



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1974.

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SEVERANCE PAYMENTS FOR WORKERS
BILL TO BE GAZETTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INTRODUCE A BILL TO OBLIGE EMPLOYERS TO MAKE SEVERANCE PAYMENTS TO WORKERS WHO LOSE THEIR JOBS THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN.

THE BILL - THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL - WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S (JUNE 7) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE BEING SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IT COVERS ALL MANUAL WORKERS, AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING UP TO \$2,000 A MONTH.

THE BILL GRANTS THE RIGHT OF SEVERANCE PAY TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE FIT TO WORK, BUT ARE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF REDUNDANCY, OR LAID-OFF FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS A WEEK.

IT APPLIES ONLY TO EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 24 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THEIR DISMISSAL OR LAY-OFF.

MONTHLY-RATED EMPLOYEES WILL GET ONE-THIRD OF A MONTH'S PAY FOR EVERY YEAR OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE, AND TIME-RATED OR PIECE-RATED EMPLOYEES WILL GET 10 DAYS' WAGES FOR EVERY YEAR OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE.

SERVICE DURING THE FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE BILL COMES INTO FORCE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAY.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE BILL, AN EMPLOYEE IS CONSIDERED REDUNDANT IF HE LOSES HIS JOB EITHER BECAUSE HIS EMPLOYER CLOSES OR PLANS TO CLOSE HIS BUSINESS, OR BECAUSE THERE IS A REDUCTION IN DEMAND FOR WORK OF A PARTICULAR KIND.

IN GENERAL, THE EMPLOYEE IS COVERED BY THE BILL IF HE LOSES HIS EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN. IF HE LEAVES FOR OTHER REASONS - SUCH AS MISCONDUCT, ILL-HEALTH, OR AFTER A VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION - HE IS NOT ENTITLED TO SEVERANCE PAY.

FURTHERMORE, AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS ENTITLED UNDER HIS TERMS OF SERVICE TO A GRATUITY BASED ON LENGTH OF SERVICE CANNOT RECEIVE BOTH THE GRATUITY AND SEVERANCE PAY, BUT WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE WHICHEVER OF THE TWO IS MORE BENEFICIAL TO HIM.

IF THE SEVERANCE PAYMENT IS NOT MADE PROMPTLY BY AGREEMENT, THE EMPLOYEE ELIGIBLE FOR SEVERANCE PAY WILL HAVE TO MAKE HIS CLAIM IN WRITING WITHIN A MONTH FROM THE DATE HIS EMPLOYMENT ENDS. THIS ONE MONTH DEADLINE CAN BE EXTENDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR.

THE EMPLOYER MUST MAKE THE PAYMENT WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE CLAIM BEING SUBMITTED, AND ALSO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATEMENT SHOWING HOW THE AMOUNT OF SEVERANCE PAY HAD BEEN CALCULATED.

/DISPUTES

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DISPUTES OVER SEVERANCE PAY WILL BE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, SHOULD CONCILIATION BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT NOT LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL TODAY, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON SAID: +MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF HONG KONG HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONSULTED ON THE BILL.

+NOW I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO PUBLIC COMMENT ON IT.

+TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE GIST OF THE BILL, MY DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING A LEAFLET IN ENGLISH AND IN CHINESE OUTLINING ITS MAIN PROVISIONS. THE LEAFLET WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT ALL OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

+THE FULL TEXT OF THE BILL, ALSO IN ENGLISH AND IN CHINESE, IS CONTAINED IN LEGAL SUPPLEMENTS OF TOMORROW'S HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WANT TO STUDY THE BILL IN DETAIL CAN BUY A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG.

+WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE BILL SHOULD BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

+WE WILL BE CAREFULLY STUDYING AND CONSIDERING ALL THE COMMENTS WHICH COME IN,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

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GOVERNOR LEAVING FOR BRIEF VISIT TO BRITAIN
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON MONDAY (JUNE 10) NIGHT FOR A BRIEF VISIT TO BRITAIN.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION IN LONDON, FOR WHICH THE GOVERNOR HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER, AND TO HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, MR. DENYS ROBERTS, WILL ASSUME THE OFFICE OF ACTING GOVERNOR IN ADDITION TO BEING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THIS IS TO AVOID, FOR SO SHORT A TIME, THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF MAKING A NUMBER OF ACTING APPOINTMENTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

IT FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE SET WHEN MR. ROBERTS WAS ON LEAVE. AT THAT TIME, MR. CLINTON ACTED AS COLONIAL SECRETARY AS WELL AS HOLDING HIS OWN POST OF DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY.

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PRECAUTIONS AGAINST TYPHOONS OUTLINED

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR. GORDON BELL TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT A TROPICAL DEPRESSION WAS EXPECTED TO FORM IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ABOUT 250 MILES SOUTH OF HONG KONG.

HE REMINDED EVERYONE THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE COMING TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON.

THOSE WHO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN THE COLONY IS THREATENED SHOULD NOW ENSURE THAT ALL THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND RELEVANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE UP-TO-DATE AND THAT ANY EQUIPMENT THAT THEY NEED IS IN GOOD ORDER.

FASTENINGS ON DOORS AND WINDOWS SHOULD BE CHECKED TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE WORKING PROPERLY. DRAINS SHOULD BE CLEARED OF OBSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKED FOR DAMAGE.

EMERGENCY STOCKS OF FOOD, CANDLES, TORCHES AND FIRST-AID EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE.

DETAILS ABOUT TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS ARE IN THE FRONT OF EVERY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND ON SPECIAL CARDS ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

NO.1 IS A +STAND BY SIGNAL+. THE HOISTING OF NO.1 SIGNAL DOES NOT WARN THE ONSET OF HIGH WINDS AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR MOST NORMAL ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE WHILE THIS SIGNAL IS HOISTED.

HOWEVER YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AS NO.3 SIGNAL IS HOISTED. THIS IS A DEFINITE WARNING OF STRONG WINDS, THAT IS WINDS OF 22 TO 33 KNOTS.

THERE ARE FOUR NUMBER 8 SIGNALS -- 8NW, 8SW, 8NE AND 8SE -- WHICH GIVE POSITIVE WARNING OF GALE OR STORM FORCE WINDS FROM THE DIRECTION INDICATED.

THE NO.8 SIGNALS COVER A RANGE OF WINDSPEEDS FROM 34 TO 63 KNOTS.

NUMBERS 9 AND 10 SIGNALS IMPLY THAT THE CENTRE OF A SEVERE TROPICAL STORM OR TYPHOON WILL COME VERY CLOSE TO THE COLONY. WHEN THIS HAPPENS THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE VERY QUICKLY.

WHEN NO.8, 9 OR 10 SIGNAL IS DISPLAYED, SPECIAL BULLETINS ARE PREPARED EVERY HOUR AND BROADCAST AT TWO MINUTES BEFORE EACH HOUR AND AT HALF PAST EACH HOUR THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT.

THESE BULLETINS GIVE THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE STORM AND ENABLE YOU TO PLOT THE POSITION OF THE CENTRE IF YOU WISH TO DO SO.

IF YOU WISH TO KNOW WHICH SIGNAL IS HOISTED YOU SHOULD TELEPHONE THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AT 5-456381 AND NOT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

IF YOU NEED SPECIAL NOTIFICATION EVERY TIME SIGNALS ARE CHANGED THEN THE TELEPHONE COMPANY CAN PROVIDE THIS SERVICE FOR YOU FOR A NOMINAL CHARGE.

ALL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED AUTOMATICALLY WHEN NUMBER 8, 9 OR 10 SIGNAL IS HOISTED AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MAY MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CLOSING SCHOOLS EVEN WHEN NO.3 SIGNAL IS HOISTED IF CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO DETERIORATE.

GOVERNMENT AND MANY LARGE CONCERNS PERMIT STAFF NOT REQUIRED FOR DUTY TO RETURN HOME OR TO STAY AT HOME WHENEVER NUMBER 8, 9 OR 10 SIGNAL IS HOISTED.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE FUTURE PATH OR INTENSITY OF TROPICAL CYCLONES WITH CERTAINTY. ALTHOUGH THE ERRORS OF 24-HOUR-FORECAST POSITIONS IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN ON AVERAGE LESS THAN 100 MILES.

IT IS NEVERTHELESS STILL POSSIBLE FOR A TROPICAL CYCLONE OCCASIONALLY TO MOVE IN AN UNEXPECTED DIRECTION OR AT A DIFFERENT SPEED OR TO INTENSIFY OR WEAKEN MORE RAPIDLY THAN FORECAST.

ALSO A SMALL CHANGE IN THE DISTANCE OF NEAREST APPROACH OF THE CENTRE CAN MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO ITS EFFECT ON THE COLONY.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD THEREFORE LISTEN TO WEATHER BROADCASTS TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AND SHOULD NOT RELAX PRECAUTIONS UNTIL ALL SIGNALS ARE LOWERED.

PEOPLE ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO SET OUT FOR LONG PLEASURE TRIPS IN SMALL BOATS NOR TO LEAVE ON CAMPING OR WALKING HOLIDAYS TO REMOTE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHEN THE STAND-BY SIGNAL, NO.1 IS HOISTED, ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER AT THIS TIME IS OFTEN FINE.

CARDS EXPLAINING THE WARNING SYSTEM AND GIVING ADVICE ON PRECAUTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER AND FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

FOR NEWCOMERS OR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION THERE IS A BOOKLET ENTITLED '+TYPHOON+'. IT IS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND IN CHINESE AT 3 DOLLARS A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER AND FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

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MOBILE REGISTRATION TEAM TO WORK IN CHAI WAN

THE MOBILE TEAM OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT IS TO OPERATE IN THE CHAI WAN DISTRICT NEXT WEEK.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION URGED PARENTS IN THE AREA TO MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11 AND 17.

HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF 18 CAN ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS, HE ADDED.

THE MOBILE TEAM WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. FROM MONDAY (JUNE 10) TO FRIDAY (JUNE 14).

THE TEAM WILL ALSO ACCEPT REPORTS OF CHANGES IN REGISTERED PARTICULARS, INCLUDING CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT, RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, AND MARITAL STATUS.

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CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION
WILL BOOST STANDARD OF LIVING

HONG KONG POSSESSES ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND THIS, OVER THE LONGER TERM, WILL MEAN STEADY IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS PEOPLE, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE CITY HALL AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST FURNITURE EXHIBITION TO BE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FURNITURE DEALERS' AND DECORATORS' GENERAL ASSOCIATION.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID : +I DON'T THINK THERE CAN BE MUCH DOUBT THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY FOR AS FAR AHEAD AS WE CAN SEE.

+THE PROBLEMS WE FACE AT PRESENT ARE RELATIVELY SHORT TERM AND WE ARE IN GOOD COMPANY= VIRTUALLY EVERY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD FACES THE SAME PROBLEMS.

+THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN WORLD TRADING PROSPECTS AND WE SHALL SHARE IN THIS. OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS ARE STRONG AND RESILIENT AND OUR WILL TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE IS SECOND TO NONE.

+WE HAVE ALL THE INGREDIENTS IN HONG KONG FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION. THIS IN TURN WILL MEAN STEADY IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ALL OUR PEOPLE OVER THE LONGER TERM AND THIS OF COURSE MEANS GREATER AND MORE DISCRIMINATING PURCHASING POWER IN OUR HOME MARKET.+

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE GREAT GROWTH OF HOME-OWNING AND THE IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING CONDITIONS GENERALLY WILL EXPAND THE DEMAND FOR GOOD QUALITY FURNITURE.

+WHILST THE EXPORT MARKET WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT OUTLET FOR HONG KONG'S FURNITURE INDUSTRY, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR DOMESTIC MARKET IS GOING TO BE TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE ADDED.

THE GENERAL EXPANSION OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE INDUSTRY WITH A PROSPECT OF LARGE SALES IN OFFICE FURNITURE.

THE EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY MRS. MCGREGOR WHO PERFORMED A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THE EXHIBITION PROVIDED THE EVIDENCE, IF ANY WAS NEEDED, THAT THE HONG KONG FURNITURE INDUSTRY IS STILL THRIVING, THAT IT HAS CONCERNED ITSELF WITH THE NEED TO MOVE WITH THE TIMES AND THAT IT IS NOW A SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

/IN 1970

IN 1970, HE SAID, THE INDUSTRY PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT TO OVER 4,000 WORKERS AND PRODUCED FURNITURE WORTH ABOUT \$172 MILLION, OF WHICH \$87 MILLION REPRESENTED EXPORTS TO VARIOUS OVERSEAS MARKETS.

AT THE END OF 1973, ONLY THREE YEARS AFTERWARDS, EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED 6,000 WORKERS, AN INCREASE OF 50 PER CENT.

+ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO READILY AVAILABLE PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1973, I KNOW THAT IT HAS EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY IN REAL TERMS WITH ANNUAL EXPORTS NEARLY DOUBLED OVER THE THREE YEAR PERIOD TO \$151 MILLION IN 1973,+ SAID MR. MCGREGOR.

THIS SUGGESTED A TOTAL PRODUCTION VALUED AT OVER \$300 MILLION.

+THESE ARE IMPRESSIVE FIGURES AND THERE IS ONE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING FEATURE WHICH EMERGES FROM THEM,+ HE ADDED.

+THIS IS THAT THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY RELIES TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON A STRONG DOMESTIC MARKET, WHICH IS QUITE AN UNUSUAL SITUATION FOR A SUBSTANTIAL HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

+FORTY TO FIFTY PER CENT OF PRODUCTION IS SOLD LOCALLY. MOST OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SELL LESS THAN 20 PER CENT IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET.+

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE VALUE OF THE DOMESTIC MARKET IN 1970 WAS IN THE REGION OF \$124 MILLION. IMPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR \$39 MILLION, OR ROUGHLY 30 PER CENT OF THIS.

BY 1973, IMPORTS HAD TRIPLED TO ABOUT \$120 MILLION AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT IMPORTS WERE GENERALLY AIMED TO MEET THE HIGHER QUALITY DEMAND.

+THE FACT THAT SUCH IMPORTS ARE MADE SUGGESTS A PARTICULAR DEMAND WHICH THE LOCAL INDUSTRY HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO MEET,+ SAID MR. MCGREGOR.

+HOWEVER, IMPORTS DO HAVE TO OVERCOME HIGH FREIGHT COSTS IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH LOCALLY PRODUCED FURNITURE AND, PROVIDED THE HONG KONG FURNITURE INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS QUALITIES, STYLING AND DESIGNS AT THE RATE WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, THERE IS NO REASON WHY IT CANNOT REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE IMPORTED ITEM.+

MR. MCGREGOR CONTINUED : +THIS MEANS, OF COURSE, THE EMPLOYMENT OF WELL-TRAINED DESIGNERS ABLE TO PRODUCE CREATIVE DESIGNS. IT MEANS GREAT ATTENTION TO MARKET TRENDS AND TO CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER DEMAND PATTERNS, MANY OF WHICH, OF COURSE, ARE BROUGHT ABOUT BY DESIGNERS THEMSELVES WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF PUBLICITY.

+IT MEANS IMPROVING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY AND UP-DATING PRODUCTION TERMINOLOGY. AND IT MEANS AN INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF MATERIALS, ERGONOMICS AND APPLICABILITY OF DESIGN TO HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENT.+

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MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THESE THINGS ARE NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT ARE ALREADY HAPPENING WITHIN A STEADY PROCESS OF CHANGE. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY TO BELIEVE THAT THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY RECOGNISES THE WAY AHEAD AND IS ENERGETICALLY MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR. MCGREGOR'S SPEECH ARE BOXED THIS EVENING.

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SQUATTERS ASKED FOR REHOUSING

ABOUT 120 ILLEGAL SQUATTERS OF CHING CHUNG TSUEN, NGAU TAU KOK, TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROACHED THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S CLEARANCE SECTION IN MIDDLE ROAD AND ASKED FOR DIRECT REHOUSING OR POSTPONEMENT OF THEIR CLEARANCE.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS, MR. LESLIE POGUE, INTERVIEWED 12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SQUATTERS AND EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THEY WERE NOT ENTITLED TO DIRECT REHOUSING BECAUSE THEIR HUTS WERE NOT COVERED BY THE 1964 GENERAL SURVEY OF SQUATTER HUTS.

HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT MAKE THEIR CASE AN EXCEPTION BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN STRIPPING THE CHANCE OF THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

MR. POGUE TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CLEARANCE OF THE CHING CHUNG TSUEN AREA WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED FOR SOME TIME DUE TO THE VOLUME OF WORK INVOLVED IN SCREENING AND CALCULATION OF COMPENSATION.

THE CLEARANCE OF CHING CHUNG TSUEN WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED OR JULY 16 AND 17 THIS YEAR. THE LAND WILL BE USED FOR CONTROLLED TIPPING OF REFUSE FOR THE NGAU TAU KOK AREA.

IT INVOLVED ABOUT 260 FAMILIES COMPRISING ABOUT 1,300 PEOPLE. A TOTAL OF 139 FAMILIES COMPRISING 675 PEOPLE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAVE TAKEN UP THEIR TENANCY AT SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

THE OTHERS OCCUPYING ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WOULD BE OFFERED LICENSED AREA SITE IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE GENUINELY HOMELESS.

MR. POGUE SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE CLEARANCE DATE AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE OPERATION TAKES PLACE.

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CANNING TO ATTEND SIXTH COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

HONG KONG WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE SIXTH COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, FROM JUNE 10 TO 22 BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. JOHN CANNING.

AS IN THE PAST, THE DIRECTOR WILL BE PARTICIPATING AS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION.

MR. CANNING WILL LEAVE BY AIR FOR LONDON TONIGHT ON HIS WAY TO JAMAICA.

DURING MR. CANNING'S ABSENCE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. CHARLES LOWE, WILL ACT AS DIRECTOR.

THE CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DELEGATES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND THUS INFLUENCE EDUCATIONAL POLICY MAKING THROUGHOUT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE WORLD.

AMONG OTHER THINGS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE RESULTS OF THE TEN YEAR REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN.

THE FIFTH CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS HELD IN CANBERRA IN 1971, WAS ATTENDED BY 196 DELEGATES, INCLUDING 21 MINISTERS OR COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES WERE HELD IN LAGOS (1968), OTTAWA (1964), NEW DELHI (1962) AND OXFORD (1959).

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MEETING ON URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAU KEI WAN

NOTE TO EDITORS:

CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER/PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MR. PETER MILLER, AND OTHER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL HOLD A SITE MEETING WITH PUBLIC LIGHT BUS REPRESENTATIVES IN SHAU KEI WAN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED URBAN CLEARWAY SCHEME FOR THE DISTRICT.

UNDER THE PROPOSED SCHEME ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH, THE SECTION OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD FROM THE TAIKOO DOCKS TO KAM WAH STREET WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW AND PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING . ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINI-BUSES WILL BE MADE INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF TWO PLB STANDS IN SAI WAN HO STREET.

AT TOMORROW'S SITE MEETING, BOTH PARTIES WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SCHEME AND TRY TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DETAILS.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO BE AT THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT THE JUNCTION OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND ALDRICH STREET AT 7.40 A.M. TOMORROW.

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CROWN LAND ON OUTLYING ISLANDS FOR AUCTION
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TWO LOTS OF CROWN LAND ON LANTAO AND PENG CHAU ARE TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION LATER THIS MONTH.

EACH OF THE LOTS HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,000 SQUARE FEET. THE ONE LOCATED AT MUI WO IS RESTRICTED TO NON-INDUSTRIAL USE, AND THE OTHER AT WAI TSAI PEAK HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION IS TO BE HELD AT 10.30 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18 IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE, ISLANDS, ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY, TAI PO ROAD, AND AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, TAI PO, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS. SALE PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE VARIOUS OFFICES.

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DRUG EXPERT VISITING HONG KONG
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THE RETIRING SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF DRUG DEPENDENCE AT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, DR. DALE CAMERON IS IN HONG KONG TO INSPECT SOME OF THE TERRITORY'S ANTI-NARCOTICS FACILITIES.

DR. CAMERON, WHO HAS BEEN WITH W.H.O. IN GENEVA SINCE 1967 IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCE. IN 1968 HE VISITED HONG KONG AS A CONSULTANT ON DRUG ADDICTION FOR TWO WEEKS.

WHILE IN HONG KONG ON HIS PRESENT VISIT DR. CAMERON WILL BE SEEING MANY DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRES, INCLUDING THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S METHADONE PILOT SCHEME CENTRE.

DR. CAMERON WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE G.I.S. 16 MM THEATRE AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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PRESS VISIT TO SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NOMINATED FOR THE VISIT TO THE SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST BE AT QUEEN'S PIER, EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL, BY 8.55 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) WHEN A LAUNCH WILL LEAVE FOR SILVERMINE BAY.

DUE TO LIMITED SPACE ON BOARD THE LAUNCH, ACCOMMODATION IS RESERVED FOR ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE G.I.S. FOR THE VISIT.

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EMPLOYMENT SURVEY BEGINS TODAY

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A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BEGAN TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE USED FOR THE COMPILATION OF A DIRECTORY OF WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS ANALYSED BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE. THE DIRECTORY WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS OF A FORTHCOMING CENSUS OF WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE IN 1976 IN RESPECT OF 1975.

THE SURVEY, COVERING SOME 90,000 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING IMPORT AND EXPORT BUSINESSES, BUT INCLUDING HAWKERS, IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR TWO MONTHS.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE ASKED:

- (A) NUMBER OF PERSONS BY SEX ENGAGED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.
- (B) NATURE OF BUSINESS, I.E. WHOLESALING INCLUDING IMPORTING AND EXPORTING, OR RETAILING.
- (C) THE TYPES OF COMMODITIES THE ESTABLISHMENT DEALS IN.

STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITIES ARE EMPLOYED FOR THE SURVEY WORK. THESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED BEFORE THEY START SURVEY WORK.

IN THE SURVEY, EACH STUDENT CARRIES WITH HIM OR HER AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, BEARING THE NAME, HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD NUMBER, PHOTOGRAPH AND SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT.

THE STUDENTS ARE INSTRUCTED TO SHOW THIS IDENTITY CARD TO EACH ESTABLISHMENT THEY APPROACH AS PROOF OF THEIR STATUS AND AUTHORITY.

THE DEPARTMENT APPEALS TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO RENDER THEIR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE STUDENTS BY SUPPLYING THEM WITH THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

APART FROM THIS SURVEY, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AND BOTH ARE A PART OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS.

ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY. ONLY SUMMARY TABLES WILL BE PUBLISHED FROM WHICH INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOULOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICES(CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.24
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.19
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	--	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.97
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.82
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.60
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.92
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.91
PAKISTAN RICE	--	-
TAIWAN RICE	--	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	305 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	NORMAL	4.30	2.50	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.90	0.80	2.00
SQUID	LIMITED	5.50	2.00	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	2.20	1.20	1.80
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.95	1.20	2.00
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.80	0.50	1.10
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.00	1.40	1.70
MELON COAT	--	--	--	--
BREAMS	SCARCE	6.00	3.00	5.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.20	0.50	1.50
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.50	3.50	4.00
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.60	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.20	0.60	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	5.80	3.00	4.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.60	1.00	1.60
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.50	6.00	7.50
GAROUPAS	LIMITED	7.20	4.80	6.50
YELLOW CROAKER	--	--	--	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.70	0.20	0.50
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	0.55	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.55	0.10	0.35
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.20	0.50	0.80
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.80
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.40	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.00	0.30	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD	SCARCE	1.00	0.30	0.70
CABBAGE				
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.80	1.20	2.20

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