



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1983

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO CONTINUE WORKING
FOR STEADY AND PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL GET ON WITH THE JOB OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN LIVE, WORK AND BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IN CONCERT WITH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, IT WILL BE MY CONSTANT CONCERN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO ENJOY STEADY AND PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT; AND LET THERE BE NO DOUBT IN ANY QUARTER ABOUT OUR DETERMINATION TO DO OUR UTMOST TO SEEK A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE TALKS,+ HE STRESSED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE YEAR AHEAD WOULD BE A CHALLENGING ONE FOR ALL, AND THAT THE CONCERN AND ASPIRATIONS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD GOVERN THE THINKING AND ACTIONS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

PATIENCE, CALM AND RESOLUTION WERE THE QUALITIES THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF ALL.

+THESE ARE THE QUALITIES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT HONG KONG THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL DO SO AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE ANXIETIES AND CONCERNS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND THEIR WISH TO KNOW, AS FAR AS IT WAS WITHIN THE POWER OF MAN TO JUDGE, WHAT THE FUTURE HELD.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID, THERE HAD BEEN NO MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAN THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT OF +THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY WHICH WILL SECURE ITS LONG-TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY+.

THAT SEARCH HAS BEEN THE FIRST AND OVER-RIDING CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND WILL REMAIN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY UNTIL A SETTLEMENT IS FOUND THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT, TO CHINA AND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT IF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WISHED OTHERS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEM, THEY SHOULD NOT LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES.

IN SPITE OF THE FINANCIAL TURBULENCE FACED BY HONG KONG FROM TIME TO TIME, THIS TERRITORY HAD A STRONG UNDERLYING ECONOMY, A GIFTED AND RESILIENT POPULATION, A HIGHLY MOTIVATED PUBLIC SERVICE AND A WILL TO SUCCEED.

+AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE GETTING ON WITH THE JOB OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN LIVE, WORK AND BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/SIR EDWARD

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SIR EDWARD SAID THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN AN EVENTFUL ONE.

+IT HAS BEEN MARKED BY THE COMMENCEMENT OF TALKS IN PEKING ON THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY BY THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD RECESSION ON OUR ECONOMY, FOLLOWED BY A RAPID RECOVERY IN OUR EXPORT INDUSTRIES; BY FLUCTUATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE RATE OF OUR CURRENCY; AND IN CONSEQUENCE AN INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR AFFAIRS WHICH SURPASSES ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD IN HISTORY,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

BUT IT HAD ALSO BEEN A YEAR IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN DISTRACTED FROM ITS TASK OF SOUND ADMINISTRATION, FROM ITS SUSTAINED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES, AND FROM PROVIDING THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE COULD COMPETE EFFICIENTLY IN THE MARKET PLACES OF THE WORLD, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONTINUOUS AND INTENSIVE, AND MINISTERS IN LONDON, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, HAD EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.

THE GOVERNOR SAID UNOFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WERE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN DIRECTLY TO THE BRITISH MINISTERS IN JULY THIS YEAR.

HE SAID ALSO THAT THE MINISTER OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS, MR RICHARD LUCE, HAD HAD WIDE DISCUSSIONS HERE AND +REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION+.

SIR EDWARD REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING TONIGHT WITH UNOFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER TALKS IN LONDON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND WITH OTHER MINISTERS, AS PART OF THE CONTINUING SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS.

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM, THE GOVERNOR SAID, TO SAY MORE ON THIS ISSUE IN HIS ADDRESS, AND ADDED: +IT WILL BE TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL FOR THE TALKS TO BE CONDUCTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND DELIBERATION.+

+AS I HAVE SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, IT WAS NOT TO BE EXPECTED, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES, THAT THEY COULD REACH QUICK RESULTS.

+BUT WE REMAIN DETERMINED TO DO ALL WITHIN OUR POWER TO PURSUE THEM TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.+

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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE 1990'S AND BEYOND
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A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO MEET THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF HONG KONG INTO THE 1990'S AND THE NEXT CENTURY WILL HAVE TO BE FORMULATED DURING THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE AMBITIOUS NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES STARTED IN THE 1970'S SHOULD BE LARGELY COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE PRESENT DECADE.

HE ADDED: +THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO LOOK FURTHER AHEAD TO ENSURE THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR HOUSING, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL PROGRAMMES.+

THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS WITH MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND HAD PURSUED ITS LONG-TERM SOCIAL PROGRAMMES.

TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON ALL CAPITAL WORKS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR ARE FORECAST TO BE \$13.3 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S EXPENDITURE WHICH WAS ITSELF THE HIGHEST EVER.

MOST OF THE MONEY WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS AND UPGRADING THE ROAD SYSTEM -- BUT SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, HAD NOT BEEN NEGLECTED, SIR EDWARD SAID.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON NEW PUBLIC HOUSING, INCLUDING THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO BE \$3.7 BILLION THIS YEAR, WHEN PRODUCTION IS FORECAST TO BE A RECORD 36 500 FLATS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID STEADY ADVANCES HAD BEEN MADE IN MANY OTHER AREAS, AND PARTICULAR ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID IN THE COMING YEAR TO THE FORMULATION OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND TO EDUCATION.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT ANOTHER VITAL TASK WOULD BE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, A SUBJECT TO WHICH THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNCIL ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE.

HE SHARED THE VIEW THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, ITS QUALITY AND DIRECTION, WERE MATTERS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IMPROVEMENTS WERE ALREADY BEING MADE IN THE STANDARDS OF TEACHING IN SCHOOLS VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING WERE BEING EXPANDED AND THE NUMBER OF DEGREE AND HIGHER DIPLOMA PLACES AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC INCREASED.

+IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE TO ENSURE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT IT REMAINS GEARED TO THE FUTURE NEEDS OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNMENT TAKING FRESH LOOK AT WHOLE EDUCATION SYSTEM

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IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS A WHOLE TO ENSURE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT IT REMAINS GEARED TO THE FUTURE NEEDS OF HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND ITS QUALITY AND DIRECTION WERE MATTERS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, SIR EDWARD STRESSED.

+IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALREADY BEING MADE IN THE STANDARDS OF TEACHING IN SCHOOLS; VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ARE BEING EXPANDED, AND THE NUMBER OF DEGREE AND HIGHER DIPLOMA PLACES AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC INCREASED,+ HE SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INITIATED IN 1981 AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM TO ASSESS THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF EDUCATION, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EACH PART OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL WHICH CONDUCTED THE REVIEW IDENTIFIED FIVE AREAS WHICH REQUIRED PRIORITY ATTENTION, HE SAID.

THESE WERE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE LANGUAGE POLICY FOR SCHOOLS; THE NEED TO INCREASE BOTH THE NUMBER AND THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS; THE IMPROVEMENT OF SELECTION AND ALLOCATION PROCEDURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER AND PRESSURE OF EXAMINATIONS; THE PROVISION OF GREATER ACCESS TO POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEANS OF REGULAR REVIEWS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

+THE REPORT, TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC COMMENTS THEREON, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR DECISION BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

+THE FINANCING OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EDUCATION, AND ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF PLACES WAS BEING INCREASED BY EXPANDING TWO OF THE EXISTING FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND BUILDING TWO MORE IN SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN BY JULY 1985.

TWO NEW INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COMPLEXES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT KWAI CHUNG AND KOWLOON BAY SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BY LATE 1984 WHILE A SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE IS ALSO SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY NEXT YEAR, HE SAID.

/ON THE

ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY WAS TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF FIRST DEGREE PLACES FROM THE PRESENT 3 100 FIRST-YEAR PLACES TO 5 200 BY 1989, AND 7 000 BY 1994.

BY THE END OF THE 1985-88 TRIENNIUM, THE STUDENT POPULATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE ABOUT 8 000, AND AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY ABOUT 7 000.

THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE WAS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, SIR EDWARD SAID.

AND THE INTRODUCTION OF FIVE DEGREE COURSES AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR REPRESENTED A MILESTONE IN ITS HISTORY, HE SAID.

ANOTHER DEGREE COURSE WOULD START NEXT YEAR AND, ULTIMATELY, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SHOULD HAVE ABOUT 4 000 DEGREE STUDENTS, HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD ALSO REPORTED THAT +EXCELLENT PROGRESS+ IN PLANNING THE CITY POLYTECHNIC HAD BEEN MADE UNDER SIR S.Y. CHUNG'S ABLE GUIDANCE.

+IT IS PLANNED THAT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC SHOULD HAVE 8 000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS BY OCTOBER 1994, AND THAT IT ALSO WILL OFFER DEGREE COURSES, ULTIMATELY FOR UP TO 30 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEW POLYTECHNIC SHOULD ACQUIRE TEMPORARY PREMISES IN ORDER TO MAKE A START IN 1984-85, AND A DECISION ON THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS MONTH, HE REPORTED.

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

SIR EDWARD PAID TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE WHOSE ROLE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS VITAL.

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GOVERNMENT HAVING GREATER ACCESS TO OPINION AND ADVICE

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THE LARGER MAJORITY OF UNOFFICIALS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS MEANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAD ACCESS TO A STILL WIDER RANGE OF OPINION AND ADVICE IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING LAWS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS OPINION AND ADVICE REFLECT THE AMBITIONS, HOPES AND BEST INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

+I WELCOME THIS WIDER REPRESENTATION, AND THE IMPROVED LINKS WITH THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH IT PROVIDES.

+WITH SUCH A DIVERSE CHAMBER, I HOPE THERE WILL BE EVEN GREATER SCOPE FOR THE SORT OF LIVELY DEBATE WHICH WAS RECENTLY HEARD IN THIS COUNCIL ON THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION. FOR IT IS IN DEBATE THAT THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL FINDS PUBLIC EXPRESSION.

+IT BRINGS PROOF TO THE SCEPTICS THAT THE UNOFFICIALS WHO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC DO UNDERSTAND AND CARE ABOUT THE ISSUES OF OUR SOCIETY,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR ITS +VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION+ TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY, TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CITY, AND TO RECREATION AND MANY ASPECTS OF CULTURAL LIFE.

THE URBAN COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT, HAD ESTABLISHED CLOSE LINKS WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND THUS IMPROVED ITS UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

ON THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS, HE SAID: +AT THE END OF A YEAR'S WORK, I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE MORE THAN PROVED THEIR WORTH.

+THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS- THEY ARE PRODUCING BALANCED AND CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE ON MATTERS AFFECTING LIFE IN THE DISTRICTS, AND THEY HAVE PROMOTED LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT TOGETHER, THE 489 MEMBERS OF THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS CONSTITUTED THE LARGEST ADVISORY BODY OF OPINION IN HONG KONG.

NOTING THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION WAS RELATIVELY NEW, SIR EDWARD SAID, +I HAVE THEREFORE ASKED THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE ADVICE OF DISTRICT BOARDS, SHOULD BE EXAMINED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE IMPROVED.+

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN RESTRAINING THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

DEPARTMENTS WERE MEETING DEMANDS FOR NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES LARGELY FROM EXISTING RESOURCES BY REDEPLOYING STAFF AND BY INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY, HE POINTED OUT, ADDING THAT THIS POLICY WOULD CONTINUE.

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GOOD EXPORT PROSPECTS SEEN FOR 1984

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HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVEMENTS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THE ECONOMIES OF ITS MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS IN 1984, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR INDICATED THAT AN EXPORT-LED RECOVERY WAS UNDERWAY, HE SAID.

+GIVEN NO UNFORESEEN EXTERNAL SHOCKS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS WILL PROBABLY GROW BY 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY BETWEEN 5.5 PER CENT AND SIX PER CENT IN 1983.

+THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING AND ILLUSTRATES, ONCE AGAIN, THE RESILIENCE OF OUR ECONOMY AND ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO A REVIVAL IN DEMAND IN OUR MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

BUT HE ADDED, +SOME EFFECTS OF THE 1982 RECESSION LINGER ON, AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND REINVESTMENT -- IN PLANT AND MACHINERY AND IN BUILDING AND PROPERTY -- HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE.+

WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD FALLEN, REFLECTING THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, THE RECOVERY OF EXPORTS HAD CREATED MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT.

FOR THE LABOUR FORCE AS A WHOLE, IN THE THREE MONTHS FROM MAY TO JULY THIS YEAR, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 3.9 PER CENT AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.7 PER CENT, BOTH SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE PEAKS RECORDED EARLIER THIS YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE RATE OF INFLATION, AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, IS NOW JUST OVER NINE PER CENT A YEAR.

+IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LOWER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

+IT MUST BE EXPECTED THAT THE RECENT SHARP FALL IN THE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT DEAL IN HIS ADDRESS WITH THE QUESTION OF THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE LOCAL CURRENCY.

+BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETIES OF THE COMMUNITY ON THIS ISSUE.

+ON THE CONTRARY, FOR ALL OF US IN GOVERNMENT WHO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS, IT IS AN ISSUE OF DAILY ATTENTION, AND CONSTANT CONCERN.

/+BUT BECAUSE

+BUT BECAUSE OF THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON SENSITIVE FINANCIAL MARKETS OF EVERYTHING WE MAY SAY AND DO; BECAUSE WE MUST NOT MISLEAD AS TO WHAT IS WITHIN THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE AND WHAT IS NOT; AND BECAUSE WE MUST BE AS SURE AS WE REASONABLY CAN OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY ACTION WE MIGHT TAKE, WE MUST PROCEED WITH CARE AND CAUTION,+ SIR EDWARD STRESSED.

HE REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ERRATIC FLUCTUATIONS OF RECENT WEEKS REFLECTED THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE SITUATION, NOR THE STRENGTHS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND SOCIETY.

ON PUBLIC FINANCES, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT REVENUE COLLECTIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR HAD BEEN LOWER THAN EXPECTED, DUE MAINLY TO THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE RESULTING SHORTFALL IN THE YIELDS FROM LAND SALES.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE HIGHER GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY NOW EXPECTED SHOULD BRING ABOUT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION TOWARDS THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

+FORTUNATELY, TOTAL EXPENDITURE IS ALSO LOWER THAN ESTIMATED, BECAUSE OF A CONTINUING REDUCTION IN TENDER PRICES FOR LARGE CAPITAL PROJECTS, REDUCED EXPENDITURE ON LAND RESUMPTION, AND TIGHT CONTROL OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

+AS A RESULT, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE DEFICIT ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT WILL BE IN THE REGION OF THE BUDGETED \$3.2 BILLION,+ SIR EDWARD REPORTED.

THE RISE IN THE FORECAST RATE OF GROWTH OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, TOGETHER WITH THE EXPECTED REDUCTION IN THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, MEANT THAT THE PUBLIC SECTOR WOULD CONSTITUTE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 23 PER CENT OF THE GDP THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH THE ORIGINAL BUDGET ESTIMATE OF 24.1 PER CENT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS AN ENCOURAGING TREND.

+DESPITE ALL THIS, A DEFICIT STILL EXISTS- A RETURN TO A BALANCED BUDGET WILL DEPEND UPON THE MAINTENANCE OF STRICT CONTROL OVER THE LEVEL AND MANNER OF EXPENDITURE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

+WE INTEND THIS YEAR TO CONTAIN EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE BUDGETED LIMIT OF \$35.5 BILLION- PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

NEW BOARD TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO AMALGAMATE THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INTO A NEW INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE READY ACCESS TO CO-ORDINATED ADVICE ON INDUSTRIAL MATTERS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY.

IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OTHER STATUTORY OR INDEPENDENT BODIES IN THIS FIELD AS THEY PROVIDED VALUABLE SERVICES FOR HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WHICH HAD SET UP A MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATIONS LABORATORY FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, AND HAD COMPLETED TWO STUDIES FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AND THE METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

+THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH OUR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS CAN MAKE TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK,+ HE SAID.

IT HAS, HE ADDED, ALLOCATED \$3.5 MILLION TO THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS RELATING TO THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY STILL EMPLOYED 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL LABOUR FORCE, AND ITS OUTPUT CONSTITUTED ONE QUARTER OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR TRADE, AND IN MANY RESPECTS THE CATALYST FOR THE OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS TO MAINTAIN THESE ROLES, IT HAD TO CONTINUE TO DIVERSIFY AND TO DEVELOP THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO MEET CHANGING CONSUMER DEMAND IN HONG KONG'S EXPORT MARKETS, AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, HE STATED.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE, HE SAID, WAS TO PROVIDE A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR BOTH INDUSTRIAL ENTREPRENEURS AND THE WORK FORCE.

+IN PARTICULAR, IT SEEKS TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL LAND, AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, A STABLE LOW TAX BASE, GENEROUS DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES FOR INDUSTRY, AND INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES,+ SIR EDWARD STRESSED.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO SHORTLY DECIDE WHETHER AN EXHIBITION CENTRE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG.

+A CONSULTANCY STUDY HAS PROPOSED A DESIGN FOR A MULTI-STOREY COMPLEX ON A SITE IN WAN CHAI, TO INCLUDE EXHIBITION HALLS, A CONFERENCE CENTRE, A HOTEL AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ASSESSING THE VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT AND THE LIKELY INTEREST OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IF THE RECOVERY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY IS MAINTAINED, HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTING INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE, HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION HAD GENERATED PRESSURES FOR INCREASED PROTECTIONISM.

+FORTUNATELY FOR HONG KONG, ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND TO ALLOW THE SELECTIVE RESTRAINT OF IMPORTS MADE NO HEADWAY AT THE 1982 MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GATT,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE MEETING REAFFIRMED THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS FOR AN OPEN TRADING SYSTEM AS ESSENTIAL TO WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

ONE SPECIFIC RESULT OF THIS MEETING WAS THE DECISION THAT THE GATT SECRETARIAT SHOULD CONDUCT AN URGENT STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, SIR EDWARD NOTED.

THE MULTI-FIBRE AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS ARE LIMITED BY BILATERAL RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS, REPRESENTED A DEROGATION FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GATT, HE SAID.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1984, IS TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF LIBERALISATION, AND THE EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF ALL DISCRIMINATORY RESTRAINTS FROM THIS SECTOR OF WORLD TRADE, HE SAID.

ON THE NEW TEXTILES AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, IT WAS A +SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT+ ON THE TERMS ORIGINALLY DEMANDED BY THE EEC.

+BROADLY, THE AGREEMENT ALLOWS HONG KONG TO MAINTAIN EXISTING LEVELS OF TRADE, BUT THE REDUCED GROWTH RATE PERMITTED UNDER THE AGREEMENT WILL MEAN THAT, WHEN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND DEMAND IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PICK UP, HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO INCREASE ITS EXPORTS TO MEET THE HIGHER DEMAND WILL BE RESTRICTED.

+HOWEVER, THE TERMS WERE THE BEST AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM ITS TEXTILE AGREEMENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE AN EFFICIENT TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT A REVIEW HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESENT TEXTILE EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM HAD GENERALLY SUCCEEDED IN ENSURING THAT HONG KONG MADE FULL USE OF ITS EXPORT RESTRAINT LIMITS.

+SOME CHANGES HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN PROPOSED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE A FAIRER ALLOCATION OF QUOTA AND TO DETER SPECULATION.

+THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT INTO EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

LAND WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT A READY SUPPLY OF LAND WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THIS PURPOSE, +BUT OUR LAND PRODUCTION PROGRAMME SHOULD NOT BE TOO INFLUENCED BY SHORT-TERM MARKET CONDITIONS.+

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE AVAILABLE AS MUCH LAND AS WAS REQUIRED FOR GENUINE DEVELOPMENT, LEAVING IT TO THE FREE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES TO DETERMINE THE DEVELOPMENT VALUE OF LAND.

+WE HAVE NOT HAD AND DO NOT HAVE A 'HIGH LAND PRICE' POLICY,+ HE DECLARED.

TOTAL LAND PRODUCTION FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR WAS EXPECTED TO BE 593 HECTARES, INCLUDING 77 HECTARES FOR INDUSTRY AND. IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS, TOTAL PRODUCTION WAS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE FIGURE FOR THIS YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT BY THE END OF THIS DECADE, THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ALREADY IN TRAIN WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE.

+WE MUST NOW DECIDE ON A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WHICH BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY CAN ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF A POPULATION LIKELY TO BE OVER SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE, AS AGAINST JUST OVER FIVE MILLION AT PRESENT, AND A WORKFORCE OF ABOUT 3.4 MILLION PEOPLE, AS AGAINST 2.4 MILLION AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT WORK HAD BEEN PROCEEDING STEADILY FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS WITH SUB-REGIONAL STUDIES OF THE NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, THE HARBOUR AREA, LANTAU AND JUNK BAY, SUPPLEMENTED BY OTHER STUDIES ON THE FUTURE LAND REQUIREMENTS OF MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES.

+THE RESULTS OF ALL THESE STUDIES ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT TOGETHER, AND WE INTEND TO MAKE PUBLIC OUR FINDINGS OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND TO TAKE DECISIONS BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CHOOSE A STRATEGY WHICH WILL BE BOTH RELEVANT TO OUR NEEDS AND WITHIN OUR MEANS,+ SIR EDWARD ADDED.

MAJOR ITEMS OF LEGISLATION EXPECTED
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MANY MAJOR ITEMS OF LEGISLATION ARE EXPECTED TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THIS SESSION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

THE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION DURING THE LAST SESSION, HE SAID.

AMONG THE LEGISLATION EXPECTED ARE PROVISIONS FOR IMPROVED SICKNESS AND SEVERANCE PAY BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES.

OTHER MAJOR ITEMS OF LEGISLATION FOR THE YEAR WOULD INCLUDE AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES TO IMPROVE THE FRAMEWORK OF REGULATION OF THESE INSTITUTIONS, LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE HIRE-PURCHASE AND OUTBOUND TRAVEL INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS LEGISLATION FOR A SECOND POLYTECHNIC, THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

THERE WILL ALSO BE LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS WHEN LAND IS ACQUIRED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND TO REVISE AND UPDATE HONG KONG'S LAWS ON PROPERTY AND CONVEYANCING.

LEGISLATION IN THE LAST SESSION INCLUDED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

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LESSONS FROM BANKING EXPERIENCE
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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DRAW FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE ANY NECESSARY LESSONS FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF HONG KONG'S BANKING SYSTEM, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

RECENT EVENTS INVOLVING CERTAIN LISTED PUBLIC COMPANIES HAD ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF REQUIREMENT FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS AND DEALINGS, SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAD RECENTLY MADE PROPOSALS WHICH IT CONSIDERED WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AND THE INVESTING PUBLIC, HE POINTED OUT.

SIR EDWARD ADDED THAT THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AND APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW CONSULTING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS ON THEM.

+AS A RESULT OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, IT FALLS TO THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE FINANCIAL AND ALLIED SERVICES INDUSTRIES CARRY ON BUSINESS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO MODERNISE HONG KONG'S COMPANY LAW, WOULD BE ENACTED WITHIN THE 1983-84 SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL, A STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE, WOULD BE APPOINTED, SIR EDWARD REPORTED.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH KEEPING UNDER REVIEW NOT ONLY THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, BUT ALSO THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE, AND WITH MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT, HE POINTED OUT.

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE ORDINANCES GOVERNING BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOULD BECOME LAW BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE CHANGES SHOULD GIVE BETTER PROTECTION TO DEPOSITORS AND INVESTORS, SIR EDWARD SAID.

ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, HE SAID MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE, AND THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS, AND BY ENCOURAGING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES TO ESTABLISH CODES OF PRACTICE.

+WHERE, HOWEVER, THESE MEASURES PROVE INADEQUATE, AND CONSUMERS ARE UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL, WHERE APPROPRIATE, INTERVENE TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR INTERESTS,+ HE SAID.

TO GIVE THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC SOME DEGREE OF PROTECTION, LEGISLATION WAS BEING DRAFTED TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF THE OUTBOUND TRAVEL BUSINESS THROUGH REGISTRATION AND LICENSING, SIR EDWARD SAID.

A BILL WAS ALSO BEING DRAFTED TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR HIRE PURCHASE TRANSACTIONS, WITH THE AIM OF PREVENTING A VENDOR FROM IMPOSING UNDULY ONEROUS CONDITIONS ON A PURCHASER, HE ADDED.

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NEW ROADS BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW ROAD THROUGH TAI MO SHAN LINKING NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH TSUEN WAN, AND ANOTHER NEW ROAD THROUGH LION ROCK OR TAI MO SHAN LINKING NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES WITH KOWLOON, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ELABORATING ON HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, SIR EDWARD SAID THE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF THE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE MAJOR FACTORS IN THE CHOICE OF STRATEGY.

HE SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT NEW ROADS WERE BEING PLANNED TO SERVE JUNK BAY AND MA ON SHAN, WHICH REPRESENTED POSSIBLE COMPONENTS OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE STRATEGY.

/SIR EDWARD

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD SYSTEM, RECOMMENDED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY AND THE WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY, WERE CONTINUING.

+LINKS ACROSS THE BORDER, A RECENT FEATURE OF THE PROGRAMME, WILL BE EXPANDED. A SECOND BRIDGE WILL BE BUILT AT MAN KAM TO, THE SHA TAU KOK CROSSING WILL BE IMPROVED, AND PLANNING WILL CONTINUE FOR A ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE FIRST CHOICE FOR A SECOND VEHICULAR HARBOUR CROSSING, A BRIDGE AT LEI YUE MUN, HAD BEEN FOUND IMPRACTICABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, OTHER CROSSING OPTIONS WERE BEING INVESTIGATED.

HE SAID THESE INCLUDED BORED OR SUBMERGED TUNNELS AT LEI YUE MUN, BETWEEN TAI KOO SHING AND CHA KWO LING, OR ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT:

- * THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION, WITH ITS ELECTRIFIED SERVICES AND DOUBLE-TRACKING, IS NOW CARRYING 150 000 PASSENGERS DAILY, THUS REDUCING CONGESTION ON THE MAIN TRUNK ROAD IN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES;
- * THE TWO MAJOR FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES HAVE INCREASED THEIR CARRYING CAPACITIES BY ABOUT 15 PER CENT AND INTRODUCED 12 NEW ROUTES AND HAVE ALSO COMPLETED ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SERVICES AND THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL ROUTES TO SERVE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS;
- * WORK ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE IS CONTINUING ON SCHEDULE AND SHOULD, WHEN COMPLETED IN LATE 1985, BRING ABOUT A MAJOR REDUCTION IN TRAVELLING TIME TO AND FROM THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

ON AIR SERVICES, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HONG KONG COULD NOT, AND NEED NOT ON PRESENT TRAFFIC ESTIMATES, PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AIRPORT, THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING AT KAI TAK WOULD BE EXPANDED.

+THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THE AIRPORT CAN CONTINUE TO HANDLE EFFICIENTLY OUR FUTURE AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC: THIS IS FORECAST TO INCREASE FROM SOME 10 MILLION PASSENGERS IN 1984 TO ABOUT 18 MILLION IN 1990,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROGRESSING WITH A PRIVATE HELICOPTER COMPANY TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL HELIPOINT ON THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION FOR FUTURE FLIGHTS TO MACAU AND THE VARIOUS PARTS OF GUANGDONG.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK OF HELICOPTER LANDING SITES TO SERVICE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS WAS ALSO BEING CONSIDERED, HE SAID.

ON PORT FACILITIES, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING FACILITIES THERE IN LINE WITH THE EXPECTED GROWTH IN FUTURE CONTAINER TRADE.

HE SAID THAT THE FIRST STAGE OF THE EXPANSION, INVOLVING THE RECLAMATION OF THE KWAI CHUNG CREEK, WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1987, AND SHOULD INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING TERMINALS BY ABOUT 57 PER CENT.

NEGOTIATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO START SOON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIXTH TERMINAL TO BE COMPLETED IN THE LATE 1980'S, HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS FOR THE HANDLING OF BREAK BULK CARGO WHICH WOULD RAISE THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING CARGO WORKING AREAS BY ABOUT 30 PER CENT NEXT YEAR WHEN WORKS WERE COMPLETED AT CHAI WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL.

+ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL YET FURTHER IMPROVE FACILITIES IN THE HARBOUR, ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT AND ENDURING ASSETS,+ HE ADDED.

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POWER CHARGES AMONG LOWEST IN ASIA

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THE TOTAL PLANNED INVESTMENT OF THE TWO ELECTRICITY COMPANIES AMOUNTS TO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND YET THE COST OF ELECTRICITY TO THE HONG KONG CONSUMER IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN ASIA, AND IT IS STILL FALLING IN REAL TERMS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY.

SIR EDWARD, SPEAKING ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ADDED THAT THE USE OF COAL-FIRED UNITS SHOULD RESULT IN A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT SAVING TO CONSUMERS SINCE THE PRESENT COST OF COAL WAS ABOUT HALF THAT OF OIL.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY ENGAGED CONSULTANTS TO STUDY THE EXISTING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS, AND TO ADVISE WHETHER THE PRESENT SCHEMES OF CONTROL ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED THE POSITION BOTH OF THE CONSUMERS AND OF THE POWER COMPANIES, AND WHETHER ANY IMPROVEMENTS WERE REQUIRED.

+THE CONSULTANCY STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID THAT THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY WOULD BY 1986 HAVE EXTENDED ITS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK TO PRACTICALLY ALL UNSERVICED AREAS IN THE MAINLAND NEW TERRITORIES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT TO MEET THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND FROM THIS EXPANSION OF NETWORK, THE COMPANY WAS SEEKING A GRANT OF LAND ON WHICH TO BUILD A SECOND PRODUCTION PLANT.

ON THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE LONGER-TERM DEMAND FORECASTS SUGGESTED THAT HONG KONG WOULD NEED ADDITIONAL GENERATING CAPACITY IN THE 1990'S.

+WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT BY HONG KONG INTERESTS, AND THE TERMS ON WHICH HONG KONG MIGHT PURCHASE ELECTRICITY FROM THE POWER STATION,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE REPORT BY MERCHANT BANKERS COMMISSIONED TO ADVISE ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS RAISED SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

+OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS, HOWEVER, THAT, PROVIDED THESE DISCUSSIONS PROVE SATISFACTORY, IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE AN OFF-TAKE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO ALL CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

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HOUSING REMAINS HIGH PRIORITY

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HONG KONG SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR MOST IF NOT ALL OF THOSE FAMILIES NOW ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BY THE END OF THIS DECADE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE HOUSING PROGRAMME REMAINED A HIGH PRIORITY, AND RIGHTLY SO SINCE BETTER HOUSING WAS ONE OF THE MAIN ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT ABOUT 240 000 NEW DWELLINGS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE TOTAL HOUSING STOCK IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, INCLUDING MORE THAN 111 000 NEW FLATS BUILT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THREE-QUARTERS OF THEM OCCUPIED BY THEIR OWNERS.

IN 1982 ALONE, HE SAID, TOTAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PRODUCTION WAS 67 000 FLATS, JUST BELOW THE RECORD FIGURE FOR 1981 AND, IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, SOME 130 000 FLATS WERE AT PRESENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THIS DECADE OVER 300 000 FLATS WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR RENT OR SALE.

SIR EDWARD ADDED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THOSE FAMILIES IN THE OLDEST RESETTLEMENT BLOCKS HAD NOT BEEN IGNORED -- REDEVELOPMENT OF SHEK KIP MEI, THE FIRST RESETTLEMENT BLOCK, WOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR WHILE OTHER OLDER ESTATES HAD ALREADY BEEN LARGELY TRANSFORMED INTO MODERN ESTATES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT ABOUT 300 000 OUT OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN MARK I AND II BLOCKS HAVE SINCE BENEFITED FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES.

THESE PROGRAMMES, HE EXPLAINED, WERE TO BE STEPPED UP SO THAT BY 1990 ALL THE REMAINING MARK I AND II ESTATES WOULD HAVE BEEN REDEVELOPED OR SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.

ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, SIR EDWARD SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS RESERVED 800 PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS TO ENSURE THAT NO ELIGIBLE APPLICANT OVER THE AGE OF 60 SHOULD NEED TO WAIT FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

+EVERY NEW ESTATE ALSO NOW INCORPORATES A HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY, MANAGED BY ONE OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THAT SINCE THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME STARTED IN 1978, ABOUT 27 000 FLATS HAD BEEN SOLD TO FAMILIES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES.

✓ EVERY SALE, HE SAID, HAD BEEN HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED AND, TO MEET THIS DEMAND, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED THAT IN 1984-85 AN ADDITIONAL 5 000 FLATS WOULD BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

+THE BASIC DESIGN OF THE FLATS NOW BEING BUILT BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY MAKES THEM SUITABLE FOR EITHER RENT OR FOR SALE, SO THAT, AS CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND, THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE PROPORTIONS OF PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING OFFERED FOR RENT AND FOR SALE CAN READILY BE ADJUSTED,+ HE SAID.

THE HOUSING SOCIETY, ALSO PROVIDING LOW-COST HOUSING FOR RENT AND FOR SALE, LAST YEAR COMPLETED ITS LARGEST ESTATE AT JAT MIN CHUEN, SHA TIN, BRINGING TO ALMOST 30 000 THE NUMBER OF FLATS MANAGED BY THE SOCIETY, HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THAT THE SOCIETY WAS INVOLVED IN URBAN RENEWAL, SUCH AS THE RECENTLY COMPLETED WESTERN GARDEN URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, AND IN THE RURAL HOUSING SCHEME AT SAI KUNG WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

ON SQUATTERS, SIR EDWARD SAID THE AMBITIOUS HOUSING PROGRAMMES SHOULD RESULT IN A STEADY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBERS WHO LIVE IN UNSATISFACTORY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

HE SAID THAT MORE THAN 34 000 FAMILIES HAD BEEN REHOUSED FROM SQUATTER HUTS DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

THE LATEST CENSUS SHOWED THAT ABOUT 100 000 FAMILIES STILL LIVED IN TEMPORARY HUTS BUT ABOUT HALF OF THESE FAMILIES WOULD BE REHOUSED OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND, DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A NEW PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE SAFETY, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN SQUATTER AREAS SHOULD BENEFIT MOST OF THE REMAINING FAMILIES.

THREE NEW HOSPITALS PLANNED

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THERE ARE PLANS FOR THREE NEW HOSPITALS AT CHAI WAN, EAST KOWLOON AND TAI PO, EACH WITH BETWEEN 1 200 AND 1 500 BEDS AND EACH COSTING OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS AT CURRENT PRICES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPORTING GOOD PROGRESS ON HOSPITAL AND CLINIC DEVELOPMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT DESPITE ALL THE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, ITS CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND IT SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

HE ALSO SAID THAT SITE FORMATION WORK HAD STARTED ON THE \$752 MILLION PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE FACILITIES AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, AND THAT CONSTRUCTION OF TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WAS DUE TO START NEXT YEAR.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS :

- * AN EXTENSION OF POK OI HOSPITAL LATER THIS YEAR WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 113 BEDS;
- * COMPLETION OF THE RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE THIS YEAR WILL PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH A MORE MODERN BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE AND PATHOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AND
- * AMONG THE PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR ARE THE 150-BED MACLEHOSE MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE, AND EXTENSION OF YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, AND SIX NEW CLINICS.

HE SAID THAT THESE EXPANSION PLANS, AND THE NEED TO UPGRADE EXISTING SERVICES, WOULD REQUIRE A CORRESPONDING EXPANSION OF MEDICAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

THE INTAKE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, WOULD RISE FROM 80 THIS YEAR TO 100 IN 1984 WHEN CLINICAL FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS ALSO PLANNING TO INCREASE ITS ANNUAL INTAKE FROM THE PRESENT 150 TO 225 AS SOON AS ADDITIONAL CLINICAL TRAINING FACILITIES COULD BE PROVIDED AT THE PROPOSED EAST KOWLOON HOSPITAL, HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THERE WERE PLANS FOR FIVE NEW TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES; THE INTAKES TO THE PHYSIOTHERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY AND RADIOTHERAPY SCHOOLS AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WOULD ALSO BE INCREASED, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG DENTAL FACULTY WOULD PRODUCE ITS FIRST GRADUATES IN 1985.

+OUR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE WILL TAKE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD LATER THIS YEAR WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE NEO-NATAL SCREENING SERVICE. THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH EDUCATION IS ALSO RECOGNISED, AND PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXPAND THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, + SIR EDWARD SAID.

WORKER WAGE SECURITY FUND PLANNED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A WAGE SECURITY FUND FOR EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES IN LIQUIDATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR EDWARD ALSO SAID THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WAS NOW FINALISING ITS PROPOSALS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF SEVERANCE PAY.

HE SAID THAT THE FIRST PROPOSAL WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY EMPLOYEES OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP WHICH WAS SET UP LAST YEAR.

+THESE PROPOSALS RESPOND TO PUBLIC CONCERN THAT THERE SHOULD BE BETTER PROTECTION FOR EMPLOYEES,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO IMPROVE SICKNESS BENEFITS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BUT ITS SECOND READING HAD BEEN DEFERRED FOR COMMENT FROM EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

+CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL WILL BE RESUMED IN THE CURRENT SESSION IN THE LIGHT OF THESE COMMENTS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN A CROWDED URBAN COMMUNITY SUCH AS HONG KONG, WHICH RELIED HEAVILY ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WAS BOUND TO CAUSE PROBLEMS UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY WERE DETERMINED TO PREVENT IT.

+DURING THE PAST YEAR ANOTHER MILESTONE WAS REACHED WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE. THIS ORDINANCE WAS BROUGHT INTO FORCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH, REPLACING AND WIDENING THE SCOPE OF THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO WATER POLLUTION -- CONTROLS ON DISCHARGES INTO TOLO HARBOUR, THE FIRST WATER CONTROL ZONE IN THE TERRITORY, WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN 1984.

HE ADDED THAT COMPLEMENTARY PLANS WERE BEING DRAWN UP TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC TYPES OF WATER POLLUTION, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BEING ANIMAL WASTE, UPON WHICH A MAJOR CONSULTANCY WAS COMPLETED EARLIER THIS YEAR WHICH WOULD SOON BE STUDIED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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BETTER SERVICES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY ANNOUNCED BETTER REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT TO IMPROVE THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF DISABILITIES AT AN EARLY STAGE, THE NUMBER OF ASSESSMENT CENTRES WOULD BE INCREASED FROM THE EXISTING TWO TO EIGHT BY 1988.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, A WORKING PARTY WAS REVIEWING PRE-SCHOOL CARE, TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF DISABLED CHILDREN, AND WOULD REPORT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HE ALSO SAID THAT A NEW COMBINED SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR ALL PRIMARY TWO PUPILS TO DETECT CHILDREN WITH VISION, HEARING, SPEECH AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, WAS ALREADY ACHIEVING ALMOST 100 PER CENT COVERAGE.

+NEW INTENSIVE REMEDIAL SERVICES ARE BEING INTRODUCED IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS TO CATER FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

AS FOR THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY, HE SAID THAT 80 FLATS IN PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 470 PEOPLE IN SHA TIN HAD ALREADY BEEN PURCHASED, USING FUNDS FROM THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

ANOTHER 23 FLATS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR PURCHASE IN THE URBAN AREA AND WOULD BE READY FOR OCCUPATION BY NEXT SPRING, HE SAID.

THERE WOULD ALSO BE 385 HOSTEL PLACES, 560 HOME PLACES AND 470 CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES FOR THE ELDERLY NEXT YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID.

+MUCH OF THE HEADWAY MADE IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR. TO COMPLEMENT THEIR EFFORTS, PLANS ARE NOW IN HAND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE SOME OF THESE SERVICES DIRECTLY,+ HE SAID.

ON VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, HE SAID THAT 750 MORE PLACES IN THREE NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED WILL BE PROVIDED BY 1988; EXPANSION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 550 PLACES A YEAR OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WAS ALSO PLANNED.

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BROADCASTING TO BE REVIEWED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF BROADCASTING WELL BEFORE EXPIRY OF THE PRESENT TELEVISION LICENCES IN 1988 AND THE SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE IN 1989, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE REVIEW WOULD ASSESS LONG-TERM NEEDS FOR TELEVISION AND SOUND BROADCASTING, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, AND WOULD RECOMMEND A POLICY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG.

+TELEVISION AND RADIO, APART FROM THEIR ENTERTAINMENT VALUE, HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PUBLIC INFORMATION AND IN EDUCATION,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH TELEVISION CAN MAKE TO ALL FORMS OF EDUCATION, AND THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE MATTERS WHICH WILL BE INVESTIGATED IN THE REVIEW OF BROADCASTING,+ HE ADDED.

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DRUGS AMONG YOUTHS DISTURBING

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THE INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN DRUGS IS DISTURBING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE NUMBER OF YOUNG ADDICTS NEWLY REPORTED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WAS 589, AN INCREASE OF 55 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

+THEIR AVERAGE AGE WHEN THEY FIRST USED DRUGS WAS SIXTEEN-AND-A-HALF,+ HE SAID.

SEVERAL NEW COURSES OF ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS WILL BE TAKEN TO COUNTER THIS TREND.

+GREATER EMPHASIS IS TO BE GIVEN TO PREVENTIVE EDUCATION IN JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS; SPECIAL ATTENTION IS TO BE PAID TO THE TREATMENT OF YOUNG FIRST-TIME ADDICTS AND TO THEIR AFTER-CARE; THE HELP OF PARENTS IN STEERING THEIR CHILDREN AWAY FROM DRUGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SOUGHT; AND EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND TO FOLLOW OTHER HEALTHY ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

ON CRIME IN GENERAL, SIR EDWARD SAID 1983 WAS LIKELY TO SHOW A SLIGHT INCREASE IN CRIME OVER 1982.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, LAST YEAR'S WELCOME DOWNWARD TREND IN JUVENILE CRIME HAS CONTINUED.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS, HOWEVER, CONCERNED ABOUT THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF CRIMES, MANY OF A SERIOUS AND VIOLENT NATURE, BEING COMMITTED BY YOUNG MALES AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 20 YEARS.

+THEY REPRESENT ONLY ABOUT 15 PER CENT OF THE MALE POPULATION, BUT ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 31 PER CENT OF ALL MALE CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS BETWEEN 1980 AND 1982.

+THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS THUS CHOSEN TO TARGET THE 1983-84 FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN AT YOUNG MALES IN THIS AGE GROUP,+ HE SAID.

ON THE POLICE FORCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID RECRUITMENT HAD REMAINED SATISFACTORY AND TRAINING CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HIGH PRIORITY.

+A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY POLICE FORCE IS THE ABILITY TO DISSEMINATE ACCURATE INFORMATION QUICKLY SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE TO POLICE OFFICERS ON THE GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

+AN IMPROVED COMPUTER ASSISTED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM TO REPLACE THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BY 1988.

+AN INTEGRATED RADIO SYSTEM FOR THE JOINT USE OF THE MARINE POLICE, ROYAL NAVY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH MARITIME SECURITY IS BEING SET UP, AND SHOULD BE FINISHED BY THE END OF THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE SENT BACK

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THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT BE RELAXED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+WE WILL CONTINUE TO APPREHEND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND THEY WILL BE SENT BACK,+ SIR EDWARD SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT AND WELCOME REDUCTION IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUED VIGILANCE OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE FIRM ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPATRIATION POLICY.

+A VALUABLE ADDITIONAL DETERRENT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WAS THE INTRODUCTION IN MAY OF THE NEW, MORE SECURE IDENTITY CARD WHICH SHOULD ELIMINATE THE FORGED CARDS ON WHICH MOST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DEPEND,+ HE SAID.

+SO FAR, OVER 650 000 NEW CARDS HAVE BEEN ISSUED : ALL MEN UNDER 35 SHOULD HAVE NEW CARDS BY MAY 1984,+ HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE SMUGGLING OF YOUNG CHILDREN BY TRAFFICKERS, WHO HAVE LITTLE REGARD FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR PASSENGERS, HAD BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

+WE ARE CO-OPERATING WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES SO THAT, TOGETHER, WE MAY PUT A STOP TO THIS DEPLORABLE AND DANGEROUS TRAFFIC,+ HE SAID.

ON THE PROPERLY REGULATED SCHEME FOR VISITORS FROM CHINA, SIR EDWARD SAID NEW ARRANGEMENTS, INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1982 AND AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN CHINA, HAD WORKED WELL.

+THE GREAT MAJORITY OF VISITORS HAVE RETURNED TO CHINA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THEIR VISIT PERMITS,+ HE SAID.

+THE FEW WHO OVERSTAY ARE DETECTED SOONER OR LATER AND ARE REPATRIATED.+

ON THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, SIR EDWARD SAID THEY HAD CONTINUED TO ARRIVE DESPITE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSED CENTRES IN JULY 1982.

+THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS HAS FALLEN : 3 900 IN THE 12 MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER 1983 AS COMPARED WITH 8 220 IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS,+ HE SAID. +BUT SO TOO HAVE THE NUMBERS LEAVING FOR RESETTLEMENT : 3 844 AS AGAINST 10 155 OVER THE TWO PERIODS.+

+ON OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR THERE WERE 13 462 IN CAMPS HERE AS COMPARED WITH 12 700 A YEAR AGO.

/+SO FAR

+SO, FAR FROM BEING RESOLVED, THE PROBLEM HAS BECOME RATHER WORSE, AND WE MUST RELUCTANTLY CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE CLOSED CENTRES.

+WE SHALL ALSO CONTINUE STRONGLY TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO PERSUADE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT, AND TO TAKE OUR OWN INITIATIVES TO THIS END WHENEVER OPPORTUNITIES ARISE,+ HE SAID.

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CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES EXTENDED

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MORE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE BEING PROVIDED AND NEW SCHEMES FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION INTRODUCED TO COPE WITH THE GROWING POPULATION IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+LAI SUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, FOR SOME 200 YOUNG OFFENDERS UNDER THE AGE OF 21, WILL BE OPENED LATER THIS YEAR, AND SHEK PIK MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON WILL BE OPENED EARLY NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

+OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PAROLE AND PRE-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES, WHICH WILL HELP OFFENDERS ON THEIR RELEASE TO INTEGRATE THEMSELVES PROPERLY INTO SOCIETY AND NOT TO TURN AGAIN TO CRIME.

+THESE SCHEMES REPRESENT AN EXTENSION OF EXISTING CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES, AND WILL, WE HOPE, EVENTUALLY LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN OUR PENAL POPULATION.

+IN ADDITION, A PROGRAMME OF IMPROVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

ON THE DRIVE AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE GOVERNOR SAID UNRELENTING EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THIS SOCIAL EVIL WOULD CONTINUE.

+GONE IS THE SYNDICATED CORRUPTION WHICH CAUSED SO MUCH DISTRESS IN THE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES- AND NEW STANDARDS OF PUBLIC CONDUCT HAVE EMERGED,+ HE SAID.

+THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A MARKED CHANGE IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES: THE MANY REPORTS RECEIVED FROM ORDINARY CITIZENS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO TOLERATE CORRUPTION.

+IN SUSTAINING ITS PRESSURES ON THE CORRUPT, THE ICAC HAS THE FULL CONFIDENCE AND BACKING OF THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1983

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TRIBUTE PAID TO TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS
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TWO MEMBERS WHO HAVE JUST RETIRED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE PRAISED FOR THEIR SERVICE TODAY BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, MR ROGER LOBO.

JUST BEFORE DELIVERING HIS OPENING ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT DR HENRY HU HAD SERVED SEVEN YEARS FROM 1976.

+I WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIM FOR HIS KEEN INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF THIS COUNCIL'S WORK THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS, AND HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE WORK DONE BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS THROUGH THE UMELCO ORGANISATION,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID DR RAYSON HUANG HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR SIX YEARS, FROM 1977.

+THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL WAS A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION TO HIS OTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT DURING THE TIME HE GAVE US GENEROUSLY OF HIS TIME AND COUNSEL,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

MR LOBO SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WISHED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S WARM TRIBUTE TO DR HU AND DR HUANG.

DR HU HAD BEEN A LOYAL AND DEDICATED MEMBER OF UMELCO AND A GOOD FRIEND TO EVERYONE, HE SAID.

DR HUANG WOULD ALSO BE MISSED, PARTICULARLY FOR HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE AND GREAT KNOWLEDGE, MR LOBO SAID.

AS BOTH WERE NOT LEAVING HONG KONG, UMELCO COULD, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO DRAW IN FUTURE, FROM THEIR WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND MANY FINE QUALITIES, MR LOBO SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1983

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GOVERNOR AND EXCO MEMBERS LEAVE FOR LONDON

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND EIGHT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LEFT FOR LONDON THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE EIGHT UNOFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR ON THE TRIP WERE SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, MR ROGER LOBO, MR LI FOOK-WO, MR LO TAK-SHING, MR DAVID NEWBIGGING, MISS LYDIA DUNN, MR CHEN SHOU-LUM AND MISS MARIA TAM.

ANOTHER THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR OSWALD CHEUNG, MR MICHAEL SANDBERG, AND MR LEE QUO-WEI, ARE CURRENTLY AWAY FROM HONG KONG AND WILL JOIN THE GROUP IN LONDON.

THE GOVERNOR AND HIS PARTY WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

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NEW ROAD TRAFFIC RULES DUE

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MAJOR REVISIONS IN HONG KONG'S ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION WILL COME INTO EFFECT NEXT AUGUST, MR JAMES SO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI KAIFONG ASSOCIATION.

THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND ITS SEVEN SETS OF SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS HAVE TAKEN OVER 10 YEARS TO DRAW UP, HE SAID.

+THE PURPOSES OF REVISING THE OLD ORDINANCE ARE THREE-FOLD,+ MR SO ADDED.

FIRST, THEY AIM AT UP-DATING AND REPLACING THE EXISTING ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, WHICH HAS BECOME OUT-DATED AND IS INADEQUATE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EVER CHANGING PATTERNS OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG'S FAST GROWING SOCIETY.

SECOND, THEY ARE DESIGNED TO SIMPLIFY AND TO BETTER INTEGRATE THE MANY DIVERSE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION SO THAT THEY ARE MORE READILY UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC AND EASIER TO ADMINISTER BY THE AUTHORITIES.

+MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE MANY TRAFFIC SIGNS WHICH CLUSTERED OUR ROADS AND PAVEMENTS WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED AND SIMPLIFIED BY USING MORE SYMBOLS AND LESS WORDS,+ MR SO SAID.

/THIRD, AND

THIRD, AND MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THEY AIM AT PROMOTING GREATER SAFETY ON ROADS THROUGH HEAVIER PENALTIES TO DETER PEOPLE FROM USING OUR ROADS RECKLESSLY AND INCONSIDERATELY AND HIGHER AND SAFER STANDARDS AND EQUIPMENT BEING USED IN VEHICLES.

+THE NEW LEGISLATION ALSO GIVES POWERS TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO REQUIRE A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR TO BE RE-TESTED SO AS TO KEEP UP THE TEACHING STANDARD.+

BUT MR SO STRESSED THAT NOT ALL DRIVING INSTRUCTORS ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION TO BE RE-TESTED - ONLY THOSE WHOSE STANDARD OF INSTRUCTION IS CONSIDERED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO BE INADEQUATE WOULD BE CALLED UP FOR RE-TESTING.

UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, GOODS VEHICLES ARE RECLASSIFIED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES - LIGHT, MEDIUM, HEAVY AND ARTICULATED VEHICLES AND EACH CATEGORY WILL REQUIRE A SEPARATE DRIVING LICENCE.

MR SO SAID THE AIM WAS TO RECOGNISE THAT DIFFERENT DRIVING SKILLS ARE REQUIRED FOR HANDLING DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF GOODS VEHICLES, AND TO PROMOTE GREATER ROAD SAFETY BY ENSURING DRIVERS OF EACH CATEGORY OF GOODS VEHICLES DO POSSESS THE PROPER SKILLS TO HANDLE THE VEHICLES SAFELY.

BUT EXISTING DRIVERS NEED NOT FEAR THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL AFFECT THEIR LIVELIHOOD - IT ALLOWS ALL HOLDERS OF EXISTING GOODS VEHICLE DRIVING LICENCE TO BE AUTOMATICALLY RELICENSED TO DRIVE ALL LIGHT, MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES.

+ONLY THOSE WHO WANT TO DRIVE ARTICULATED VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A NEW TEST,+ HE SAID.

ALSO UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATIONS, TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE MUCH SIMPLIFIED AND ALTHOUGH SOME 60 ODD NEW SIGNS WILL BE INTRODUCED, MORE OLD ONES WILL BE DROPPED.

THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL ROADS WILL BE SET AT A UNIFORM 50 KM/H UNLESS OTHERWISE SIGNPOSTED.

THE NEW LEGISLATION ALSO REQUIRES THAT DRIVERS AGED 70 OR ABOVE WILL ONLY BE ISSUED WITH A DRIVING LICENCE IF THEY CAN PRODUCE A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE SHOWING THAT THEY ARE STILL MEDICALLY FIT TO DRIVE.

ON ABANDONED VEHICLES, THE NEW LAWS ALSO HAVE PROVISIONS TO SIMPLIFY AND SPEED UP THE PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING AND DISPOSING ABANDONED VEHICLES.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1983

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PLAN TO STEP UP CAREERS INFORMATION IN NT
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO EXPAND THE WORK OF ITS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CAREERS INFORMATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR JAMES HAYES, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF A CAREERS EXHIBITION AT THE TAI PO COMMUNITY CENTRE THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

THE EIGHT-DAY PROJECT IS ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

DR HAYES SAID THAT, FUNDS PERMITTING, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE A CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN 1985-86 IN THE EASTERN REGION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH COVERS TAI PO, SHA TIN AND FANLING.

PENDING THE SETTING UP OF THE CENTRE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ORGANISING SPECIAL CAREERS PROJECTS FOR THIS REGION, LIKE THE PRESENT EXHIBITION.

DR HAYES POINTED OUT THAT ALONGSIDE ATTRACTIVE DISPLAYS AT THE EXHIBITION WAS A WIDE RANGE OF CAREERS MATERIALS, INCLUDING REFERENCE BOOKS, SLIDES, TAPES AND VIDEO-CASSETTE RECORDINGS WHICH WOULD HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND TO START THINKING ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREER.

LABOUR OFFICERS MANNING THE ENQUIRY COUNTER IN THE EXHIBITION WOULD ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION FROM VISITORS. GROUP VISITS BY LOCAL SCHOOLS HAD ALSO BEEN ARRANGED.

+THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN CAREERS INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND I CORDIALLY INVITE STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS LIVING IN TAI PO AND THE NEARBY DISTRICTS TO COME TO VISIT US,+ HE ADDED.

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YUEN LONG DB MEMBERS MEET TOMORROW
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED DESIGN FOR THE TOWN PARK AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

LOCATED AT SHUI NGAU LENG, THE PARK WILL HAVE A LAKE, A CHINESE STYLE GARDEN, A RESTAURANT WITH TERRACED GARDENS, BADMINTON COURTS, BASKETBALL COURTS, AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, AND AN AVIARY.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE EXISTING YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES.

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE SETTING UP OF REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

/AN ASSESSMENT

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE RECENT STUDY TOUR OF EUROPE BY SOME DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 296 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE REPRESENTATIVES TO YUEN LONG TO COVER THE MEETING. IT WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.20 AM FOR YUEN LONG.

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CAS RECRUITS TO PARADE
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OVER 360 MEN AND WOMEN CIVIL AID SERVICES ADULT RECRUITS WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 8) AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS, HARBOUR ROAD.

THE RECRUITS HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR BASIC TRAINING IN FOOT DRILL, DISCIPLINE, FIRST AID, LIGHT RESCUE, FOREST FIRE FIGHTING, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TYPHOON DUTIES.

THEY WILL BE POSTED TO VARIOUS CAS UNITS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

THE COMMISSIONER OF ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE, MR LEONARD K.P. CHIU, WILL INSPECT AND ADDRESS THE PARADE, AND PRESENT SPECIAL CERTIFICATES TO THREE OUTSTANDING RECRUITS.

MR CHIU WILL ALSO PRESENT CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE CLASPS TO 18 OTHER CAS MEMBERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 8) AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS, HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG, AT 7 PM. YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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