



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

NEW NATIONALITY TITLE APPROPRIATE, AG SAYS	1
BETTER EDUCATION QUALITY, QUANTITY SOUGHT	2
PRACTICABLE AND CONGRUENT, K.F. HO SAYS	5
NEED ALSO FOR ARTS EDUCATION STRESSED	6
MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT EARLY ABOLITION OF JSEA	8
NO BENEFIT FROM BUYING FORM 4 PLACES - MARIA TAM	10
COMMISSION'S APPROACH WELCOMED	12
+COMMON SENSE+ SEEN IN EDUCATION REPORT	13
SPEED UP SCHOOL BUILDING, PAULINE NG SAYS	14
EARLIER PHASING OUT OF JSEA URGED	15
FINANCE COURSES FOR TOP OFFICERS PROPOSED	16
NEED SEEN FOR MORE DENTISTS	18
PILOT CENSUS IN MARCH	18
INSURANCE LAW +OUTDATED+	19
FIRE WATCH TEAMS PRAISED FOR +USEFUL ROLE+	19
KWAI FONG ESTATE BLOCKS +STRUCTURALLY SAFE+	20
FEWER REPORTS OF THEFTS FROM INSIDE CARS	22
PUBLICITY ON IRON GRILLE GATES ADEQUATE	22

/+LAW ALONE

+LAW ALONE WON'T STOP CRANE ACCIDENTS+	23
SCHOOL NOISE ABATEMENT REPORT ON THE WAY	23
CONTROLS ON RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS ADEQUATE	24
FIRST-AID TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS SUFFICIENT	25
+FIRE DETECTION MEASURES SATISFACTORY+	25
'BUGS LIKELY' IN COMPUTER TOLL SYSTEM	26
JOB FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT	27
MANY TUTORIAL CLASSES OUTSIDE ORDINANCE	28
EDUCATION COMMITMENT 'GLADLY ACCEPTED'	29
SATURDAY BALLOT FOR 3 776 HOS FLATS	29
CANDIDATES ASKED NOT TO DESPOIL COUNCIL VENUES	30
BOARD TO LOOK INTO LINKS WITH GROUPS	31
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH LEADERS	32
CUSTOMS WORK	32
MEET THE MEDIA	32
LUNCH TIME MUSIC FOR WORKERS	33
MAIL TO URUGUAY SUSPENDED	33

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 1 -

NEW NATIONALITY TITLE APPROPRIATE, AG SAYS

* * * * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HAVING CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF OPTIONS, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT +BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS)+ WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TITLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE WAS EXPLAINING TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD INFLUENCED THE CHOICE OF THE NEW NATIONALITY TITLE.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MR THOMAS' STATEMENT:

+WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR, I WISH TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE HONG KONG BILL, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 10, PASSED ITS SECOND READING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON JANUARY 21.

+IN OPENING THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE BILL, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE REFERRED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM ASSOCIATED WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDED FOR BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS OF HONG KONG TO RETAIN AN APPROPRIATE STATUS WHICH WILL ENTITLE THEM TO CONTINUE TO USE PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. SIR GEOFFREY SAID, AND I QUOTE:

+FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE HONG KONG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, IT IS INTENDED THAT THE TITLE OF THE NEW FORM OF NATIONALITY SHOULD BE 'BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS)'. IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY TO DEVISE A TITLE WHICH MEETS ALL THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS. ON THE ONE HAND IT NEEDS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH A FORM OF BRITISH NATIONALITY. NOTHING LESS THAN THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN HONG KONG. ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TITLE WE CHOOSE CAN CONTINUE TO BE USED AFTER 1997. FOR THIS TO BE POSSIBLE, THE TITLE MUST CLEARLY CARRY NO IMPLICATION OF A CONTINUING CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG AFTER 1997. I BELIEVE THAT THE TITLE WE HAVE CHOSEN MEETS THESE NEEDS. IT HAS NECESSARILY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CAREFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THE COMPLETION OF THESE CONSULTATIONS HAS ENABLED ME TO ANNOUNCE THE TITLE TO THE HOUSE TODAY. THERE SHOULD NOW BE ADEQUATE TIME TO EXPLAIN THE CHOICE OF THE NEW TITLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

+I WISH TO EXPLAIN TO THE COUNCIL THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED THE CHOICE OF TITLE. FIRST, THE MINISTER OF STATE, MR RICHARD LUCE, TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON DECEMBER 5, 1984 THAT THE STATUS TO BE ACQUIRED AND RETAINED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE UK MEMORANDUM WOULD BE A NEW FORM OF BRITISH NATIONALITY. THE TITLE MUST, THEREFORE, BE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OF THOSE CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1981. THESE EXISTING TITLES ARE: BRITISH CITIZEN, BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN, BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZEN, BRITISH SUBJECT AND BRITISH PROTECTED PERSON.

/+SECONDLY, THE

+SECONDLY, THE TITLE MUST BE UNIQUE SO THAT IT CAN BE READILY IDENTIFIED WITH PERSONS WHO ON JUNE 30, 1997 ARE BDTC'S BY VIRTUE OF A CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO FACILITATE ACCEPTANCE BY THIRD COUNTRIES OF THE NEW STATUS AND THE FUTURE PASSPORTS CARRYING THAT STATUS.

+THIRDLY, THE TITLE MUST CLEARLY STIPULATE THAT THE STATUS TO WHICH IT CORRESPONDS IS A FORM OF BRITISH NATIONALITY.

+FOURTHLY, HOWEVER, THE CHOICE OF TITLE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED AFTER 1997, WHEN HONG KONG WILL HAVE CEASED TO BE BRITISH TERRITORY. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANY TITLE WHICH CONTAINS BOTH THE WORD 'BRITISH' AND THE NAME 'HONG KONG' WOULD NOT MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.

+FINALLY, I SHOULD ALSO PUT ON RECORD THE FACT THAT, A NUMBER OF OPTIONS HAVING BEEN CONSIDERED, AND IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT 'BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS)' WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

BETTER EDUCATION QUALITY, QUANTITY SOUGHT
* * * * *

THE APPROACH OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT WAS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

+THE JSEA ITSELF HAS BEEN SEEN AS THE SYMPTOM NOT THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT DEFICIENCIES IN THE SYSTEM,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION CREATED BY THE REACTION OF VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAD NOT RECOMMENDED AS SUCH THE ABOLITION OF THE JSEA IN 1991, OR IN ANY OTHER YEAR, BUT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR PROPOSALS THAT IT SHOULD BE PHASED OUT IN THAT YEAR, MR HENDERSON SAID.

IN OTHER WORDS THE REMOVAL OF THE JSEA FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SCENE WAS A BY-PRODUCT OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION ON POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION RATHER THAN THE OBJECTIVE BEHIND THEM, HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON WAS SPEAKING IN SUMMING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ON THE FIRST REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

HE SAID THAT THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS INVOLVED:

- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FURTHER 35 SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING THE 11 APPROVED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF PASSING OUT FORMS 1 TO 3 BOUGHT PLACES IN THE LESS SATISFACTORY PRIVATE SCHOOLS),
- * THE INTRODUCTION OF A MORE SYMMETRICAL CLASS STRUCTURE IN EXISTING SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ENABLE FORM 3 LEAVERS TO PROCEED TO FORMS 4 AND 5 WITHOUT HAVING TO CHANGE SCHOOL,
- * THE USE OF BOUGHT PLACES IN FORMS 4 AND 5 OF THOSE PRIVATE PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS WHICH CAN OFFER A SATISFACTORY STANDARD OF EDUCATION, THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME CRAFT PLACES, AND
- * A BROADENING OF THE CURRICULUM TO CATER FOR THE FULL RANGE OF STUDENT ABILITY, HE SAID.

BECAUSE THERE WAS A PHYSICAL LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT COULD BE BUILT ANNUALLY, THE FULL EFFECTS OF THIS EXPANSION PROGRAMME WOULD NOT BE FELT UNTIL 1991 AT WHICH TIME THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS WOULD ALLOW JSEA TO BE PHASED OUT, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DURING THE PERIOD UP TO 1991, THE PROVISION OF FORM 3 PUBLIC SECTOR PLACES WOULD SHOW A STEADY EXPANSION, AND THE PRESSURE WHICH THE JSEA PUT ON STUDENTS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES WOULD STEADILY LESSEN, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD, IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, CONDUCT A FORMAL OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF THE JSEA WITH A VIEW TO LIGHTENING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF JSEA ON THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.

ON THE QUESTION OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT THE POST-FORM 3 LEVEL TO MEET DIFFERENT STUDENT APTITUDES AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR DIFFERENT EDUCATED TALENTS, AND TO MAKE THESE TWO EQUALLY IMPORTANT FORMS OF EDUCATION ATTRACTIVE TO FORM 3 LEAVERS.

SPEAKING OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, HE SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS.

THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING STAFF OF CHINESE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND BY PROVIDING MORE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND OTHER RESOURCES TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH USE CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, HE SAID.

SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE SETTING UP OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD BE SOUGHT VERY SHORTLY, HE HOPED A START COULD BE MADE THIS YEAR TO THE PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING MATERIALS WRITTEN IN CHINESE FOR USE BY SCHOOLS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, INDIFFERENT TO THE QUESTION OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, NOR IS IT RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

ON SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS, BUT, IN LINE WITH TRADITIONAL POLICY OF CURRICULUM FREEDOM, WOULD LEAVE THE DECISION TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.

+FURTHER STUDY IS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN ON THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA AS AN INDEPENDENT AND OPTIONAL SUBJECT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT IT WAS INADVISABLE TO SET UP AN OPEN UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG MODELLED ON THE UK OPEN UNIVERSITY, HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS FINDING SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS REJECTION OF THE IDEA OF OPEN EDUCATION.

+THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS OPEN EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS TO BE AN IMPORTANT FACET OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND EVIDENCE OF THIS MUST SURELY BE THE VARIETY OF OPEN EDUCATION COURSES PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS, THE TRAINING CENTRES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND BY A LARGE NUMBER OF SUBSIDISED BODIES,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION WAS CURRENTLY EMBARKING ON A VERY RIGOROUS ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR OPEN EDUCATION WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING DEFINITIVE VIEW ON HOW THE DEMAND SHOULD BEST BE MET, HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF CIVIC EDUCATION, HE SAID THIS MATTER WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, WHICH HAD INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO PURSUE THE MATTER IN THE SECOND PHASE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS.

POINTING OUT THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT NO ONE WAS MORE CONSCIOUS THAT MORE REMAINED TO BE DONE, BUT THE FIRST TASK HAD TO BE DISCHARGED.

+THE 'GREAT EDUCATIONAL DEBATE' CANNOT REMAIN A DEBATE INDEFINITELY. AT SOME STAGE PRACTICAL PLANNING MEASURES MUST BE DECIDED ON WITHIN THE 'DESIRABLE DIRECTIONS' THAT HAVE BEEN SIGN-POSTED,+ HE SAID.

EMPHASISING THAT THE COMMISSION WAS A STANDING COMMISSION, HE SAID THAT IT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF ITS CONTINUING ROLE AND THE VAST AMOUNT OF WORK THAT REMAINED TO BE DONE IN FURTHER REFINING ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS, IF ACCEPTED, AND TACKLING A LARGE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS NOT COVERED IN THE FIRST REPORT, MR HENDERSON SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 5 -

PRACTICABLE AND CONGRUENT, K.F. HO SAYS

* * * * *

RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1 ARE PRACTICABLE AND CONGRUENT WITH THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES OF HONG KONG, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DR HO EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON TWO ASPECTS OF THE REPORT: OPEN EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

HE SAID HE ACCEPTED THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AGAINST AN OPEN UNIVERSITY MODELLED ON THE UK OPEN UNIVERSITY.

HE AGREED WITH THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO DEVELOP OPEN EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS TO PROVIDE SECOND-CHANCE OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE BEYOND SCHOOL AGE TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE STANDARD OF OPEN EDUCATION COURSES SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF COMPARABLE FULL-TIME COURSES IN ORDER TO MATCH EXPECTATIONS OF EMPLOYERS.

+AS OPEN EDUCATION STUDENTS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY COMMITMENTS, THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROGRESS AT THEIR OWN PACE,+ DR HO SAID.

+THERE SHOULD ALSO BE A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES TO CATER FOR THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS,+ HE ADDED.

DR HO SAID THAT, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE COURSES COST-EFFECTIVE, THE DROP-OUT RATE SHOULD BE LOWERED TO A MINIMUM.

HE FELT THAT FOR PLANNING AND COLLABORATION PURPOSES, THERE SHOULD BE A CO-ORDINATING BODY TO BRING TOGETHER INSTITUTIONS ORGANISING OPEN EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AT PRESENT.

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, DR HO SAID HE WAS GLAD THE COMMISSION HAD ACCORDED A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PROVISION OF SUBSIDISED POST-FORM 3 PLACES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND TRAINING CENTRES.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE LINK BETWEEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE TWO POLYTECHNICS SO AS TO MAKE TECHNICAL EDUCATION MORE ATTRACTIVE TO FORM 3 LEAVERS AND THEIR PARENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 6 -

NEED ALSO FOR ARTS EDUCATION STRESSED
* * * * *

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS +STRONGLY URGED+ TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON ARTS EDUCATION.

HON ALEX WU, SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S NO. 1 REPORT, SAID HE NOTED WITH CONCERN AND REGRET THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE ARTS IN EDUCATION IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK.

+THE ARTS MUST NOT BE OVERLOOKED; THEY MUST NOT BE RELEGATED TO SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS,+ HE SAID.

+THEY ARE NOT PERIPHERAL TO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM, BUT RATHER ARE CENTRAL TO EDUCATION, IF WE STILL HOLD TO THE CONCEPT OF EDUCATION AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE MAN.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION ITSELF HAD AFFIRMED ITS BELIEF IN EDUCATION AS +THE MEANS WHEREBY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN STRIVE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, SOCIAL WELL-BEING AS WELL AS PERSONAL FULFILMENT.+

+I APPLAUD THIS SENTIMENT,+ MR WU SAID.

+BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT EDUCATION WILL FULFIL THIS VITAL ROLE ONLY IF IT IS EDUCATION IN THE BROADEST AND FULLEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

+SURELY, THE ARTS MUST BE RECOGNISED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY SUCH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

+I, THEREFORE, STRONGLY URGE THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THIS BASIC ISSUE, THE ARTS IN EDUCATION.+

ON LANGUAGE, MR WU NOTED THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT FOR A PROGRESSIVE SHIFT FROM MOTHER-TONGUE EDUCATION IN KINDERGARTENS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO GENUINELY BI-LINGUAL PROGRAMMES IN THE JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS.

+I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION ENDORSES THIS VIEW,+ MR WU SAID, QUOTING A PARAGRAPH FROM THE REPORT WHICH STATED: +FOR HONG KONG TO RETAIN ITS POSITION AS A LEADING INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF FINANCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT BI-LINGUALISM IS ESSENTIAL.+

HE FULLY SUPPORTED THIS VIEW.

HONG KONG'S NEXT GENERATION MUST BE COMPETENT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED, TAKING THE PRESENT SITUATION INTO CONSIDERATION, WHETHER HONG KONG WAS READY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION.

/THE GOVERNOR

- 7 -

THE GOVERNOR HAD, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THIS COUNCIL IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, REFERRED TO THE LACK OF SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR TEACHING CHINESE LANGUAGE AND THAT THE NEED TO PRODUCE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR THE USE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS A LONG FELT NEED.

+I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH SYLLABUSES SHOULD BE REDESIGNED AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE 'FOR THE PUBLICATION OF TEXTBOOKS IN BOTH LANGUAGES SO THAT THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOLS REGARDLESS OF THE LANGUAGE MODE CHOSEN',+ MR WU SAID.

HE WISHED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE REMARKS HE MADE AT THE LAST POLICY DEBATE ABOUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY ON THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION.

THE WORKING PARTY SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN MARCH, 1982.

+IT HAS BECOME A MATTER OF GROWING CONCERN TO ME THAT, AFTER A LAPSE OF ALMOST THREE FULL YEARS, THERE IS STILL NO INDICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AS TO HOW AND WHEN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED,+ MR WU SAID.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAD NOTED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS STILL BEING GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION.

+I URGE THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DRAG ITS FEET ON THIS ISSUE ANY LONGER,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID ON TEACHING PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TEACH IT DURING SCHOOL HOURS OR AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY.

+I AGREE THAT, CONSIDERING THE POLITICAL CHANGE WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG IN THE NEXT DECADE, PUTONGHUA WILL BE USED MORE EXTENSIVELY THAN BEFORE.

+I THINK THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION ON THIS ISSUE IS TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT EARLY ABOLITION OF JSEA
* * * *

NOT ENOUGH URGENCY IS BEING ATTACHED TO THE PHASING OUT OF JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA), A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1, THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW SAID SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PHASING OUT PROCESS SHOULD TAKE AS LONG AS SIX YEARS.

SHE SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ISSUE AS +THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM+ BUT FELT THAT OTHER MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT ITS EARLY PHASING OUT.

+AFTER ALL, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT 75 000 15-YEAR-OLDS BEING SUBJECT TO PRESSURES OF PUBLIC EXAMINATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RATHER THAN EDUCATIONAL REASONS FOR ANOTHER SIX YEARS.

+IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH OUR EXPLORING OTHER WAYS, AND EVEN TO PAY A SMALL PRICE, IN ORDER THAT WE ARE RID OF THIS UNWANTED HURDLE IN THE SCHOOL CAREER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

DEDUCING FROM PUBLISHED FIGURES, MRS CHOW SAID THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL SUBSIDISED FORM IV PLACES REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE ESTIMATED 70 000 THIRD FORMERS CONTINUING TO FORM IV WAS NO MORE THAN 15 000 IF THE JSEA WERE TO END IMMEDIATELY.

+AS THE 1985 JSEA HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED, THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR ITS PHASING OUT IS FROM 1986 ONWARDS, WHICH MEANS THAT 15 000 SUBSIDISED PLACES ARE NEEDED FROM THE 1986-87 ACADEMIC YEAR,+ SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT IF STAGE V AND VI OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME WERE TO BE MAINTAINED AT THE RATE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION, MRS CHOW SAID THE ONLY OTHER WAY OPEN TO GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO BUY IN THE INTERIM 15 000 PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS, SOME OF WHICH MIGHT BE UNSATISFACTORY ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT STANDARDS, BUT WERE NEVERTHELESS ALREADY PROVIDING AT THE MOMENT UNSUBSIDISED PLACES TO FOURTH FORMERS WHO HAD HITHERTO FAILED THE JSEA.

+ASSUMING SUCH PLACES ARE BOUGHT IN FORM IV STARTING IN THE 1986-87 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE FUNDS REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST YEAR WILL BE \$33 MILLION (AT \$220 PER PLACE FOR 15 000 PLACES) FOR THE FIRST YEAR, AND \$66 MILLION FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

+STARTING 1989 AS THE NEWLY BUILT SCHOOLS COME ON STREAM, THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL BE PHASED DOWN, LEADING TO A DROP IN EXPENDITURE,+ SHE SAID.

+THIS ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE CAN BE PARTLY OFFSET BY AN ADJUSTMENT FEE STUDENTS PAY TO FORM IV AND V SUBSIDISED PLACES WHICH IS NOW \$60 PER MONTH,+ SHE ADDED.

/MRS CHOW

MRS CHOW BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE TO INCREASE THIS FEE TO \$90 PER MONTH, AS ONE WAS AT THE MOMENT PAYING AT LEAST TWICE THAT FOR KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND THIS INCREASE WOULD BRING IN AN ADDITIONAL \$21 MILLION A YEAR TO PARTIALLY OFFSET THE ABOVE EXPENDITURE.

MRS CHOW ALSO COMMENDED ON GOVERNMENT'S ARGUMENT AGAINST THE MOVE OF BUYING FORM IV AND V PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

+ON THE QUESTION OF QUALITY, WE ARE PRESENTLY BUYING A TOTAL OF 70 000 FORM I TO FORM III PLACES FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

+IF WE COULD BUY FOR FORM I TO III AS AN INTERIM MEASURE WHILE THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME IS BEING IMPLEMENTED, WE CAN EQUALLY BUY FOR FORM IV AND V AS AN INTERIM MEASURE,+ SHE SAID.

AS FOR THE QUESTION OF PROFITS, MRS CHOW SAID GOVERNMENT COULD EXERCISE STRICTER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION TO ENSURE THAT SUBSIDIES WOULD BE USED IN SERVICE AND FACILITIES.

+THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO SPEED UP THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME SO THAT THE INTERIM MEASURE OF BUYING PLACES IN FORM IV AND V IS REDUCED TO A THREE-YEAR PERIOD RATHER THAN FOUR, THEREBY SAVING ONE YEAR OF EXPENDITURE,+ SHE SUGGESTED.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT FINDS DIFFICULTY IN BUYING PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR FORM IV AND V, THEN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME SHOULD BE RESCHEDULED TO ENABLE THE PHASING OUT OF THE JSEA IN 1988,+ SHE SAID.

+THERE ARE 3-3/4 YEARS BETWEEN NOW AND THE OPENING OF THE 1988 SCHOOL TERM, I CANNOT BE CONVINCED THAT WITH TYPICAL HONG KONG EFFICIENCY WE CANNOT MEET THE DEADLINE,+ SHE STRESSED.

TURNING TO OTHER POINTS OF THE REPORT, MRS CHOW SAID SHE CONSIDERED THE RECOMMENDATION ON LANGUAGE AS PARTICULARLY SENSIBLE.

+WHILE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE MOTHER TONGUE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED, I AGREE THAT THE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHOICE, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION AND EMPHASIS TO TRADITION AND ACHIEVEMENT,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE ISSUE OF OPEN EDUCATION, MRS CHOW SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MUCH MORE THOUGHT AND ACTION ON EXPANDING THE EDUCATION FUNCTION OF THE MASS MEDIA.

CITING THE JOINT VENTURE ON INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION BETWEEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AS AN EXAMPLE, SHE SAID THE BROADCASTING MEDIA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED MUCH FURTHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPEN AND EXTENDED EDUCATION.

+APART FROM THE FACT THAT THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA ENJOYS MAXIMUM ACCEPTANCE AND PENETRATION, IT OFFERS COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND ECONOMY OF SCALE AND SPACE, WHILE OUR COMPACT GEOGRAPHY PROVIDES THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACT BETWEEN STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES FOR DIALOGUE AND COMMUNICATION.

+THIS IS CERTAINLY ONE ASPECT THAT DESERVES A CLOSER LOOK BY THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD,+ SHE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 10 -

NO BENEFIT FROM BUYING FORM 4 PLACES - MARIA TAM
* * * *

THE APPROACH RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN PHASING OUT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT WAS SOUND BOTH IN EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC TERMS, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 1 TODAY, SHE HIGHLIGHTED SOME OF THE MAJOR CRITICISMS ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE PHASING OUT OF THE JSEA AND PUT THEM +IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE+.

REFERRING TO THE POINT THAT THE JSEA SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY BUYING FORM 4 PLACES FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS, MISS TAM SAID IF PLACES WERE TO BE PURCHASED FROM BOTH THE SATISFACTORY AND UNSATISFACTORY PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS NOW, THE ONLY BENEFIT WOULD BE THAT STUDENTS IN THESE SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE THEIR FEES PAID BY TAX-PAYERS.

+THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BENEFIT; NOR WILL THERE BE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION,+ SHE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE COMMISSION HAD RECOMMENDED THAT FUNDS SHOULD BE USED TO BUILD MORE GOOD QUALITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS, IMPROVE TEACHER QUALITY AND THE QUALITY OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

BETWEEN NOW AND 1991, WHEN THE JSEA WAS TO BE PHASED OUT, THERE WOULD BE IMPROVEMENTS BOTH IN THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF POST-FORM 3 EDUCATION YEAR BY YEAR AND MORE AND MORE STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO BENEFIT.

+THE PHASING OUT OF THE JSEA IN 1991 IS RELATED TO THE COMPLETION DATES OF THE 35 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS WHICH ARE DRAWN UP HAVING REGARD TO THE NORMAL LEAD-TIME REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, TRAINING OF PROPERLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS TO TEACH IN THEM AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN THE URBAN AREA AND IN PARTICULAR THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE THERE ARE HARDLY ANY PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FOR BOUGHT PLACES,+ MISS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID ANOTHER POINT OF CRITICISM WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BUY MORE PLACES FROM THESE (PRIVATE) SCHOOLS SO THAT THEIR STANDARDS COULD BE IMPROVED.

THE LLEWELLYN REPORT RECOMMENDED ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BUT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THIS POINT.

+THE FACT IS THAT THE PURCHASE OF FORM 4 AND 5 PLACES FROM THE UNSATISFACTORY PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN THESE SCHOOLS,+ SHE SAID.

/THIS WAS

THIS WAS EVIDENCED IN JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WHERE THE PURCHASE SCHEME HAD NOT LED TO A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF FORM 1-3 EDUCATION IN UNSATISFACTORY PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITH BOUGHT PLACES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SATISFACTORY PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE AT LIBERTY TO APPLY AND BECOME SUBSIDISED ONES.

+I THINK THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE UP THIS OPTION,+ MISS TAM SAID.

A POINT ALSO RAISED WAS THAT THE COST REQUIRED TO PURCHASE PLACES FROM PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS ESTIMATED AT \$70 MILLION PER YEAR, AN INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNT COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, MISS TAM FELT.

SHE SAID SOME HAD SAID INTRODUCTION OF ANOTHER MEANS TO ALLOCATE CHILDREN TO FORM 4 CRAFT PLACES UPON ABOLITION OF THE JSEA WOULD CAUSE UNNECESSARY STRAIN TO STUDENTS.

+THE FACT IS SOME MEANS OF ALLOCATION IS NEEDED IF ONLY TO ENSURE EDUCATIONAL COMPATIBILITY,+ MISS TAM SAID.

A WORKING GROUP, CONSISTING OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF, SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS AND EDUCATORS, WOULD BE SET UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO STUDY WHAT MEANS OF ALLOCATION TO ADOPT IN 1991 AND HOW TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN OF THE JSEA.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT THE NEW MEANS OF ALLOCATION IN 1991 WOULD NOT BE LIKE THE JSEA.

SINCE SUBSIDISED PLACES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO WISHED TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION, PARENTS AND STUDENTS NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF FURTHER STUDY.

THE LLEWELLYN REPORT ALSO ACCEPTED THE NEED FOR SOME KIND OF ASSESSMENT UPON PHASING OUT OF THE JSEA, MISS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO BE LOOKING INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING MORE INTERESTING AND LESS ACADEMIC STUDIES IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

+FINALLY,+ SHE SAID, +THERE MAY BE DOUBTS ABOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE 35 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS ON SCHEDULE, AS SLIPPAGE ALWAYS OCCURS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

+TO THIS END I UNDERSTAND THAT SITES FOR 11 OF THE 35 SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL COMMENCE WITHIN THE YEAR.+

CONCLUDING, MISS TAM SAID IT WAS A DEEP PASSION IN THE CHINESE TRADITION TO EDUCATE OUR YOUNGER GENERATION THE BEST WE COULD, AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

+I BELIEVE THE APPROACH RECOMMENDED IS SOUND BOTH IN EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC TERMS AND I HOPE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME WILL BE SUPPORTED BY MY COLLEAGUES IN THIS COUNCIL,+ SHE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 12 -

COMMISSION'S APPROACH WELCOMED

* * * *

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S +RATIONAL AND COST EFFECTIVE+ APPROACH IN PHASING OUT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) WAS HAILED BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID SHE WELCOMED THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT AND SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS MADE.

SHE SAID SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE INCREASE IN SUBSIDISED POST-FORM III EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES COMPRISING VOCATIONAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION FOR SOME 95.2 PER CENT OF THE 15-YEAR-OLD POPULATION SO THAT JSEA COULD EFFECTIVELY BE PHASED OUT IN 1991.

DR IP POINTED OUT THAT BUYING FORM IV PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE QUALITY MAY BRING FORWARD THAT DATE, BUT SHE PREFERRED THE COMMISSION'S STEADY QUALITY, LONG TERM APPROACH.

+WE MUST CONVINCING PARENTS THAT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS COMPARABLE AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL FOR THE COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY FOR THE INDIVIDUALS,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE BELIEVED IT COULD BE OUTRIGHT HARMFUL AND A WASTE OF TIME TO PRESSURISE A CHILD TO PURSUE A GENERAL STREAM WHEN HIS INCLINATION AND ABILITY WAS TOWARDS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

+WITHOUT SUCH ACTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION, WHATEVER NEW MEANS OF PLACEMENT IS TO BE DEvised TO SUBSTITUTE JSEA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PATHOLOGICALLY COMPETITIVE,+ SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE OPEN UNIVERSITY, DR IP SAID ALTHOUGH SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE COMMISSION, SHE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS OF OPEN EDUCATION WOULD SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THOSE WHO WANTED TO LEARN BUT HAD MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY.

SHE FELT THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF CURRENT OPEN EDUCATION PROGRAMMES THAT EXIST IN HONG KONG NOW NEEDED CO-ORDINATION AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE COMMISSION'S FUTURE PROPOSAL OF A CO-ORDINATING BODY.

+LOGICALLY IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS AN ACCREDITING BODY FOR COURSES IT CO-ORDINATES,+ SHE SAID.

IN PARTICULAR, SHE ADDED, THERE SHOULD BE A UNIFIED PUBLICATION EACH TERM GIVING INFORMATION ON OPEN EDUCATION AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+IT MUST ALSO BE MADE POSSIBLE FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ACCREDITED COURSES TO RESULT IN THE GRANT OF SOME RECOGNISED DIPLOMAS OR THE LIKE,+ DR IP SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

+COMMON SENSE+ SEEN IN EDUCATION REPORT
* * * *

A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1 HAD DEMONSTRATED AN EXCEPTIONAL AMOUNT OF COMMON SENSE AND REALISM IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF THE EXISTING EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THE HON MRS RITA FAN WAS SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE REPORT, WHICH SHE WELCOMED.

HOWEVER, ON THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM, MRS FAN SAID 1991 SHOULD BE SET AS THE LATEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR PHASING OUT OF JSEA AND SHE WOULD WELCOME AN EARLIER DATE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

+INDEED, I WOULD WELCOME A FIRM COMMITMENT BY GOVERNMENT THAT THE JSEA WILL DISAPPEAR BY 1991 AT THE LATEST.

+FURTHERMORE, I HOPE THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WOULD MAKE EVERY CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO REDUCE PRESSURE FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD LEADING UP TO 1991,+ SHE SAID.

SHE ALSO HOPED TO SEE PUTONGHUA BEING WIDELY USED AND UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD IN HONG KONG BY THE END OF THE NEXT DECADE.

SHE SAID THAT OUR NEXT GENERATION SHOULD BE EQUIPPED TO COMMUNICATE WITH CHINESE ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND IN PARTICULAR WITH THOSE RESIDING IN CHINA, HENCE, TO MASTER THE COMMON LANGUAGE, PUTONGHUA WAS A NECESSITY.

+IN ORDER TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A FAIR CHANCE TO LEARN PUTONGHUA, I SUGGEST THAT THERE SHOULD BE PUTONGHUA LESSONS IN EVERY SCHOOL AS PART OF THE FORMAL CURRICULUM,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID TEACHERS OF CRAFT AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO UPDATE THEMSELVES ON THE LATEST TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT.

+INDEED I WOULD VENTURE A STEP FURTHER TO SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SYSTEMATIC UPDATING OF THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS BY PLACEMENT IN INDUSTRY OR OTHER MEANS.

+THIS CAN ENSURE THAT OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.

+THE LATTER IS NECESSARY BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD OF RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS,+ SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE DISCOURAGING THAN TO WITNESS A DISINTERESTED TEACHER MECHANICALLY PLODDING ON WITH HIS LESSONS, SIMPLY BECAUSE HE HAD TO EARN A LIVING.

THE WAY TO COUNTERACT THIS WAS TO FIND APPROPRIATE METHODS OF AROUSING AND PRESERVING TEACHER'S ZEAL AND DEVOTION TOWARDS HIS WORK.

+THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT RECOMMENDED MORE TEACHERS' PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IN THE SCHOOL, IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, THE SETTING UP OF A REGIONAL TEACHERS' CENTRE, ETC.

+I SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS,+ SAID MRS FAN.

TURNING TO OPEN EDUCATION, MRS FAN REITERATED A SUGGESTION SHE MADE ON OCTOBER 27, 1983, IN THE SAME CHAMBER THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISING SUITABLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS ON +APPROVED+ TRAINING COURSES.

+THE SUBSIDY SHOULD GO TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS RATHER THAN TO THE ORGANISATIONS IN THE FORM OF REIMBURSEMENT OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF THE FEES AFTER A STUDENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN 'APPROVED' COURSE.

+THIS METHOD OF SUBSIDY MAY PROVE TO BE LESS COSTLY THAN OTHER ALTERNATIVES IN THE SHORT TERM, AND GOVERNMENT HAS THE FLEXIBILITY OF GEARING ITS SUPPORT TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF NEED FOR ECONOMICAL PURPOSES,+ SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SPEED UP SCHOOL BUILDING, PAULINE NG SAYS
* * * *

THE BUILDING OF NEW SECONDARY AND PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE LONG-TERM MEASURE TO PHASE OUT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA), THE HON MRS PAULINE NG SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS NG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEED UP THE BUILDING OF THE 24 SCHOOLS PROPOSED IN THE REPORT, AND TO BRING FORWARD THE DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE 10 SCHOOLS UNDER STAGE V (PHASE II) OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME TO 1989, TO EASE THE PRESSURE IMPOSED ON THE PUPILS BY THE JSEA.

SHE SAID THE IDEA OF PHASING OUT THE JSEA IN 1991 THROUGH THE BUILDING OF MORE THAN 30 NEW SECONDARY AND PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, THE MODIFICATION OF CLASS PATTERNS OF EXISTING SCHOOLS AND THE PURCHASE OF FORM 4 PLACES IN THE SATISFACTORY PRIVATE SCHOOLS OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS WAS SOUND IN PRINCIPLE, BUT SLIGHTLY SLOW IN PACE.

+IN VIEW OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT JSEA WOULD HAVE ON STUDENTS AND THE NEED FOR SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN OUR SOCIETY, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE MADE LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS YEARS AGO, FOR INSTANCE, ADOPTING CORRESPONDING MEASURES IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO DO SO INDICATES THAT IT HAS NOT TAKEN PUBLIC OPINION INTO CONSIDERATION PROPERLY ON THE ONE HAND= AND ON THE OTHER HAND IT LACKS LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR SUBSIDISING SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION,+ MRS NG SAID.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID SHE FULLY ENDORSED THE VIEW OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION AS STATED IN REPORT NO. 1 THAT EDUCATION WAS TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

+IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT 'HUMAN RESOURCES' IS HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL ASSET 'INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES' IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE,+ SHE SAID.

ON CIVIC EDUCATION, SHE SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF FOREMOST IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION SHOULD BE PROPERLY INSTILLED WITH A SENSE OF CIVIC AWARENESS.

+I HOPE THE COMMISSION WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO THIS ISSUE AND DRAW UP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE-LINE FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ MRS NG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EARLIER PHASING OUT OF JSEA URGED

* * * *

TO PUT THE FINGER ON 1991 AS THE YEAR WHEN PHASING OUT OF THE JSEA WOULD BE ACHIEVED SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE MOVE, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1, MR YEUNG SAID THAT HE HOPED THE PHASING OUT OF THE SYSTEM MIGHT BE ADVANCED TO AN EARLIER DATE, IF CONDITIONS BECAME MORE FAVOURABLE IN THE FUTURE.

+IN DECIDING WHETHER TO OPT FOR GRADUAL ABOLITION OF THE JSEA OR IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF THE SYSTEM, WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHICH APPROACH WOULD GO IN LINE WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD BE IDEAL, OF COURSE, TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME WITH THE GREATEST EFFICIENCY, HE SAID.

+BUT WOULD IT REALLY BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO?+ HE ASKED.

+WE MUST ASK OURSELVES WHETHER WE HAVE ASSESSED THE QUESTION HONESTLY AND IMPARTIALLY,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

TO COPE WITH HONG KONG'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MR YEUNG SAID, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD AIM TO EDUCATE THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO BE COMPETENT IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

+IF HONG KONG IS TO MAINTAIN ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION AS A LEADING TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, BILINGUALISM IS ESSENTIAL,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIME CONSIDERATION AND SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE A REALISTIC AND SENSIBLE DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF TEACHING MEDIUM AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TEACHERS' LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN THE CLASSROOM, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES, HE SAID.

AS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS SHOULD, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHANGING THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS USING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, MR YEUNG SAID.

+HOWEVER, THE POLICY OF PROMOTING THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE PROVISION OF HIGH-STANDARD TEXTBOOKS WRITTEN IN CHINESE, SUFFICIENT LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, THE PROVISION OF TEACHING RESOURCES IN ENGLISH AND AN APPROPRIATE SYSTEM OF BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN TEACHER TRAINING TO ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS IN THE LEARNING PROCESS.

HE SAID: +1985 MARKS THE FIRST YEAR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

+THE NEW SITUATION CALLS FOR THE TRAINING OF SUITABLE LEADERS IN LINE WITH THE FUTURE POLICY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE GOVERNING HONG KONG.

+BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC HAVE THE DUTY TO REFORM HONG KONG'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FINANCE COURSES FOR TOP OFFICERS PROPOSED
* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON TO INTRODUCE A COURSE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR CIVIL SERVANTS RISING TO DIRECTORATE RANK.

THE SUGGESTION WAS PUT BY THE HON S.L. CHEN WHEN TABLING THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR CHEN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO INCULCATE A GREATER SENSE OF FINANCIAL AWARENESS IN MANAGERS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

ALL OFFICERS RISING TO DIRECTORATE RANK IN THE CIVIL SERVICE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH A COURSE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WHICH OUTLINED THE ESSENTIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGETARY SYSTEM, TAUGHT THEM THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF COST ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING, AND GAVE THEM A FIRM GRASP OF THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL CONTROL, FINANCIAL FORECASTING AND EVEN FINANCIAL MODELLING, HE SAID.

+I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS TOO MUCH TO ASK EITHER OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS SUCH TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS OUR GOVERNMENT, OR OF THE OFFICERS WHO CARRY THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC MONEYS,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THE COMMITTEE HEARD WITH PLEASURE THIS YEAR OF THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THOROUGHLY MODERN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT THIS NEW SCHEME HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING THAT GREATER SENSE OF FINANCIAL AWARENESS AND BUDGET CONSCIOUSNESS IN MANAGERS.

+BUT I AM AWARE THAT THE LEDGER ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM WILL TAKE TIME TO EXTEND TO EVERY CORNER OF THIS LARGE ADMINISTRATION.

+NOR DO I THINK THAT IT IS THE SOLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH I SEE.

+FINANCIAL AWARENESS CANNOT BEGIN AND END WITH ONE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN A NOTABLE YEAR IN THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME HAD HELD ITS MEETINGS IN PUBLIC TO HEAR THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY CONTROLLING OFFICERS.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY STRAIGHTAWAY THAT I CONSIDER THIS WAS A MOST SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT, AND ITS SUCCESS WAS DUE NOT LEAST TO THE VERY FORTHCOMING AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY CONTROLLING OFFICERS WHO APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.+

THE UNOFFICIALS, HE SAID, FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD HELP THE PUBLIC TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAY IN WHICH ITS LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS CARRIED OUT THEIR DUTIES.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ACTED AS A STIMULUS NOT ONLY FOR THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS BUT FOR THE COMMITTEE ITSELF TO EXAMINE AND DISCUSS THOROUGHLY THE ISSUES PRESENTED IN THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

+I AM CONVINCED THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ARE HERE TO STAY, AND IF ANY OF MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES FEEL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE INTENTION TO COMMENCE PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN MARCH, I WOULD REASSURE THEM THAT THE EXTRA EFFORT AND TENSION INVOLVED IS WELL WORTHWHILE,+ HE SAID.

NEED SEEN FOR MORE DENTISTS

* * *

THE POTENTIAL OF THE DENTAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY HAD YET TO BE REALISED, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE HON LYDIA DUNN SAID TODAY.

TABLING THE REPORT ON THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 1983 - MARCH 31, 1984 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY), SHE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE HAD SAID THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN SATISFIED ALREADY AND THAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE GRADUATES WOULD BE SCARCE, SHE HERSELF DID NOT THINK SO.

+THERE IS SCOPE FOR GREATER AWARENESS OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY, FOR THE SPREAD OF KNOWLEDGE OF ORAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL HEALTH CARE.

+DENTISTS WILL BE NEEDED IN GREATER NUMBERS, NOT ONLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EDUCATIVE PROCESS, BUT IN RESPONDING TO THE MORE EXACTING STANDARDS OF DENTAL FITNESS THAT WILL COME FROM A BETTER EDUCATED COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN SAID, DURING THE YEAR, THE HOSPITAL HAD CONTINUED TO FULFIL ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING TRAINING FACILITIES FOR DENTAL GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND ALSO FOR DENTAL ANCILLARY STAFF.

SHE SAID THE YEAR WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITAL.

+FOR THE FIRST TIME, A FOURTH YEAR OF DENTAL STUDENTS CONTINUED IN THEIR STUDIES LEADING TO THE FIFTH AND FINAL YEAR OF THE DENTAL CURRICULUM.

+MOST OF THESE STUDENTS HAVE NOW COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES, AND THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL SHARES WITH THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE IN PRODUCING THE VERY FIRST GROUP OF 59 LOCALLY-TRAINED DENTISTS,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

+OVERSEAS EXAMINERS HAVE SPOKEN OF THEIR IMPRESSIVE QUALITIES,+ SHE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PILOT CENSUS IN MARCH

* * *

A PILOT CENSUS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN MARCH 1985 TO TEST THE ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THE BY-CENSUS IN 1986, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE PILOT CENSUS, +DRESS REHEARSAL+ FOR THE MAIN OPERATION, WOULD COVER A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 12 000 LAND-BASED HOUSEHOLDS.

+ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLANNED SYSTEM FOR THE 1986 BY-CENSUS, INCLUDING THE CENSUS CONTENT, FIELD ORGANISATION AND DATA PROCESSING, WILL BE TESTED,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 19 -

INSURANCE LAW +OUTDATED+
* * * * *

THE NEED TO STATE THE NAMES OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN AN INSURANCE POLICY WAS NOW OUT OF TUNE WITH MARKET PRACTICE IN RELATION TO GROUP LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES.

IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO RELAX THE PRESENT LAW WHICH INVALIDATES ANY POLICY IN WHICH THE NAME OR NAMES OF THE INSURED AND ANY BENEFICIARIES ARE NOT INSERTED, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, HE SAID HONG KONG'S LAW IN THIS RESPECT DERIVED FROM A SECTION IN THE LIFE ASSURANCE ACT 1774 (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GAMBLING ACT 1774) WHICH WAS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT PREVENTING A +MISCHIEVOUS KIND OF GAMING+.

+AT THAT TIME A PERSON COULD EFFECT INSURANCE ON A HUMAN LIFE OR LIVES IN WHICH HE HAD NO GENUINE INTEREST.

+IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, THE ACT PROVIDED THAT THE NAMES OF ALL THE INSURED PERSONS AND THE BENEFICIARIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY STATED IN THE POLICY, SO AS TO DEMONSTRATE A RECOGNISED PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE LIFE INSURED ON THE PART OF THE POLICY HOLDER AND BENEFICIARY,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN LEGISLATION WAS IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT LAW IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG LIFE INSURANCE COUNCIL, AND THE INSURANCE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG HAVE ALL BEEN CONSULTED AND SUPPORT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FIRE WATCH TEAMS PRAISED FOR +USEFUL ROLE+
* * * * *

FIRE WATCH TEAMS PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN RAISING THE ALARM AND EVACUATING RESIDENTS IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE IN SQUATTER VILLAGES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

+HAVING RAISED THE ALARM, IT IS THEN LEFT TO THE PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO TAKE OVER THE JOB OF FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE,+ HE ADDED.

MR AKERS-JONES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLOR, MR CHAN YING-LUN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRE WATCH TEAMS AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED WITH ITS OPERATIONS.

/+THE ADMINISTRATION

+THE ADMINISTRATION IS PLEASED WITH THE OPERATION OF THE EXISTING FIRE WATCH TEAMS,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+THEY HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATING AND ADVISING LOCAL RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY HILLSIDE SQUATTERS, ON FIRE PREVENTION AND ON WAYS AND MEANS OF REDUCING POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS IN THEIR HOMES,+ HE ADDED.

THE STANDARD EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO A NEWLY FORMED FIRE WATCH TEAM INCLUDES FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, SAND BUCKETS, ALARM GONGS, ARM-BANDS AND HANDBOOKS.

+THE FUNDS FOR PURCHASING EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE WATCH TEAMS AND THEIR REPLENISHMENT ARE PROVIDED BY DISTRICT OFFICES, ON THE ADVICE OF THE RELEVANT DISTRICT BOARD,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+EACH BOARD EXAMINES THE MERITS OF EACH APPLICATION AGAINST OTHER COMPETING CLAIMS, AND RECOMMENDS AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF GRANT,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

KWAI FONG ESTATE BLOCKS +STRUCTURALLY SAFE+
* * * * *

NONE OF THE 11 BLOCKS AT KWAI FONG ESTATE WERE STRUCTURALLY UNSAFE, ALTHOUGH SOME NEEDED EXTENSIVE REPAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON ALL BLOCKS IN THE ESTATE AND A PHASED PROGRAMME HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO RENOVATE THOSE BLOCKS IN NEED OF REPAIR.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, HE SAID:

+I CAN ASSURE TENANTS IN KWAI FONG ESTATE THAT NONE OF THE BLOCKS THEY ARE OCCUPYING ARE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

+IN A FEW CASES WHERE IT IS MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO REDEVELOP RATHER THAN TO RENOVATE BLOCKS, THIS WILL BE DONE.+

MR LIAO SAID BLOCKS 1, 2 AND 3 WOULD REQUIRE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED IN BUILDINGS OF THAT AGE. WORK HAD ALREADY STARTED ON THIS.

+BLOCKS 4, 7 AND 8 REQUIRE MORE EXTENSIVE REPAIRS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN HAND, WHILE BLOCK 6 WAS IN NEED OF MAJOR RENOVATION AND REPAIRS WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED BY MAY THIS YEAR.

+THE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO BRING THE BLOCK UP TO PRESENT DAY STANDARDS WITH UPGRADED SERVICES INCLUDING COMPLETE REWIRING, IMPROVED DRAINAGE AND A COMMUNAL TV AERIAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

FROM EXPERIENCE OF REPAIRING BLOCK 6, IT WAS FOUND THAT THE WORKS INVOLVED A GREAT DEAL OF INCONVENIENCE TO TENANTS AND WAS ALSO VERY COSTLY AND TIME-CONSUMING, HE SAID.

+IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO REDEVELOP SOME BLOCKS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY POSSIBLE TO REPAIR THEM.

+BLOCKS 9, 10 AND 11 ARE SITUATED IN ONE CORNER OF THE ESTATE, JOINED TOGETHER AND FORM A VERY SUITABLE AREA FOR REDEVELOPMENT. THE OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO USE THE LATEST DESIGN OF BLOCKS AND TO IMPROVE THE LAYOUT AND FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

+ON THE GROUNDS OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF TENANTS, IT IS ALSO A BETTER SOLUTION TO REDEVELOP RATHER THAN REPAIR BLOCK 5.

+A PHASED PROGRAMME OF REDEVELOPMENT WILL THEREFORE BE UNDERTAKEN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO REPLACE BLOCKS 5, 9, 10 AND 11.+

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT FOR MANY YEARS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF REDEVELOPMENT, INVOLVING THE REHOUSING OF A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE.

SOME RESIDENTS AT KWAI FONG WOULD HAVE TO MOVE OUT DURING THE RENOVATION PERIOD, BUT GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE WERE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

+THE EXPERIENCE WE HAVE GAINED DURING THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HAS PROVIDED A BASIS FOR THE WAY IN WHICH WE HAVE CONSULTED RESIDENTS AT KWAI FONG AND HAVE DONE OUR VERY BEST TO MEET THEIR WISHES.

+SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE RENOVATION WORK STARTED ON BLOCK 6 AT KWAI FONG, TENANTS THERE WERE OFFERED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEARBY SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE IN TSUEN WAN AND 78 PER CENT OF THE 928 FAMILIES AFFECTED HAD MOVED THERE. THE REMAINDER EITHER MOVED TO OTHER ESTATES OF THEIR CHOICE OR TO OTHER FLATS AVAILABLE IN KWAI FONG.

+DISCUSSIONS WILL NOW BE HELD WITH RESIDENTS OF OTHER BLOCKS TO BE REDEVELOPED AND OFFERS OF ALTERNATIVE NEW ACCOMMODATION IN TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN OR NGAU TAU KOK WILL BE MADE TO THEM.+

MR LIAO SAID THAT WHEN BLOCK 6 IS COMPLETED IN MAY THIS YEAR, OVER 900 NEW AND UPGRADED FLATS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN KWAI FONG.

+ALL RESIDENTS WHO MOVE AWAY FROM THE ESTATE, WILL BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF MOVING BACK TO THE NEW FLATS IN THE REDEVELOPED BLOCKS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

+FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TENANTS AFFECTED IS GIVEN BY WAY OF REMOVAL ALLOWANCES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.+

FEWER REPORTS OF THEFTS FROM INSIDE CARS

* * * *

THERE WERE 3 448 REPORTED CASES OF THEFT FROM INSIDE VEHICLES LAST YEAR, AS AGAINST 4 230 IN 1983, A DECLINE OF 18.5 PER CENT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT FIGURES OF THEFTS FROM INSIDE CARS (AS OPPOSED TO THEFTS OF SUCH EXTERNAL PARTS OF ACCESSORIES AS HEADLAMPS AND TYRES), WERE THE ONLY BREAKDOWN FIGURES AVAILABLE FROM STATISTICS COVERING THEFT OF ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY FROM VEHICLES.

THERE WERE NO STATISTICS BY TYPE OF PROPERTY STOLEN FROM PARKED CARS, HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF DETECTION AND CONVICTION, HE SAID STATISTICS REFERRED ONLY TO ALL CASES OF THEFT FROM VEHICLES.

+IN 1983, THE DETECTION RATE FOR ALL THEFTS FROM VEHICLES WAS 20.8 PER CENT. IN 1984 IT WAS 13.7 PER CENT.

+DISCOUNTING THOSE CASES NOT BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, THE PERCENTAGE OF DETECTED CASES LEADING TO CONVICTION WAS 78.4 PER CENT IN 1983 AND 78.7 PER CENT IN 1984,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLICITY ON IRON GRILLE GATES ADEQUATE

* * * *

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLICISING THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF IRON GRILLE GATES WERE ADEQUATE, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, HE SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S ACTION AT NEW KWAI FONG GARDENS IN KWAI CHUNG, SPECIFIC PUBLICITY HAD BEEN GIVEN.

MR CHAN SAID THAT SINCE 1976 A SERIES OF SMALL POSTERS ILLUSTRATING VARIOUS TYPES OF ILLEGAL BUILDING ACTIVITY HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE AND IN DISTRICT OFFICES. ONE OF THESE SHOWED THE ILLEGAL TYPE OF IRON GRILLE GATE.

BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE STAFF HAD ARRANGED FOR THESE POSTERS TO BE DISPLAYED IN BUILDINGS COMPLETED SINCE JANUARY 1, 1984, MR CHAN SAID.

+THERE HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME OVER THE YEARS BEEN SEVERAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT CONVEYING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE MESSAGE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT ANY BUILDING WORKS WITHOUT CONSULTING THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OR AN AUTHORISED PERSON REGISTERED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

+LAW ALONE WON'T STOP CRANE ACCIDENTS+
* * * *

GOOD SUPERVISION OF THE USE OF LIFTING CRANES WAS ALSO NECESSARY IN PREVENTING ACCIDENTS IN CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CARL TONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BRIDGE STRESSED THAT LEGISLATION ALONE COULD NOT PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

+WHAT IS ALSO NEEDED IS GOOD SUPERVISION AND A RECOGNITION BY TOP MANAGEMENT THAT THEY MUST MAKE ACCIDENT PREVENTION A MAJOR PART OF THEIR POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

THE OPERATIONAL SAFETY OF LIFTING CRANES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, HE SAID, WAS GOVERNED BY PART II OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS. THE REGULATIONS PROVIDE FOR THE STRENGTH, STABILITY, TESTING, MAINTENANCE AND FREQUENT INSPECTION OF ALL SUCH CRANES. ENFORCEMENT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE REGULATIONS WERE DRAFTED IN SOME DETAIL AND HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THEY WERE ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SCHOOL NOISE ABATEMENT REPORT ON THE WAY
* * * * *

RECOMMENDATIONS ON A MAXIMUM TOLERABLE NOISE EXPOSURE LEVEL FOR CLASSROOMS, AND PROPOSED MEASURES TO ABATE NOISE IN EXCESS OF THIS LIMIT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONSULT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG TODAY.

INFORMING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD, HE SAID THE STEERING COMMITTEE WAS NOW FINALISING ITS REPORT BASED ON DATA FROM THE PILOT STUDY CONDUCTED IN 1981-82 AND TWO BROAD SURVEYS SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERTAKEN.

+IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES ARE ALSO BEING AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE NOISE FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE LOCATION OF FUTURE SCHOOL SITES.

+WHERE SCHOOLS MUST BE BUILT IN NOISY LOCATIONS TO SUIT THE DEMANDS OF ACCESSIBILITY OR PROXIMITY TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SCHOOL BUILDING WILL BE ORIENTED TO SHIELD CLASSROOMS FROM NOISE OR APPROPRIATE NOISE INSULATION MEASURES WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN,+ HE DISCLOSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 24 -

CONTROLS ON RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS ADEQUATE

* * * * *

EXISTING EXTENSIVE CONTROLS ON THE HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ARE EFFECTIVE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AS FOR CONTINGENCY PLANS TO DEAL WITH LEAKS OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND CONTAMINATION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRE SERVICES AND POLICE, WITH TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS, WOULD RESPOND TO ANY DANGEROUS OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS INCIDENT.

FURTHERMORE, SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR TACKLING INCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES HAD BEEN ISSUED AND DECONTAMINATION FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR, HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON ANDREW SO ON THE SUBJECT.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT CONTROLS ON THE HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES WERE SET OUT IN THE RADIATION ORDINANCE.

+THESE CONTROLS ARE EXERCISED THROUGH THE RADIATION BOARD, WHICH GRANTS LICENCES, SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS AS IT THINKS FIT, FOR THE MANUFACTURE, SALE, POSSESSION OR USE OF ANY RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE.

+THE BOARD HAS MADE REGULATIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS SAFETY ASPECTS, INCLUDING THE PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES WHEN MOVING ANY RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITHIN THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT SUCH SUBSTANCES MAY ONLY BE TRANSPORTED AFTER THE ISSUE OF A WRITTEN PERMIT BY EITHER THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OR THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE SUBSTANCE WAS TO BE USED FOR MEDICAL OR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

TECHNICAL ADVICE ON PARTICULAR OPERATIONS COULD BE GIVEN BY STAFF OF THE RADIATION HEALTH UNIT AND THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS IF NECESSARY, HE SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/25

FIRST-AID TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS SUFFICIENT

* * *

FIRST-AID KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WERE BEING PROVIDED THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, AND IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE FURTHER TRAINING WITHIN THE FORMAL CURRICULUM, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TOPICS IN THE FORMS I TO III SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS INCLUDED THE VALUE OF FIRST-AID AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ACQUIRING BASIC LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUERY FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, HE SAID THAT ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION PERSONNEL GAVE REGULAR FIRST-AID TRAINING TO STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE ST. JOHN CADETS, THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME AND THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS. IN ADDITION, OFFICERS FROM THE HONG KONG RED CROSS PROVIDED TRAINING FOR RED CROSS YOUTH MEMBERS.

+THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, STUDENTS HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN FIRST-AID AND FURTHER TRAINING WITHIN THE FORMAL CURRICULUM IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

+FIRE DETECTION MEASURES SATISFACTORY+

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS IN HOTELS AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WERE ADEQUATE, AND THAT FIRE PREVENTION ARRANGEMENTS SATISFACTORY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS, IN BUILDINGS WAS PRESCRIBED IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

+THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT EXAMINES PLANS FOR ALL NEW BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS ARE INCLUDED.

+ON COMPLETION, THE DEPARTMENT INSPECTS EACH BUILDING TO ENSURE THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

+THEREAFTER, IT IS REQUIRED BY LAW THAT THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND THAT A REGISTERED FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR CERTIFIES THEM TO BE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER ONCE A YEAR,+ HE SAID.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT EXCEPT THE VERY OLD ONES BUILT BEFORE 1964 WHEN SUCH REQUIREMENTS CAME INTO EFFECT, FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS IN HOTELS AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WERE SATISFACTORY.

TURNING TO FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID TRAINING COURSES WERE REGULARLY CONDUCTED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT STAFF.

+IN 1984, A TOTAL OF 890 PERSONS VOLUNTARILY TOOK PART IN THESE COURSES,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT INSPECTS HOTELS AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ADVISES THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE BUILDINGS ON THE REMOVAL OF FIRE HAZARDS AND ON FIRE PREVENTION.

THE SMALL NUMBERS OF FIRES WHICH OCCURRED IN HOTELS AND COMMERCIAL BLOCKS SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT FIRE PREVENTION ARRANGEMENTS ARE SATISFACTORY, HE SAID.

----- 0 -----

'BUGS LIKELY' IN COMPUTER TOLL SYSTEM
* * * * *

ALTHOUGH THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL'S TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM WAS OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY FOR 98 PER CENT OF THE TIME, IT HAD NOT MEASURED UP FULLY TO REQUIREMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AS A RESULT, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ACCEPTED AND PAID FOR THE EQUIPMENT CONCERNED, ALTHOUGH IN MOST RESPECTS SUCH AS CONTROLLING TOLL LANES, THE SYSTEM WAS OPERATING SATISFACTORILY.

IN REPLY TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS BY THE HON KEITH LAM, MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE TWO COMPUTER SYSTEMS USED IN THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, ONE FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL, CONTROLLING WARNING SIGNS AND TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS, AND THE OTHER FOR TOLL COLLECTION, WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY FOR ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICS GATHERING PURPOSES.

+THE TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM HAS BEEN OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND HAS BEEN FORMALLY TAKEN OVER AND PAID FOR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT FAULTS IN THE TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM WHICH WERE COMPARATIVELY SMALL WHEN COMPARED TO THE WHOLE SYSTEM WERE PROBABLY CAUSED BY +BUGS+ IN THE SOFTWARE AND A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO LOCATING THEM AND FINDING THE REASONS FOR THE MALFUNCTIONING.

/THE CONTRACTOR

- 27 -

THE CONTRACTOR FULLY APPRECIATED THE NEED TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF ERROR AND HAD BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED THROUGHOUT IN SEEKING TO RECTIFY THE POSITION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

AS IT WAS THE MUTUAL AIM OF THE CONTRACTOR AND GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE A FULLY SATISFACTORY OPERATIONAL SYSTEM, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SEEK FURTHER COMPENSATION IN ADDITION TO THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES OF \$2.25 MILLION ALREADY WITHHELD FROM PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONTRACT, MR CHAN SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO WITHHELD PAYMENT FOR THE TOLL COLLECTION COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH IT IS OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY FOR ALL BUT A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TIME,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JOB FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT

* * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAD GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COLLECTION OF SEABORNE REFUSE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY. HE WAS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, THE DEPARTMENT WAS AT PRESENT ONLY ABLE TO PROVIDE A SCAVENGING SERVICE IN VICTORIA HARBOUR AND FIVE MAJOR TYPHOON SHELTERS: ABERDEEN, YAU MA TEI, ALDRICH BAY, CAUSEWAY BAY AND CHEUNG CHAU.

IN ADDITION, A SHIP-TO-SHIP REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE WAS PROVIDED FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS MOORED IN VICTORIA HARBOUR AND A BOAT-TO-BOAT REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR DWELLING BOATS IN THE FIRST FOUR OF THE SAID TYPHOON SHELTERS, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF FLOATING REFUSE AT ALL GAZETTED BEACHES, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 28 -

MANY TUTORIAL CLASSES OUTSIDE ORDINANCE
* * * * *

COMPLAINTS INVOLVING PRIVATE TUTORIAL CLASSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM TIME TO TIME BUT MOST OF THEM FELL OUTSIDE THE AMBIT OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ALL REGISTERED SCHOOLS WERE SUPERVISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THROUGH REGULAR INSPECTIONS, AND ANY COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THESE SCHOOLS WERE INVESTIGATED AND REMEDIAL ACTION WAS TAKEN.

+PRIVATE TUTORIAL CLASSES ARE INCLUDED IF THEY FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL IN THE ORDINANCE, WHICH IS AN INSTITUTION, ORGANISATION OR ESTABLISHMENT WHICH PROVIDES EDUCATION FOR 20 OR MORE PERSONS DURING ANY ONE DAY, WHETHER OR NOT AT THE SAME TIME,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUERY FROM THE HON CHAN YING-LUN WHETHER ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN TO MONITOR PRIVATE TUTORIAL SCHOOLS AND WHETHER COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC ON MALPRACTICES INVOLVING THESE INSTITUTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/29

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 29 -

EDUCATION COMMITMENT 'GLADLY ACCEPTED'

* * * * *

PUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICE WAS A COSTLY BUSINESS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GLADLY ACCEPTED THIS COMMITMENT, AS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM SAID TODAY.

+WE ARE GLAD ALSO THAT WE ARE SUPPORTED BY AGENCIES LIKE THE SALVATION ARMY, WHOSE EXPERTISE AND UNDERSTANDING ENHANCE THE SERVICE THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES,+ HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SALVATION ARMY CHAN KWAN TUNG KINDERGARTEN IN YAU MA TEI THIS AFTERNOON.

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE REASON FOR THE HIGH STANDARD OF LITERACY IN HONG KONG, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION, WAS BECAUSE EDUCATION WAS BOTH COMPULSORY AND FREE.

+IT ALSO HELPS EXPLAIN WHY SO MANY OF THE BRIGHTEST PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD ARE HONG KONG CHINESE, ALL OF WHOM MADE THEIR EDUCATION START IN A KINDERGARTEN SOMEWHERE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM ALSO PRAISED THE SALVATION ARMY FOR RECOGNISING EDUCATION NEEDS IN YAU MA TEI AS A PRIORITY AND FOR BEING WILLING TO MAKE SPACE AVAILABLE IN THEIR NEW COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SATURDAY BALLOT FOR 3 776 HOS FLATS

* * * * *

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL HOLD A BALLOT ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 26) TO DECIDE THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR THE 3 776 FLATS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE UNDER PHASE VIIA OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID TODAY THAT OF THE 16 889 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, 6 709 WERE FROM VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF GREEN-FORM APPLICANTS AND 10 180 FROM WHITE-FORM PRIVATE SECTOR APPLICANTS.

HE ADDED THAT THOSE APPLICANTS WHO STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED A RECEIPT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE OI MAN COMMERCIAL CENTRE OR TELEPHONE 3-7119147.

MR HU FA-KUANG, MEMBER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND ALSO ITS HOME OWNERSHIP COMMITTEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE BALLOT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY.

/A COMPUTER

A COMPUTER WILL BE USED ON MONDAY TO DECIDE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS' PRIORITY IN THE SELECTION OF FLATS.

THE 3 776 FLATS IN THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE SCHEME ARE LOCATED AT CHOI PO COURT IN SHEUNG SHUI, FUNG SHING COURT IN SHA TIN AND CHING SHING COURT IN TSING YI, OF WHICH 3 248 ARE ON TRIDENT BLOCKS TO BE SOLD FIRST TO GREEN-FORM APPLICANTS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BALLOT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 26) AT 11 AM AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE OI MAN COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CANDIDATES ASKED NOT TO DESPOIL COUNCIL VENUES
* * * * *

CANDIDATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WHO WISH TO PUT UP PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS AT URBAN COUNCIL VENUES ARE ADVISED TO APPLY TO THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR PERMISSION FIRST.

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S DISTRICT RELATIONS SELECT COMMITTEE, MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT POSTERS, PLACARDS AND BANNERS IN SUPPORT OF THE ELECTIONS WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED BY INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES AT VARIOUS UC PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

THESE PUBLICITY MATERIALS, DUE TO WEAR AND TEAR, OFTEN BECOME UNSIGHTLY AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS.

WHILE APPRECIATING THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY HELP TO MAKE THE DB ELECTIONS A SUCCESS, COUNCILLORS FELT THAT THESE MATERIALS SHOULD BE DISPLAYED IN AN ORDERLY FORM WITHOUT RENDERING AN UNSIGHTLY APPEARANCE TO THE SURROUNDING AREA.

AFTER DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT AS FROM FEBRUARY 1, ANY CANDIDATE WHO WISHES TO DISPLAY SUCH PUBLICITY MATERIALS SHOULD APPLY TO THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT THROUGH ITS LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 31 -

THE CANDIDATE WILL THEN BE ALLOWED TO PUT UP ONE BANNER OUTSIDE EACH OF THE UC VENUES WITHIN THE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH HE OR SHE IS SEEKING ELECTION.

THE BANNER SHOULD NOT EXCEED 7 METRES BY 1 METRE IN SIZE AND SHOULD BE REMOVED BY THE CANDIDATE SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION DATE AT THE LATEST.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADOPTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN RESPECT OF VENUES UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BOARD TO LOOK INTO LINKS WITH GROUPS
* * * *

CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A REPORT CONTAINING AREAS COMMITTEES' VIEWS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD AND VARIOUS COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS, AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A REPORT ON VICE-ASSOCIATED ESTABLISHMENTS PREPARED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP.

AT THE MEETING, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY COMPANY, MR MARTIN EVAN-JONES WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF VACANT CROWN LAND SITES AT SAI WOO LANE AND TSUNG SAU LANE WEST.

THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE +MEET-THE-PUBLIC+ SCHEME FOR 1984.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

- - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF WILLIE BUILDING, 222-224 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 32 -

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH LEADERS
* * *

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES WILL PRESENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO THREE YOUTH LEADERS, WHO CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE 1984 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, AT A RECEPTION TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, HARBOUR CITY, KOWLOON.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION AND ATTEND THE RECEPTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CUSTOMS WORK
* * *

MR JOHN HOWARD, PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY OFFICER OF THE TRADE CONTROLS INVESTIGATION BRANCH OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PRESS BRIEFING TOMORROW (THURSDAY), TO TALK ABOUT THE BRANCH'S EFFORTS AGAINST COUNTERFEIT MERCHANDISE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT. THE BRIEFING WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW AT THE TCIB, 5TH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEET THE MEDIA
* * *

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES (DESIGNATE), MR GRAHAM BARNES, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1985

- 33 -

LUNCH TIME MUSIC FOR WORKERS

* * *

FACTORY WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE TREATED TO FREE MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT IN FOUR +LUNCH TIME CONCERTS+ ON SUCCESSIVE THURSDAYS, FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE ONE-HOUR CONCERTS WILL BE HELD AT SOCCER PITCH NO. 3, ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND AT 12.30 PM EACH THURSDAY.

THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT GUEST SINGERS AND GROUPS PERFORMING WESTERN OR CHINESE MUSIC AT EACH CONCERT.

APART FROM PROMOTING MUSIC APPRECIATION AND A BETTER COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG WORKERS AND RESIDENTS, THE ORGANISERS ALSO HOPE TO PUBLICISE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND ENCOURAGE VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE FORTHCOMING SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE CONCERTS ARE BEING STAGED BECAUSE OF POPULAR DEMAND, FOLLOWING FOUR OTHER SUCCESSFUL CONCERTS IN THE WONG CHUK HANG INDUSTRIAL AREA HELD LATE LAST YEAR, WHICH ATTRACTED AN AVERAGE AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 1 500 PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MAIL TO URUGUAY SUSPENDED

* * *

ALL POSTAL SERVICES BETWEEN URUGUAY AND HONG KONG HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON.

THIS WAS BEING DONE AT THE REQUEST OF THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES IN URUGUAY, WHICH CITED +EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES+ AS THE REASON, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -