



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1981

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NEW ID CARD PLANNED

SIR JACK SQUASHES RUMOURS OF IMMIGRATION POLICY CHANGE  
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON PROPOSE THE ISSUE OF A NEW IDENTITY CARD.

AND HE WARNED THAT ANYONE WHO MIGHT NOW CONTEMPLATE OBTAINING A FALSE CARD WOULD NOT ONLY FIND HIMSELF IN TROUBLE, BUT WOULD HAVE WASTED HIS MONEY.

ADDRESSING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE, SIR JACK SQUASHED FALSE RUMOURS CURRENT IN GUANGDONG AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF CHANGING ITS IMMIGRATION POLICY.

+THERE WILL BE NO NEW AMNESTY,+ HE DECLARED.

+ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL NOT GET ID CARDS.

+EMPLOYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ON NEW STAFF WHO DO NOT HAVE ID CARDS.

+THOSE FOOLISH ENOUGH STILL TO COME, WILL BE TRACKED DOWN AND, SOONER OR LATER, WILL BE FOUND AND WILL BE RETURNED,+ HE STRESSED.

IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN GUANGZHOU EARLIER THIS MONTH, SIR JACK SAID, THE AUTHORITIES HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE STERN MEASURES TO PREVENT ILLEGAL EMIGRATION.

+FOR OUR PART, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR GUARD UP : WE SHALL MAINTAIN OUR STRENGTH ON THE BORDER, WHERE THE PERMANENT MILITARY STRENGTH IS BEING INCREASED FROM FOUR TO FIVE BATTALIONS, AND AT SEA, WHERE THE EXPANSION OF THE MARINE POLICE IN PARTICULAR IS NOW PUTTING MORE VESSELS AT SEA THAN EVER BEFORE.+

THE MEASURES TAKEN LAST OCTOBER BY OURSELVES AND BY CHINA HAD SO FAR HAD ENCOURAGING RESULTS, HE SAID, NOTING THAT THE LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HAD DROPPED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THE +REACHED BASE+ POLICY WAS ENDED. LAST SEPTEMBER OVER 400 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE BEING ARRESTED DAILY, WHEREAS THE AVERAGE SO FAR THIS YEAR WAS ABOUT 20.

+BUT WE MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT,+ HE WARNED.

+THE THREAT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS STILL A GRAVE MENACE AND IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO MEET IT RESOLUTELY.

AS AN INDICATION OF THE CRITICAL EFFECT OF UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION ON OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, SIR JACK NOTED THAT THE THEORETICAL COST OF THE ADDITIONAL SOCIAL EXPENDITURE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED BETWEEN 1978 AND 1980 WAS \$3 500 MILLION. BUT IN PRACTICE, HE ADDED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE HOUSING, HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS REQUIRED IN THE TIME, EVEN IF MONEY HAD BEEN NO OBJECT.

IT WAS

IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S SURVIVAL, HE STRESSED, TO MAINTAIN OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY AND HE COUNTED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH RESOLUTION, FAIRNESS, CONSIDERATION AND KINDNESS.

THE DEPARTMENT, HE NOTED, SERVED THE PUBLIC IN A WIDE VARIETY OF WAYS, FROM REGISTERING ELECTORS TO CELEBRATING MARRIAGES. IT ISSUES OVER ONE MILLION TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS, RECEIVES MORE THAN 500 000 APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS OR PERMITS TO VISIT HONG KONG AND MORE THAN 20 MILLION PASSENGERS A YEAR PASS THROUGH ITS CONTROL POINTS AT KAI TAK, LO WU AND THE MACAU WHARF. AT LO WU, SIR JACK NOTED, THE RECENT GROWTH HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY DRAMATIC FROM SOME TWO MILLION PASSENGERS IN 1977 TO OVER SEVEN MILLION IN 1980.

BUT THE MAIN PRESSURE ON THE DEPARTMENT IN RECENT YEARS AROSE FROM THE STARTLING INCREASE IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. THE NUMBERS ARRESTED INCREASED TEN-FOLD, FROM 800 IN 1976 TO OVER 8 000 IN 1978 AND THEN ANOTHER TEN-FOLD TO OVER 80 000 IN BOTH 1979 AND 1980, A HUNDRED-FOLD IN THREE YEARS.

SIR JACK SAID IMMIGRATION CONTROL HAD CHANGED GREATLY SINCE THE DAYS WHEN, AT KAI TAK AIRPORT, ONLY ONE OFFICER WAS REQUIRED. BUT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT REMAINED THE SAME AS WHEN IT WAS FIRST FOUNDED IN 1961 -- TO PROTECT HONG KONG FROM TOO RAPID AN INCREASE IN POPULATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RETURN VISIT  
BY HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
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HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WILL BE MAKING A STOPOVER VISIT TO HONG KONG OVER THE WEEKEND (MARCH 28 AND 29) ON HIS HOMEWARD JOURNEY FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE CATHAY PACIFIC FLIGHT ON WHICH PRINCE PHILIP WILL BE TRAVELLING IS DUE TO ARRIVE FROM MELBOURNE AT 9 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 28). PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN ASSIGNED TO COVER THE ARRIVAL AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE AIR BRIDGE ARE REQUESTED TO BE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM NOT LATER THAN 8 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

PRINCE PHILIP WILL STAY OVERNIGHT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

ON SUNDAY (MARCH 29) THE DUKE WILL FULFIL A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ENGAGEMENTS, INCLUDING VISITS TO THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE 7TH DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES.

ALSO ON SUNDAY HE WILL ATTEND A PRESENTATION IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE HILTON HOTEL ARRANGED BY THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF). THE DUKE IS THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF WWF INTERNATIONAL.

/HRH WILL .....

HRH WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR LONDON BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AT 10.40 PM THE SAME DAY. THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO COVER HIS DEPARTURE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE AIR BRIDGE SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT 9.15 PM SHARP. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TRIBUTE TO SIR PHILIP  
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SPEAKING FOR ALL HIS COLLEAGUES, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG, PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE AND WISHED HIM EQUAL SUCCESS IN HIS NEW POST AS CHIEF SECRETARY.

HE SAID: +IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT DURING THE BUDGET PREPARATION SEASON HE LIVED IN PURDAH, WORKING LATE INTO THE EVENING, LOCKED IN SECRET CONCLAVE WITH OFFICERS OF FINANCE BRANCH, AND I'M TEMPTED TO ADD OFFICERS OF OTHER PARTS OF THE EMPIRE. WITH FUMES COMING FROM HIS PIPE, HE MAINTAINS A VERY TIGHT SECURITY ON HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS, WHICH SO FAR AS I KNOW HAS NEVER BEEN PENETRATED.+

SIR PHILIP, HE SAID, HAD ELSEWHERE STATED THAT DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS, NUMBERS OF BRIGHT IDEAS FLOWED IN TO HIM FROM ALL SIDES, SOME OF THEM NONE TOO HELPFUL.

+BUT HE IS DEDICATED TO WHAT HE CALLS THE SYSTEM, AND AS PART OF IT, HE FELT IT HIS DUTY TO LISTEN TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS,+ SAID MR CHEUNG, ADDING +THAT HE SOMETIMES DID NOT AGREE WAS INEVITABLE.+

+AND AS A FINAL SALUTE TO SIR PHILIP'S SERIES OF BUDGETS, I PROPOSE TO SUPPORT HIS MOTION.+

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HELP +SANDWICHED CLASS+ PLEA  
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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEVISE MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NEITHER PUBLIC HOUSING NOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS, THE HON WONG LAM SUGGESTED TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

TO BASE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC HOUSING OR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME SOLELY ON INCOME MAY NOT BE A FAIR POLICY.

+I BELIEVE THAT SOME TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ARE BETTER OFF THAN A LARGE NUMBER OF MIDDLE-INCOME EARNERS LIVING ELSEWHERE, BOTH IN TERMS OF GROSS INCOME AND OF NET INCOME AFTER DEDUCTION OF RENTALS.

7+THE GOVERNMENT .....

+THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING MORE RADICAL AND INNOVATIVE MEASURES, OR EVEN DO AWAY WITH THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH, TO SEEK NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP THE SANDWICHED CLASS SOLVE THEIR HOUSING PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

ON SERVICES FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, MR WONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCELERATE THE EXPANSION OF SUCH SERVICES WHERE FINANCIAL CONDITIONS PERMIT.

+FOR INSTANCE, CAN THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER RELAXING THE PRESENT CRITERIA IN RESPECT OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE?

+COULD WE NOT SPEED UP THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES FOR THE AGED AND THE EXPANSION OF THE HOME HELP SERVICE SCHEME?

+AND ON THE SUBJECT OF REHABUS SCHEME, IS THE GOVERNMENT GENEROUS ENOUGH IN ITS PRESENT POLICY?+ MR WONG ASKED.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS LAID DOWN AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THESE SERVICES IN ITS VARIOUS WHITE PAPERS, HE BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE PRESENT FAVOURABLE SITUATION, IS CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTING THEM MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND GENEROUSLY SO THAT THE UNFORTUNATE GROUP MAY BENEFIT FROM OUR COMMUNITY'S AFFLUENCE.

MR WONG ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION FOR MARRIED COUPLES.

HE THOUGHT THE ARGUMENT PUT FORWARD BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO HIS PROPOSAL ON THE SUBJECT LAST YEAR WAS NOT VERY CONVINCING.

UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF COMBINED ASSESSMENT, IT IS ESSENTIALLY THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUP THAT SUFFERS, HE SAID.

+THOSE AT THE HIGHER OR LOWER ENDS OF THE INCOME SCALE ARE NOT AFFECTED, OR ONLY TO A VERY SMALL EXTENT.

+SINCE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS EVERY INTENTION TO MAKE THE TAX SYSTEM FAIR TO ALL CLASSES OF TAXPAYERS, I BELIEVE THAT RE-CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE IS NECESSARY,+ HE ADDED.

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LONG TERM POLICY ON GOVT OFFICE SPACE NEEDED  
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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FORMULATE A LONG-TERM POLICY AIMED AT THE OPTIMUM PROVISION OF ITS OWN OFFICE PREMISES WITHIN A DEFINITE TIME SCHEDULE.

THIS WAS SUGGESTED BY THE HON PETER C. WONG AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE PROVIDE \$550 MILLION FOR RENTS AND FITTING OUT OF PREMISES, THERE IS NO BREAKDOWN TO SHOW THE AMOUNT FOR LEASED OFFICE ACCOMMODATION OR FOR RENTED QUARTERS.

+THE GOVERNMENT, I UNDERSTAND, IS CURRENTLY RENTING SOME 2.7 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE PREMISES AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR THIS FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO REACH 3.3 MILLION, ALMOST FIVE TIMES THE TOTAL LETTABLE FLOOR AREA OF CONNAUGHT CENTRE.

+THERE IS ALREADY AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

+IS THE GOVERNMENT COMPETING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THUS INDUCING A STEEPER UPWARD SWING OF OFFICE RENTALS?+ MR WONG ASKED.

HE ADMITTED IT WAS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR DESIRABLE TO CONDUCT ALL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, BUT GIVEN THE PRESENT IMBALANCE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO REDUCE PROGRESSIVELY THE DEPENDENCE ON RENTED PREMISES.

ON CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING, MR WONG REMARKED THAT THE PROVISION OF \$26.5 MILLION APPEARS TO BE A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

BUT ENQUIRY REVEALS THAT THE BULK OF TRAINING EXPENDITURE IS PROVIDED DEPARTMENTALLY AND THE ACTUAL AMOUNT MIGHT WELL EXCEED \$100 MILLION.

+THIS 'HIDDEN' EXPENDITURE IS CERTAINLY VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND, I PRESUME, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CATER TO OUR TRAINING NEEDS,+ SAID MR WONG.

+WHILE APPRECIATING THAT IT MAY NOT BE EASY TO ITEMIZE WITH ACCURACY EXPENDITURE OF THIS NATURE IN THE DEPARTMENTAL ESTIMATES, A NOTE SHOWING APPROXIMATE AMOUNTS TO BE INCURRED WOULD CERTAINLY BE DESIRABLE.

+SUCH INFORMATION WOULD, I AM SURE, BE USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE AND TO SERIOUS STUDENTS OF OUR AFFAIRS.+

MR WONG COMMENDED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR STEERING HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WITH OUTSTANDING SUCCESS DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT SIR PHILIP'S ACHIEVEMENTS WERE MANY +BUT TO MY MIND, HIS REFUSAL TO YIELD TO TEMPTATION AND INDEED PRESSURE TO ADOPT A POLICY OF INTERVENTION, SO POPULAR WITH MANY COUNTRIES IN THE 70'S, IS A SINGULAR ACHIEVEMENT+.

MR WONG SAID THAT IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTIES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM WAS MOST REASSURING.

ALTHOUGH RECENT EVENTS IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY HAVE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING, HE SAID HE WOULD VIEW THEM AS +CYCLICAL OR TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, WHICH ARE NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE, IF OUR OBJECTIVE OF STABILITY WITH GROWTH IS TO BE ACHIEVED.+

+HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT.

+STATED SIMPLY, UPSWINGS AND DOWNSWINGS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY TEND TO BE CUMULATIVE.

+A SMALL DECREASE IN ACTIVITY CAN BE MAGNIFIED INTO A MUCH LARGER DECREASE IN GDP.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT OUR MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY IN THE COMING MONTHS, SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE GUARD AGAINST THIS EFFECT,+ HE CAUTIONED.

MORE CARE FOR AGED AND DISABLED URGED  
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HONG KONG HAS A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE AGED AND THE SEVERELY MENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE, THE HON F.K. HU SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DURING THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES IN 1981-82 REMAINS AT 375 WITHOUT ANY INCREASE, AND IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE DISABLED, THE 12 PER CENT INCREASE IS MEANT TO CATER FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF THE HANDICAPPED.

WHILE AGREEING THAT THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN AND BE CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE HELP OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES, HE CONSIDERED INSTITUTIONAL OR RESIDENTIAL CARE IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE MORE SEVERE CASES.

+FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A FAMILY TO PROVIDE PROPER CARE AT HOME FOR A SENILE AND INFIRM OLD PERSON OR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED YOUNG ADULT WITHOUT SERIOUSLY DISRUPTING FAMILY LIFE AND THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF ITS FAMILY MEMBERS.+

MR HU URGED THAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN THIS RESPECT, POINTING OUT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF ELDERLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MANY YEARS AND CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER.

ANOTHER AREA WHERE HE THOUGHT IMPROVEMENT SHOULD BE MADE CONCERNED THE TREATMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

+THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAMME OF 'SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS' IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE CONTEXT IS VERY MEAGRE ALTHOUGH IT IS APPRECIATED THAT MUCH IS BEING DONE BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM IN OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN THE FORM OF PREVENTIVE WORK.

+HOWEVER, IT SEEMS A GOOD DEAL MORE CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE AREA OF TREATMENT.

+THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVING OUR PROBATION SERVICE AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

+OTHER METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF TREATMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, DEVELOPED AND EXPERIMENTED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO CATER FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFENDERS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS, MR HU SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL PROVISION BE MADE TO THE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND FOR RE-ALLOCATION TO VARIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TO RUN A SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING OF THESE PROGRAMMES AND CONTRIBUTE RESOURCES IN TERMS OF TEACHERS, SUPERVISORS AND FIELD WORK PLACEMENT.

+AT THE END OF THE PERIOD, THE MANPOWER NEED SHOULD BE RE-ASSESSED,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROGRAMMES CAN THEN EITHER BE PHASED OUT OR GRADUALLY ABSORBED INTO THE REGULAR CURRICULUM OF THE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.+

TURNING TO RECREATION, MR HU SAID HONG KONG STILL LACKS A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PLAN ON PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE SPECIAL SURVEY OF LEISURE PURSUIT WILL BE DELAYED FROM NOVEMBER 1981 TO THE SUMMER OF 1982.

+EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO EXPEDITE THIS SURVEY SO AS TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT THE OVERDUE LONG-TERM PLAN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO MEET THE PRESSING NEEDS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE 1980'S DUE TO AN INCREASE IN AVAILABLE LEISURE TIME AND AN INCREASE IN DISPOSAL INCOME,+ URGED MR HU.

HE PROPOSED A NUMBER OF WAYS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE ONCE THE PLAN IS FINALISED.

THESE INCLUDE THE ALLOCATION OF SPACE UNDERNEATH FLYOVERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL= THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HOUSING ESTATES AS A PACKAGE DEAL= THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL RECREATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF GRANT FOR LAND SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTIONS OR BY LETTER +B+ EXCHANGE= AND THE PROMOTION OF WATER SPORTS.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIALIST COLLEGE TO PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS AND RECREATION LEADERS.

+IDEALLY, GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP SUCH A COLLEGE,+ HE SAID.

+ALTERNATIVELY, GOVERNMENT CAN ENCOURAGE NON-PROFIT MAKING PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS TO RUN SUCH AN INSTITUTION.+

ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS TO DEVELOP THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE INTO A SPECIALIST COLLEGE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION +SO THAT IT CAN PRODUCE TRAINED PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS, TRAINED RECREATION AND SPORTS PERSONNEL BESIDES TOP CLASS ATHLETES IN VARIOUS SPORTS+.

+OTHERWISE, THERE COULD BE A RISK OF THIS EXCELLENT CENTRE BEING GREATLY UNDER-UTILISED,+ HE SAID.

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ESTATE CORPORATION NEEDS MORE WEIGHT  
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A CALL TO PLACE MORE WEIGHT ON THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CORPORATION TO ATTRACT MORE TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES TO INVEST IN ITS TWO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CAME FROM THE HON ALLEN LEE TODAY (THURSDAY).

AND IF WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTRACT INVESTORS INTO HONG KONG, HE WARNED, OUR BASIC AIM OF DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIES WILL BE GREATLY JEOPARDISED.

MR LEE WAS COMMENTING ON THE POOR RESPONSE FROM INVESTORS TO INVEST IN THE TAI PO AND YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

CITING EXAMPLES, HE SAID THE 29 SITES WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR WERE EARMARKED FOR THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS REPRESENTED APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF 45 HECTARES OF LAND IN TAI PO.

A THIRD STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF ANOTHER 20 HECTARES OF LAND IS PROPOSED WHILE A SECOND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PROVIDING 72 HECTARES OF LAND IS BEING FORMED IN YUEN LONG.

+JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, IT HAS NOT BEEN OVERWHELMING EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE THE QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN IMPROVED.

+IF THE SAME PACE IS TO BE MAINTAINED, IT WILL BE EIGHT MORE YEARS BEFORE THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WILL BE FILLED WITH FACTORIES, PROVIDED WE DO NOT RUN INTO PROBLEMS WITH THE LEASE CONDITION,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE CONSIDERED THE PROGRESS A BIT TOO SLOW, ADDING THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NUMBER OF FACTORS INVOLVED WHICH ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTORS OR PROHIBITS POTENTIAL INVESTORS FROM INVESTING IN THE ESTATE.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RE-EXAMINE SUCH CRITICAL AREAS AS PROMOTION, CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS OF LEASE WITHOUT DELAY.

ANOTHER AREA THAT CAUSED MR LEE CONCERN RELATES TO THE INADEQUATE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND PACKAGING COUNCILS.

HE CITED A LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS OF BOTH COUNCILS IN 1981 TO SHOW THAT ALL REQUIRED PROPER FINANCE.

+AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL DESIGN COUNCIL, I REJECTED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL OF REDUCING THE ACTIVITIES DUE TO LACK OF SUBVENTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT,+ SAID MR LEE.

+I BELIEVE THESE ACTIVITIES MUST CONTINUE AND SHOULD BE STEPPED UP.

+THEREFORE, I URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER INCREASING SUBVENTIONS FROM THE CURRENT \$120 000 PER ANNUM, WHICH IS THE EIGHTH YEAR OF THE SAME AMOUNT, TO \$250 000 PER ANNUM AS REQUESTED. WITHOUT THIS INCREASE, THE COUNCIL WILL BE IN DANGER OF CEASING EFFECTIVE OPERATION AND ALL THE INVESTMENTS TODAY WILL BE WASTED.+

MR LEE ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE EMERGENCY STUDENT LOAN FUND AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE HONG KONG STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A PROPORTION OF OUR STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM MUST BE AS CLOSE AS EVER.

+WHEN THESE STUDENTS RETURN TO HONG KONG, THEY WILL CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1981

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CALL TO INTRODUCE CONTRIBUTORY INSURANCE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CALLED UPON TO MAKE AN EARLY DECISION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME.

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE BELIEVED THE SCHEME, PROPOSED IN THE 1977 GREEN PAPER ENTITLED +HELP FOR THOSE LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES: A PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT+, WOULD IN THE LONG TERM PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE METHOD OF PROVIDING INCOME SECURITY FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED.

+THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS IN RECENT YEARS WHICH TOTALLED MORE THAN 70 000 CASES IN 1980, COUPLED WITH THE CONSIDERABLE STRESSES AND STRAINS AND ILLNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN CITY LIFE WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS FOR THE AVERAGE WORKERS.

+IN VIEW OF SUCH FACTORS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A RATHER LONG TIME TO CONSIDER THE SCHEME, I THEREFORE URGE THAT A DECISION BE MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE,+ HE SAID.

IN THE INTERIM, DR HO SAID, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER A SCHEME TO PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN FORCED TO BE ABSENT FROM WORK DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT OR DISABLEMENT BUT WERE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

WHILE AFFIRMING THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AS THE MAINSTAY OF HONG KONG'S SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, HE PROPOSED THAT AN UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE, SIMILAR TO THE DISABILITY OR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, BE IMPLEMENTED.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE, HE EXPLAINED, SHOULD BE BASED ON NEED ESTABLISHED BY REFERENCE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND NOT BY REFERENCE OF LOW INCOME.

A FLAT-RATE, NON-MEANS-TESTED ALLOWANCE EQUIVALENT TO THE BASIC PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATE FOR A SINGLE PERSON COULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO AN INVOLUNTARILY UNEMPLOYED PERSON, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET.

AS THE LEVEL OF THE ALLOWANCE IS RATHER LOW, DR HO THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S WORK INCENTIVE.

+THE PROVISION OF SUCH AN UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE WILL NO DOUBT PROVIDE A WELCOME RELIEF TO HONG KONG'S WAGE EARNERS.

+IT WILL NOT ONLY ALLEVIATE THE WORKERS' FINANCIAL BURDEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE COSTS OF LIVING DEPRESSED BY LOSS OF INCOME ARISING FROM UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT WILL ALSO BE A CRUCIAL STABILIZING FORCE FOR THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND ECONOMIC RECESSION,+ HE SAID.

DR HO ALSO SPOKE EXTENSIVELY ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

/THE OBJECT .....

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THE OBJECT OF TRAINING IS TO TEACH THE MENTALLY SUB-NORMAL PEOPLE HOW TO USE SIMPLE TOOLS, TO EQUIP THEM WITH SOME SKILLS, TO DEVELOP IN THEM WORK HABITS AND TO ENHANCE SELF-RELIANCE.

BUT HE SAID THE CURRENT PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING PLACES IN THE GOVERNMENT-RUN AND VOLUNTARY INSTITUTIONS FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE DEMAND FOR THEM.

HE HOPED THAT MORE RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED TO INCREASE THESE PLACES AND THE TYPES OF TRAINING PROVIDED MADE SUITABLE FOR THE CHANGING CHARACTERS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

ON JOB PLACEMENT, DR HO CITED A RECENT RESEARCH BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SOCIAL WORK FACULTY WHICH SHOWED THAT 48 PER CENT OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS WERE UNABLE TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT AFTER LEAVING THE TRAINING CENTRES.

AND THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF THE OLDER MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS IS EVEN MORE UNSATISFACTORY, HE ADDED.

+APART FROM COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS AS LONG-TERM REMEDIES, THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES IN STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL WORK AND JOB PLACEMENT STAFF IN THE TRAINING CENTRES AND IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND IN UPGRADING THE FUNCTION OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO PLACE MENTALLY RETARDED JOB-SEEKERS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE,+ DR HO STRESSED.

THE SURVEY FURTHER REVEALED THAT ALMOST 60 PER CENT OF THE DISABLED WORKERS ENGAGED IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT EARNED \$400 OR MORE A MONTH WHEREAS ALMOST 90 PER CENT OF THOSE IN SHELTERED WORK EARNED \$200 OR LESS A MONTH.

DESPITE THEIR LOWER WAGES, MOST OF THE HANDICAPPED WORKERS IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS ARE NOT QUALIFIED FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE +BECAUSE THEIR DISABILITY IS NOT ASSESSED TO BE OF THE SEVERE GRADE+.

+WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER RELAXING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE MENTALLY RETARDED WORKERS IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS?+ HE ASKED.

WHILE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE OPEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IS A LONG-TERM GOAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT, IT SHOULD TAKE MORE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN SHELTERED WORK, DR HO REMARKED.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE MORE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED, INCLUDING A GREATER SUBVENTION FOR THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION TO EXPAND ITS REHABUS SCHEME.

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TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH HELPS INDUSTRY  
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HONG KONG NEEDS TO DEVELOP URGENTLY ITS OWN TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITIES, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND A NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION WITHIN THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, THE SETTING UP OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORY AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A SCIENCE ADVISER ARE INITIAL BUT IMPORTANT STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

+NONETHELESS, THESE MEASURES ARE IN THE MAIN CONCERNED WITH TAKING STOCK OF AND IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM REQUIREMENTS OF OUR INDUSTRIES.+

RESEARCH, HE POINTED OUT, IS A COSTLY PROPOSITION AND THE RATE OF RETURN IS SOMETIMES RATHER SLOW. IT IS A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT WHICH REQUIRES FAR-SIGHTEDNESS AND DETERMINATION.

+I WOULD URGE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT SET OUT PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL BODY IN THE LONG TERM, WITH JOINT RESOURCES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT, FOR THE PLANNING, CO-ORDINATION AND CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR INDUSTRIES.+

INITIALLY, SAID MR WONG, THE OFFICE OF THE SCIENCE ADVISER CAN FORM THE NUCLEUS FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH BODY WHICH CAN BE MADE AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY, CO-ORDINATING SUCH FACILITIES AND SERVICES BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

IN THE FUTURE, A POST OF SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT MAY BE A LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR SUCH A BODY, MR WONG OBSERVED THAT HONG KONG HAD IN RECENT YEARS BEGUN MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS REQUIRING HIGHER LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION, SUCH AS ELECTRONIC WATCHES AND TOYS, AND COMPUTER COMPONENTS.

AS WE MOVE UP MARKET, WE WILL NEED THE BACK-UP OF MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

+DIRECT TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM OVERSEAS IS ONE OF THE WAYS AND MEANS OF ACQUIRING SUCH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

THIS SEEMS TO BE A SUITABLE MEASURE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, HE SAID, BUT CONTINUED RELIANCE ON OVERSEAS SOURCES OF TECHNOLOGY MAY SEVERELY RESTRICT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY AND POTENTIAL.

TO SUSTAIN OUR FLIGHT IN INDUSTRIAL TAKE-OFF, WE MUST SEEK TO DIVERSIFY AND BROADEN OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE TO ATTAIN NEW HEIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENT.

+IN HER MODERNISATION PROGRAMME, CHINA ALSO LOOKS TO HONG KONG AS A SOURCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW.

/+I STRONGLY .....

+I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPING FUNDAMENTAL TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR INDUSTRIES IS ONE OF THOSE FRUITFUL AREAS IN WHICH WE SHALL MUTUALLY BENEFIT.

+WE SHOULD ACT QUICKLY TO ENABLE US TO COPE WITH THE RAPID CHANGES AND CHALLENGES IN THE 80'S,+ HE ADDED.

ON PREFERENTIAL INTEREST RATE FOR MANUFACTURERS, MR WONG SAID CONCESSION IN DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH IN THESE TIMES OF HIGH INFLATION AND INTEREST RATES, AND A GENERALLY DEPRESSED WORLD MARKET.

HE RECALLED THAT IN 1979 A NUMBER OF LEADING BANKS OFFERED PREFERENTIAL INTEREST RATE TO INDUSTRY FOR FINANCING IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT.

THIS ARRANGEMENT LAPSED WHEN INTEREST RATE TEMPORARILY DROPPED IN MID-1980 AND THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ENSURE THE LOANS EXTENDED ON SPECIAL TERMS WERE IN FACT USED TO FINANCE MANUFACTURING AND NOT OTHER ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, MR WONG DID NOT ACCEPT THAT SUCH A SCHEME COULD EASILY BE ABUSED SINCE +A PREFERENTIAL INTEREST RATE WOULD ONLY BE GRANTED WHEN THE PURCHASE OF MACHINERY IS EVIDENCED BY A RECEIPTED INVOICE.+

HE CALLED ON BANKERS TO RE-INSTATE THE SCHEME WHICH HE SAID WOULD NO DOUBT GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE HARD PRESSED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

+LET US NOT FORGET THAT OUR ECONOMY STILL RELIES HEAVILY ON THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO GENERATE WEALTH AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT,+ HE STRESSED.

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#### GREATER ROLE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR \* \* \* \*

THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE OFFERED LARGE TRACTS OF LAND WITH THE OBLIGATION TO CARRY OUT PUBLIC PROJECTS TO HALT THE 20 PER CENT RISE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S PROPORTION OF GDP, THE HON D.K. NEWBIGGING SAID.

AND IF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IS CONCERNED THAT SUCH PARTIAL DENATIONALISATION COULD LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S COFFERS EVEN MORE EMBARRASSINGLY FLUSH WITH CASH, HE ADDED, HE WAS SURE THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD RESPOND READILY TO AN OFFER OF +TERMS+.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY), MR NEWBIGGING POINTED OUT THAT THE 156 ACRES OF LAND SOLD IN 1980/81 INCREASED DRAMATICALLY BY JUST OVER 100 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE.

+HOWEVER IN BOTH YEARS THE ACTUAL ACREAGE SOLD WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN FORECAST - BY OVER 20 PER CENT IN EACH CASE.

+OF COURSE, IN TERMS OF REVENUE RAISED - \$8.8 BILLION OR 70 PER CENT UP ON THE BUDGET ESTIMATES - THE VERY OPPOSITE IS TRUE, REFLECTING THE STEEP RISE IN PROPERTY PRICES LAST YEAR.+

MR NEWBIGGING SAID HE SHARED THE CONCERN OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AT THE ABSENCE OF INROADS INTO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WAITING LISTS, AND HOPED THAT +THE IMPROVED OUTLOOK FOR LAND PRODUCTION WILL RESULT IN THE SETTING OF HIGHER - PERHAPS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER - TARGETS THAN 35 000 UNITS PER ANNUM FOR HOUSING IN THE MID-1980'S AND BEYOND UNTIL WE HAVE AT LEAST BROKEN THE BACK OF THIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL PROBLEM.+

TURNING TO TRADING WITH THE UNITED STATES, MR NEWBIGGING CONSIDERED THAT THE TIME IS NOW RIGHT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE RISING TIDE OF PROTECTIONISM WORLDWIDE, FOR A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT +TO CREATE THE RIGHT IMPACT AND TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS AT THE TOP LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES, TO NURTURE AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CITIES IN ASIA, AND THUS TO BUILD UP THE CONFIDENCE UPON WHICH THE REALISATION OF OUR DESTINY IS SO DEPENDENT.+

HE NOTED THAT THE ECONOMIC DYNAMISM THAT HAS BEEN SO EFFECTIVELY PORTRAYED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND THE VIRILITY OF OUR SOCIETY THAT HAS MADE THESE ACHIEVEMENTS POSSIBLE, ARE HARDLY RECOGNISED IN THE UNITED STATES.

+FOR INSTANCE,+ HE SAID, +EVEN SEASONED U.S. BUSINESSMEN ARE FLABBERGASTED WHEN TOLD THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS ARE ROUGHLY 10 PER CENT OF THOSE OF THE USA.

+THIS IGNORANCE OF TODAY'S REALITY IN HONG KONG, LET ALONE OF TOMORROW'S POTENTIAL, ON THE PART OF OUR LARGEST CUSTOMER AND OUR LARGEST INDUSTRIAL INVESTOR OUGHT TO BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN.+

ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION ARE PARTIALLY COMBATTING THE PROBLEM, THE IMPACT IS BOUND TO BE PIECEMEAL.

+AN EXCELLENT JOB HAS BEEN DONE IN FORGING AND STRENGTHENING SUCH RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR VERY GOOD PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE REASONS: I SUGGEST A SIMILAR EFFORT SHOULD NOW BE LAUNCHED TOWARDS THE USA,+ SAID MR NEWBIGGING.

HE ALSO WARNED OF A DANGER OF +AN EQUALLY EXCESSIVE SWING OF THE PENDULUM IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION+ FOLLOWING THE EUPHORIA CONCERNING THE +OPENING UP OF CHINA+ THAT DEVELOPED IN THE LATE 1970'S, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID HE CONSIDERED TOTALLY MISPLACED A BELIEF THAT RECENT REALIGNMENTS IN CHINA'S ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT THE TASK OF MODERNISING CHINA WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

+HOWEVER, GIVEN THE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRESS IN CHINA AND PROSPERITY IN HONG KONG, THE PREVALENCE OF SUCH OPINIONS ADDS WEIGHT TO THE ARGUMENT FOR THE PRESENTATION OF MEASURED, AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS IN THE UNITED STATES ON THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AND NEAR HONG KONG.+

ON FINANCIAL AND SECURITIES MARKETS, MR NEWBIGGING ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ITS OBJECTIVES CLEAR WHEN PROPOSING RELATED LEGISLATION AND TO BE TOTALLY CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL INDEED ACHIEVE THOSE OBJECTIVES.

HE NOTED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS REFERRED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH TO +PRESENT DAY REALITIES+ AS CRITERIA FOR AMENDING LEGISLATION, AND ALSO TO THE NEED FOR +RESPECT TO BE PAID TO THE TWIN CONCEPTS OF THE MARKET DISCIPLINED ECONOMY AND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.+

+HOWEVER, THE SPATE OF PROPOSED NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION INVOLVING VARIOUS FORMS OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE FINANCIAL AND SECURITIES MARKETS THAT WAS FORESHADOWED IN THE BUDGET SPEECH AND ANNOUNCED SHORTLY THEREAFTER APPEARS TO RUN CONTRARY TO THIS PHILOSOPHY.

+WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT, THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S TRUE MOTIVES AND OBJECTIVES - A FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN AND A FEELING OF 'WHERE WILL IT ALL END?' - THAT COULD BE DAMAGING TO HONG KONG IF ALLOWED TO DEVELOP UNCHECKED,+ MR NEWBIGGING SAID.

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CONCERN OVER RAPID GROWTH RATE  
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THE HON WILLIAM BROWN EXPRESSED CONCERN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) ABOUT THE RAPID GROWTH RATE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE CIVIL SERVICE AND WARNED THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BOTH AREAS MUST BE AVOIDED.

HE SAID THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A DYNAMIC AND SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY +CAME ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR+.

+BUT THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE PICTURE OF AN ECONOMY OF GROWING COMPLEXITY WITH A CIVIL SERVICE RAPIDLY EXPANDING, IN BOTH SIZE AND COST, TO ADMINISTER A PUBLIC SECTOR UTILISING AN EVER INCREASING PROPORTION OF THE COMMUNITY'S RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

QUOTING STATISTICS FROM SIR PHILIP'S BUDGET SPEECH, MR BROWN NOTED THAT THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WOULD HAVE INCREASED FROM 16.2 PER CENT IN 1975 TO 22.4 PER CENT IN 1981.

AND IF EXPENDITURE IS ALLOWED TO GROW AT THE 10 PER CENT GUIDELINE RATE, THIS PERCENTAGE WILL HAVE INCREASED TO THE UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF 24 PER CENT BY 1984-85.

+WHEN PRESENTING THESE STATISTICS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SOUNDED A NOTE OF WARNING WHICH WE WOULD DO WELL TO HEED.

+WHILST I AGREE WITH HIM THAT OUR ECONOMY CAN SUSTAIN A PUBLIC SECTOR AT ITS PRESENT SIZE, I ALSO SHARE HIS BELIEF THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE MUST BE AVOIDED AND, OUR AFFAIRS MUST BE ARRANGED ACCORDINGLY.+

TURNING TO THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS FORECAST AT \$5 271 MILLION TO COVER AN APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF 125 831 POSTS ARE +VERY SUBSTANTIAL FIGURES, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT THE TOTAL COST REPRESENTS, AT 36 PER CENT OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, A REDUCTION ON THE HISTORICAL RATIO OF 40 PER CENT+.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FACES SIMILAR PROBLEMS TO THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ADDING THAT THE VACANCY RATIO OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT IS EVIDENCE THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE REAL ONES.

+ALL SERVICE INDUSTRIES, HOWEVER, NEED TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL AS MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE OFFICE REVOLUTIONISES MANY OF THE TRADITIONAL METHODS OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS.

+SUCH PROGRESS MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE FASTER THAN WE ANTICIPATE, AND WE MUST AVOID BUILDING UP A PERMANENT WORKFORCE TO A SIZE THAT IN THE FUTURE COULD BE DIFFICULT TO EMPLOY.

+I WOULD ADD THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS ALSO FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD DERIVE MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM A GREATER DEGREE OF INTERCHANGE OF STAFF AT ALL LEVELS OF SENIORITY.+

ON THE ADAPTATION OF THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE A MODEL FOR FORECASTING PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE DRAFT ESTIMATES, MR BROWN OPINED THAT IT IS VITAL THAT WE EQUIP OURSELVES WITH ADEQUATE TOOLS TO MANAGE OUR AFFAIRS IN THESE COMPLICATED TIMES.

BUT HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION OF SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ECONOMIC DATA, PARTICULARLY ON EXTERNAL TRADE, WHICH HE SAID +WOULD GO SOME WAY TO REDUCING THE DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SOME AREAS OF THE ECONOMY REFERRED TO IN THE (FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S) BUDGET SPEECH+.

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#### LAND FOR DYEING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY CALL \* \* \* \* \*

A SUGGESTION THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE LAND AVAILABLE TO THE DYEING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY WAS MADE BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG DURING THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE NOTED THAT IF THE GROWING TREND TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM IN THE INDUSTRIALISED WORLD POSES A SERIOUS DEMAND-SIDE CONSTRAINT UPON OUR EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL, THE PRESENT WEAKNESS OF THE FINISHING SECTOR IS IN DANGER OF CREATING A SUPPLY-SIDE CONSTRAINT, PARTICULARLY FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

+ALL THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DO IS TO MAKE AVAILABLE A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF LAND, IN AN OFFENSIVE TRADES AREA, FOR SALE OR LEASE TO THE FINISHING MILLS AT A PRICE REFLECTING THE COST TO THE COMMUNITY OF PROVIDING THE LAND, AND WITH CONDITIONS THAT WOULD LIMIT THE USE OF THE LAND TO SPECIFIC USES.

+THE AREA NEEDS TO HAVE ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY - NATURAL WATER SUPPLY BEING THE MOST DESIRABLE - AND ADEQUATE DRAINAGE.+

MR CHEONG SAID FOUR MAJOR DYEING AND FINISHING MILLS HAVE CEASED TO OPERATE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, RESULTING IN A REDUCTION IN THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE ENTIRE FINISHING SECTOR AND A LOSS IN THE TECHNOLOGY THAT THE LARGE MILLS HAVE IN FINISHING HIGH-QUALITY FABRICS.

/ALTHOUGH ONE .....

ALTHOUGH ONE OF THE FOUR MILLS HAS SUCCESSFULLY RE-ESTABLISHED ITSELF AT SHENZHEN, MR CHEONG ASKED: +WHAT DEGREE OF RELIANCE CAN WE PLACE ON ENTERPRISES ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS?

+IS THERE NOT A GREATER RISK OF POSSIBLE INTERRUPTIONS AND STOPPAGES IN SUCH SOURCES OF SUPPLY?+

HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ABOUT 56 PER CENT OF LOCAL APPAREL SECTOR'S REQUIREMENT FOR FINISHED FABRICS COMES FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY, +AND THIS DEGREE OF EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE IS BY ANY STANDARDS FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL.+

IN THIS REGARD, HE CALLED FOR +SOME DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION+ SO AS TO REDUCE THE APPAREL SECTOR'S DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

+IF THIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE, I ENVISAGE THAT INDIVIDUAL FINISHING MILLS WOULD POOL THEIR RESOURCES TOGETHER IN PLANNING AND INSTALLING CENTRALISED POLLUTION-CONTROL FACILITIES, PERHAPS EVEN ENERGY-SAVING, HEAT-RECYCLING AND WATER-RECYCLING FACILITIES.

+THE RESULT WOULD BE A MORE EFFICIENT FINISHING SECTOR AND, IN TURN, AN APPAREL SECTOR THAT WOULD BE LESS DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, MR CHEONG STRESSED THAT HONG KONG MUST ENDEAVOUR TO DEVELOP A VIABLE POSITION OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

IN SO DOING, HE SAID, THE FOLLOWING THREE BASIC CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

FIRST, AN OBJECTIVE APPRAISAL SHOULD BE MADE OF OUR REASONS FOR EITHER SUPPORTING OR NOT SUPPORTING A SUCCESSOR TO THE PRESENT MFA, AND OF WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROVIDED FOR IN THE NEW ARRANGEMENT.

SECONDLY, AN APPRAISAL SHOULD BE MADE ON THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

THIRDLY, AS HONG KONG HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS SETTERS OF TRENDS AND PRECEDENTS IN THE GATT AND IN THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE AND LOOKED UPON BY DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUPPLIERS TO SET AN EXAMPLE, IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT, WHATEVER POSITION WE MAY ADOPT, IT MUST NOT BE ONE THAT WOULD ALIENATE OURSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

MR CHEONG ALSO SPOKE ON THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR RELATIVE TO THE SIZE OF THE G.D.P.

HE NOTED THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAS REGISTERED AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT 13.8 PER CENT AT CONSTANT PRICES IN THE YEARS 1976 TO 1980, AND TO OVER 21 PER CENT THIS YEAR DURING A PERIOD OF GROWTH.

+WHILST THE ECONOMY MAY HAVE GROWN LARGE ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO ABSORB A LARGER PUBLIC SECTOR, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO CONSUME RESOURCES AT THE RATE OF ADVANCE THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE HAVE TO CONSIDER AN ECONOMY AS EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED AND AS VULNERABLE TO FLUCTUATIONS IN EXTERNAL DEMAND AS OURS.+

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHING A CEILING FOR THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

+THIS CEILING MIGHT SEEM TO BE WHOLLY ARBITRARY, I AGREE, BUT I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT, IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE ONE,+ HE ADDED.

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COVERED NULLAHS IMPROVE HYGIENE  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO DEVISE AND IMPLEMENT WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE LARGE OPEN NULLAHS WHICH HAVE CAUSED ANNOYANCE TO MANY PEOPLE.

IN MAKING THE REQUEST THE HON ANDREW SO REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THOSE AT KAI TAK, IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, KAM TIN AND ABERDEEN.

+THEY OFTEN EMIT OFFENSIVE SMELLS AND BREED MOSQUITOES WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT THE MENTAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD,+ HE SAID.

IF POSSIBLE, MR SO SUGGESTED, THESE NULLAHS SHOULD BE COVERED UP.

+THIS WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, BUT WILL ALSO PROVIDE MORE OPEN SPACES AND ROAD SURFACES AND, MOREOVER, HONG KONG CAN LIVE UP TO ITS NAME OF THE FRAGRANT HARBOUR.+

COMMENTING ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, MR SO SAID : +OWING TO THE DENSE POPULATION, THE SMALL AREA AND THE SOPHISTICATED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG, IT IS SO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.

+IN ACCEPTING REALITY THE HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN MAXIMUM TOLERANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.+

HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, SET UP IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, WILL CONTRIBUTE CONSIDERABLY IN FORMULATING POLICY AND GIVING ADVICE ON THE PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

TO PREVENT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM BEING FURTHER POLLUTED, MR SO ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL- THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL AND NOISE ABATEMENT BILL, AND BY TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER POISONOUS GASES AND DUST AT CONSTRUCTION SITES.

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PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES - A RECORD OF SUCCESS

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PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE IMPORTATION OF QUARANTINABLE DISEASES INTO THE TERRITORY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE OUTSTANDING HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.F. LAM, IN A TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON THIS AFTERNOON.

HE SAID PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN HONG KONG IS ONLY PART OF THE PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE MEDICINES IN MEDICAL SERVICE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS OFTEN BEEN IGNORED.

+IT IS RATHER PARADOXICAL THAT THE MORE SUCCESSFUL PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IS, THE LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT IT - FOR ITS SUCCESS MEANS THE ABSENCE OF DISEASES- AND WITH ABSENCE IT IS SOON FORGOTTEN UNTIL THE DISEASE DECIDES TO REAR ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN IN THE FORM OF AN EPIDEMIC,+ HE SAID.

DR LAM WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE PROCEDURE OF PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE IS TO PREVENT CONTRACTING A DISEASE, THEN TO CURE WHAT IS NOT PREVENTABLE AND LASTLY TO REHABILITATE WHEN CURING FAILS.

IN THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT TAKES AS A FIRST PRIORITY THE PREVENTION OF SMALLPOX, YELLOW FEVER, CHOLERA AND PLAGUE, WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS AND WHICH ARE ENDEMIC IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF WAR, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE.

OF THE FOUR QUARANTINABLE DISEASES, DR LAM SAID, SMALLPOX HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ERADICATED WORLD-WIDE AS A RESULT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

OF YELLOW FEVER, HE SAID, THE PARTICULAR SPECIES OF MOSQUITO WHICH TRANSMITS THE DISEASE IS ABSENT IN HONG KONG AND TO PREVENT THE INSECT FROM ENTERING, AIRCRAFT ARE SPRAYED WITH DISINFECTANTS.

HE URGED VISITORS TO COUNTRIES WHERE YELLOW FEVER IS PREVALENT TO OBTAIN IMMUNISATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PORT HEALTH OFFICES.

HONG KONG WAS FREE FROM CHOLERA LAST YEAR, WHICH OCCURRED IN SPORADIC OUTBREAKS IN THE PAST, SAID DR LAM.

STRICT OBSERVANCE OF PERSONAL HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONTROLLING THE DISEASE, HE ADDED.

DR LAM WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LAST TWO CASES OF PLAGUE OCCURRED IN 1929 AND THE LAST EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK WAS IN 1922.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE THREE MODES OF PRESENTATION OF THIS DISEASE - BUBONIC, SEPTICAEMIC AND PNEUMONIC VARIETIES.

/UNTREATED BUBONIC .....

UNTREATED BUBONIC PLAGUE, THE LEAST SERIOUS OF THEM ALL HAS A FATALITY RATE OF BETWEEN 25 AND 50 PER CENT AND PNEUMONIC VARIETY IS OFTEN LETHAL, THOUGH WITH MODERN THERAPY, THIS IS NOT SO IF RECOGNISED AND TREATED EARLY.

+THIS WORLD-WIDE DISEASE SHOWS ITS PRESENCE IN LARGE AREAS OF AFRICA, AMERICAS AND ASIA. IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM IN INDIA, BURMA, INDONESIA AND NEPAL AND SINCE 1962 VIETNAM HAS EXPERIENCED A MARKED INCREASE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND CASES,+ SAID DR LAM.

HE WARNED THAT THE RECENT INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND INCREASING NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS FROM THESE SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES TO HONG KONG HAS MADE THIS A LOCAL PROBLEM.

HE EMPHASISED THAT OVER THE YEARS, WITH CLOSE COOPERATION FROM THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, A STRICT SURVEILLANCE OF THE RAT POPULATION IN THE AIRPORT, WHARF AND WATER-FRONT GODOWN AREAS HAD BEEN KEPT AS ONE OF THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO KEEP PLAGUE OUT.

RATS SUSPECTED TO BE CARRYING PLAGUE FLEA ARE SENT TO PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES EITHER AT SAI YING PUN OR AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOR EXAMINATION.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE REFUGEES WOULD NOT POSE A HEALTH HAZARD TO OUR LOCAL POPULATION, ALL NEW ARRIVALS ARE REQUIRED TO BE EXAMINED BY THE PORT HEALTH OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE AND TO BE QUARANTINED, SAID DR LAM.

THESE STRICT PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAVE PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN STOPPING THE INTRODUCTION OF QUARANTINABLE DISEASES, HE SAID.

+EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THE REFUGEE INFLUX WHEN WE HAD A TOTAL OF 73 700 IN 1979, THERE WAS NO OUTBREAK OF ANY SERIOUS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION TO THESE DIRECT PREVENTIVE MEASURES, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ALSO CARRIED OUT OTHER LONG TERM PROJECTS WHICH HAVE SHOWN GOOD RESULTS.

THE ELIMINATION OF POLIOMYELITIS AND THE CONTROL OF MANY CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS DIPHTHERIA, MEASLES AND TUBERCULOSIS ARE THE OUTCOME OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME, HE SAID.

THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION ARE ALSO WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, HE ADDED.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1981. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR FEBRUARY 1981 WERE BOTH 176.

COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, CPI (A) INCREASED BY FIVE POINTS, OR 2.9 PER CENT AND CPI (B) BY SIX POINTS OR 3.5 PER CENT. THESE INCREASES ARE LARGELY SEASONAL, THE RESULT OF HIGH PRICES FOR FOOD DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. THIS YEAR THE SEASONAL EFFECT HAS BEEN LESS MARKED. IN FEBRUARY 1980, CPI (A) INCREASED BY EIGHT POINTS OR 5.3 PER CENT AND CPI (B) BY SEVEN POINTS OR 4.7 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1980, CPI (A) IN FEBRUARY 1981 INCREASED BY 18 POINTS OR 11.4 PER CENT AND CPI (B) BY 19 POINTS OR 12.1 PER CENT. THESE REPRESENT AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE SITUATION IN JANUARY 1981 WHEN THE CORRESPONDING COMPARISONS WERE AN INCREASE OF 21 POINTS OR 14.0 PER CENT FOR CPI (A) AND 20 POINTS OR 13.3 PER CENT FOR CPI (B).

THE CPI (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI (B) FROM THOSE SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 500 AND \$2 999 A MONTH, AS DETERMINED IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY OF 1973/74.

THE INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1981 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMPONENTS OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE DISTINGUISHED IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR JANUARY 1981 AND FEBRUARY 1980.

COMPONENT	CPI (A)			CPI (B)		
	FEB 81	JAN 81	FEB 80	FEB 81	JAN 81	FEB 80
FOODSTUFFS	168	162	152	171	165	154
HOUSING	166	162	148	164	159	148
FUEL AND LIGHT	318	298	259	301	283	244
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	196	190	181	189	184	174
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	128	127	118	126	126	116
DURABLE GOODS	140	139	131	135	134	128
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	175	173	165	174	171	164
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	220	214	191	222	216	191
SERVICES	191	188	165	196	194	168
ALL ITEMS	176	171	158	176	170	157

THE INDEX FOR THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B) INCREASED BY SIX POINTS. WITH THE PRICES OF FRESH FOOD ITEMS GENERALLY HIGHER DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN RESPECT OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH-WATER FISH, SALT-WATER FISH, PORK AND LIVE POULTRY.

/SIGNIFICANT .....

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SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF EGGS AND RICE, AND OF MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS. THE EFFECTS OF THE MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

AS A RESULT OF INCREASES IN RENTS FOR PRIVATE DWELLINGS, THE INDEX FOR THE HOUSING COMPONENT IN CPI (A) INCREASED BY FOUR POINTS AND THAT IN CPI (B) BY FIVE POINTS.

THE INDEX FOR THE FUEL AND LIGHT COMPONENT IN CPI (A) INCREASED BY 20 POINTS AND THAT IN CPI (B) BY 18 POINTS, REFLECTING THE FULL IMPACT OF THE RISES IN THE PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS SINCE JANUARY AS WELL AS THE HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY.

THE INDEX FOR THE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO COMPONENT IN CPI (A) INCREASED BY SIX POINTS AND THAT IN CPI (B) BY FIVE POINTS, REFLECTING THE FULL IMPACT OF THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF CIGARETTES SINCE JANUARY.

HIGHER PRICES FOR WOMEN'S FOOTWEAR AS WELL AS HIGHER TAILORING CHARGES CAUSED THE INDEX FOR THE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR COMPONENT IN CPI (A) TO INCREASE BY ONE POINT. THE INDEX FOR THIS COMPONENT IN CPI (B) REMAINED UNCHANGED BECAUSE OF ROUNDING.

THE ONE-POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR THE DURABLE GOODS COMPONENT IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR CROCKERY, EARTHENWARE, HARDWARE, IRONMONGERY AND CUTLERY.

THE INDEX FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS GOODS COMPONENT IN CPI (A) INCREASED BY TWO POINTS AND THAT IN CPI (B) BY THREE POINTS AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR PERIODICALS, SOFT FURNISHINGS, TOILET REQUISITES, FRESH FLOWERS, SOAP AND DETERGENTS.

FOLLOWING HIGHER PRICES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE INDEX FOR THE TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES COMPONENT IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B) INCREASED BY SIX POINTS.

THE INDEX FOR THE SERVICES COMPONENT IN CPI (A) INCREASED BY THREE POINTS AND THAT IN CPI (B) BY TWO POINTS DUE TO HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL INCREASE IN HAIRDRESSING CHARGES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR FEBRUARY 1981, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHING MING FESTIVAL  
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VISITORS TO GRAVES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE URGED TO MAKE THEIR CHING MING HOMAGE EARLY OR ON OTHER NON-FESTIVAL DAYS TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION ON TAI PO ROAD, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THOSE GOING TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BY CAR ARE ADVISED TO USE ROUTE TWISK AND FAN KAM ROAD OR CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AS ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TAI PO, SANDY RIDGE AND AT THE TSUEN WAN CEMETERY DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD.

ON MARCH 28, 29 AND APRIL 4, 5, 6, 11 AND 12 WO HOP SHEK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC (EXCEPT HEARSEES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES) BETWEEN 5 AM AND 8 PM.

ON MARCH 29 AND APRIL 5, 6 AND 12, ALL GOODS VEHICLES WEIGHING OVER 45 CWT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN THE SHATIN RACECOURSE AND THE FANLING ROUNDABOUT.

TAI PO ROAD MAY BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTH FROM THE JUNCTION WITH LAM KAM ROAD (HONG LOK YUEN) TO THE FANLING ROUNDABOUT ON APRIL 4, 5 AND 6 FROM 8 AM UNTIL IT BECOMES POSSIBLE TO REVERT TO NORMAL TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW.

THIS ONE-WAY SYSTEM MAY ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED ON OTHER DAYS DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD SHOULD THE TRAFFIC SITUATION WORSEN. MOTORISTS WISHING TO RETURN TO KOWLOON FROM FANLING MAY TAKE THE ROUTE FROM FANLING ROUNDABOUT TO SHA TAU KOK ROAD, LUK KENG ROAD, TING KOK ROAD AND INTO TAI PO ROAD IN TAI PO.

THEY MAY ALSO TAKE THE ROUTE FROM FANLING ROUNDABOUT ALONG TAI PO ROAD TO SHEUNG SHUI CROSS ROADS AND INTO CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO KOWLOON VIA YUEN LONG- OR FROM FANLING ROUNDABOUT ALONG TAI PO ROAD TO SHEUNG SHUI CROSS ROADS, THEN INTO FAN KAM ROAD TO PAT HEUNG (KAM TIN) AND THROUGH ROUTE TWISK TO CASTLE PEAK ROAD OR THROUGH LAM KAM ROAD TO TAI PO ROAD.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES WITH CLOSED ROAD PERMITS, NO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER MAN KAM TO ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH SAN FUNG AVENUE IN SHEUNG SHUI.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED NOT TO PROCEED TO THESE AREAS BY PRIVATE CAR AS PARKING SPACES IN SHEUNG SHUI ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. THEY SHOULD USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND LO WU.

THE ACCESS ROADS TO THE TSUEN WAN CEMETERY WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, EXCEPT HEARSEES OR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, ON APRIL 4, 5, AND 6 AND ANY OTHER DAYS DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD IF THE TRAFFIC SITUATION SO REQUIRES.

SINGLE LANE NOSE-TO-TAIL PARKING WILL BE PERMITTED, UNDER POLICE SUPERVISION, ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF THE DUAL CARRIAGEWAY OF TEXACO ROAD.

/A SPECIAL .....

A SPECIAL KMB ROUTE 73R WILL BE OPERATED BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND MAN KAM TO (SAN UK LING) EVERY 12 MINUTES AT A FARE OF 50 CENTS PER TRIP ON APRIL 5 AND 6.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL TRAINS, BUSES AND PLB SERVICES.

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND ANY VEHICLE FOUND PARKED ILLEGALLY ON THE ROAD OR PAVEMENT MAY BE TOWED AWAY WITHOUT WARNING.

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NEED TO DEVELOP GOOD CHARACTER STRESSED  
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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS EVELYN DOE, TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED YOUNG PEOPLE NOT TO NEGLECT THE NEED TO DEVELOP A GOOD CHARACTER.

APART FROM ACQUIRING ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE, THEY SHOULD ALSO MAKE GOOD USE OF FREE TIME AND GET TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUP SPIRIT, COURAGE AND FAIRNESS THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS, SHE SAID.

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST SPORTS MEET ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES AT THE KOWLOON CHAI SPORTS GROUND.

MRS DOE PRAISED THE SOCIETY FOR PROVIDING CARE AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AGED FROM EIGHT TO 16 YEARS WHO, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, COULD NOT STAY AT HOME.

SHE ENVISAGED GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE. +IT IS ONLY THROUGH CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG US THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS IN THIS AREA,+ SHE SAID.

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NEW SPORTS CENTRE FOR TSUEN WAN  
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AN INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE IN THE HEART OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WILL OPEN IN AUGUST.

SITUATED NEXT TO THE LADY GRANTHAM HEALTH CLINIC ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THE CENTRE WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING CHAI WAN KOK TEMPORARY SPORTS CENTRE, WHICH IS TO BE CLOSED AT THE END OF THIS MONTH TO MAKE WAY FOR A FLATTED FACTORY.

REPROVISIONING OF THE NEW CENTRE, TO BE RENAMED 'TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD SPORTS CENTRE', WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH AND TAKE FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE COST IS ABOUT \$500 000.

THE NEW CENTRE WILL HAVE FOUR BADMINTON COURTS, 20 TABLE TENNIS TABLES, AN ARCHERY RANGE AND FACILITIES FOR FENCING, DANCING, TRAMPOLINING AND GYMNASTICS.

/IT WILL .....

IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FINANCED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND MANNED BY STAFF OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE. IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM DAILY AND ALL FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FREE.

A TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRE, TOGETHER WITH THE SEVEN POSSIBLE RECREATIONAL SITES RECENTLY IDENTIFIED IN THE AREA, SHOWED THAT EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO MEET RECREATIONAL NEEDS.

HE SAID AFTER CLOSURE OF THE TEMPORARY CENTRE, SPORTING FACILITIES ORGANISED BY STAFF OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT A SCHOOL IN TSUEN WAN FROM 5.30 PM - 9 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM - 9 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

HE AGREED THAT CLOSURE OF THE CENTRE WOULD RESULT IN SOME INCONVENIENCE TO USERS, BUT ADDED: +WE WILL CARRY ON UNTIL THE NEW CENTRE IS READY, EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT HAVE TO OPERATE AT A REDUCED SCALE.+

THE CHAI WAN KOK TEMPORARY SPORTS CENTRE CAME INTO USE TWO YEARS AGO, OCCUPYING TWO FLOORS OF A VACATED GODOWN ON THE FRONT. IT HAS PROVIDED SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS, WORKERS AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN THE AREA.

DURING ITS FIRST YEAR, MORE THAN 72 000 PEOPLE FROM OVER 100 ORGANISATIONS USED THE CENTRE - THE NUMBERS HAVE NEARLY DOUBLED IN THE CURRENT YEAR.

THE SITE WILL BE HANDED BACK TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT EARLY NEXT MONTH FOR CONVERSION TO A FACTORY.

A FAREWELL PARTY AND SPORTING DAY WILL BE HELD AT THE CENTRE ON MARCH 29.

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#### EXPANSION PLAN FOR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ALLOCATE \$6.5 MILLION IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR TO DEVELOP PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, MRS LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE AMOUNT WILL BE SPENT TO MEET EQUIPMENT AND CONVERSION CHARGES ON TWO NEW SUBJECTS, ENGINEERING SCIENCE, AND ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICITY, AT FORM IV LEVEL IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, SHE ADDED.

SHE WAS SPEAKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE '80S AT THE HONG KONG PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS JOINT ATHLETIC CARNIVAL HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM.

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WILL START FORM IV CLASSES THIS SEPTEMBER, AND \$3 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED TO IMPROVE THE STAFFING RATIO AND RECRUIT GRADUATE TEACHERS, MRS MOK SAID.

STUDENTS FROM THESE SCHOOLS WILL ENTER THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MAY 1983.

FUNDS AMOUNTING TO \$200 MILLION HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLOCATED FOR BUILDING ANOTHER 12 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS BETWEEN 1982 AND 1984.

+BESIDES OFFERING A SOLID FOUNDATION IN GENERAL EDUCATION, PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ALSO HELP PUPILS TO DEVELOP THE REQUISITE SKILLS TO BECOME CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS LATER ON,+ MRS MOK SAID.

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HAD BEEN GAINING IN POPULARITY, SHE SAID, NOTING THAT MORE THAN 13 000 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS OR ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF THE PRIMARY SIX POPULATION, HAD APPLIED FOR ADMISSION INTO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS THIS SEPTEMBER.

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#### AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (MARCH 28) AT 10 AM IN THE CITY HALL LECTURE HALL.

A TOTAL OF 35 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

CJ 993	CH9002	CJ3111	CK1238	CJ7008
CJ1798	CJ 327	CJ 826	CK 338	CK3233
CC 63	AJ 77	AJ 11	CM 1	CM 71
CK 66	CL 353	1696	738	1889
CL1122	CH 4	HK 868	AA 93	CJ3666
CJ2006	CJ 138	CJ 148	CK 328	CK 883
CJ3238	CJ3138	CK2008	CJ3288	CM 924

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, THE 62ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TRANSPORT FOR DISABLED EXHIBITION OPENS ON SATURDAY

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THE DIFFICULTIES DISABLED PEOPLE FACE IN GETTING AROUND AND WAYS THEY CAN BE HELPED WILL BE THE THEME OF AN EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN TUEN MUN FROM MARCH 28 TO APRIL 3.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 28) AT TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND, HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD. OFFICIATING WILL BE LADY CATER, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY CHEST= MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES= AND MR LAU WONG-FAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

THE EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS, POSTERS AND A MODEL OF ROADS AND ACCESSES IN WHICH VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ON WHEELCHAIRS TO EXPERIENCE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS OF DISABLED PERSONS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 1.30 PM. MR DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST.

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PLB PROHIBITION AT KOWLOON CITY FERRY CONCOURSE

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FROM 10 AM ON MARCH 28, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, UNLESS AUTHORISED, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS +MAXICAB+ STAND AT THE KOWLOON CITY FERRY CONCOURSE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITION AT THE FERRY CONCOURSE CAR PARK WILL BE RESCINDED.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO INDICATE THE ABOVE PROHIBITION.

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