



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:	
TRAINING SCHEME FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY PLANNED .....	1
'FIXED TRAFFIC PENALTY SYSTEM SAVES COURT TIME' ..	2
ADULT EDUCATION COURSES WELL RECEIVED .....	3
FULL-SCALE RACING CIRCUIT NOT JUSTIFIED .....	4
CLOSE WATCH KEPT ON RED TIDE .....	4
EFFORT MADE TO CONTROL ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS .....	5
HOLIDAY TO MARK PRINCE CHARLES'S WEDDING .....	6
USE OF DESALTER DEPENDS ON SUMMER RAINFALL .....	6
SECRETARY FOR HOUSING ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON KINDERGARTENS, NURSERIES, HAWKERS AND FACTORIES ..	7
FLYOVERS CAN CARRY FLEET OF CONCRETE MIXERS .....	8
EXTRA \$5 316M EXPENDITURE APPROVED .....	9
SQUATTERS DESIGN OWN HUTS .....	9
BILLS PASSED .....	9
FINANCING OF WELFARE SERVICES IN VOLUNTARY SECTOR .....	10
KCR 'ROLLING INTO 21ST CENTURY' .....	12
PWD GEARS UP FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION .....	14
PUBLIC ADVISED TO TAKE EARLY STORM PRECAUTIONS .....	16
FISHERMEN GET GOVERNMENT LOAN FOR TRAWLERS .....	16
SELF-DISCIPLINE AND HELP FOR OTHERS STRESSED .....	17
RECLAMATION TENANCY SOUGHT .....	18
MUSICAL 'GET-TOGETHER' FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN .....	18
REST PAVILION TO BE BUILT FOR TSUEN WAN WALKERS AND PICNICKERS .....	19

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 1 -

TRAINING SCHEMES FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY PLANNED  
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THREE TRAINING SCHEMES PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WERE CONSIDERED TO BE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY EFFORT AIMED AT DIVERSIFICATION TOWARDS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN.

HE SAID THAT THE SCHEMES WERE CONTAINED IN PROPOSALS MADE BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF INDUSTRY-WIDE SCHEMES TO BE FINANCED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE, AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATUTORY BODY TO ADMINISTER THEM.

THE SCHEMES PARTICULARLY PERTINENT TO MR CHAN'S QUESTION, PROPOSE:

- \* PROVIDING PRACTICAL TRAINING TO ENGINEERING GRADUATES,
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE MAINLY FOR THE TRAINING OF KEY OPERATIVE MANPOWER, AND
- \* THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING CENTRE FOR KEY ENGINEERING TRADES WHICH ARE FOUND IN ALMOST ALL INDUSTRIES.

THE FIRST SCHEME, MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED, AIMS AT BRINGING ABOUT SUFFICIENT TRAINING PLACES IN INDUSTRY NEEDED FOR PROVIDING ABOUT 550 ENGINEERING GRADUATES A YEAR WITH ORGANISED POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE SECOND AIMS AT PROVIDING TRAINING IN THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES TO ABOUT 2 000 NEW OPERATIVE ANNUALLY FOR THE THREE MAJOR ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING SECTORS, NAMELY, THE SEMICONDUCTOR, THE COMPUTER/MEMORY PLANE AND THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SECTORS.

THE LAST SCHEME SEEKS TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN SKILLS WHICH ARE BASIC TO KEY ENGINEERING TRADES SUCH AS TOOL AND DIE MAKERS, MACHINISTS AND FITTERS WHICH TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE BASE OF ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION THAT THE SCHEMES AS WELL AS THE STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING THEM SHOULD BE SET UP AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

DETAILS OF THE FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED WERE IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF PREPARATION AND TWO SITES HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR THE SCHEMES, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 2 -

'FIXED TRAFFIC PENALTY SYSTEM SAVES COURT TIME'

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THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEMS FOR ILLEGAL PARKING AND FOR MINOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES HAVE MADE IT MUCH EASIER TO PROSECUTE THE LARGE NUMBER OF MOTORISTS WHO COMMIT THESE CONTRAVENTIONS WHILE SAVING THE TIME OF THE COURTS AND THUS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AVOIDING UNDUE WASTE OF PUBLIC TIME AND MONEY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN 1980 SOME 1 600 000 TICKETS WERE ISSUED FOR THESE OFFENCES AND ABOUT \$100 MILLION IN REVENUE WAS COLLECTED, HE SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG.

THE SYSTEM IS QUITE EFFICIENT AND ON AVERAGE JUST OVER 90 PER CENT OF THE TICKETS ISSUED FOR PARKING CONTRAVENTIONS AND ABOUT 99 PER CENT OF THOSE ISSUED FOR MOVING TRAFFIC OFFENCES ARE PAID.

+THIS RECORD IS, INDEED, VERY GOOD COMPARED WITH SIMILAR SYSTEMS IN OPERATION IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, FOR INSTANCE, ONLY ABOUT A THIRD OF ALL FIXED PENALTY PARKING TICKETS ARE PAID,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, THE MINORITY WHO IGNORE FIXED PENALTY TICKETS AND WHO ARE THEN AUTOMATICALLY TAKEN TO COURT, CAN CAUSE LENGTHY AND COSTLY PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THEIR FINES ARE COLLECTED. THIS HAS LED TO CRITICISM BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT AND THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND RESULTED IN THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING PARTY TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE SYSTEM.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS WORKING PARTY, WHICH INVOLVE CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE EARLIER PAYMENTS OF FIXED PENALTY FINES, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, HE SAID.

MR JONES ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM TO OTHER MINOR OFFENCES SUCH AS LITTERING, BUT HAD CONCLUDED, THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 3 -

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES WELL RECEIVED

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SOME 370 000 PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN PART-TIME AND ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY GOVERNMENT, VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS FIGURE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE 105 000 LISTENERS CLAIMED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG FOR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES RUN JOINTLY BY RTHK, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, CARITAS AND THE HONG KONG MEDICAL SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

MR HAYE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM CONCERNING THE PRESENT POSITION OF HONG KONG'S ADULT EDUCATION.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES TO ADULT EDUCATION THROUGH COURSES RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OR BY PUBLICITY-FINANCED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE TOTAL ENROLMENT IN THESE COURSES IN 1980 AMOUNTED TO SOME 117 000, THE DIRECTOR SAID.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS, PRIVATE EVENING SCHOOLS, THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND VARIOUS CONSULATES HAVE ENROLLED OVER 221 000 IN A VARIETY OF COURSES.

APART FROM THOSE TAKING EVENING COURSES, SOME 28 000 STUDENTS ENTERED PART-TIME DAY COURSES IN THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS.

BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, A SUBVENTION SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TO ASSIST VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION COURSES.

+THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 28 APPLICATIONS FROM 17 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS= OF THESE, 18 APPLICATIONS FROM 12 ORGANISATIONS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR SUBVENTION AND THE SCHEME CAME INTO OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER, 1980,+ MR HAYE SAID.

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FULL-SCALE RACING CIRCUIT NOT JUSTIFIED

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THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE ENOUGH INTEREST IN HONG KONG TO SUPPORT A FULL-SCALE MOTOR RACING CIRCUIT, THE HON DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON F.K. HU AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FACILITIES FOR MOTOR-CAR AND MOTOR-CYCLE RACING, MR JONES SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A CIRCUIT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY IN 1979.

+IT WOULD NEED A LARGE PIECE OF LAND WITH AT LEAST TWO MILES OF TOP QUALITY ROAD, GRANDSTANDS, PITS AND OTHER FACILITIES AND WOULD THUS BE VERY EXPENSIVE IN BOTH LAND AND MONEY.

+TO BE JUSTIFIED, IT WOULD REQUIRE A LARGE NUMBER OF EVENTS, WITH MANY SPECTATORS, TO BE HELD EACH YEAR AND THERE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN HONG KONG TO SUPPORT SUCH A VENTURE AND MAKE IT VIABLE,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ON A LESSER SCALE, DISCUSSIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HELD WITH THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION AND THE MOTOR SPORTS CLUB OF HONG KONG ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A RECREATIONAL LEASE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO ENABLE THESE BODIES TO DEVELOP FACILITIES SUCH AS RALLY CROSS AND MOTORCROSS. AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING AN AREA TO ACCOMMODATE THE HONG KONG KART CLUB IS ALSO BEING CONSIDERED.

+IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE SUCCESSFUL AND COME TO FRUITION THE LOWER COST MOTOR SPORTS THEY WILL PROMOTE ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE SUITED TO HONG KONG CONDITIONS IN THAT THEY MAKE MORE INTENSIVE USE OF LAND AND, IF PROPERLY AND SAFELY RUN, ARE LIKELY TO ATTRACT MORE PARTICIPANTS,+ HE SAID.

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CLOSE WATCH KEPT ON RED TIDE

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WARNINGS ARE ISSUED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND SAMPLES ARE TAKEN FOR LABORATORY TESTING IN ANY REPORTED OUTBREAK OF RED TIDE, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, HE SAID A MILD TOXIN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN ONLY ONE LOCAL RED TIDE SPECIES AND NO CASE OF HUMAN DEATH OR ILLNESS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CONSUMPTION OF FISH OR SEA FOODS AFFECTED BY RED TIDES OR OTHER ALGAL BLOOMS HAS BEEN REPORTED HERE.

FISH DEATHS RESULTING FROM BLOOMS OF ALGAE INCLUDING RED TIDES ARE USUALLY DUE TO OXYGEN DEPLETION BUT SOME SPECIES OF THE ORGANISMS RESPONSIBLE FOR RED TIDES MAY PRODUCE TOXINS AND IT IS POSSIBLE FOR FISH AND SHELL-FISH TO BE AFFECTED BY THESE TOXINS.

/TO MINIMISE .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 5 -

TO MINIMISE ANY POTENTIAL HAZARD TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM EATING FISH AND SEA FOODS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY RED TIDES STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT VISIT REPORTED OUTBREAKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE SAMPLES FOR LABORATORY EXAMINATION. THEY ALSO ASSIST FISH FARMERS TO LIMIT LOSSES, ADVISE THEM NOT TO MARKET ANY FISH WHICH MAY HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE OUTBREAK AND WARN OTHER FISHERMEN IN THE AREA NOT TO COLLECT, MARKET OR CONSUME ANY FISH OR SHELL-FISH WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED.

ALL FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION MARKET MANAGERS ARE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF THE AREAS WHERE ALGAL BLOOMS HAVE OCCURRED AND ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO ACCEPT FISH WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY OUTBREAKS.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARE ALSO NOTIFIED AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS INFORMED OF OUTBREAKS THROUGH THE NEWS MEDIA.

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#### EFFORT MADE TO CONTROL ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS

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THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO CONTROL NEW AREAS OF ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS AND STRUCTURES IN SQUATTER AREAS THROUGH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, SAID TODAY.

AS WAS WELL KNOWN, HOWEVER, NEW SQUATTER AREAS HAD BEEN BUILT ON SLOPES, HE SAID.

MR STEAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES WERE AT PRESENT DIRECTED TOWARDS WORKS ON SLOPES THAT COULD AFFECT PEOPLE IN PERMANENT STRUCTURES AND SQUATTER AREAS WERE NOT GIVEN ANY PRIORITY.

+STAFF ARE AVAILABLE ON A 24 HOUR STANDBY BASIS TO DEAL WITH REPORTS OF DISTRESS IN SLOPES IN SQUATTER AREAS AND WHEN HEAVY AND PROLONGED RAIN IS FORECAST THE NUMBER OF STAFF ON SUCH STANDBY IS INCREASED,+ MR STEAN SAID.

+SHOULD FAILURE OF ANY SLOPE WHICH WOULD PUT SQUATTER STRUCTURES AT RISK, APPEAR LIKELY, THE EVACUATION OF THE AFFECTED SQUATTERS WOULD BE ORDERED.+

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HOLIDAY TO MARK PRINCE CHARLES'S WEDDING

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THE WEDDING OF HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES IS A MOMENTOUS AND JOYFUL EVENT WHICH MERITS SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND OBSERVANCE IN HONG KONG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF A BILL WHICH PRESCRIBES JULY 29, THE WEDDING DAY OF PRINCE CHARLES AND LADY DIANA SPENCER, AS BOTH A GENERAL AND A STATUTORY HOLIDAY IN HONG KONG.

SIR JACK NOTED THAT THE PRINCE IS WELL-RESPECTED HERE AS HIS VISIT IN MARCH 1979 SHOWED.

+LARGE AND HAPPY CROWDS ATTENDED HIM EVERYWHERE AS HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY UNDERTOOK AN EXHAUSTING ITINERARY DURING WHICH HE SAW (AND MANIFESTLY APPRECIATED) MANY ASPECTS OF HONG KONG LIFE.

+THOSE WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIM COULD NOT BUT BE IMPRESSED BY HIS CHARM AND HIS SINCERE CONCERN FOR THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS RECOGNISED THIS CONCERN AND RESPONDED WITH RESPECT, LOYALTY AND AFFECTION,+ SIR JACK SAID.

TO CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS AND LADY DIANA VARIOUS FESTIVITIES ARE BEING PREPARED HERE INCLUDING A WEDDING PRESENT, A SET OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE CEREMONY.

SIR JACK NOTED THAT THE WEDDING DAY HAS BEEN DECLARED A HOLIDAY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN HONG KONG IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE WEDDING DAY SHOULD BE OBSERVED AS A GENERAL HOLIDAY FOR BANKS, SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND ALSO AS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, FOR THE PURPOSES OF OTHER EMPLOYMENT. EMPLOYERS UNABLE TO GIVE THEIR EMPLOYEES A HOLIDAY ON JULY 29 WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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USE OF DESALTER DEPENDS ON SUMMER RAINFALL

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A DECISION ON WHETHER TO BRING THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT INTO FULL OPERATION DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF SUMMER RAINFALL, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR JACK STEAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG, MR STEAN SAID THE PRESENT PROPOSED PROGRAMME WAS FOR EACH OF THE SIX EVAPORATOR UNITS TO BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN TURN WITH A VIEW TO THE WHOLE PLANT BEING AVAILABLE FOR FULL OPERATION BY AUTUMN.

IF IT DID BECOME NECESSARY TO BRING THE PLANT INTO FULL OPERATION, THE MONTHLY RUNNING COST WOULD BE ABOUT \$45 MILLION, MR STEAN SAID. THE OUTPUT AT FULL OPERATION WOULD PROVIDE A LITTLE OVER 10 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT DEMAND FOR FRESH WATER.

MR STEAN SAID THE CURRENT OPERATIONAL COST OF PRODUCING 1 000 GALLONS OF DESALTER WATER WAS \$37.68.

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SECRETARY FOR HOUSING ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON  
KINDERGARTENS, NURSERIES, HAWKERS AND FACTORIES  
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IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON KINDERGARTENS, NURSERIES, HAWKERS AND FLATTED FACTORIES.

A GIST OF THE QUESTIONS AND REPLIES FOLLOWS:

HOW ARE RENTS AND FEES APPROVED FOR KINDERGARTENS IN ESTATES (ASKED BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT):

MR LIAO REPLIED THAT UNTIL RECENTLY RENTS FOR SUCH KINDERGARTENS HAD BEEN FIXED BY OPEN TENDER. LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THREE KINDERGARTENS WERE LET AT CONCESSIONARY RENTS TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING AGENCIES, SIX MORE SUCH PREMISES TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR WOULD BE LET IN THE SAME WAY, AND IN FUTURE THIS SYSTEM WOULD CONTINUE, SUBJECT TO THE COMING WHITE PAPER ON PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION. THE FEES CHARGED WERE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, HE ADDED.

WILL NURSERIES BE INCLUDED AS A STANDARD FACILITY IN ALL FUTURE HOME OWNERSHIP ESTATES (THE HON F.K. HU)?

MR LIAO REPLIED THAT PROVISION OF NURSERIES IN THESE ESTATES DEPENDED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING WHETHER THE ESTATE SITE WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A NURSERY, AND WHETHER NURSERIES ALREADY EXISTED IN THE LOCALITY. +THE NEED FOR EACH TYPE OF COMMUNITY FACILITY IS CONSIDERED AT THE PLANNING STAGE,+ HE ADDED.

ARE MORE OR FEWER LICENSED AND UNLICENSED HAWKERS OPERATING DAILY IN ESTATES, AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO CONTROL ILLEGAL HAWKING IN ESTATES, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENINGS AND AT WEEKENDS (THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN)?

MR LIAO REPLIED THAT THERE WERE NOW SEVEN PER CENT FEWER HAWKERS OPERATING IN OR NEAR ESTATES COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, THE TOTAL BEING DOWN TO NEARLY 11 800.

ON CONTROL MEASURES, HE SAID THE MAIN ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ILLEGAL HAWKING WAS BY THE USE OF TIDINESS TEAMS, WHILE A SMALL NUMBER OF HAWKERS WERE PROSECUTED AND ARTICLES CAUSING OBSTRUCTION OR ABANDONED WERE REMOVED UNDER THE POWERS GIVEN BY THE HOUSING ORDINANCE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE COST INVOLVED, SUCH ACTION WAS NOT GENERALLY TAKEN OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS UNLESS WARRANTED.

+ON A LONG-TERM BASIS SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS CONSTRUCTING PERMANENT MARKETS WITHIN OR ADJOINING ESTATES FOR REPROVISIONING THESE HAWKERS,+ HE SAID. +IN ADDITION, MANY HAWKERS HAVE BEEN RESITED INTO CONTROLLED AREAS WITHIN ESTATES.+

BUT HE WARNED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE UNLIKELY TO BRING ANY DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THOUGH IT WAS HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM.

/HOW ARE .....

HOW ARE RENTS FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY FLATTED FACTORIES DETERMINED, WHAT IS THE VACANCY POSITION OF SUCH UNITS BUILT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND WHAT IS THE AVERAGE PERIOD THESE UNITS HAVE BEEN VACANT (THE HON WONG PO-YAN)?

MR LIAO EXPLAINED THAT RENTS FOR THE NEWEST FLATTED FACTORY UNITS WERE SET AT A MARKET LEVEL AS ESTABLISHED BY OPEN TENDER. THIS METHOD WAS USED BECAUSE THE SMALL, SPECIALLY DESIGNED UNITS IN FLATTED FACTORIES WERE GENERALLY UNAVAILABLE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND SO THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR ASSESSING COMPARABLE RENTS.

ON VACANCIES, HE SAID THERE WERE 1 200 EMPTY UNITS, MOST OF THEM IN A NEW BLOCK IN THE YIP ON FACTORY ESTATE AT KOWLOON BAY WHICH HAD BEEN COMPLETED TWO MONTHS AGO. THERE WERE ALSO 147 VACANCIES IN A YEAR-OLD BLOCK AT THE SAME FACTORY ESTATE.

MR LIAO ADDED: +MOST FACTORY UNITS ARE LET WITHIN A FEW MONTHS OF COMPLETION, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A RESERVE IS MAINTAINED TO MEET CLEARANCE COMMITMENTS, AND SOME OF THE UNITS NOW STANDING EMPTY ARE BEING RESERVED FOR KNOWN CLEARANCES OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.+

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#### FLYOVERS CAN CARRY FLEET OF CONCRETE MIXERS

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ALL HONG KONG'S HIGHWAY STRUCTURES ARE DESIGNED TO CARRY A STANDARD DESIGN LOADING WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO HAVING A FLEET OF CONCRETE MIXER TRUCKS CLOSELY PACKED ON A CARRIAGEWAY, SAID THE HON J.G. STEAN, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SUCH FULLY-LOADED CONCRETE MIXER TRUCKS REPRESENT A GREATER LOADING INTENSITY THAN THAT OF FULLY-LOADED DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES AND CONTAINER TRUCKS, WHICH ARE RELATIVELY LONGER, MR STEAN SAID.

MR STEAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HARRY FANG AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT FLYOVERS ARE DESIGNED WITH A LOAD CAPACITY TO ALLOW A LARGE NUMBER OF HEAVY VEHICLES, SUCH AS FULLY-LOADED DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES AND CONTAINER TRUCKS TO REMAIN ON THEM DURING CONGESTION.

APART FROM THE DESIGN FOR VEHICULAR LOADING, ALLOWANCE IS ALSO MADE IN THE DESIGN FOR TEMPERATURES AND WIND EFFECTS AND OTHER FORCES IMPOSED BY MOVING TRAFFIC, AND A SUITABLE SAFETY FACTOR IS ALSO INCORPORATED, HE SAID.

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EXTRA \$5 316M EXPENDITURE APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AMOUNTING TO \$5 316 MILLION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1980-81.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID THAT OF THIS SUM, \$3 500 MILLION WAS REQUIRED AS A CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING THE ISLAND LINE.

OTHER MAJOR ITEMS INCLUDED \$638 MILLION FOR EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS (INCLUDING 34 PROJECTS UPGRADED TO OR INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME) - \$400 MILLION TO MEET LOANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED HOME PURCHASE SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS - AND \$394 MILLION FOR VARIOUS PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR BOTH THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION RESULTED IN A NET INCREASE OF \$4 484 MILLION IN THE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR THE YEAR, THE REMAINDER BEING OFFSET UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE AND BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS UNDER THE TWO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES.

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SQUATTERS DESIGN OWN HUTS

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STRUCTURES IN SQUATTER AREAS, WHETHER TOLERATED OR NOT, ARE PUT UP WITHOUT ANY REGULATION AS TO DENSITY, LOCATION, DESIGN, OR BUILDING MATERIALS, THE HON D.C. BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, SAID TODAY AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG.

THE ONLY GOVERNMENT RULE AT PRESENT IS ONE OF CONTROL, NAMELY, THAT ANY REBUILDING OR REPAIR OF TOLERATED STRUCTURES WHICH MAKES THEM BIGGER OR WHICH INVOLVES THE USE OF PERMANENT MATERIALS IN REPLACEMENT OF TEMPORARY MATERIALS IS NOT ALLOWED.

+WITHIN THESE LIMITS, THE DESIGN OF AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE SQUATTER HUTS ARE DECIDED ON BY THE SQUATTERS THEMSELVES,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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BILLS PASSED

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THE AERIAL ROPEWAYS (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1981 WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE OTHER BILLS -- THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY (PRINCE OF WALES' WEDDING) BILL 1981, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 AND THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1981 -- WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

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FINANCING OF WELFARE SERVICES IN VOLUNTARY SECTOR

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE RECENT CLAIMS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES BEING CURTAILED OR FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE FUNDING WERE +EXAGGERATED AND UNSUBSTANTIATED+.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF NO VOLUNTARY AGENCY WHICH IS +ON THE BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY+ OR AGENCIES PULLING OUT OF EXPANSION PROGRAMMES BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE DESCRIBED THE CLAIMS AS AN ATTEMPT TO SPREAD DESPONDENCY AND ALARM AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED IF THIS WERE THE CASE.

MRS CHAN WAS GIVING A TALK AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST, IN WHICH SHE REVIEWED THE AGENCIES' ROLE IN WELFARE SERVICES PROVISION, THEIR TRADITION OF RAISING FUNDS, THE PRESENT SUBVENTION SYSTEM AND THE NEED FOR CHANGES.

SHE POINTED OUT THE DEPARTMENT HAS SO FAR RECEIVED ONLY 11 APPEALS ON THE 1981-82 SUBVENTION ALLOCATIONS OUT OF SOME 115 SUBVENTED AGENCIES, AND THESE CLAIM INADEQUATE SUPPORT IN SPECIFIC SERVICE AREAS ONLY.

+THESE APPEALS ARE BEING CONSIDERED WITH THE GREATEST CARE AND SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS WILL BE RECOMMENDED WHERE JUSTIFIED,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH AGENCIES IN RESOLVING WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES THEY MAY FACE, BUT IT IS UP TO AGENCIES TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT IF THEY SO WISH.

REFERRING TO DONATIONS FOR AGENCIES, MRS CHAN SAID IT IS QUITE WRONG TO SUGGEST THAT DONORS' MONEY IS NOT HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, OR THAT FOR EVERY DOLLAR RAISED BY AGENCIES, THE GOVERNMENT +SAVES+ ONE DOLLAR.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT, QUITE APART FROM DEFINED AREAS OF WELFARE SERVICES WHERE EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED, THERE ARE OTHER SERVICES WHICH CAN BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO FINANCE THEM ALL.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENCOURAGED THE DESIGNATING OF DONATIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR SUCH SERVICES WHERE AGENCIES WISH TO PROVIDE THEM AND CAN SATISFY THEIR DONORS OF THEIR NEED AND CAPACITY.

+WHERE NO SUCH INTENTION IS EVIDENT, IT HAS BEEN THE ACCEPTED PRACTICE TO REGARD SUCH INCOME AS AVAILABLE TOWARDS THE SUPPORT OF WELFARE SERVICES, AND TO TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DETERMINING THE GOVERNMENT GRANT,+ SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN STRESSED THAT EACH YEAR, THE LEGISLATURE HAS VOTED INCREASING SUMS TO FINANCE WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, HAVING REGARD TO EXISTING SERVICES AND PLANNED TARGETS.

IF SOME AGENCIES REQUIRE LESS SUPPORT THAN OTHERS BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN FUND-RAISING, IT JUST MEANS THAT THERE IS MORE TO GO AROUND IN EXPANDING AND UPGRADING SERVICES, SHE SAID. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT.

SHE SAID TOTAL SUBVENTIONS TO AGENCIES HAVE INCREASED VERY SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, FROM \$16 MILLION IN 1970-71 TO \$192 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

+OVERALL, THE PERCENTAGE OF INCOME RAISED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FROM OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY CHEST, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND PRIVATE DONORS HAS DECREASED RELATIVE TO THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, AND NOW REPRESENTS A MERE 15 PER CENT,+ SHE SAID.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ON AVERAGE, SOME 70 PER CENT OF AGENCIES' EXPENDITURE COMES FROM THE PUBLIC PURSE, AND IN SOME CASES, THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT CAN BE AS HIGH AS 90 PER CENT.

+I WOULD NOT WISH RECENT REPORTS AND STATEMENTS IN THE MASS MEDIA TO UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS TO WORK HAND IN HAND IN SERVING OUR COMMUNITY,+ SHE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE EXISTING DISCRETIONARY SYSTEM OF SUBVENTION, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE NEED FOR CHANGES ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AS TO WHETHER AGENCIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO RAISE SOME FUNDS ON THEIR OWN, SHE SAID.

IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE AGENCIES A FIRM INDICATION OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FROM YEAR TO YEAR SO THAT THEY CAN PLAN THEIR BUDGETS ACCORDINGLY AND TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON HOW THE AGENCIES' OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME SHOULD BE TREATED.

SHE FELT OPTIMISTIC THAT SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SUBVENTION SYSTEM COULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1982-83.

A GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY HAS RECOMMENDED THE CLASSIFICATION OF WELFARE SERVICES ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS, AND HAS PROPOSED THAT SERVICES CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL OR NECESSARY BE FINANCED FULLY BY THE GOVERNMENT BASED ON PRE-DETERMINED SERVICE STANDARDS.

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE, SHE SAID, WOULD BE THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES' OTHER INCOME, APART FROM FEES, WOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, MEANING THEY WOULD BE FREE TO CHOOSE WAYS OF DEPLOYING FUNDS RAISED FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

SUCH FUNDS COULD EITHER BE USED IN THE PROVISION OF NON-SUBVENTED SERVICES OR IN IMPROVING STANDARDS OF SUBVENTED SERVICES, SHE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR'S VIEWS ON THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE IN GENERAL SUPPORTED.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSULTED VERY SHORTLY AND THE CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## KCR +ROLLING INTO 21ST CENTURY+

\* \* \* \*

THE REBUILT KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, DESIGNED TO CARRY 500 000 PASSENGERS A DAY BY 1990, WILL BE -- BY ANY STANDARDS -- A SURFACE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, MR D.M. HOWES, CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE LIONS CLUB OF THE PEAK, HE SAID THAT IN EFFECT, THE KCR WAS IN ONE LEAP MOVING FROM THE 19TH TO THE 21ST CENTURY.

+THE END PRODUCT WILL BE EVERY BIT AS MUCH A NEW RAILWAY AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY,+ MR HOWES SAID.

+PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST EMOTIVE SUBJECTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, BUT NOWHERE HAVE I FOUND IT SO EMOTIVE AS IN HONG KONG.

+THE PUBLIC HAVE A RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE VARIOUS FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT BROADLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT THEY ARE OPERATED EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY. EQUALLY THERE MUST BE AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC THAT THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR THE SERVICE STANDARDS THEY EXPECT.+

MR HOWES SAID THE BASIC REASON FOR THE KCR PROJECT WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS ALONG THE NORTHEAST AXIS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

POPULATION FORECASTS FOR SUCH CENTRES AS SHA TIN, TAI PO AND FANLING, HE ADDED, HAD INCREASED AND THERE WAS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF UNSATISFIED DEMAND ALONG THE RAIL ROUTE.

BETWEEN 1977 AND 1980, KCR PASSENGER VOLUME HAD INCREASED BY MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. WITHIN THAT FIGURE, TRAFFIC TO AND FROM CHINA HAD RISEN 250 PER CENT.

THE NEW KCR IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE 500 000 PASSENGERS A DAY BY 1990, ALONG WITH THREE TIMES THE PRESENT VOLUME OF FREIGHT.

MR HOWES SAID THE KCR, TO COST ABOUT \$2 500 MILLION AT FIRST QUARTER 1981 PRICES, WOULD IMPROVE SERVICE IN MANY WAYS:

- \* PERMISSIBLE MAXIMUM TRAIN SPEED WILL RISE TO 120 KPH FROM THE PRESENT 72 KPH=
- \* SIXTEEN TRAINS AN HOUR WILL RUN EACH WAY DURING THE MORNING AND EVENING PEAKS, AND NINE TRAINS AN HOUR DURING THE REST OF THE DAY. THE PRESENT SERVICE IS ESSENTIALLY HOURLY, INCREASING TO HALF-HOURLY IN PEAK PERIODS=
- \* JOURNEY TIMES WILL BE SLASHED. WHILE A TRAIN FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU CALLING AT ALL STATIONS NOW TAKES ABOUT ONE HOUR TEN MINUTES, THE SAME TRIP ON THE NEW KCR WILL TAKE LESS THAN 40 MINUTES. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT SOME TRAINS WILL BE SEMI-FAST, STOPPING AT A LIMITED NUMBER OF INTERMEDIATE STATIONS=

\* ALTHOUGH MANY .....

- \* ALTHOUGH MANY MORE TRAINS WILL USE THE NEW LINE, THE ELECTRIC MULTIPLE UNITS WILL BE MUCH QUIETER THAN THE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES THEY REPLACE AND WILL NOT POLLUTE THE AIR.
- \* THE INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG WILL LINK THE KCR WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY. IN ESSENCE, THE KCR WILL HANDLE BULK MOVEMENT FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES TO THE URBAN CENTRE WHILE THE MTR HANDLES DETAILED DISTRIBUTION IN THE URBAN AREA.

MR HOWES NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN BALANCING THE RUNNING OF THE PRESENT RAILWAY WITH THE NEEDS OF BUILDING THE NEW ONE.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, MUCH OF THE PHYSICAL WORK HAD TO BE CONCENTRATED INTO THE PERIOD WHEN THE KCR WAS CLOSED: ROUGHLY FROM MIDNIGHT TO 5 AM EACH DAY.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A NEED FOR TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTIONS, BUT IN GENERAL THE KCR HAD MAINTAINED A REASONABLE STANDARD OF SERVICE.

MR HOWES SAID RAILWAYS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WERE RIGHTLY PROUD OF THEIR EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD. THE KCR, DESPITE SOME RECENT PROBLEMS, HAD A SAFETY RECORD BETTER THAN MOST.

+ABSOLUTE SAFETY DOES NOT EXIST,+ HE SAID, +MODERN TECHNOLOGY WITH ALL ITS SOPHISTICATION HAS NOT YET REACHED A POINT WHERE THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN ERROR CAN BE TOTALLY OVERCOME.

+HOWEVER, THE TECHNOLOGY BEING BUILT INTO THE NEW RAILWAY WILL REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN ERROR TO AN ENORMOUS EXTENT COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING RAILWAY.+

MR HOWES SAID THE KCR'S 25 000 VOLT OVERHEAD ELECTRICITY LINE WAS ENTIRELY SAFE, PROVIDED PEOPLE BEHAVED SENSIBLY AND RESPONSIBLY.

POWER WILL BE TURNED ON TO THE FIRST SECTION OF THE LINE -- BEACON HILL TUNNEL NORTH TO RACE COURSE NORTH -- IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JULY 6. OTHER SECTIONS WILL BE ENERGISED PROGRESSIVELY.

MR HOWES SAID THE KCR HAD ALREADY STARTED A SAFETY CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD BE INTENSIFIED ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE POWER LINE WAS SWITCHED ON. THE CAMPAIGN WAS AIMED AT EVERYONE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SCHOOLS NEAR THE RAILWAY.

FOR DECADES, HE SAID, HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD USED THE RAILWAY AS ALMOST A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE. TO HELP CHANGE THIS HABIT, THE ENTIRE RAILWAY WOULD BE FENCED. PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATHS WOULD BE BUILT OUTSIDE THE FENCE AND GRADE-SEPARATED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS INSTALLED WHERE NECESSARY.

ALSO, TO COPE WITH THE VAST INCREASE IN LEVEL OF SERVICE AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE NEW RAILWAY, THE KCR IS FACED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH A VERY LARGE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN AND MASSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE SERVICE.

PWD GEARS UP FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING ITSELF FOR AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN A CHALLENGING AND EXCITING PHASE OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT — DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY DR NIP KAM-FAN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (KOWLOON), OF THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (UADO), A NEW ORGANISATION CREATED WITHIN PWD LAST YEAR TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SERVE THE NEED OF THE COMMUNITY AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

ADDRESSING THE LIONS CLUB OF VICTORIA, DR NIP SAID THAT AS STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON +DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG+, THE TERRITORY WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO 18 DISTRICTS, 10 IN THE URBAN AREA AND EIGHT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

EACH OF THE DISTRICTS WILL HAVE ITS OWN DISTRICT BOARD WHICH COMPRISES OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SO THAT RESIDENTS CAN SHARE IN AND CONTRIBUTE IDEAS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN HAVE ALREADY MET, AND IT IS PLANNED THAT THOSE IN THE OTHER URBAN DISTRICTS WILL ALL BE SET UP BY MARCH NEXT YEAR.

+THIS NEW FORM OF ADMINISTRATION WHERE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART WILL CERTAINLY BE MOST CHALLENGING AND EXCITING TO ALL OF US,+ DR NIP SAID.

ALONG WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS ADJUSTING ITSELF TO MEET THE NEW SITUATION.

HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN PWD ALREADY HAD REGIONAL OFFICES FUNCTIONING AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. HOWEVER, THE UADO WAS CREATED SO THAT THE PWD COULD BE IN A STILL BETTER POSITION TO SERVE COMMUNITY NEEDS AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

DR NIP SAID: +THE UADO CONSISTS OF A HEADQUARTERS AND A NORTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SIX DIVISIONS.

+THE JURISDICTION OF THE NORTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT OFFICE INCLUDES KWUN TONG, WONG TAI SIN AND PART OF KOWLOON CITY.+

SINCE 1961, THE POPULATION OF NORTH EAST KOWLOON HAS GROWN FROM ABOUT 340 000 TO 1.3 MILLION, INCLUDING SOME 660 000 PEOPLE IN KWUN TONG AND ABOUT 600 000 IN WONG TAI SIN.

OF THE TOTAL AREA OF 2 050 HECTARES, 1 600 HECTARES ARE PLANNED FOR DEVELOPMENT. THIS INCLUDES 500 HECTARES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THEIR INTENDED USE.

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- 15 -

AS TO PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, HE SAID, THERE WAS A LOT TO BE DONE IN NORTH EAST KOWLOON.

UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, SOME 230 PROJECTS ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT VARIOUS WORKS PROGRAMMES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO MEET INCREASING REGIONAL AND LOCAL NEEDS, THE NORTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAS SET UP IN DECEMBER 1980 TO HELP PLAN AND COORDINATE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS FOR THE REGION.

DR NIP SAID THE ORGANISATION WAS MODELLED ON THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICES IN SUCH AREAS AS SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN.

HE ADDED THAT IT HAD A MULTIDISCIPLINARY STAFF OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ESTATE SURVEYORS AND TOWN PLANNERS.

THE STAFF WILL PREPARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, AS IN THE NEW TOWNS, WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATE TO REGIONAL CONDITIONS.

THE OFFICE WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE LINK BETWEEN THE FUNCTIONAL OFFICES THE PWD AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN.

+SINCE IT WAS SET UP LAST DECEMBER, THE OFFICE HAS DEALT WITH VARIOUS MINOR IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AND IS NOW BUSILY PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENTS IN KOWLOON BAY, TAI HOM AND DIAMOND HILL,+ DR NIP SAID.

+THE NORTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS IN A WAY A PILOT CASE FOR DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION IN THE URBAN AREA ALONG THE LINES LAID DOWN IN THE NEW TOWNS.

+THE UADO IS NOW LOOKING INTO THE COORDINATING MACHINERY REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE REST OF THE URBAN AREA FOR THE BETTER COORDINATION OF ALL PWD ACTIVITIES AND A MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC NEEDS AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

+THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN NORTH KOWLOON WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE IN THIS IMPORTANT REVIEW,+ DR NIP SAID.

PENDING THIS REVIEW, HE ADDED, SMALLER INTERIM PWD TEAMS WERE BEING FORMED IN SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON CITY, ISLAND EASTERN DISTRICT AND ISLAND SOUTHERN DISTRICT TO PROVIDE LIAISON FOR DISTRICT MINOR IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE WORK.

+IT IS HOPED THAT BY THE TIME DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN THE URBAN AREA, THE PWD WILL BE ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED TO RESPOND READILY AND EFFECTIVELY TO LOCAL DEMAND,+ SAID DR NIP.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 16 -

PUBLIC ADVISED TO TAKE EARLY STORM PRECAUTIONS

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR JOHN PEACOCK REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT PRELIMINARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE DANGERS OF HIGH WINDS, LANDSLIPS AND FLOODING DUE TO TROPICAL CYCLONES AND HEAVY RAINSTORMS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

+PREPAREDNESS IS THE KEYNOTE FOR MINIMISING DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, INJURIES AND LOSS OF LIFE WHICH CAN RESULT FROM THESE STORMS, +HE SAID.

THOSE WHO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING STORMS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, INCLUDING RELEVANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS, ARE UP-TO-DATE.

GUTTERS AND DRAINS SHOULD BE CLEARED AND CHECKED FOR DAMAGE. WINDOW AND DOOR FASTENINGS SHOULD BE CHECKED AND, IF NECESSARY, REPAIRED.

OWNERS OF SMALL CRAFT SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR MOORINGS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AND THAT MOORING BITTS AND CLEATS ARE STRONG AND SECURELY FIXED TO WITHSTAND TYPHOON CONDITIONS.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT SITE WORKS ARE PROTECTED AGAINST DAMAGE FROM HEAVY RAIN.

ON THE HOISTING OF A NO 8 TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL OR DURING PERIODS OF PROLONGED HEAVY RAIN, SHELTERS WILL BE OPENED FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES TEMPORARILY FOR SAFETY REASONS.

+ANYONE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO WHERE TO GO SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR POLICE STATION, +HE ADDED.

A CARD EXPLAINING THE TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SERVICE AND A BOOKLET DESCRIBING THE THUNDERSTORM AND HEAVY RAIN WARNING SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

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FISHERMEN GET GOVERNMENT LOAN FOR TRAWLERS

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A LOAN AGREEMENT FOR \$3.06 MILLION WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PAIR OF MODERN FISHING TRAWLERS. IT IS THE LARGEST LOAN MADE UNDER THE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND (FDLF) SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1960.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ABERDEEN FISHERMEN'S CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (UNLIMITED LIABILITY). THE LOAN WILL BE RE-LENT TO TWO FISHERMEN MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, MR CHENG FOR-YAU AND MR LEUNG KOON-TAI.

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IN THE PAST 15 YEARS, THE FDLF, ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, HAS FINANCED THE BUILDING OF SEVEN PAIRS OF TRAWLERS.

THE LATEST LOAN IS FOR A PAIR OF 26.5 METRE-LONG VESSELS BUILT TO THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, AT TWO BOATYARDS IN SHAU KEI WAN. THE DESIGNS ARE POPULAR WITH FISHERMEN.

A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE VESSELS IS THE HIGH HORSEPOWER OF THE SINGLE PROPULSION ENGINE, A KELVIN OF 530 B.H.P. IN ADDITION, A NEWAGE TWO-PITCH CONTROLLABLE PROPELLER SYSTEM WILL BE FITTED TO EACH OF THE VESSELS TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS IN FUEL OIL AND TO INCREASE TOWING POWER.

THE TOTAL COST OF BUILDING AND EQUIPPING THE TWO VESSELS WITH NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND FISHING GEAR WILL BE \$3.46 MILLION. THE OWNERS WILL MEET THE COST IN EXCESS OF THE LOAN.

TODAY'S AGREEMENT BRINGS TO \$15.6 MILLION THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOANS MADE UNDER THE FDLF FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL FISHING FLEET.

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SELF-DISCIPLINE AND HELP FOR OTHERS STRESSED  
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A PERSON MUST LEARN TO RESPECT AND CULTIVATE HIS OWN SELF AS WELL AS TO RESPECT AND HELP OTHERS IN ORDER TO LEAD A FRUITFUL AND FULFILLING LIFE, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE KOWLOON AND YUEN LONG LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

NOTING THAT THE SCHOOL MOTTO IS +RECTIFY THE MIND AND CULTIVATE THE PERSON+, MR LEUNG SAID THIS SHOWED THE NECESSITY TO DISCIPLINE ONESELF, NEVER GIVE UP WITHOUT TRYING, AND AIM AT SETTING HIGH IDEALS.

+THE POSSESSION OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND ACQUISITION OF SPECIAL SKILLS DO NOT NECESSARILY BRING ABOUT THE REAL MEANING OF LIFE OR ETERNAL HAPPINESS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND WE MUST KNOW OUR OWN LIMITATIONS, OUR WEAK AND STRONG POINTS, AND THAT FAILURE AND OBSTRUCTIONS ARE INEVITABLE IN THE PURSUIT OF IDEALS.

+HAVING LEARNED FROM ONE'S FAILURES, ONE CAN AIM AT AVOIDING THE SAME MISTAKES,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

APART FROM CULTIVATING ONESELF, WE MUST ALSO RESPECT AND HELP OTHERS, HE SAID.

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RECLAMATION TENANCY SOUGHT

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION.

THE 1 820-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR USE AS CONTRACTOR WORKS AREA, INCLUDING STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

THE TENANCY IS FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AND THEREAFTER ON A QUARTERLY BASIS. THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 26.

TENDER FORMS, WITH NOTICES AND CONDITIONS, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, 19TH FLOOR, OR THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR.

TENDER PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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MUSICAL 'GET-TOGETHER' FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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MUSICALLY-INCLINED SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO PERFORM UNDER THE NEW +YOUNG MUSICIAN GET-TOGETHER+ PROGRAMME PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.

THROUGH THESE GET-TOGETHER CONCERTS, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM OTHER PLAYERS AS WELL, A MUSIC OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

AN INAUGURAL CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT 6 PM ON JUNE 12 (FRIDAY) AT THE HALL OF THE KOWLOON CARITAS CENTRE, 134 BOUNDARY STREET.

A SECOND CONCERT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13, AT THE KWUN TONG KEI CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL, 20 SHUI NING STREET AT 2.30 PM.

THE PROGRAMME FOR BOTH CONCERTS WILL INCLUDE A CLARINET SOLO, FLUTE SOLO, BARITONE SOLO, MELODION ENSEMBLE, CHORAL ENSEMBLE, RECORDER AND GUITAR DUET AND HARMONICA ORCHESTRA.

PERFORMERS AT THE TWO CONCERTS WILL COME FROM SCHOOLS IN EAST KOWLOON DISTRICT: PUI CHING MIDDLE SCHOOL, HONG KONG KUNG CHUNG CHEI MEMORIAL SCHOOL, MARYKNOLL CONVENT SCHOOL, HOMANTIN GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE SALVATION ARMY WILLIAM BOOTH SECONDARY SCHOOL, TAK OI SECONDARY SCHOOL, KIT SUM SCHOOL, C.C.C. MONG MAN WAI COLLEGE, PO CHIU COLLEGE, ST ANTONIUS GIRLS' COLLEGE AND CONFUCIAN TAI SHING SCHOOL.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE MUSIC CENTRES. FOR ENQUIRIES CALL TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-411328.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

- 19 -

REST PAVILION TO BE BUILT FOR TSUEN WAN  
WALKERS AND PICNICKERS  
\* \* \* \* \*

A CHINESE-STYLE PAVILION IS TO BE BUILT AT FU YUNG SHAN,  
TSUEN WAN.

COSTING \$84 000, THE PAVILION IS ABOUT 15 MINUTES WALK FROM  
THE MAIN TSUEN WAN - SEK KONG ROAD AND WILL PROVIDE A PLACE FOR  
MORNING WALKERS AND PICNICKERS TO REST AND SHELTER.

TSUEN WAN ROTARY CLUB HAS DONATED \$50 000 FOR THE PROJECT AND  
THE BALANCE WILL COME FROM THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE.

AT A STONE-LAYING CEREMONY TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DISTRICT  
OFFICER TSUEN WAN, MR H.T. LUI, PAID TRIBUTE TO CLUB MEMBERS FOR  
THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION.

HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT MORE AND MORE LOCAL  
ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE ROTARY CLUB, WERE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING  
IN COMMUNITY WORK.

+THE PAVILION PROVIDES NOT ONLY A SHELTER AND RESTING PLACE  
FOR MORNING WALKERS, BUT IT WILL ALSO HELP TO IMPROVE OUR  
ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MORNING WALKERS AND PICNICKERS  
WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THE PAVILION.

WORK ON THE PAVILION, WHICH IS TO BE NAMED AFTER THE ROTARY  
CLUB, WILL BE COMPLETED BY EARLY AUGUST.

THE CHAIRMAN OF TSUEN WAN ROTARY CLUB, MR CHOI HING-SHUN,  
AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER SHA TIN, DR PATRICK HASE, WHO IS ALSO  
A MEMBER, WERE AMONG THE GUESTS AT TODAY'S CEREMONY.

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