



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LOBO CALLS FOR 'LIVELY ACTION'

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THE HON ROGER LOBO, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, STRESSED TODAY THAT THIS WAS A TIME FOR LIVELY AND DETERMINED ACTION ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION RATHER THAN A TIME TO WAIT FOR MORE MOMENTOUS MATTERS TO BE RESOLVED.

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR LOBO SAID THAT THOUGH LITTLE COULD BE SAID AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OUR FUTURE, MUCH COULD BE USEFULLY SAID AND DONE ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

HE SAID, +AFTER ALL, AN IMPORTANT QUESTION MUST BE THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION; ITS RELEVANCE TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WHICH EVERYONE IS PLEDGED TO PRESERVE; AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IDENTIFIES AND IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE HOPES AND AMBITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE.

+WE WILL MAKE NO SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO THAT FUTURE IF WE ADDRESS OURSELVES SERIOUSLY AND URGENTLY TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THESE TERMS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATION WAS LIKELY TO COME UNDER MORE, RATHER THAN LESS, CRITICAL APPRAISAL IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND JUDGEMENT WOULD BE MADE UPON PERFORMANCE, NOT PROMISES.

+WE SHALL HAVE TO DELIVER THE HOMES THAT ARE PROMISED IN OUR PROGRAMMES- WE SHALL HAVE TO PRODUCE DEMONSTRABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN TINKERED WITH FOR TOO LONG- AND WE SHALL HAVE TO PRODUCE LABOUR LEGISLATION WHICH IS WORKABLE AND REALISTIC,+ MR LOBO SAID.

NOTING THAT ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WERE PUTTING OUR ADMINISTRATION TO AN UNPRECEDENTED TEST, HE SAID, +I DON'T THINK ANYONE SERIOUSLY QUESTIONS THE SINCERE DEDICATION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY WHICH BALANCES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE ABLE AND VIGOROUS WITH PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEAK OR DISADVANTAGED.+

+WE ARE NOW OBLIGED TO DO MORE THAN DECLARE THESE GOOD INTENTIONS. WE MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS IS ALSO AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND EXPEDITIOUS ADMINISTRATION WHICH DELIVERS THE GOODS ON TIME, AS ADVERTISED AND AS EXPECTED,+ HE STRESSED.

+NOTHING WEAKENS THE REPUTATION OF A GOVERNMENT MORE THAN NEGLECT IN THIS AREA; THE PERSISTENCE OF EVEN PETTY ABUSE IN APPARENT DEFIANCE OF THE LAW, THE PREVALENCE OF SQUALOR IN THE PRESENCE OF EXTRAVAGANCE, ABOVE ALL, THE GAP BETWEEN PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE, AS IT IS PERCEIVED BY THE MAN IN THE STREET,+ HE WARNED.

IN CONCLUSION, MR LOBO SAID THAT THE GOVERNOR COULD COUNT ON THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE OUR FUTURE AND OUR PRESENT.

DEATH SENTENCE RITUAL 'A MOCKERY': DUNN
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THE RECENT DEBATE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, SAID MISS LYDIA DUNN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS DUNN CALLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE DEATH SENTENCE IN THE STATUTE BOOK.

GIVEN THAT THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF THE DEATH SENTENCE BEING CARRIED OUT, SHE SAID, +IT IS A MOCKERY OF OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE FOR JUDGES TO GO THROUGH THE RITUAL OF PRONOUNCING THE DEATH SENTENCE, WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IT WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT.+

+THE DEATH SENTENCE SHOULD BE FORMALLY ABOLISHED AND REPLACED BY A LIFE SENTENCE AND IN HONG KONG THAT SHOULD MEAN IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE,+ SHE SAID.

EARLIER MISS DUNN SPOKE ABOUT THE DETERIORATION IN LAW AND ORDER. SHE SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE THE CRIME RATE: THE DETERRENT FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT PLUS THE DETERRENT FEAR OF SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAUGHT.

IT WAS UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE TO BLAME THE POLICE FORCE FOR A SITUATION THAT IT DID NOT BRING ABOUT BUT MUST TRY TO REMEDY.

+NO POLICE FORCE IN A FREE SOCIETY CAN BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC. THAT SUPPORT HAS OFTEN BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY LACKING,+ SHE SAID.

THE MAIN THEME OF MISS DUNN'S SPEECH WAS ON GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES AND ORGANISATION.

SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS +A FAILURE TO REVIEW AND UPDATE OLD ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, A LACK OF INTELLIGENT ANTICIPATION AND A LACK OF URGENCY ABOUT PURSUING NECESSARY PROPOSALS.+

SHE CITED AS EXAMPLES THE +LYEMUN NON-BRIDGE+ AND THE +TRAGIC AND UNNECESSARY+ DEATHS OF TWO CHILDREN IN THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

ON THE LYEMUN BRIDGE, SHE SAID THAT THE WHOLE IDEA WAS PIGEON-HOLED UNTIL 1980, LONG AFTER THE TREND OF INCREASING TRAFFIC HAD RESUMED, AND EVEN THEN ONLY A STUDY OF OPTIONS WAS COMMISSIONED AND THE STUDY TOOK TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

+AND NOW WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE LYEMUN BRIDGE WAS ALWAYS A NON-STARTER SO THAT ALL WE CAN DO IS INVESTIGATE OTHER OPTIONS, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT TAKE ANOTHER COUPLE OF YEARS. MEANWHILE CROSS-HARBOUR TRAFFIC CONGESTION HAS ALREADY REACHED INTOLERABLE LEVELS,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE DEATHS OF THE CHILDREN, SHE NOTED THAT CONDITIONS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS BY STAFF, DOCTORS AND PATIENTS ALIKE FOR MANY YEARS.

/+YET APPARENTLY

+YET APPARENTLY NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE AND UPDATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IN OUR HOSPITALS,+ SHE SAID.

SHE MAINTAINED THAT WHEN HOSPITAL STAFF WERE LARGELY YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED AND WORKING UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE, TO FOLLOW PRECEDENT AND TRADITION WOULD NOT SUFFICE. CLEAR AND CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES WERE ESSENTIAL.

SHE ALSO QUOTED THE +NON-EXISTENT EXHIBITION CENTRE+ AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF LACK OF URGENCY.

SHE BELIEVED NOW WAS THE TIME TO DECIDE +HOW+ TO ESTABLISH AN EXHIBITION CENTRE AND NOT +WHETHER+ SUCH A CENTRE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

+I THINK THAT IT BECAME SELF-EVIDENT LONG AGO - IT CERTAINLY DID TO THOSE OF US IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR - THAT HONG KONG NEEDS AN EXHIBITION CENTRE AND THAT IT MUST HAVE OFFICIAL BACKING.

+WE NEED NOW FEWER WORDS AND MORE ACTION FOR IN ALL THESE YEARS OF TALK AND REPORTS, WITHOUT REAL PROGRESS, THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, THAT WE HAVE LOST ARE QUITE UNQUANTIFIABLE,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN QUESTIONED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS SO ORGANISED AND TRAINED AS TO MINIMISE MISTAKES.

SHE SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR A STAFF COLLEGE TO PROVIDE TRAINING AT VARIOUS LEVELS FOR PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

HOWEVER, TRAINING, EVEN IF THERE WAS MORE OF IT, WOULD NOT DO MUCH GOOD UNLESS THE PROCEDURES IT TAUGHT WERE SOUND AND THE ORGANISATION WAS APPROPRIATE.

+IT APPEARS THAT OUR BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES ARE STILL TOO COMPLEX - AND HENCE TOO SLOW - AND THAT THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT IS OVER-CENTRALISED AND TOP-HEAVY,+ SHE SAID.

+I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED A FUNDAMENTAL REAPPRAISAL OF THE CENTRAL MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE GENERALLY, A CONTINUING REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND A MUCH IMPROVED TRAINING ORGANISATION.+

THESE THINGS WOULD LEAD TO A BETTER USE OF THE REAL TALENT THAT WAS AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH WAS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY IF RESTRAINT ON THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS TO CONTINUE, SHE SAID.

+I ALSO BELIEVE THAT A GREATER DECENTRALISATION OF AUTHORITY WOULD BRING THE GOVERNMENT INTO CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE IT EXISTS TO SERVE.

+THIS IN TURN WOULD PROMOTE THAT UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY THAT IS SO NECESSARY IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES,+ SHE ADDED.

CALL FOR AN EDUCATION COMMISSION
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DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN PROPOSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT AN EDUCATION COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED TO CO-ORDINATE AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND COSTLY EDUCATION SYSTEM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BECAUSE IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ITS CREATION SHOULD NOT MERELY RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE BUREAUCRACY.

+BUT MUCH COULD BE GAINED IF THE VARIOUS STRANDS OF OUR SYSTEM ARE PULLED TOGETHER BY ONE COORDINATING AUTHORITY TO ADVISE ON THE PRIORITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS AND TO DEFINE OUR EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AT THE TECHNICIAN AND CRAFT LEVELS HAD LAGGED BEHIND IN THE PAST, RESULTING IN THESE TWO LEVELS OF WORKFORCE NOT BEING SO WELL TRAINED AS REQUIRED BY THE NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY.

+THIS DEFICIENCY IS BEING CORRECTED NOW, BUT WE MUST NOT RISK THIS HAPPENING AGAIN AND A CO-ORDINATING BODY SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED COULD ENSURE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN,+ HE STRESSED.

DR TIEN, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, NOTED THAT THE MAJOR EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING NOW TAKING PLACE WOULD ENSURE THAT MORE TRAINED AND EDUCATED PERSONS WITH GREATER PRODUCTIVITY ENTER THE WORKFORCE.

+CONSEQUENTLY, OUR INDUSTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO DIVERSIFY MORE READILY TO DEVELOP MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED PRODUCTS AS WELL AS TO RESPOND TO THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS.+

THE ABILITY OF INDUSTRIES TO DO THIS WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BUT TO ENHANCE THEM, HE ADDED.

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IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM TO ENJOY ARTS STRESSED
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THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN TERMS OF THE ARTS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE WAY OF LIFE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT TO ENJOY, THE HON ALEX WU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR WU RECALLED THAT SIR EDWARD YOUDE HAD SPOKEN, IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS RECENTLY, OF THE NEED +TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, WORK AND BRING UP OUR CHILDREN.+

/+WE WILL

+WE WILL ALSO SHARE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE ESSENTIALS OF A FREE SOCIETY AND OUR DEEP DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THEM,+ HE SAID.

MR WU SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG +WILL BENEFIT IN AN ENTIRELY PRACTICAL WAY FROM THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THESE ARTS,+ AND HE THOUGHT THAT +THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THAT.+

+ART IS NOT DIVORCED FROM LIFE AND EXPERIENCE IN THAT WAY: IT IS THE EXPRESSION OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR LIVES AND OUR EXPERIENCES,+ HE SAID.

+WE WANT TO SHOW WHAT SATISFACTIONS OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM PROVIDES AND EVEN MORE WE WANT OTHERS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES IT SATISFYING.

+THE ARTS, IN ALL THEIR FORMS WILL HELP US TO DO THAT, AND WOULD DESERVE OUR SUPPORT FOR THAT REASON ALONE,+ HE ADDED.

MR WU CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING SPONSORED THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH ARTS ADMINISTRATORS AND SAID THAT A FULL REPORT OF THE DELIBERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

COMMENTING ON EDUCATION, MR WU URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF LANGUAGE STANDARDS NOW WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE RESOLUTION OF OTHER PROBLEMS.

+ALL OF US WHO HAVE THIS MATTER AT HEART AND WHO REALISE HOW CRUCIAL LANGUAGE IS TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR INTELLECTUAL AND EVEN OUR ECONOMIC LIFE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A START MADE BEFORE STANDARDS DETERIORATE FURTHER AS THEY WILL CERTAINLY DO.

+MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE GENERAL STANDARD OF ENGLISH IN HONG KONG AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT, BUT THE QUESTION OF CHINESE OUGHT NOT BE FORGOTTEN,+ HE SAID.

+AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE AN INDICATION IN THIS DEBATE OF THE FATE OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION WHICH I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF CHAIRING,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT OUR EFFORTS IN IMPROVING LANGUAGE STANDARDS MUST START WITH THE SCHOOLS, BUT IT MUST NOT END WITH THE SCHOOLS. +THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE SHOULD ALSO BE A TARGET IF WE WISH TO ACHIEVE A MULTIPLYING EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF MEDICAL TRAINING, MR WU NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT OVER THE USE OF HOSPITALS FOR TEACHING.

HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A POINT OF PRINCIPLE AT STAKE WHICH INVOLVED THE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HOSPITALS ADMINISTERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES BUT STAFFED IN PART BY THE UNIVERSITIES.

+THESE PROBLEMS ARISE OUT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES WHICH IS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO THE POPULATION - AND HE HAS DISCHARGED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES MAGNIFICENTLY WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HIM - AND THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITIES WHICH IS TO PROVIDE MORE DOCTORS, TO MEET THE MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES.

+THE DOCTORS WHO STAFF THESE HOSPITALS, WHICHEVER ORGANISATION THEY BELONG TO, ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR PRIVILEGES AND THEIR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET ANY DEMARCATION DISPUTE, AS SEEMS NOW TO EXIST, TO HOLD UP THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THE SECRETARIES FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, AND FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, RECOGNISING THEIR JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES, WOULD GET TOGETHER TO PRODUCE A SOLUTION, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF A SEMINAR ON THE INTERFACE BETWEEN TEACHING AND SERVICE, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

+IF WE DO NOT WANT TO REPRODUCE THE PATTERN OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WHICH SERVES AS A TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, AND I RECOGNISE WE MAY NOT WANT TO DO SO, THEN WE MAY HAVE TO LOOK AT A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF BOTH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MEDICAL FACULTY,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO CONSIDER EDUCATION DIRECTION

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THE HON S.L. CHEN TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTION HONG KONG SHOULD PROCEED WITH ITS SECONDARY EDUCATION.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS HONG KONG HAD MADE RAPID AND CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

+PERHAPS NOW IS THE TIME TO PAUSE TO REFLECT AND TO CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY THE DIRECTION WE SHOULD PROCEED FROM THE PRESENT POSITION, THAT IS TO SAY WHETHER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM IT, OR TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE FORM V GRADUATES JUST FOR THE SAKE OF PRODUCING THEM IN QUANTITY,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO THE 1982 STATISTICS, OF THE FORM V STUDENTS WHO SAT THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, ONLY 36 PER CENT ATTAINED GRADE E IN FIVE SUBJECTS.

THESE RESULTS, HE ADDED, WERE ONLY THE MINIMUM BUT NOT SUFFICIENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO FORM VI OR POLYTECHNIC.

+IN OTHER WORDS, ABOUT 64 PER CENT OF THE FORM V LEAVERS WERE UNFIT FOR CONTINUATION TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

+THE FACT THAT THEY HAD SPENT THE TWO YEARS IN THE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS EDUCATION FOR THE SAKE OF EDUCATION,+ HE SAID.

/HE WONDERED

HE WONDERED IF SOME OF THEM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER SERVED HAD THEY BEEN GUIDED TO TAKE UP VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR A CAREER IN INDUSTRY AS CRAFTSMEN OR TECHNICIANS.

MR CHEN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PARENTS' RELUCTANCE TO LET THEIR CHILDREN TAKE UP VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AFTER COMPLETING FORM III.

+UNFORTUNATELY PARENTS, ESPECIALLY CHINESE PARENTS AND NOT INFREQUENTLY EVEN TEACHERS, HAVE A BIASED CONCEPTION THAT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS A SUB-STANDARD OPTION, FIT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO FAIL TO OBTAIN A PLACE IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THEIR CHILDREN BECOMING TECHNICIANS OR SKILLED CRAFTSMEN,+ MR CHEN REMARKED.

+IT IS TIME THAT PARENTS SHOULD BE EDUCATED AND FACE THE REALITY THAT WE LIVE IN A MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY IN WHICH CRAFTSMEN PLAY AN IMPORTANT AND DOMINANT ROLE,+ HE ADDED.

HE WARNED THAT WITH THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA), THE PRESSURE ON SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES WOULD EVEN BE HIGHER.

+UNLESS WE HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO MEET WITH THE ADDITIONAL SURGE IN DEMAND FOR FURTHER SUBSIDISED PLACES, THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS BOUND TO FURTHER SUFFER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF JSEA, BUT HE ADDED : +NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST BE MINDFUL OF THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS AND REPERCUSSIONS WHICH THE ABOLITION COULD CREATE.+

MR CHEN ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE ENROLMENT IN CRAFT COURSES OPERATED BY THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE INCREASINGLY SMALLER NUMBER OF FORM III LEAVERS TAKING UP CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP.

IN THE CURRENT YEAR, 27 PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE CRAFT CLASSES HAD BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF LACK OF APPLICANTS, AND THE PROPORTION OF STUDENT ENROLMENT IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FOR TECHNICIAN AND CRAFT COURSES WAS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY, HE SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THE TECHNICIAN : CRAFT RATIO FOR FULL-TIME COURSES IS AT PRESENT APPROXIMATELY 3:2. EVEN TAKING ALL MODES OF ATTENDANCE INTO CONSIDERATION, THE RATIO OF TECHNICIAN TO CRAFT IS 2:3.

+THERE IS, THEREFORE, A HUGE BUILT-IN IMBALANCE WHICH WOULD AT THE END OF THE DAY LEAD TO OUR INDUSTRIES HAVING AN INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED CRAFTSMEN BUT FLOODED WITH TECHNICIANS SOME OF WHOM WOULD HAVE TO PERFORM CRAFT LEVEL WORK FOR WHICH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF THE JSEA IS LIKELY TO WORSEN WHAT IS ALREADY A SERIOUS SITUATION IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. AS THE POOL OF FORM III LEAVERS, OTHER THAN THE FEW FROM PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, FOR CRAFT COURSES WOULD BE COMPLETELY DRAINED, THE VERY SURVIVAL OF THE CRAFT COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP WOULD BE DANGEROUSLY THREATENED.

/+THIS WOULD

+THIS WOULD BE A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE SITUATION AND SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, INDUSTRY WOULD BE DEPLETED OF SKILLED CRAFTSMEN,+ MR CHEN WARNED.

ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR CHEN SAID THAT IT WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE TERRITORY'S INDUSTRY MUST CONTINUE TO INVEST IN MODERN PLANT AND MACHINERY TO KEEP ABREAST WITH ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND UPGRADE PRODUCTS.

HE SAID, +TO DO THIS, INDUSTRY NEEDS CONFIDENCE, FAITH IN ITSELF AND FAITH IN THE FUTURE.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONTINUATION OF MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES BY THE MAJOR PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES AND THE RECENT OVER-SUBSCRIPTION OF THE \$2-BILLION LOAN FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION BY AN INTERNATIONAL SYNDICATE OF BANKS WERE INDICATIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

+THESE MAJOR INVESTMENT DECISIONS, WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIAL EVEN BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, SHOULD INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY OUR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, ON WHOSE PERFORMANCE MUCH OF OUR FUTURE SURVIVAL DEPENDS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS REASSURING TO HEAR THAT GOVERNMENT, TOO, HAD NOT BEEN DISTRACTED FROM ITS SUSTAINED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE COULD COMPETE EFFICIENTLY IN THE MARKET PLACES OF THE WORLD.

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PRIORITY URGED FOR EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

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THE HON PETER C. WONG TODAY WELCOMED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO HONG KONG'S SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WONG SAID, +HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES ARE ITS PEOPLE AND IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT NOT TO ACCORD THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ITS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM.+

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD WASTE NO TIME IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH RECEIVES POPULAR SUPPORT.

+ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I AM PLEASED THAT THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED THAT A THIRD UNIVERSITY BE ESTABLISHED WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STUDIES.

+AS A STAUNCH ADVOCATE FOR A THIRD UNIVERSITY, I WOULD MAKE A FURTHER PLEA FOR THE MANY DISAPPOINTED STUDENTS WHO ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF PLACES.

/+A DECISION

+A DECISION ON WHETHER PLANNING FOR A THIRD UNIVERSITY SHOULD PROCEED IS EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

+EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC WILL BE DELIGHTED IF THE DECISION IS IN FAVOUR OF EARLY ACTION,+ MR WONG SAID.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, MR WONG SAID THAT THERE WERE MERITS IN THE PROPOSAL FOR A CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS INSURANCE SCHEME AND DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED WAGE SECURITY FUND AS +SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE TO OPERATE+.

HE ADDED, +IN CONSIDERING FURTHER BENEFITS AND PROTECTION FOR OUR WORK FORCE, GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT ANY INCREASE WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR PRODUCT AND THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.+

TURNING TO HOUSING, HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO REHOUSE ABOUT HALF OF THE SOME 100 000 FAMILIES LIVING IN TEMPORARY HUTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND THE PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE SAFETY, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

IN VIEW OF THE RISING CRIME RATE, MR WONG SAID THAT THERE WAS A STRONG CASE FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE POLICE FORCE, ESPECIALLY IN CRIME PREVENTION AND DETECTION.

ON THE IMPRISONMENT OF CIVIL DEBTORS, HE REITERATED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE COMMITTED TO PRISON.

+IN SHORT, APART FROM THE GLARING INJUSTICE, CRIMINAL SANCTION SHOULD HAVE NO PLACE IN THE CIVIL JURISDICTION OF OUR COURTS,+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE MATTER HAD ATTRACTED ATTENTION EVEN AS FAR AWAY AS CANADA, AND THANKED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS PREDECESSOR FOR THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST AND ATTENTION.

+I AM SURE THE FINAL OUTCOME WILL DO JUSTICE TO OUR IMAGE AND OUR SYSTEM OF LAW,+ HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, MR WONG SAID THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.

+AND THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO THE TWO HIGHEST COUNCILS HAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE. CERTAINLY, ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION,+ MR WONG SAID.

ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID THAT THE TERRITORY'S PROSPERITY OWED MUCH TO A SOUND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, AN EQUITABLE LEGAL SYSTEM AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY THAT THESE BE PRESERVED, HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1983

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LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN WELCOMED

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GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE WAS WELCOMED TODAY BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE DESCRIBED THIS STRATEGY AS +UNINHIBITED BY HISTORIC FACTS, UNAFFECTED BY FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND UNFETTERED BY THE UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OUR FUTURE.+

+INSTEAD GOVERNMENT IS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE FULL UTILISATION OF HONG KONG'S UNIQUE GEO-ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE AND SKILLED MANAGEMENT AND WORK FORCE SO AS TO CREATE ANOTHER ECONOMIC MIRACLE TO THE CREDIT OF BRITAIN, CHINA AND HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE LONG-TERM HONG KONG'S STRATEGY HAS ON THE ONE HAND AIMED AT IMPROVING BOTH THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATION AND ON THE OTHER HAND AT CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ECONOMY,+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT DESPITE ECONOMIC RECESSION, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORK WOULD BE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

+IT IS HEARTENING TO LEARN THAT FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE AFOOT TO TRAVERSE THE NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON WITH HIGHWAYS BY TUNNELLING THROUGH MOUNTAINS PASSING THROUGH TAI PO AND MA ON SHAN.

+HOWEVER, ONE REGRET IS THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY NETWORK TO LINK THE WEST PART OF NT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED,+ HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANNED TO EXPAND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY BUILDING BY IMPROVING THE MEDICAL SERVICES, LABOUR WELFARE AND SERVICES TO WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE AGED SO AS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

ON THE HOUSING FRONT, HE SAID, +THE PRESENT SUCCESS AND THE FUTURE OBJECTIVES OF OUR PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME ARE ACHIEVEMENTS WE CAN BE PROUD OF.+

MR YEUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND THE HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING IN HONG KONG HAD CREATED MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID, +AS THE GENERAL STANDARD OF EDUCATION IMPROVES AND THE AWARENESS OF SOCIAL VALUES BY THE COMMUNITY INCREASES, THE PERSONAL IDEALS AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY WILL CORRESPONDINGLY RISE.

+IN ORDER TO REALISE THESE PERSONAL IDEALS AND TO SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE NEW GENERATION WILL SHOW A KEEN INTEREST IN THEIR PERSONAL RIGHTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT WITH A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY BUILDING.

+THUS IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BECOME THE LARGEST ADVISORY BODY OF OPINION IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM WITHIN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME.+

/HE ADDED,

HE ADDED, +THE GENERATION BORN AND BRED HERE WERE BORN WITH FREEDOM AND INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHT TO THEM THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THOUGHT IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE EXISTENCE OF AIR AROUND THEM AND AS IMPORTANT TO LIFE AS BREATHING THAT AIR.+

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG THEIR EXPRESSION OF ASPIRATION SHOULD BE VALUED, MR YEUNG STRESSED.

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'OCCASIONAL STATEMENTS' ON TALKS CALLED FOR

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DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI TODAY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER MAKING BRIEF OCCASIONALLY ABOUT THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG TO RECTIFY MISGUIDED PRESS REPORTS AND SPECULATION.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID, +I AM AWARE OF COURSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO BREACH THE CONFIDENTIALITY RULE OF THE NEGOTIATION NOR ENGAGE IN A COLD WAR OF WORDS, BUT EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT POSITIVE STATEMENTS FROM THE OFFICIAL SIDES OF THE TALKS, LIKE THE ONE WE HEARD AT THE END OF THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS IN BEIJING, COULD CLEAR A LOT OF PESSIMISM.+

HE SAID THAT IT WAS COMFORTING TO KNOW LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, AIMED AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG INTO THE 1990'S AND THE NEXT CENTURY, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE FORMULATED.

+AS I SEE IT, THE CONTINUATION OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IS THE MOST CONVINCING SHOW OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL ON DEVELOPING OTHER FORMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRADITIONAL, FULL-TIME DAY STUDIES, HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BENEFIT THOSE STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

+WE MUST NOT FORGET, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A VAST POOL OF TALENTED PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE MISSED THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION BUT WHO ARE DESIROUS AND INTELLECTUALLY QUALIFIED TO DO SO AT A LATER STAGE OF THEIR LIVES.

+THESE MATURE LEARNERS NEED AN UNCONVENTIONAL FORM OF EDUCATION AT FIRST-DEGREE LEVEL, RUN ON FLEXIBLE TIMETABLING AND MODES OF INSTRUCTION,+ HE SAID.

+SOME MAY NEED MORE SPECIALISED TRAINING TO ENHANCE THEIR PRESENT CAREER, OTHERS MAY WANT TO CHANGE TO A NEW CAREER AND THEREFORE SEEK WAYS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR IT, STILL OTHERS MAY WISH TO EXPAND THEIR MENTAL HORIZONS AND INTELLECTUAL POTENTIALS BY ENGAGING THEMSELVES IN A SYSTEMATIC, STRUCTURED, AND DEGREE-CONFERRING SCHEME OF STUDIES AT THEIR LEISURE TIME,+ HE SAID.

+REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS FOR WHICH THIS FORM OF PART-TIME FIRST-DEGREE LEVEL EDUCATION IS REQUIRED, ITS PROVISION WILL REAP CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIVIDENDS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

/-THIS IS

+THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR HONG KONG, WHICH MUST CONSTANTLY HARNESS ITS HUMAN RESOURCES INTO MAINTAINING ITS COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THIS WORLD OF EVER-ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY,+ HE STRESSED.

DR HO SAID THAT THE THREE MOST COMMON MODELS OF THIS SECOND-CHANCE, UNDERGRADUATE-LEVEL EDUCATION WERE THE PART-TIME EVENING COURSES, THE EXTERNAL DEGREE MODEL AND THE OPEN UNIVERSITY MODEL.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PROVISION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR MATURE LEARNERS WAS FEASIBLE AND NECESSARY.

+I THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT A WORKING PARTY BE FORMED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS WORTHWHILE PROPOSAL,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE EX-MENTALLY ILL, DR HO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ACTUAL PROVISION OF PLACES IN HALF-WAY HOUSES AND THE STAFFING OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, ONLY TWO HALF-WAY HOUSES, EACH WITH A CAPACITY OF 40 PLACES, HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR 1984-85.

DR HO ADDED THAT HE THUS SUSPECTED THE PLANNED PROVISION OF 150 PLACES EACH YEAR COULD NOT BE REALISED UNLESS CONSIDERABLY MORE RESOURCES WERE TO BE ALLOCATED.

+A SIGNIFICANT SPIN-OFF EFFECT OF HALF-WAY HOUSE PROVISION IS THE RELIEF IT WILL BRING TO THE DEMAND ON HOSPITAL BEDS, WHICH ARE VERY COSTLY TO MAINTAIN.

+FURTHERMORE, AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF HALF-WAY HOUSE PLACES WILL SPEED UP THE DISCHARGE RATE FROM PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, THUS MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO START THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL REHABILITATION EARLIER FOR MENTAL PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR STAFFING, DR HO SAID, +A REVIEW OF THE STAFF STANDARDS IS IMMINENT, IF THE HALF-WAY HOUSES ARE TO TAKE IN EX-MENTAL PATIENTS WITH A DISPOSITION TO VIOLENCE AND TO PERFORM THE ENLIGHTENED FUNCTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP.+

THE PRESENT STAFF ESTABLISHMENT FOR A HALF-WAY HOUSE WITH A STANDARD CAPACITY OF 40 PLACES IS ONE SENIOR SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT, THREE WELFARE WORKERS WHO WORK ON SHIFTS AND ONE WORKMAN.

ALMOST ALL THE HALF-WAY HOUSES EXERCISE VERY RESTRICTIVE ADMISSION CRITERIA IN THAT THEY DO NOT ADMIT RESIDENTS WITH A HISTORY OF CRIMINAL RECORD OR VIOLENCE OR SERIOUS ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.

DR HO SAID, +GIVEN THE CURRENT INADEQUATE STAFFING POSITION, THIS CONSERVATIVE ADMISSION POLICY IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ANY RELAXATION OF ADMISSION GUIDELINES MUST THEREFORE BE PRECEDED BY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THAT AREA, BOTH IN QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE TERMS.+

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1983

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PEOPLE TOLD NOT TO SPECULATE ON TALKS

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WE SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AT THIS POINT IN TIME BUT SHOULD GET ON WITH OUR WORK, THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+AS THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING IN SEARCH OF A SOLUTION WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT, TO CHINA AND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE THE COMMON AIM OF CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, IT IS MY OPINION THAT WE SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE OUTCOME AT THIS POINT IN TIME AND WE SHOULD SIMPLY GET ON WITH OUR WORK,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE MAIN INGREDIENTS CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S PAST SUCCESS WERE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO LISTEN TO PUBLIC OPINION.

MR LEE OUTLINED WHAT THE GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS, COMPRISING HIMSELF, HON STEPHEN CHEONG, HON MRS SELINA CHOW AND PROFESSIONALS OF VARIOUS DISCIPLINES HAD DONE IN PREPARING THEIR PRESENTATION PAPER ON OUR FUTURE FOR THE BEIJING VISIT.

HE ALSO MENTIONED THE GROUP HAD MET MR RICHARD LUCE IN HONG KONG AND EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION TO HIM. +WE FEEL WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES TO BE TRUE TO OURSELVES AND WE WANT TO BE AT EASE WITH OUR OWN CONSCIENCE THAT WE DID OUR BIT FOR HONG KONG WHEN THE OCCASION ARISES.

+MOST OF ALL, WE WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, NO MATTER HOW INSIGNIFICANT, TOWARDS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY,+ HE SAID.

HE FELT GREAT PRIDE IN PARTICIPATING IN A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND TO BE ABLE +TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER SMALL, TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF THIS PLACE,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID THAT LIKE THE 2 000 OR SO OTHER PEOPLE SERVING ON VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, THEY MUST ALL FEEL THAT THEIR SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN GOVERNMENT FORMULATES POLICIES.

HE SAID THAT HE WAS +AS MUCH A CRITIC AS ANYONE ON QUITE A NUMBER OF ISSUES+.

+RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, MY VIEWS WILL BE HEARD BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS IS TRUE FOR ALL CITIZENS OF HONG KONG.

+THE OUTSPOKENNESS OF OUR PEOPLE IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF OUR SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES ON THE NEWS-STANDS,+ ONE COULD EASILY SAY THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE FREEST PLACES IN THE WORLD,+ MR LEE SAID.

/+OUR PEOPLE

+OUR PEOPLE TAKE THIS FREEDOM FOR GRANTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE IT. AS LONG AS THEY ABIDE BY THE LAW, THEY ARE FREE TO EXPRESS WHATEVER OPINION THEY HAVE.

+WE HAVE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WHICH PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL. WE ARE FREE FROM ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT DECISIONS. +DO WE CHERISH THIS SYSTEM? I CAN ANSWER YES,+ MR LEE SAID.

MR LEE ALSO SAID: +WE WERE GLAD TO SEE THE START OF SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN JULY AND WE ARE EQUALLY GLAD TO SEE THE RECENT MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN STABILISING THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.+

+AFTER ALL THE STRENGTH OF OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE WEAKNESS IN OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR LEE STRESSED THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY TO CONTINUE TO DIVERSIFY AND TO ACQUIRE HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

MR LEE ALSO SAID THAT THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PRODUCTIVITY TO STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS. HE ALSO FELT THAT INDUSTRY MUST MOVE TOWARDS AUTOMATION.

+WE WILL PUT THE SUGGESTION FORWARD TO GOVERNMENT SHORTLY OF ESTABLISHING AN AUTOMATION UNIT WITHIN THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE SAID ALSO THAT THERE WAS NEED FOR AN EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG, WHICH DID NOT HAVE TO BE A COMPLEX WITH HOTEL AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

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GOVERNMENT PRAISED FOR MONETARY ACTION

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THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED MONETARY PACKAGE TO SALVAGE THE DOLLAR COULD BE SEEN AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S CURRENCY, ECONOMY AND FUTURE, THE HON ANDREW SO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PACKAGE ALSO SHOWED THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE'S DETERMINATION +TO MATCH WORDS WITH DEEDS,+ AND RECEIVED WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT, MR SO SAID.

WHILE NON-INTERVENTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF THE VIGOUR AND RESILIENCE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, GALLOPING INFLATION AND PRICE RISES WITH THEIR VICIOUS CIRCLE WOULD MAKE IT IMPERATIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE, HE SAID.

/CITING THE

CITING THE MONETARY PACKAGE AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF SUCH INTERVENTION, MR SO POINTED OUT THAT +BESIDES GIVING THE FLAGGING HONG KONG DOLLAR A SHOT IN THE ARM, IT HAS SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING PRICES DOWN.+

+IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT BOTH THE COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC WOULD RESPOND TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SHOW OF FAITH IN OUR DOLLAR, OUR ECONOMY AND THE STRUCTURE OF OUR SOCIETY BY LOWERING COMMODITY PRICES AND REFRAINING FROM EXCESSIVE SPECULATION.

+FURTHERMORE, AS THERE IS A UNITED CALL FROM THE PUBLIC FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO STOP UTILITY CHARGE INCREASES AND PRICE RISES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD AND SET AN EXAMPLE BY NOT ONLY REDUCING COSTS AND IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BUT ALSO TEMPORARILY FREEZING ALL CHARGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR,+ MR SO SAID.

HE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO REPORT CASES OF HOARDING AND SPECULATION AS WELL AS STAGGERING PRICE INCREASES TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL OR IN THE READERS' COLUMNS IN NEWSPAPERS.

+THIS CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO CHECK PRICE ESCALATION. IT CAN ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS ARE GOVERNED BY THE CONCERN AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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HU CALLS FOR FRESH LOOK AT HOUSING POLICY

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A FRESH LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN AT LONG-TERM PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY IN ALL RESPECTS, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A REALISTIC RATIO BETWEEN RENTAL HOUSING AND HOME OWNERSHIP, THE HON F.K. HU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THIS RATIO SHOULD BE UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW WITH THE EMPHASIS ON MAKING AVAILABLE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES TO THOSE WHO REQUIRE THEM AND AT THE SAME TIME ARE ABLE TO AFFORD THEM,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OVER TIME PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO TWO-MEMBER FAMILIES, GROUPS OF SINGLETONS AND EVENTUALLY SINGLE PERSONS INDIVIDUALLY.

+FOR OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME TO SUCCEED, WE SHOULD EVENTUALLY REDUCE THE ELEMENT OF SUBSIDY FROM PUBLIC FUNDS AND GENERATE SUFFICIENT SURPLUS TO FINANCE FUTURE RE-DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES IN ALL CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT SUBJECT TO REVIEW OF LONG-TERM HOUSING POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE AN INDICATION ON WHAT LONG-TERM PLANS IT HAD TOWARDS THE TOTAL RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMAINING MARK I AND II ESTATES, AND ON THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS THAT WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR OTHER OLD ESTATES.

/+AT THE

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, TRANSIT CENTRES, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND SQUATTER AREAS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXIST ONLY AS INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS.

+SUCH PROVISIONS SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE ACCEPTED AS TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS AND WE CANNOT EXPECT LIVING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS TO BE COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

+THE OVERALL POLICY REMAINS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJORITY WHILE ENDEAVOUR TO HELP IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WITHIN REASON SHOULD BE OFFERED WITH FLEXIBILITY,+ HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON SOCIAL WELFARE, MR HU SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE PRIVATE AND PROFIT-MAKING HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS IN TERMS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE, SAFETY, MEALS AND SUPERVISION.

+EVENTUALLY THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE PRIVATELY RUN HOMES TO REGISTER ALONG THE LINES OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE.

+THIS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION TO THOSE IN CARE AND NOT TO DISCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF THESE PRIVATE AND PROFIT-MAKING HOMES FOR WHICH THERE IS DEFINITELY A NEED+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR HU ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE SCALES OF THE VARIOUS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS WHICH WERE LAST REVISED 16 MONTHS AGO.

REFERRING TO A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A COMPULSORY CONTRIBUTORY CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME, MR HU SAID HE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RE-CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A SCHEME IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

+THE SCHEME TO BE FUNDED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS AND MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCIES AND IN THE PURCHASE OF HOMES IN THE FORM OF LOANS.

+OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE IMPROVED BENEFITS AND BETTER PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES TO ENSURE DEDICATION TO WORK, WITHOUT NECESSARILY GOVERNMENT STEPPING IN TO HELP OUT WHENEVER EMPLOYERS ARE IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.+ HE SAID.

ON THE PRESENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM, MR HU WELCOMED THE SUGGESTION TO EXAMINE AND REVIEW THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE ADVICE OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

HE SAID, +CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES STILL HAVE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING BETTER RESULTS IN THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING FUTURE PLANS.+

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE AREA OF RECREATION AND CULTURE THERE WAS STILL SOME DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND PROVISION SO THAT SOME CO-ORDINATION AND STREAMLINING WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR HU SAID, +WE HAVE BEEN RE-ASSURED OVER AND OVER AGAIN BY BOTH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

+TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM HONG KONG MUST DO ITS OWN PART BY GETTING ON WITH THE JOB IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD MARKET AND TO ASSIST CHINA IN HER MODERNISATION PROGRAMME.+

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PROBLEMS OF SMALL CREDITORS RAISED

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THE HON WONG PO-YAN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO CREDIT FACILITIES EXISTING BETWEEN TRADERS THEMSELVES AND THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK REGULATING THEM.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR WONG WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO IMPROVE THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF HONG KONG BUT SAID THAT THESE EFFORTS WERE DIRECTLY EFFECTIVE ON CERTAIN SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES ONLY.

+CREDIT FACILITIES AMONG MEDIUM AND SMALL TRADERS AND MANUFACTURING UNDERTAKINGS FORM AN INTERGRAL PART OF OUR DAILY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND ARE SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

+THEY INCLUDE CREDIT IN VARIOUS FORMS OF PAYMENT TERMS IN COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, AND ARE ESTABLISHED PRACTICES BETWEEN IMPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND RETAILERS, AND VENDORS OF RAW MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURERS.

+IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE ESTABLISHMENT PAYMENT TERMS OR CREDIT FACILITIES ARE USUALLY NOT SECURED AND ARE WITHOUT COVERAGE OF COLLATERAL SECURITY - AS DISTINCT FROM THE PRACTICE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.+

THESE CREDITORS WERE THEREFORE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO MALPRACTICE AND DEFAULT, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 115 BANKRUPTCY CASES AND 239 CASES OF COMPULSORY LIQUIDATION IN 1982-83 WERE THE HIGHEST RECORDED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS AND BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE MANY MORE UNREVEALED CASES THAT HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO THE HANDS OF THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

/+IN THESE

+IN THESE CASES OF BUSINESS FAILURES, THE ULTIMATE BURDEN FALLS ON INVESTORS AND CREDITORS,+ HE SAID.

+IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN. HOWEVER, THAT THESE SMALL PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE VITAL LINKS IN OUR ECONOMY, ACCOUNTING FOR A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.

+THIS TYPE OF TRADING CREDIT IS VITAL FOR THEIR OPERATION AND THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF OUR DAY-TO-DAY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

+THE AMOUNT AND VOLUME EXTENDED TO THESE SMALL PRIVATE COMPANIES, TAKEN IN AGGREGATION, MUST BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL.

+THE DANGER OF A CREDIT CONTRACTION AND THE RESULTANT CHAIN EFFECT ON THESE SMALL COMPANIES AND THE PACE OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT EXISTING LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK PROVIDED UNDER THE WINDING UP RULES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE WAS +BY AND LARGE+ COMPREHENSIVE AND, MOSTLY SENSIBLE.

+WHAT I SUGGEST IS THAT, PERHAPS THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION COULD LOOK INTO THE AREA WHEN IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.+

MR WONG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF INCREASES IN THE COST OF ENERGY, INCLUDING POWER AND FUEL.

MR WONG SAID THAT AS HONG KONG IS CONSTANTLY IN WORLD FOCUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AN ACCURATE IMAGE OF HONG KONG IS PROJECTED ABROAD.

THEREFORE THE PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS OF HONG KONG'S +VARIOUS OFFICIAL AND QUASI-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN MAJOR CITIES ABROAD SHOULD BE ALLOTTED HIGHER PRIORITY. THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ASSUME +AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FOSTERING A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO BETTER COMMUNICATION AND CLOSER CO-OPERATION IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL MATTERS,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT LOOKING AHEAD FOR MANY YEARS TO COME IN FORMULATING LONG TERM PLANNING STRATEGY.

+WHILE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THIS TERRITORY OVER A PERIOD MUCH LONGER THAN WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT EVERY DAY, I EXPECT THAT EVERY ONE IN HONG KONG WOULD REAFFIRM HIS OWN CONFIDENCE AND WORK HARD FOR OUR BRIGHT FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MACAU GOVERNOR VISITS HONG KONG

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THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU, REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND HAD LUNCH WITH HIM IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

REAR ADMIRAL ALMEIDA E COSTA'S VISIT IS PART OF THE REGULAR EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE GOVERNORS OF THE TWO TERRITORIES ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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TRADE FIGURES SHOW BIG EXPORT RISE

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$9 665 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER 1983, WERE 34 PER CENT OR \$2 447 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RE-EXPORTS, AT \$5 068 MILLION, ALSO INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 36 PER CENT OR \$1 346 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+THUS, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 35 PER CENT OR \$3 793 MILLION TO REACH \$14 733 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$15 494 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 31 PER CENT OR \$3 668 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR WAS \$761 MILLION.

THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY TO FIVE PER CENT FROM SEVEN PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PUTTING LAST MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1983 WAS 20 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WHICH MAKE UP TOTAL EXPORTS, INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT. AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS 17 PER CENT, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR NARROWED CONSIDERABLY TO NINE PER CENT, FROM 11 PER CENT IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1982.

COMMENTING ON THESE LATEST COMPARATIVE VALUES OF EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE INCREASES IN REAL TERMS (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE INCREASES) WOULD ALSO BE SUBSTANTIAL.

+THESE FIGURES POINT TO A CONTINUATION OF THE EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY,+ HE SAID.

A TABLE GIVING THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1983 IS ATTACHED.

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TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1983

The Census and Statistics Department has released the following provisional merchandise trade figures for September:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u> 本港製成品出口 Domestic Exports	:	\$ 9,665 million (百萬元)
轉口貨品 Re-exports	:	\$ 5,068 million (百萬元)
全部出口貨品 Total Exports	:	\$ 14,733 million (百萬元)
入口貨品 Imports	:	\$ 15,494 million (百萬元)
貿易差額 Trade balance	:	\$ 761 million (in deficit) (百萬元) (逆差)

比較數字
COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>最近三個月</u> <u>Latest 3 months</u>	<u>一九八三年七月至九月</u> <u>July-September</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>一九八二年七月至九月</u> <u>July-September</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>增或減</u> <u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	\$ Mn. (百萬元計)	\$ Mn. (百萬元計)	\$ Mn. (百萬元計)	(百分比)
Domestic Exports 本港製成品出口	29,483	22,597	+ 6,886	+ 30.5
Re-exports 轉口貨品	14,641	10,898	+ 3,743	+ 34.3
Total Exports 全部出口貨品	44,124	33,495	+ 10,629	+ 31.7
Imports 入口貨品	45,795	35,720	+ 10,075	+ 28.2
Trade balance 貿易差額	- 1,671	- 2,225	+ 554	

<u>去年同月份</u> <u>Same month last year</u>	<u>一九八三年九月</u> <u>September</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>一九八二年九月</u> <u>September</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>增或減</u> <u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports 本港製成品出口 (% of Total Exports)	9,665 (65.6%)	7,218 (66.0%)	+ 2,447	+ 33.9
Re-exports 轉口貨品 (佔總出口百分比)	5,068	3,722	+ 1,346	+ 36.2
Total Exports 全部出口貨品	14,733	10,940	+ 3,793	+ 34.7
Imports 入口貨品	15,494	11,826	+ 3,668	+ 31.0
Trade balance 貿易差額	- 761	- 886	+ 125	

<u>上月</u> <u>Last month</u>	<u>一九八三年九月</u> <u>September</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>一九八三年八月</u> <u>August</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>增或減</u> <u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports 本港製成品出口 (% of Total Exports)	9,665 (65.6%)	9,966 (67.2%)	- 301	- 3.0
Re-exports 轉口貨品 (佔總出口百分比)	5,068	4,856	+ 212	+ 4.4
Total Exports 全部出口貨品	14,733	14,822	- 89	- 0.6
Imports 入口貨品	15,494	15,119	+ 375	+ 2.5
Trade balance 貿易差額	- 761	- 297	- 464	

<u>本年首九個月</u> <u>Calendar year to-date</u>	<u>一九八三年一月至九月</u> <u>Jan.-September</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>一九八二年一月至九月</u> <u>Jan.-September</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>增或減</u> <u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports 本港製成品出口 (% of Total Exports)	72,644 (65.3%)	60,424 (65.2%)	+ 12,220	+ 20.2
Re-exports 轉口貨品 (佔總出口百分比)	38,616	32,314	+ 6,302	+ 19.5
Total Exports 全部出口貨品	111,260	92,738	+ 18,522	+ 20.0
Imports 入口貨品	121,871	104,437	+ 17,434	+ 16.7
Trade balance 貿易差額	- 10,611	- 11,699	+ 1,088	

<u>過去十二個月</u> <u>Last 12 months</u>	<u>八二年十月至八三年九月</u> <u>October 1982</u> <u>to</u> <u>September 1983</u>	<u>八一年十月至八二年九月</u> <u>October 1981</u> <u>to</u> <u>September 1982</u>	<u>增或減</u> <u>Increase or decrease</u>	
	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports 本港製成品出口	95,252	82,758	+ 12,494	+ 15.1
Re-exports 轉口貨品	50,655	43,841	+ 6,814	+ 15.5
Total Exports 全部出口貨品	145,907	126,599	+ 19,308	+ 15.3
Imports 入口貨品	160,326	141,954	+ 18,372	+ 12.9
Trade balance 貿易差額	- 14,419	- 15,355	+ 936	

MOTHER OF TRIPLETS MEETS LADY YOUDE

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THE PROUD MOTHER OF RECENTLY BORN TRIPLETS RECEIVED A VIP VISITOR TODAY AT THEIR NEW HOME IN THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY'S CHO YIU CHUEN IN KWAI CHUNG.

MRS LEUNG LEE SAU-CHUN, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO TWO GIRLS AND A BOY ON SEPTEMBER 12, PLAYED HOST TO LADY YOUDE WHEN SHE VISITED THE ESTATE THIS AFTERNOON TO SEE SOME OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HOUSING SOCIETY.

LADY YOUDE WAS TOLD THAT MR AND MRS LEUNG, WHO ALSO HAVE A TWO-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, WERE FACED WITH ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS AFTER THE TRIPLETS WERE BORN.

THE CASE CAME TO THE NOTICE OF THE HOUSING SOCIETY AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE FAMILY SHOULD BE TREATED AS A SPECIAL CASE.

SINCE MRS LEUNG'S PARENTS ARE ALREADY LIVING IN CHO YIU CHUEN, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A FLAT IN THE SAME BLOCK, WHICH BECAME VACANT AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THEM.

THE LEUNG FAMILY MOVED INTO THEIR NEW HOME EARLIER THIS MONTH.

DURING HER VISIT THIS AFTERNOON, LADY YOUDE ALSO MET A NUMBER OF OTHER TENANTS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE 200 SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSED IN 130 FLATS IN THE ESTATE.

THESE SELF-CONTAINED FLATS ARE OCCUPIED BY ONE OR TWO ELDERLY PERSONS AND COMMUNAL LOUNGES ARE PROVIDED IN THE COMPLEXES. A WARDEN LOOKS AFTER THEIR INTERESTS AND ORGANISES ACTIVITIES FOR THEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT STAFF.

LADY YOUDE LATER TOOK A LOOK AT THE SWIMMING POOL AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE 16 000 TENANTS OF THE ESTATE.

LADY YOUDE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HER VISIT BY MISS SHEILA SERSALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY, MRS MABEL HO, CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER, MRS P.L. LAM, HOUSING MANAGER OF CHO YIU CHUEN, AND MISS JANET WONG, ASSISTANT HOUSING MANAGER OF CHO YIU CHUEN.

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VALUE OF CAREERS GUIDANCE STRESSED

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TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE AS MUCH ADVICE AND EXHORTATION AS THEY DO IN THE CHOICE OF CAREERS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CAREERS EXHIBITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE'S APPOINTMENT SERVICE AT THE COLLEGE'S CAMPUS, MR HAYE RECALLED THAT IN HIS DAY, THERE WAS NO CAREERS GUIDANCE.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: +WE WERE CREATURES OF CIRCUMSTANCE. IF THERE WAS A WAR ON WE AUTOMATICALLY WENT INTO THE FORCES. IF THERE WAS NOT, WE LOOKED AROUND TO SEE WHAT CONNECTIONS WE HAD IN BUSINESS OR THE PROFESSIONS.

+WE WERE VERY LUCKY IF OUR PARENTS WERE ABLE TO AFFORD POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OF SOME KIND OR ANOTHER WHICH OPENED UP FURTHER AVENUES.+

MR HAYE SAID ALL OF THAT SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED TODAY. +YOUR TEACHERS ARE VERY MUCH MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREERS GUIDANCE, AND EXHIBITIONS LIKE THIS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND.+

THE DIRECTOR SAID STUDENTS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE WOULD SEE FROM TODAY'S EXHIBITION SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

+THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER IN TOWN AND GRADUATES OF BAPTIST WOULD DO WELL TO ENQUIRE CLOSELY AT THE VARIOUS ATTRACTIVE STANDS IN THIS HALL, WHERE OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WILL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.+

MR HAYE ALSO INVITED BAPTIST STUDENTS TO CONSIDER TEACHING AS A CAREER.

+IN FACT, LAST YEAR ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE GRADUATES DID JUST THIS, GOING INTO OUR AIDED AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS PERMITTED TEACHERS, THERE TO DISCOVER WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISHED TO REMAIN IN THE PROFESSION.+

WHEN THE BAPTIST COLLEGE PRODUCES GRADUATES WITH RECOGNISED UNIVERSITY DEGREES THE FRONT DOOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE OPEN TO THEM.

+I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY,+ HE SAID.

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HOLDING ELECTION

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THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WILL TAKE PLACE BY SECRET BALLOT ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 28) AT 10.30 AM IN QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL, KOWLOON.

THE BOARD IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON MATTERS REFERRED TO IT BY HIM, INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. IT COMPRISES SIX EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE COMMISSIONER AS CHAIRMAN.

OF THE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, THREE ARE ELECTED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND THE OTHER THREE ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SIX CANDIDATES HAD BEEN NOMINATED FOR ELECTION AND THEIR NAMES HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS FOR CONSIDERATION.

+A REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNION WISHING TO VOTE SHOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, WHO IS EITHER AN OFFICE-BEARER, PAID STAFF OR PAID-UP MEMBER, TO THE ELECTION. THE REPRESENTATIVE MUST BRING A LETTER OF AUTHORISATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HIS UNION AND A COPY OF THE CIRCULAR LETTER DATED OCTOBER 7, 1983 FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT, + THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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DB MEMBERS VISIT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD SPENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING LOOKING AT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WERE LED BY THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER AND BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR ADOLF HSU, AND ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE PROJECT MANAGER (TSUEN WAN), MR NG TECK-SHENG; THE DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER, MR LO CHAI-WAN; AND THE CHIEF ARCHITECT, MR THOMAS KU.

THEY FIRST VISITED A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX PROJECT NEXT TO SHEK YAM ESTATE AT WO YI HOP ROAD WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON ITS PROGRESS BY STAFF OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE \$26-MILLION COMPLEX, WHEN COMPLETED NEXT YEAR, WOULD HAVE A MAIN POOL MEASURING 50 METRES BY 25 METRES, A TEACHING AND TRAINING POOL, A DIVING POOL AND A PADDLING POOL.

THEY NEXT PROCEEDED TO THE MARKET AND LIBRARY COMPLEX BEING BUILT BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT NEAR THE JUNCTION OF SHEK YAM ROAD AND TUNG CHI STREET.

THE \$12-MILLION FOUR STOREY COMPLEX, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION NEXT YEAR, WILL HAVE 225 STALLS FOR THE RETAILING OF MEAT, FISH, POULTRY, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND SUNDRY GOODS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A LIBRARY, A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND A REST GARDEN ON THE ROOFTOP.

THE PARTY THEN VISITED A PRIMARY SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE PODIUM OF THE TSUEN WAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY DEPOT. THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS TOGETHER WITH OTHER TEACHING FACILITIES AND A PLAY AREA.

THE MEMBERS ENDED THEIR TOUR WITH A VISIT TO AN OPEN SPACE AT TSUEN KING CIRCUIT.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE SPACE WILL INCLUDE FOUR TENNIS COURTS, A MODEL BOAT POND WITH A CASCADE FOUNTAIN, A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND A REST GARDEN.

THE OPEN SPACE, WHICH WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS WILL HELP MAKE UP FOR THE SHORTAGE OF SUCH FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

BOARD TO REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE NEED TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT WHERE MORE THAN ONE-FIFTH OF THE POPULATION ARE OVER THE AGE OF 50.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS CONSTITUENCIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE RESITING OF THE DISTRICT'S COOKED FOOD STALLS TO A MULTI-STOREY COMPLEX, A REVIEW OF THE 'MEET THE PUBLIC' SCHEME, AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 4 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF WILLIE BUILDING, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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N.T. STUDENTS GIVING CONCERT
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THE ANNUAL NEW TERRITORIES STUDENT CONCERT WILL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF ST SIMON'S LUI MING CHOI SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN TUEN MUN ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 29), STARTING AT 3 PM.

MR TANG TUNG-CHIU, CHAIRMAN OF THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE TUEN MUN ARTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FUNCTION.

THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MR CLIVE OXLEY, AND MEMBERS OF THE CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL ALSO ATTEND.

THE CONCERT WILL PROVIDE TRAINEES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WITH THE CHANCE OF PERFORMING IN PUBLIC AND THE AUDIENCE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE GENERAL STANDARD OF THE TRAINEES.

THE STUDENTS WILL PLAY A WIDE RANGE OF WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT THE CONCERT TO AN AUDIENCE CONSISTING MAINLY OF PARENTS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, MUSIC TEACHERS AND PUPILS FROM SCHOOLS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A GUEST PERFORMING GROUP FROM THE CHINESE ORCHESTRA OF THE TUEN MUN ARTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION WILL ALSO PERFORM AT THE CONCERT.

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MAINS LEAKAGE TEST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 29) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY LOCKHART ROAD, CANAL ROAD EAST, HENNESSY ROAD AND EAST POINT ROAD, INCLUDING CHEE ON BUILDING.

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TSUEN WAN TRAFFIC PLAN

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 28), THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE. ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ACCESS ROAD.

THE KERBSIDE LANE OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH YEUNG UK ROAD TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUS TERMINUS, EXCEPT FOR A 40 METRES LONG SETTING DOWN-PICKING UP AREA ABOUT 130 METRES SOUTH OF YEUNG UK ROAD, WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONE.

THE KERBSIDE LANE OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS, FROM THE EXIT OF THE BUS TERMINUS TO ITS JUNCTION WITH YEUNG UK ROAD, WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE AUTHORITY, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS, AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

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