT 70 PER CENT OF NEW FLATS PURCHASED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE FOR OWNER-OCCUPIERS.

+NEVERTHELESS GIVEN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE NEED FOR HOUSING, ITS AGGRAVATION BY IMMIGRATION, AND THE ACUTE PERSONAL, ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL EXIST UNTIL IT IS MET, I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE PRESENT BALANCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING AS PERMANENT, AT ANY RATE AT PRESENT PRICES.

+IN THE SHORT TERM IT MAY BE ACCEPTABLE - WE ARE IN A SITUATION IN WHICH VIRTUALLY ALL NEW HOUSING IS BENEFICIAL - BUT WE SHOULD PONDER THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF HIGHER PRICES CHARGED FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING BEING BUILT INTO THE BUDGETS OF AN EVER WIDENING SECTION OF OUR POPULATION.

+SIMILARLY WE MUST WEIGH THE PUBLIC ADVANTAGE OF THE DEMANDS ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY GENERALLY OF PUBLIC WORKS ON THE ONE HAND AND PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION ON THE OTHER,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THERE WAS NOTHING IMMUTABLE ABOUT THE FIGURE OF 35 000. +IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE ON IT. BUT SHORT OF THE MOST IMPERATIVE OF ECONOMIC SITUATIONS WE MUST NOW ALLOW OURSELVES TO DROP BELOW IT.+

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HOUSING PROGRAMME AFTER 1985 MUST BE ROLLED FORWARD PROBABLY AT ABOUT PRESENT LEVELS AND INVESTIGATION OF ADDITIONAL SITES TO TAKE THE PROGRAMME TO THE END OF THE 80S IS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

ON HOUSING FOR FAMILIES IN THE INCOME BAND IMMEDIATELY ABOVE THE LIMIT OF \$5 000 PER MONTH FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, SIR MURRAY SAID HE HAD ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE POSITION OF THIS GROUP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HOUSING POLICY AS A WHOLE.

HE SAID FAMILIES IN THIS INCOME BAND WERE EXPERIENCING REAL DIFFICULTIES AT THE MOMENT. +THE PROJECTED FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE SUPPLY OF FLATS OF 800 - 1 200 SQ. FT. WILL REMAIN LIMITED AND THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.+

+I REALISE THAT ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS AND OUR EXISTING PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS MAY NOT PERMIT A COMPLETE SOLUTION, BUT CERTAINLY THE PROBLEM DESERVES CAREFUL AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF HIGH-CLASS HOUSING HAS DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF THE EXPANSION OF OUR FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS, AND TO SOME EXTENT IN RESPONSE TO EXPECTATIONS CREATED BY THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES IN CHINA.

+WHILE THERE CAN BE NO QUICK SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, SPECIAL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO PUT LAND ON THE MARKET SUITABLE FOR BUILDING TO MEET THIS DEMAND.

+WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING BY NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY HOW TO REDUCE THE DEMANDS ON PRIVATELY-OWNED ACCOMMODATION MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS OWN EMPLOYEES= SO PRESSURE ON BUILDING INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE FROM MANY SIDES AND I HOPE IT WILL GEAR ITSELF TO THE DEMAND IT CAN EXPECT,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNMENT POLICIES ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES
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THE GOVERNMENT MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO ALLEVIATE GENUINE HARDSHIP AND TO ADAPT POLICIES TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE STANDING FIRM WHERE REQUESTS ARE UNREASONABLE AND EXCESSIVE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMPTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SIR MURRAY SAID:+IT IS NEVER POSSIBLE TO COMPENSATE PEOPLE FULLY FOR AN OFTEN UNWANTED CHANGE IN THEIR WAY OF LIFE, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO OFFER COMPENSATION WHICH IS FULL AND FAIR.+

/HE POINTED

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 11 -

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON LAND ACQUISITION CHAIRED BY SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN HAD BEEN PUT INTO OPERATION AND HAD WORKED WELL.

THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME HAD BEEN REDRAWN TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE HOLDING LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS AND EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO KEEP THIS PROGRAMME ROLLING FORWARD, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS WE MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE UNDER REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS WORKABLE AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE,+ HE ADDED.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO COMPENSATION FOR LANDOWNERS, COMPENSATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO OCCUPIERS AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT UNDER A SCHEDULE WHICH NOW CONTAINS NO LESS THAN 41 DIFFERENT ITEMS.

+NO LIST, HOWEVER, CAN BE COMPREHENSIVE AND WE MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO ALLEVIATE GENUINE HARDSHIP AND TO ADAPT OUR POLICIES TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE STANDING FIRM WHERE REQUESTS ARE UNREASONABLE AND EXCESSIVE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THERE HAD BEEN OCCASIONAL INCIDENTS IN CLEARANCES WHICH ATTRACTED ATTENTION. BUT TO PUT THESE IN PERSPECTIVE, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT IN NORTH TSUEN WAN ALONE, OVER 20 000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN MOVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE, BY THE EXERCISE OF PATIENCE AND FAIR-MINDEDNESS, ACHIEVED THIS WITH THE CONSENT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AFFECTED.

ON DEVELOPMENT THE GOVERNOR SAID MUCH OF THE NEW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING IS AND WILL BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THE PACE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT A FEW YEARS AGO HAD ACCELERATED WHEREVER POSSIBLE BUT NOW IT HAD TO SLOW DOWN BECAUSE OF CAPACITY RESTRAINTS.

+THIS MEANS NOT THAT WE HAVE ABANDONED ANY PROJECTS, BUT ONLY THAT WE HAVE TO ACCEPT LATER COMPLETION OF THEM,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID A VISIT TO SHA TIN OR TUEN MUN WOULD DISPEL ANY FEAR THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE NEW COMMUNITIES, WITH THEIR PROSPECT OF SUCH AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE, HAD LOST ITS MOMENTUM.

HE ALSO SAID THAT IN THE NEW TOWNS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD COMPLETE 16 000 FLATS THIS YEAR AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ANOTHER 7 000.

+SURELY THIS IS PROGRESS,+ SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT NONE OF THE HOUSING AMENITIES, SCHOOLS AND LANDSCAPED SURROUNDINGS WOULD BE OF ANY VALUE WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT AND THAT THE NEW TOWNS WERE NOT INTENDED AS DORMITORIES.

+SO THE PROGRESS OF INDUSTRY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS VITAL. UP TO SEPTEMBER 30, 748 000 SQUARE METRES OF FACTORY ACCOMMODATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND ABOUT 50 000 SQUARE METRES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND HAVE BEEN SOLD,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THESE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREAS, STAGE I OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HAD BEEN COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE, 20 FACTORY SITES HAD BEEN LET AND FOUR MORE EXPECTED TO BE LET SOON, AND THE FIRST FACTORY WOULD OPEN IN THE SPRING.

+STAGE II OF THE ESTATE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR. IN THE WEST, AT YUEN LONG, A SECOND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WILL PROVIDE 72 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SITES BY MID-1982, WITH THE FIRST PHASE DUE FOR COMPLETION EARLY IN 1980.

+THESE SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL AREAS ARE BOUND TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY OF THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SPOKE ON THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THE LOCAL FOCUS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATION WAS BECOMING WELL ESTABLISHED.

+THE TOWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES BRING TOGETHER ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A TOWN AND SO ACHIEVE A LOCAL APPROACH. THIS SEEMS TO ME ENTIRELY RIGHT.

+HONG KONG NOW INCLUDES TOO MANY TOWNS AND DISTINCTIVE AREAS OF TOO GREAT A SIZE AND OF TOO MUCH INDIVIDUALITY FOR LOCAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS TO BE MET ENTIRELY FROM CENTRALISED DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT STRONG LOCAL REPRESENTATION,+ HE SAID.

THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDING THE COMMITTEES WITH A FORUM FOR LOCAL CONSULTATION SINCE 1977, HAD ESTABLISHED FOR THEMSELVES A FULL AND INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SIR MURRAY SAID.

THEY WERE ALSO BRINGING TOGETHER THE TRADITIONAL INHABITANTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEWCOMERS, HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES HAD BEEN SET UP IN SHA TAU KOK, LAMMA ISLAND AND CHEUNG CHAU TO EXTEND THE CONCEPT OF LOCAL CO-ORDINATION TO OTHER AREAS WHICH HE HOPED WILL SOON COVER ALL THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 13 -

CENTRALISED CONTROL OVER CULTURAL AND
LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN HK
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CENTRALISE THE EXECUTIVE CONTROL OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, WHO IS ALREADY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IN HONG KONG, WILL TAKE INTO HIS BRANCH THE EXECUTIVE CONTROL OF THE TWO OFFICES.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE DRAMATIC GROWTH IN THEIR POPULARITY, HAD LED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE REQUIRED.

+LATER A NEW EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT MAY BE CONSIDERED,+ HE ADDED.

BOTH THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE WERE TEMPORARILY HOUSED IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THOUGH THE TWO HAVE THEIR SEPARATE OBJECTIVES, SIR MURRAY SAID, UNDERLYING THE WORK OF BOTH IS THE CREATION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT THROUGH PROVISION FOR COMMUNAL LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES.

AS PART OF THE REARRANGEMENT, SIR MURRAY SAID: +THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL ALSO TAKE OVER THE POLICY ASPECTS OF RECREATION IN COUNTRY PARKS SO THAT ALL RECREATION POLICY WILL BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ONE SECRETARY.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTRY PARKS WHICH WERE WORKING SO WELL.

SIR MURRAY SINGLED OUT THREE ITEMS OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE MADE EXCEPTIONAL PROGRESS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

THE FIRST IS THE YOUTH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

THE SCHEME AIMS FIRSTLY TO DEVELOP THE INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND SECONDLY TO BRING MUSIC TO A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF THE POPULATION.

/+THE SCHEME

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 14 -

+THE SCHEME HAS EXPANDED RAPIDLY AND A TOTAL OF 266 CLASSES ARE NOW HELD WEEKLY. SEVEN YOUTH ORCHESTRAS BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY THIS OFFICE AND TWO OF THESE HAVE JUST COMPLETED A TOUR OF 17 CITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. THEY WON GOLDEN OPINIONS BOTH AS MUSICIANS AND AS AMBASSADORS FOR HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND ITEM IS THE IMPRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

+FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS AT THE END OF 1974, WHEN THE SERVICE INCLUDED ONLY NINE PROFESSIONAL STAFF, IT HAS GROWN TO AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 135 PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS, AND HUNDREDS MORE PART-TIME STAFF HELP TO RUN THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

HE SAID SOME 350 000 PARTICIPANTS ANNUALLY TAKE PART IN OVER 2 700 PROJECTS, RANGING FROM THE VERY POPULAR CAMPS, EXCURSIONS AND OTHER OUTDOOR PURSUITS, TO FITNESS PROGRAMMES, TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL GAMES, AND INCLUDING SUCH +GROWTH+ AREAS AS DANCE, ICE-SKATING, HORSE-RIDING AND ARCHERY.

THE THIRD IS THE COUNTRY PARKS.

SIR MURRAY SAID TO MEET A VERY HEALTHY DEMAND THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY HAD COMPLETED ITS DESIGNATION PROGRAMME 18 MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, AND 21 COUNTRY PARKS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED COVERING ALMOST 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL AREA.

+THIS DESIGNATION HOLDS THE LINE, AND PREVENTS ENJOYMENT OF THE ATTRACTIONS OF THESE AREAS BEING PRE-EMPTED BY DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT AFTER DEFINED PROCESSES OF CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IS BEING STEADILY EXPANDED SO AS TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF HOW TO PROTECT AND KEEP UNDEFILED, AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP, BEAUTIFY, AND ENCOURAGE THE PROPER USE OF THESE GREAT AREAS,+ HE ADDED.

+IF IMAGINATIVELY DEVELOPED AND PROPERLY USED AND MAINTAINED, THESE PARKS SHOULD BECOME ONE OF THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF HONG KONG,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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/15

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 15 -

SUBVENTION SYSTEM FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES BEING REVIEWED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REVIEWING THE PRESENT SUBVENTION SYSTEM FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND A REPORT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY CHANGES WERE MADE.

REFERRING TO THE REGIONALISATION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SIR MURRAY SAID: +THE NEW STRUCTURE IS WORKING SMOOTHLY AND DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS ARE ABLE TO KEEP IN CLOSER TOUCH WITH BOTH DISTRICT OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY WORK IN THEIR REGIONS.+

SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES PUBLISHED IN 1977 AND THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE PUBLISHED THIS YEAR HAD OUTLINED DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR HONG KONG'S SOCIAL WELFARE AND SECURITY SYSTEM.

+THE PLANS ARE NOT IMMUTABLE AND WILL BE REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THEY DO GIVE US A CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR EXPANSION AND A DEFINED TIMESCALE FOR ACTION AND IMPROVEMENT,+ HE SAID.

+SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER WILL CONTINUE TO RESTRICT PROGRESS FOR SOMETIME, BOTH IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD AND IN THAT OF REHABILITATION, AND LATER IN THE DEBATE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL BE EXPLAINING WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT IT,+ SIR MURRAY ADDED.

+SUBJECT TO THIS, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANS IS PROCEEDING WELL.+

SIR MURRAY SAID THE NEW TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAD ALREADY PROVED A USEFUL ADDITION TO HONG KONG'S WELFARE SYSTEM.

THE SCHEME, WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, PROVIDES IMMEDIATE CASH ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS REGARDLESS OF FAULT OR INCOME LEVEL.

CONCERNING PROPOSALS IN A GREEN PAPER FOR A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME, SIR MURRAY SAID THEY WERE STILL BEING DISCUSSED AND NO CONCLUSION HAD YET BEEN REACHED ON THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED.

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/16

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 16 -

SURPLUS STILL EXPECTED IN 1979/80 ACCOUNTS

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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR ARE STILL EXPECTED TO SHOW A SURPLUS BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE HOW CLOSELY IT WILL COINCIDE WITH THAT PROVIDED FOR IN THE BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REVIEWING THE PUBLIC FINANCES, SIR MURRAY SAID REVENUE COLLECTIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE BUDGET AND ARE FORECAST TO SURPASS THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

+BUT ANY INCREASED REVENUE WILL BE ABSORBED IN MEETING INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON BOTH THE RECURRENT AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS,+ HE SAID.

ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ESTIMATES IS BEING INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE 1979 CIVIL SERVICE SALARY AWARDS- THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES- AND A RISE IN PAYMENTS UNDER THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT FOLLOWING PAY AWARDS TO THE ARMED SERVICES AND AS A RESULT OF THE APPRECIATION OF THE POUND STERLING.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT HAD ALSO BEEN NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE CONSIDERABLE COMMITMENTS, NOT FORESEEN WHEN THE ESTIMATES WERE PREPARED, IN COUNTERING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA AND DEALING WITH THE INFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM.

THIS HAS INCLUDED REINFORCEMENT OF THE GARRISON, ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICE LAUNCHES, AND PROVISION FOR REFUGEES.

ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT, SIR MURRAY SAID TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WAS LIKELY TO BE ABOUT 25 PER CENT GREATER THAN PROVIDED FOR IN THE ESTIMATES.

+THIS IS DUE TO SOME ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS ON SUCH THINGS AS REFUGEE CAMPS AS WELL AS TO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS,+ HE SAID.

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/17

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 17 -

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION STIMULATES STAFF CONSULTATION

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THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SET UP IN JANUARY THIS YEAR HAS STIMULATED STAFF CONSULTATION, AND THERE IS NOW A MUCH MORE SATISFACTORY DIALOGUE BETWEEN STAFF AND MANAGEMENT THAN A YEAR AGO, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE GO ON IMPROVING CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND I AM GLAD THAT THE STANDING COMMISSION EXPECTS TO STUDY THIS IN DEPTH AND REPORT NEXT YEAR.+

ON STAFF MANAGEMENT, HE SAID GENERALLY THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF HEART-SEARCHING AT ALL LEVELS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

+MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE, BUT ALREADY MANY DEPARTMENTS HAVE IMPROVED SUCH THINGS AS COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, DISCIPLINE AND GENERAL SUPERVISION.

+THE STAFF RELATIONS DIVISION OF CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH HAS LIKewise EXPANDED ITS CONTACTS WITH ALL LEVELS OF STAFF,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE PROPOSED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO DEVELOP A PRACTICAL SCHEME FOR THE BENEFIT OF AS MANY STAFF AS POSSIBLE. +THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST TIME TO LAUNCH A HOME PURCHASE SCHEME, BUT IT IS IN MY VIEW IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE A START AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO USE THE STANDING COMMISSION AND A NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE THANKED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN FOR HIS INDEFATIGABLE LEADERSHIP AND HIS FELLOW COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR ABLE EFFORTS.

THE COMMISSION'S FIRST MAJOR REPORT ON PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES GOVERNING CIVIL SERVICE PAY HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE COMPLETED ITS SECOND MAJOR REPORT ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. +THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT BY ALL CONCERNED,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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/18

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 18 -

EXPANSION OF LEGAL SCHEMES TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC

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A THIRD CENTRE FOR THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME WILL SOON BE OPENED IN NORTHEAST KOWLOON, THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR TO SEE IF EXPANSION IS REQUIRED, AND MORE PEOPLE ARE NEEDED FOR THE LAY ASSESSORS SCHEME.

THESE WERE REVEALED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE REVIEWED THE VARIOUS LEGAL SCHEMES AIMED AT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW AND A BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME ON CIVIL MATTERS, ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAS PROVED VERY POPULAR.

IT STARTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR IN EASTERN AND MONG KOK CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, AND UP TO THE END OF AUGUST THIS YEAR, OVER 1 000 PEOPLE HAVE OBTAINED ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN THE TWO CENTRES WHICH ARE SERVED BY 150 LAWYERS ON A ROSTER BASIS WITH ENTHUSIASTIC ASSISTANCE FROM LAW STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME WHICH IS ALSO ADMINISTERED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION +HAS QUICKLY ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR FAIR AND HONEST REPRESENTATION OF DEFENDANTS' INTERESTS AND VERY FEW DEFENDANTS HAVE DECLINED TO USE IT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE SCHEME STARTED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR INITIALLY IN THREE MAGISTRACIES, ONE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND TWO IN KOWLOON. IT IS SERVED BY ABOUT 100 PRACTISING SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS AND HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO SOME 2 850 PERSONS DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF ITS OPERATION.

ON THE LAY ASSESSORS SCHEME UNDER WHICH BILINGUAL PEOPLE WELL-EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CUSTOM AND TRADITIONS AND CURRENT COMMUNITY FEELINGS ARE APPOINTED TO SIT WITH EXPATRIATE MAGISTRATES, SIR MURRAY SAID: +MANY MORE ARE NEEDED, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVITE THOSE WILLING AND CAPABLE TO COME FORWARD TO JOIN US IN THIS VERY USEFUL VENTURE.+

UNDER THE SCHEME, ABOUT 200 PERSONS FROM A VARIETY OF SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS WERE APPOINTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR AND THEY HAVE SAT WITH EXPATRIATE MAGISTRATES HEARING CASES INVOLVING DANGEROUS DRUGS, ROBBERY AND BURGLARY, THEFT, COMMON ASSAULT AND TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

SIR MURRAY CONGRATULATED MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION ON THE SUCCESS OF THESE SCHEMES AND GIVING SO GENEROUSLY OF THEIR TIME.

+TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION, AND PERHAPS EXPANDED THESE SCHEMES SHOULD HELP TO BRIDGE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL GAP THAT LIES BETWEEN MUCH OF THE POPULATION AND THE PROCEDURES OF BRITISH LAW,+ HE SAID.

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/19

MORE LAND TO BE PUT ON MARKET

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY AT LEAST 40 NET HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL AND 80 HECTARES OF NON-INDUSTRIAL LAND WILL HAVE BEEN PUT ON THE MARKET BEFORE MARCH 31, 1982.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE INDUSTRIAL LAND SHOULD YIELD SOME 3 500 000 SQUARE METRES OF INDUSTRIAL FLOOR SPACE, OR AN ADDITION OF ABOUT 45 PER CENT TO THE PRESENT STOCK. THE NON-INDUSTRIAL LAND, HE ADDED, HAS A POTENTIAL FOR ABOUT 55 000 FLATS OF VARIOUS SIZES BESIDES OFFICES AND OTHER COMMERCIAL PREMISES.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE INDUSTRIAL LAND WAS IN ADDITION TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION'S PRODUCTION, AND THE LARGE AREAS BEING FORMED FOR THE TWO NEW POWER STATIONS AT TAP SHEK KOK AND LAMMA ISLAND, AS WELL AS THE SITES UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR HIGH CLASS HOUSING.

THESE LAND PRODUCTION FIGURES ARE GREATER THAN THOSE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST, SIR MURRAY SAID, BUT THERE WAS A NEED TO MAKE FURTHER PLANS NOW TO OPEN UP NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS TO PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND FOR THE SALES PROGRAMMES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

+IF CONTINUITY IS TO BE MAINTAINED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO START WORK SOON ON BOTH AN EXTENSION OF SHA TIN UP THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE COVE, AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE TO WHAT EXTENT RESOURCES FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD CONFLICT WITH THOSE FOR OTHER WORKS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPHASED OR ARE OF HIGH PRIORITY.

+BUT CLEARLY FAILURE TO SPEND NOW ON LAND PRODUCTION WOULD SERIOUSLY RESTRICT OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. NORTH LANTAU, OF COURSE, REMAINS AN ULTIMATE POSSIBILITY BUT WE AWAIT THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT,+ HE ADDED.

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REVIEW OF HK'S TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE OPENING OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, WHEN COMPLETED BY MID-1981, WOULD DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE ACCESS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND, SIR MURRAY SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY HAS ALREADY OPENED ON TIME AND WITHIN THE BUDGET, HE POINTED OUT.

+THE SECOND STAGE, AS FAR AS TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL OPEN AT THE END OF DECEMBER AND THE THIRD STAGE, ACROSS THE HARBOUR, IN FEBRUARY --- THAT IS WELL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

HE SAID THE EARLY COMPLETION WITHIN THE ESTIMATED COST WOULD BE A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT FOR SO COMPLEX A DEVELOPMENT. CALLING THE MTR AS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING TRANSPORT HAPPENINGS IN HONG KONG FOR MANY YEARS, THE GOVERNOR CONGRATULATED THE CHAIRMAN, THE BOARD, THE STAFF AND THE MANY CONTRACTORS.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE PATIENCE OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

+ONCE EVERYTHING IS BACK IN PLACE, WE MUST MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET THE STREETS NEATER AND CLEANER THAN THEY HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE. LET US BE AS QUICK TO RESTORE ORDER AND COMFORT AS WE WERE TO DESTROY IT UNDER COMPULSIONS OF THE RAILWAY'S CONSTRUCTIONS, I LOOK TO ALL CONCERNED TO SEE THAT THIS IS DONE,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SPEAKING ON OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HE SAID THAT:

- * A MORE LIKELY TIMING OF THE COMPLETION OF DOUBLE-TRACKING AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY IS ABOUT THE END OF 1982-
- * THE LIGHT RAILWAY TRANSIT SYSTEMS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND FOR TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG, AND
- * STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE TWO BUS COMPANIES, TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE BUS SERVICES.

SIR MURRAY REPORTED THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE ROAD PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THAT MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED OR WERE DUE FOR COMPLETION OVER THE COMING YEAR WERE THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE, THE APPROACH ROADS TO THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, THE TUEN MUN BY-PASS, AND FLYOVERS AT STUBBS ROAD, ROBINSON ROAD/GLENEALY AND POK FU LAM ROAD/HILL ROAD.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY, WAS COMMISSIONING AN INVESTIGATION INTO EXPANDING CROSS-HARBOUR TRANSPORT BOTH IN THE SHORT AND THE LONGER TERM.

+ALTHOUGH, AS I HAVE EXPLAINED, A GREAT DEAL IS BEING DONE, THE ROAD PROGRAMME WAS QUITE HEAVILY AFFECTED BY REPHASING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS TO REDUCE THE GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AND THE DEMANDS IT WAS MAKING ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

THE PROJECTS WHICH HAVE HAD TO BE DEFERRED FOR THE TIME BEING INCLUDE:

- * THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR-
- * THE SHA TIN/TAI PO COASTAL ROAD-
- * THE COMPLETION OF THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY-
- * THE WIDENING OF PRINCESS MARGARET FLYOVER, AND
- * THE SECOND STAGE OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

+THESE PROJECTS ARE ALL BADLY NEEDED AND DELAY IS FRUSTRATING, BUT IT IS PART OF THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID TO ENSURE CONTINUING ECONOMIC HEALTH,+ SIR MURRAY ADDED.

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A MORE UNIFIED APPROACH TO
GOVERNMENT'S WORK IN URBAN AREA
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THE TIME HAS COME TO ATTEMPT A MORE UNIFIED APPROACH BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO THEIR WORK IN URBAN REGIONS AND A CLEARER PERCEPTION OF WHAT THE LOCAL NEEDS OF A PARTICULAR AREA ARE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AND AS A FIRST STEP, HE SAID, IT WAS PROPOSED TO STRENGTHEN THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS DISTRICT OFFICES IN NEW TOWNS WERE STRENGTHENED BY THE CREATION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

+AS IN THE NEW TOWNS THE OBJECT WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EFFORT IN THAT AREA IS BETTER CO-ORDINATED AND DIRECTED TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO LIVE THERE, AND SECURE QUICKER ACTION IN RESOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+IT WILL ALSO BE OUR AIM TO ACHIEVE, AS IN THE NEW TOWNS, INVOLVEMENT OF A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN THE PROCESS OF ADVISING, WARNING AND STIMULATING THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT ADMINISTRATION IN THEIR OWN AREA.

+THIS WILL MEAN REVIEWING EXISTING CONSULTATIVE SYSTEMS IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT INTENDED TO AND WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENCROACH ON THE WORK OF EXISTING STATUTORY AUTHORITIES WORKING IN THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+ITS OBJECTIVES WILL BE SIMPLY TO ENSURE QUICKER REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION, AND ARRANGEMENTS TO CONSULT KWUN TONG PEOPLE ABOUT THEM,+ HE SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO BE IN DAY TO DAY TOUCH WITH PUBLIC OPINION AND TO RESPOND TO CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IN DRAWING UP ITS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.

ONE METHOD IS THE CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM WHICH OPERATES THROUGH COMMITTEES ON WHICH OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIALS SIT TOGETHER TO CONFER ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

+IT IS WELL KNOWN, WELL TRIED AND OF LONG STANDING, AND AT ITS BEST PRODUCES A VERY HEALTHY EXCHANGE OF IDEAS,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

BUT OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID INCREASING ATTENTION TO THE VIEWS OF THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS GENERALLY AND IN PARTICULAR TOWARDS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT WERE LIKELY TO HAVE A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON HIS DAILY LIFE, HE SAID.

+THE VERY URGENCY WITH WHICH WE PRESS FORWARD OUR PROGRAMMES IMPOSES UPON US AN OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT THE IMPACT OF THESE UPON INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE IS CONSIDERED, AND DEALT WITH IN A WAY THAT HAS BROAD PUBLIC CONSENT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SCHEME, ESTABLISHED IN 1968, WAS POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC FROM THE OUTSET, AND LAST YEAR WELL OVER THREE MILLION PEOPLE SOUGHT ADVICE OR HELP AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, HE POINTED OUT.

SIR MURRAY SAID IT WAS FROM THESE SAME OFFICES THAT THE AREA COMMITTEES AND THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WERE STARTED. +THESE HAVE PLAYED A MOST VALUABLE ROLE IN INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DIRT AND CRIME- THEY HAVE NOTABLY ASSISTED PEOPLE IN ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN HIGH-RISE HOUSING ESTATES AND HAVE PROVIDED A LARGE NEW CROSS-SECTION OF OPINION EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO DISTRICT OFFICERS.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CDO SCHEME TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE URBAN AREAS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND TO ENSURE THAT ACTION WOULD NOT GO BY DEFAULT AS A RESULT OF UNSATISFACTORY CO-ORDINATION.

+UNLIKE THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN ADMINISTERED ON A REGIONAL BASIS WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICERS ACTING AS A FOCAL POINT FOR PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION, THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON HAD LARGELY BEEN SERVED BY DEPARTMENTS THAT DIRECTED THEIR FIELD OPERATIONS FROM CENTRALLY LOCATED OFFICES,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE GOOD WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE 1968 TO ACHIEVE BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORT, THE TIME HAD COME FOR A MORE UNIFIED APPROACH AND A CLEARER PERCEPTION OF WHAT THE LOCAL NEEDS OF A PARTICULAR AREA ARE - WHETHER THIS IS A DISTRICT, OR GROUP OF DISTRICTS, OR EVEN PART OF A DISTRICT.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 23 -

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY: EMPLOYERS, WORKERS MUST DO THEIR SHARE
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO DO THEIR SHARE TO REDUCE THE HIGH NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING ITS PART BY PROGRESSIVELY ENACTING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION AND IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TOO TO PLAY THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

ADDRESSING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENACT AND ENFORCE SAFETY LEGISLATION AND TO UNDERTAKE SAFETY EDUCATION. +THE EMPLOYERS' RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND TO INSTRUCT THEIR EMPLOYEES IN SAFE PRACTICES- THE WORKERS' RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ABIDE BY THE SAFETY RULES AND TO USE SAFETY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR THEM.+

SIR MURRAY SAID THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY SET UP TO REVIEW THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WERE BEING CONSIDERED AND THE MORE URGENT PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PHASED PROGRAMME TO PROHIBIT OVERTIME IN INDUSTRY FOR YOUNG PERSONS AGED 16 AND 17 WOULD BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1, 1980 BUT THE EFFECT ON INDUSTRY WOULD BE MINIMAL.

ON THE SILICOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST YEAR, SIR MURRAY SAID THE SCHEME HAD PROVED UNEXPECTEDLY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT, BUT DETAILS OF A REVISED SCHEME HAD JUST BEEN FINALISED AND AMENDING LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

TURNING TO INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, HE SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING WAS RECOGNISED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY. +THE ADVICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION HAS THEREFORE BEEN SOUGHT ON THE TRAINING COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO FINANCE TRAINING THROUGH A GENERAL LEVY,+ HE ADDED.

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/24

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 24 -

COMPULSORY SUPERVISION FOR YOUNG PERSONS
DISCHARGED FROM PRISON PROPOSED

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AN AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE FOR COMPULSORY SUPERVISION FOR YOUNG PERSONS DISCHARGED FROM PRISON, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REVIEWING LAW AND ORDER IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING AFTERCARE SCHEMES FOR FORMER INMATES OF DETENTION CENTRES, TRAINING CENTRES AND DRUG TREATMENT CENTRES.

HE WAS GLAD THAT DESPITE AN OVERALL POPULATION INCREASE OF 14 PER CENT SINCE 1974, THERE WAS A DECLINE IN INMATE POPULATION FROM 7 000 IN 1974 TO 6 600 IN 1978 AND MORE THAN 6 000 CURRENTLY.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT FOR PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE FOR THE INMATES DESPITE ITS ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF LONG TERM PRISONERS AND HIGH SECURITY PRISONERS IS A CONTINUING PROBLEM AND ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION WAS BECOMING OF INCREASINGLY HIGH PRIORITY.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROGRAMME TO EXPAND PRISON INDUSTRIES IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. MOST OF THE KEY SPECIALIST STAFF HAVE BEEN APPOINTED, AND THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE GIVEN GREATER FREEDOM IN THE PURCHASE OF RAW MATERIALS THUS ENABLING IT TO RESPOND MORE QUICKLY TO ORDERS FROM CLIENT DEPARTMENTS.

ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, SIR MURRAY SAID THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF A REVIVAL OF LARGE CORRUPTION SYNDICATES, BUT THERE WAS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE OF CORRUPT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OPERATING WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, THE SCHEDULED BODIES AND IN PRIVATE FIRMS. CONSEQUENTLY, WIDE SPREAD AND INTENSE INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED.

+THESE ARE GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BOTH FROM THE PUBLIC AND FROM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE ITSELF PREPARED PERSONALLY TO REPORT CORRUPTION TO THE COMMISSION,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

HE WARNED THAT THE GREATEST DANGER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IS COMPLACENCY AND SAID THOUGH WE WERE NOW ON TOP OF CORRUPTION, +IT IS STILL ALIVE, STILL DANGEROUS AND ONLY CONSTANT VIGILANCE WILL WEAR DOWN ITS ABILITY TO HARM US.+

REVIEWING THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS, SIR MURRAY SAID THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION CONTINUED.

/+INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION,

+INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, IMPROVED INTERDICTION BY BOTH THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE, VOLUNTARY AND COMPULSORY TREATMENT OF ADDICTS, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION, HAVE ALL PLAYED THEIR PART.

+BUT THIS YEAR FAILURE OF THE POPPY CROP IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE HAS ALSO HAD A DRAMATIC EFFECT. THE COMBINATION OF ALL THESE FACTORS HAS INCREASED THE PRICE OF HEROIN IN HONG KONG BY 500 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

AS A RESULT, SIR MURRAY OBSERVED, ATTENDANCE AT METHADONE CLINICS HAS INCREASED BY 80 PER CENT SINCE JANUARY, AND THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS IN DAILY TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, OR AFTER-CARE HAS RISEN TO 15 000.

IN ADDITION, THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FOUND TO BE ADDICTED WHEN ENTERING PRISON DROPPED FROM 5 400 IN 1973 TO 4 700 IN 1976 AND IS LIKELY TO BE ABOUT 2 000 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS, THE NUMBER OF THOSE UNDER 21 TREATED IN DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES HAS DROPPED FROM 260 TO 186 AND TO 65 THIS YEAR.

+THIS IS THE TREND FOR WHICH MANY HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON COMMERCIAL LAW

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A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON COMMERCIAL LAW TO ENSURE A GREATER FLOW OF INFORMATION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION FOR SHAREHOLDERS OF LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES WILL BE PUT BEFORE THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROPOSAL WOULD BE A MAJOR REVISION OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

+MOST OF THE CHANGES INVOLVE UP-DATING THE LAW TO PROVIDE FOR EVOLVING COMMERCIAL PRACTICES AND MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN FORESHADOWED IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

OTHER PROPOSALS INCLUDE UP-DATING THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE IN THE LIGHT OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION OF INVESTOR-FURTHER PROGRESS ON LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY- A BILL TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF MINIMUM LIQUIDITY RATIOS FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND TO WIDEN THE LIST OF SPECIFIED LIQUID ASSETS FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES- AND ANOTHER BILL TO AMEND THE LIST OF SPECIFIED LIQUID ASSETS FOR BANKS.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION HAS ALSO COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WOULD SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR NEXT MONTH ON HOW POLICIES SHOULD BE CHANGED SO AS TO BENEFIT OUR FUTURE.

SIR MURRAY SAID THE REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 26 -

POLICE FORCE IN BETTER SHAPE

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WAS NOW IN BETTER SHAPE, WITH IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR RANKS OF THE FORCE, AND A BETTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE STRENGTH OF THE FORCE EXPANDED BY 48 PER CENT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1978 WHILE THE EXPANSION DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAD BEEN FIVE PER CENT, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+THIS REFLECTS THE PHASE OF CONSOLIDATION AND CONCENTRATION ON IMPROVEMENT OF COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT, RECOMMENDED BY THE HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR, MR. JAMES CRANE, IN 1978,+ HE SAID.

ON WELFARE AND PRACTICAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE FORCE, SIR MURRAY SAID THE CONDITIONS FOR BOTH WORK AND RECREATION OF THE POLICE WOULD BE IMPROVED AS ROOM COULD BE FOUND IN THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME.

HE SAID PAY FOR THE POLICE AND OTHER DISCIPLINED SERVICES WAS BEING LOOKED AT BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND HE HOPED TO HAVE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS VERY SOON.

SIR MURRAY NOTED THAT THE FORCE IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY YOUNG ONE, AND THE BURDEN OF SUPERVISION PLACED ON OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS IS PROPORTIONATELY GREAT.

+THERE IS NO REAL WAY ROUND THIS PROBLEM EXCEPT TIME,+ HE SAID. +BUT TO EASE THE BURDEN TRAINING FACILITIES, INCLUDING IN-SERVICE CONTINUATION TRAINING, HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED.+

SIR MURRAY SAID THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES HAD DROPPED FROM A HIGH RATE OF 40 PER DAY AT THE BEGINNING OF 1974 TO 16 LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR, AS THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME GAINED MOMENTUM.

BUT IN RECENT MONTHS, DUE TO HIGH PRICE AND SHORTAGE OF DRUGS, THERE HAD BEEN A SHARP INCREASE TO ABOUT 28 ROBBERIES A DAY, HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE POLICE HAD REACTED QUICKLY AND THE INCREASE APPEARED TO BE HELD.

+THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO FORCE IT BACK AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND POLICE AGAINST CRIME HAD BEEN ENHANCED AND ONE OUT OF TEN CRIMINALS ARRESTED THIS YEAR WAS EFFECTED BY THE PUBLIC, SIR MURRAY SAID.

+THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME CANNOT BE A MATTER FOR THE POLICE ALONE,+ HE STRESSED.

+THE FORCE CAN BE RELIED UPON TO TAKE ACTION WHENEVER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARE REPORTED TO THEM BUT TO BE REALLY SUCCESSFUL THEY MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

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/27

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 27 -

DENTAL CARE PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
STARTS NOVEMBER

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A DENTAL CARE PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WOULD BE INTRODUCED AS FROM NEXT MONTH (NOVEMBER), THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THIS FOLLOWED THE OPENING OF THE MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE AND THE DENTAL THERAPISTS TRAINING SCHOOL.

ON THE DENTAL TEACHING HOSPITAL DUE TO BE COMPLETED THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, SIR MURRAY SAID THE FIRST BATCH OF 60 LOCALLY TRAINED DENTISTS WAS EXPECTED TO GRADUATE IN 1985.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT TO USE RESOURCES BETTER, THE MEDICAL SERVICES HAD BEEN REGIONALISED SINCE APRIL 1977.

+THERE ARE AT PRESENT FOUR HOSPITAL REGIONS EACH OF WHICH IS SERVED BY A REGIONAL HOSPITAL, ONE OR MORE DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND A NUMBER OF GENERAL AND SPECIALIST CLINICS,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID THAT SINCE THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME WAS IMPLEMENTED, BEDS IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAD BEEN MORE FULLY USED AND THAT PRESSURE ON THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS HAD EASED.

HE SAID THAT THE PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WAS PROCEEDING WELL AND THAT PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS INCLUDED PHASE I OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL AND THE EXTENSION OF THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE.

THE FORMER WILL PROVIDE 50 GENERAL BEDS AND THE LATTER 576 BEDS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COMPLETION OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC WING NEXT YEAR WOULD PROVIDE ANOTHER 1 300 BEDS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL AND WOULD REDUCE THE PRESENT OVERCROWDING AT THE CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL.

ON OTHER PROJECTS, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT:

- * THE NEW WING OF THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1980 TO AUGMENT THE FACILITIES OF THE HOSPITAL AS THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR WEST KOWLOON=
- * CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE 1 400-BED SHA TIN HOSPITAL IS ABOUT TO START AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1982, AND
- * PLANNING IS ALSO IN HAND FOR A MAJOR HOSPITAL IN TUEN MUN, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1985 BUT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THIS MAY BE SOMEWHAT RE-PHASED.

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/28

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 28 -

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION GREEN PAPER
TO BE PUBLISHED SOON
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A GREEN PAPER ON PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND AN OVERALL REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS ENVISAGED IN EARLY 1981, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GREEN PAPER WOULD SET OUT THE PROBLEMS AT THE PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY LEVELS AND MAKE PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH THEM, WHILE THE OVERALL REVIEW WAS TO LOOK AT OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, IN PARTICULAR THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VARIOUS PARTS WHICH HAD BEEN REVIEWED SEPARATELY.

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS TO PROVIDE A FREE JUNIOR SECONDARY PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD, HE SAID, IT HAD PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY, AND THE WHOLE AGE GROUP WOULD BE IN SCHOOL BY SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR. +SO A MILESTONE IN HONG KONG'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN PASSED,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PLANS TO EXPAND THE SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION BETWEEN 1979 AND 1986 AS PUBLISHED IN LAST YEAR'S WHITE PAPER WERE WELL RECEIVED AND PROCEEDING.

HE SAID THE PROVISION OF THE PLANNED NUMBER OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES REQUIRED 130 SCHOOLS, BUT FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND GEOTECHNICAL PROBLEMS HAD COMBINED TO DELAY 12 OF THESE AND WOULD TEMPORARILY EXTEND THE GOVERNMENT'S RELIANCE ON BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

AN ADDITIONAL 1 700 SUBSIDISED PLACES AT BOTH SIXTH FORM AND POST-SIXTH FORM LEVELS WILL BE PROVIDED BY TWO OF THE THREE APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WHO HAVE ACCEPTED GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR. THE TWO COLLEGES WILL RESTRUCTURE THEIR PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE SEPARATE TWO-YEAR COURSES AT SIXTH FORM AND POST-FORM SIX LEVELS.

ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, SIR MURRAY SAID: +CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN BY THE INSTITUTIONS AND OTHERS CONCERNED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME UNIVERSITY DEGREE COURSES, AND TO THE INTRODUCTION AT THE POLYTECHNIC OF A LIMITED DEGREE COURSE AS WELL AS CONCENTRATION ON OTHER HIGHER LEVEL WORK.+

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/29

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 29 -

NEW DIMENSION TO HONG KONG'S TOURIST INDUSTRY
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND THE GROWTH OF THE CHINESE TOURIST INDUSTRY ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO HONG KONG'S THRIVING TOURIST INDUSTRY.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID: +I HOPE THE TWO INDUSTRIES CAN COLLABORATE TO THEIR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.+

HE NOTED THAT MORE THAN TWO MILLION TOURISTS VISITED HONG KONG LAST YEAR AND THOSE BEING DRAWN TO CHINA ARE BOUND TO SWELL THAT NUMBER IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESENT NUMBER OF HOTEL ROOMS - AT ABOUT 14 400 - WAS INSUFFICIENT, BUT BECAUSE OF HIGH CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY, THE NUMBER WOULD BE INCREASED TO OVER 20 000 BY THE END OF 1981.

+TOURISM SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE A USEFUL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION, ALTHOUGH IN NET TERMS THE CONTRIBUTION IS BEING INCREASINGLY OFFSET BY THE EXPENDITURE OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS TRAVELLING ABROAD,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO SPOKE ON THE OPERATION OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WHICH, HE SAID, HAD ACHIEVED IMMEDIATE SUCCESS.

HE SAID SOME SIMPLE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS WOULD BE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR AMENDMENT OR ENACTMENT. THESE LAWS INCLUDE AMENDMENTS TO THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ORDINANCE AND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REGULATE HIRE PURCHASE.

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/30

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 30 -

GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO LEGCO MEMBERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THEIR TASK AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION THEY MAKE TO THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FAR-OFF TIME WHEN HONG KONG WAS A COMPARATIVELY SMALL AND UNCOMPLICATED PLACE, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL MADE SMALLER DEMANDS ON THE TIME AND ENERGY OF MEMBERS.

+BUT NOW IT INVOLVES A TASK WHICH IS AS ARDUOUS AS IT IS IMPORTANT. IT CALLS FOR A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH CAN BE SUSTAINED ONLY BY PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTH HIGHLY MOTIVATED, AND WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE, FROM AMONGST THEIR MEMBERSHIP, A VERY WIDE SPREAD OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY WELCOMED THE TWO NEW UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL -- THE HON. HU FA-KUANG AND THE HON. WONG PO-YAN.

HE SAID THEIR APPOINTMENT INVOLVED MEMBERSHIP OF TWO INTERLOCKING BODIES -- THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND UMELCO, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ITSELF HAD THE FINAL WORD ON LEGISLATION AND EXPENDITURE PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT-- AND THAT ALL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE MEMBERS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE WHICH HAD SUB-COMMITTEES DEALING WITH PUBLIC WORKS AND ESTABLISHMENT.

NOTING THAT THE UMELCO IS A BODY UNIQUE TO HONG KONG, SIR MURRAY SAID: +WORKING GROUPS OF MEMBERS STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, AND RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC ABOUT LEGISLATION OR OTHER ACTION PROPOSED OR TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS VITAL AND TIME-CONSUMING WORK.+

+UMELCO IS SUPPORTED BY ITS OWN SECRETARIAT, AND ITS MEMBERS PERFORM A KEY ROLE IN RECEIVING, AND ACTING ON, COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE MEANS OF REDRESS AVAILABLE IN UMELCO WERE WELL USED.

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/31

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 31 -

VALEDICTORY TO TWO RETIRED LEGCO MEMBERS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES WU AND MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHO HAVE RETIRED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

SIR MURRAY SAID MR. WU WOULD BE REMEMBERED IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS HE MADE IN DEBATES ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY DURING HIS SEVEN YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP.

+HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AS A LEADING INDUSTRIALIST WERE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE AND WE SHALL CERTAINLY MISS HIS SHREWD ADVICE,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY COMMENDED MR. CHEONG-LEEN FOR HIS VERY WIDE EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL AFFAIRS. +HE BROUGHT THIS TO BEAR THROUGH INTERVENTIONS OVER A VERY WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, IN FACT SELDOM WAS HIS NAME MISSING IN QUESTION TIME,+ HE SAID.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG JOINED THE GOVERNOR IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. WU AND MR. CHEONG-LEEN.

+MY COLLEAGUES WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE TRIBUTES YOU HAVE JUST PAID TO MR. WU AND MR. CHEONG-LEEN,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHEUNG SAID HE WOULD REMEMBER MR. WU IN PARTICULAR FOR THE CONSTANT PLEAS HE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR +FOR DIVERSIFICATION, FOR UPGRADING OF PRODUCTS, FOR INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, FOR ESTABLISHING AND SUPPORT OF A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MATCH THE EFFORTS OF OUR COMPETITORS, FOR THE PLEAS HE MADE FOR THE CONVENIENT PASSAGE OF CONTAINER TRUCKS AND THEIR ACCOMMODATION IN NEW TOWNS, AND FOR HIS REMINDERS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT THE HIGH COST OF INDUSTRIAL LAND WAS BLUNTING OUR COMPETITIVENESS.+

MR. CHEUNG NOTED THAT MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S MAIN CONCERN WAS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND +FROM HIS SYMPATHY WITH THE UNDERPRIVILEGED+ SPRANG HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS ON THEIR BEHALF IN THE COUNCIL.

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/32

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

- 32 -

DISPENSERS BACK TO WORK NEXT WEEK

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GOVERNMENT DISPENSERS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING TO RULE SINCE SEPTEMBER 10 TO PRESS FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS WILL RESUME NORMAL DUTIES AS FROM NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 16).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION, REPRESENTING THE DISPENSERS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT DISPENSARIES, MADE THIS PLEDGE AFTER A MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

DURING THE MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT REASSURED THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AS SOON AS NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS PREVAIL ON THE ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27.

THESE INCLUDE AN EXERCISE BY A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT TEAM TO WORK OUT A MANNING SCALE FOR THE DISPENSING GRADE AND AN EVALUATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE STUDENT DISPENSERS' WORKING CAPACITY WITH A VIEW TO PRODUCING A CORRECT RATIO OF DISPENSER AND STUDENT DISPENSER.

THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES DECIDED TO SUSPEND ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS TO FACILITATE THESE EXERCISES TO PROCEED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

BOTH PARTIES HAVE ALSO AGREED TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE WHATEVER PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE DISPENSING SERVICE.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 12) TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE LOCATED AT 2-62A BELCHER'S STREET, 1E-1M AND 32-34 SANDS STREET, 16-30 AND 29-39 NORTH STREET, 12A-12G AND 41A-43 SMITHFIELD, 1A-1C AND 1-13 ROCK HILL STREET AND COLLINSON STREET.

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