



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1984

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1984

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WIDER VIEWS NEEDED ON GREEN PAPER
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THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE'S ADVICE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, NOT JUST SUBMISSIONS FROM +THE VOCIFEROUS FEW+, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE LIONS CLUB OF BAYVIEW HONGKONG, MR TSAO SAID: +WE THINK WE HAVE, IN THIS GREEN PAPER, THE BASIS FOR A WORKABLE AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION BEST SUITED TO THE FUTURE NEEDS OF HONG KONG.+

+BUT THEY ARE JUST A SET OF PROPOSALS,+ MR TSAO POINTED OUT. +WE WANT TO BE SATISFIED THAT THEY WILL WORK, AND WE NEED TO KNOW, THEREFORE, HOW THEY ARE VIEWED BY THE PUBLIC.+

COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER HAD BEEN VERY MUCH IN DEMAND. UP TO YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), A TOTAL OF 160 000 COPIES HAD BEEN GIVEN OUT TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM TO INDIVIDUALS.

THOSE GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS WITH VESTED INTERESTS IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS IN FAIRLY ROBUST TERMS, MR TSAO SAID.

BUT THERE WAS A DISPARITY BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAD READ THE GREEN PAPER, AND THOSE WHO HAD COMMENTED ON IT.

THIS AROSE PARTLY FROM A BASIC MISCONCEPTION REGARDING THE NATURE OF GREEN PAPERS, HE ADDED.

+WHEN EXPOSED SUFFICIENTLY LONG TO PUBLIC OPINION, GREEN PAPERS EVENTUALLY TURN INTO WHITE PAPERS, EMBODYING WHATEVER MODIFICATIONS MAY RESULT FROM PUBLIC REACTION TO THEIR CONTENT.

+IT FOLLOWS, THEREFORE, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CATCH THIS ONE WHILE IT IS STILL GREEN AND WHILE THE COLLECTIVE WEIGHT OF ALL OUR THOUGHTS CAN BE CONCENTRATED ON REFINING AND IMPROVING THE INGREDIENTS.+

+WE MUST CONSIDER NOT ONLY WHAT THOSE WITH VESTED INTERESTS MAY FEEL ABOUT THE PROPOSALS, BUT ALSO WHAT THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET FEELS ABOUT THEM,+ MR TSAO SAID.

VISITORS OFTEN CHARACTERISED HONG KONG AS A SEETHING ANTHEAP OF TREMENDOUS INDUSTRY AND COLLECTIVE ENERGY. +BUT THIS IS AN ANTHEAP OF THINKING ANTS,+ MR TSAO POINTED OUT. +THAT THEY ARE ACTING IN CONCERT DOES NOT NEGATE THE FACT THAT EACH IS ACTING FOR HIMSELF ALSO.

/+THAT IS,

+THAT IS, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, THE TRUE MYSTERY INGREDIENT IN THIS REMARKABLE SOCIETY WE HAVE CREATED HERE.+

+WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEVELOPED A SENSE OF THE COLLECTIVE GOAL WITHOUT IMPINGING ON THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.+

THE DIRECTOR HOPED MORE INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS WOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE EXPIRY, ON SEPTEMBER 17, OF THE TWO-MONTH PERIOD FOR THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY AMASSED A CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF 'FEEDBACK' ON THE RESPONSE TO THE GREEN PAPER, MR TSAO SAID.

SO FAR, THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES HAD COLLECTED A TOTAL OF 107 EDITORIALS, 132 COMMENTARIES AND 49 READERS' LETTERS ON THE SUBJECT.

THE ASPECTS COVERED INCLUDED SUCH TOPICS AS THE DEFINITION OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE PACE OF POLITICAL REFORM, THE NEED FOR CIVIC EDUCATION, THE DRIVE FOR ELECTORAL REGISTRATION, THE MERITS OF THE CASE FOR BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS AND THE LENGTH OF TIME ALLOWED FOR CONSULTATION.

+OUR MEDIA HAVE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE INESTIMABLE VALUE OF A FREE PRESS IN REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION,+ HE ADDED.

+WE DO NOT REGARD FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS SOME KIND OF PRICE WE ADMINISTRATORS HAVE TO PAY IN ORDER TO EARN BONUS POINTS FOR DEMOCRACY.

+FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS, QUITE SIMPLY, ESSENTIAL TO THE WAY IN WHICH THIS PLACE OPERATES.+

MR TSAO NOTED THAT THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET WAS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP TO EMERGE IN HONG KONG, AS THERE HAD BEEN A STRIKING RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT DRIVE FOR REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS.

BY THE END OF LAST MONTH, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELECTORS HAD REACHED 1.2 MILLION.

TAKEN TOGETHER, THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO HAD MADE THE EFFORT TO REGISTER, AND THOSE WHO HAD COME FORWARD TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER, MUST SURELY ADD UP TO A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE POPULATION WHO HAD REACHED SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THEY WISHED TO SEE HONG KONG GOVERNED.

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GOVERNOR, EXCO TEAM GOING TO UK

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON EARLY IN THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17. THEY WILL MEET THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON SEPTEMBER 19. OTHER DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME ARE NOW BEING FINALISED.

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GOVERNOR RETURNING TOMORROW

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN FROM PEKING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER ATTENDING THE LATEST ROUND OF SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHT BA 20, ETA 7.45 PM.

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VIEWS SOUGHT ON CMB REPAIRS WORK

THE WORKING GROUP OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CMB MAINTENANCE IS NOW EXAMINING THE PRACTICES, METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE RUNNING, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF ITS FLEET, THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, SAID TODAY.

WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 12, ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE GROUP, AND IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE GROUP IN ITS CURRENT EXERCISE, MR CHEONG SAID, THE WORKING GROUP WELCOMED VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE +MAINTENANCE ASPECT OF CMB BUS OPERATIONS+.

THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD EITHER WRITE TO MR STEPHEN PANG, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (ROOM 904, CAPITOL CENTRE, JARDINE'S BAZAAR, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG) OR TELEPHONE HIM AT 5-7954460 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, TO MEET WITH THE WORKING GROUP SO THAT THEY MAY MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS.

/SEPTEMBER 18

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SEPTEMBER 18 MORNING HAS BEEN SET FOR THE GROUP TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS, AT ROOM 150, 1/F., MAIN WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

MR CHEONG ADDED THAT AFTER EXAMINING THE CMB REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WORK, THE GROUP +WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE PRACTICES, METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ROAD-WORTHINESS AND FITNESS INSPECTION OF OMNIBUSES.+

AT THAT TIME, THE GROUP WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED TO HEAR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS ON THAT ASPECT, HE SAID.

MR CHEONG SAID THAT THE IDENTITIES OF PEOPLE WHO CAME FORWARD TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS WOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED IF THEY WISHED THIS.

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U.S. TEXTILE ACTION CRITICISED

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IN A THREE-HOUR FORMAL SESSION IN GENEVA ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 4, THE GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE UNITED STATES COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REGULATIONS AND THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY PETITIONS AGAINST 13 SUPPLIERS OF TEXTILES AND GARMENTS.

OF THE 26 DELEGATIONS WHICH SPOKE, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THESE MEASURES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE U.S., EACH DELEGATION CONSIDERED EITHER THAT THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REGULATIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN OR THAT AT LEAST THEY SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO ENABLE THEM TO BE RECONSIDERED. NOT ONE DELEGATION SUPPORTED THE U.S. POSITION.

THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 5 REFLECTED THE COMMON VIEW THAT THE U.S. MEASURES WERE AT VARIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE U.S. AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH THEM, BUT INSTEAD SEEK TO ADDRESS ITS PROBLEMS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE GATT, THE MFA OR THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

MR HAMISH MACLEOD, HONG KONG'S DIRECTOR OF TRADE, COMMENTED THAT: +THE LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WHICH SPOKE, REPRESENTING BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, AND THE FACT THAT THEY ALL TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT CRITICISED THE U.S. REGULATIONS WILL SEND AN UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON.

+IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE U.S. WILL RESPOND TO THIS GENERAL EXPRESSION OF INTERNATIONAL DISAPPROVAL FROM ITS TRADING PARTNERS. WE SHALL NOW BE CONSIDERING HONG KONG'S NEXT STEP, BUT, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE IS TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AGAIN ON OCTOBER 17, 1984,+ HE SAID.

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MAKING BOARD WORK BETTER KNOWN
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TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW BETTER THE WORK OF THEIR LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, AT AN OPEN SEMINAR ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 7).

ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 8 PM AT THE YAN OI TOWN SQUARE.

IT IS PART OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE, AND WILL ALSO HELP PROMOTE THE IMAGE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

PANELISTS AT TOMORROW'S SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RICKY FUNG AND SIX CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

APART FROM BRIEFING RESIDENTS ON THE BOARD'S ACTIVITIES, THE PANEL WILL ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

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TEAMS HELP SWELL VOTER LIST
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WORKERS IN A GARMENT FACTORY IN KWUN TONG WERE GIVEN TIME OFF THIS MORNING TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF VISITED CROCODILE GARMENTS LIMITED TO BRIEF WORKERS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND TO EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VOTER.

A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAM LEUNG-KI, WHO IS ALSO AN EMPLOYEE AT THE FACTORY, AND MR PETER LOO, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE, HELPED WORKERS TO REGISTER.

SO FAR, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ADD 37 000 VOTERS TO THE 120 000 ALREADY ON THE REGISTER.

AND IN THE JADE MARKET IN YAU MA TEI, THERE WAS KEEN RESPONSE TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE CARRIED OUT BY A TEAM OF DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF, MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE AREA COMMITTEE.

THE GROUP OF 20 PERSONS IN THE TEAM VISITED THE 410 STALLS IN THE MARKET AND HELPED ALL PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO REGISTER.

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STUDENTS URGED TO APPLY EARLY
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STUDENTS' APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY TO COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION AND POLYTECHNICS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1985, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

+APPLICATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT, AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS SHOULD REACH THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION BEFORE JUNE 28, 1985,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO APPLICATION DEADLINES REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN POLYTECHNICS WHICH COULD BE AS EARLY AS MARCH 1985, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT APPLICANTS FOR +SANDWICH+ COURSES OFFERED BY POLYTECHNICS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE THE PRACTICAL TRAINING PART OF THE COURSE ARRANGED BEFORE LEAVING HONG KONG. SANDWICH COURSES REQUIRE ATTENDANCE AT CLASS, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL TRAINING IN FACTORIES.

+STUDENTS SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT INDUSTRIAL SPONSORSHIP IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, AND SHOULD THEREFORE APPLY FOR FULL-TIME COURSES RATHER THAN SANDWICH COURSES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT (PRIVATE) SCHOOLS FOR THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION 'O' AND 'A' LEVEL COURSES, SHOULD APPLY EARLY, PREFERABLY ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE.

APPLICATIONS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECT TO THE SCHOOLS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE STUDENT ADVISER, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON DO NOT UNDERTAKE TO PLACE BOYS AND GIRLS IN THESE SCHOOLS IN BRITAIN, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT THESE SCHOOLS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION.

AS FOR BRITISH UNIVERSITIES, APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITIES CENTRAL COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS (U.C.C.A.) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE SAID.

U.C.C.A. FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION FROM MID-AUGUST EACH YEAR, AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO U.C.C.A. BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE ON OCTOBER 15 FOR THOSE INCLUDING OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE, OR DECEMBER 15 FOR OTHERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT STUDENTS GOING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM TO STUDY SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET ALL EXPENSES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WORK THERE.

/THE COST

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THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IS HIGH, AND THE ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A STUDENT MAY NOW RANGE FROM 6 950 POUND STERLING TO 11 450 POUND STERLING, DEPENDING ON HIS COURSE OF STUDY, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, STUDENTS TAKING EITHER A FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MAY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNICS GRANTS COMMITTEE.

THOSE OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE MAY APPLY THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, FOR PLACES IN THE HONG KONG STUDENTS CENTRE IN LONDON.

THOSE WISHING TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE CENTRE, AND WHO WISH TO OBTAIN THE HELP AND ADVICE OF THE STUDENT ADVISER OR THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SHOULD COMPLETE ALL FORMALITIES WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, HE SAID.

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SPECIAL UNIT TO FIGHT CAR THEFTS
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A SPECIALIST VEHICLE CRIME UNIT HAS BEEN SET UP IN KOWLOON TO COMBAT CAR THEFTS WHICH HAVE BECOME A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY IN THE REGION.

THE OFFICER-COMMANDING REGIONAL CRIME UNIT SIX (RCU 6) IN KOWLOON, CHIEF INSPECTOR MARK GODFREY, SAID AS MANY AS 100 CARS A MONTH "DISAPPEARED" FROM THE REGION.

HE SAID : "THESE ARE EITHER EXPORTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, STRIPPED FOR THEIR PARTS OR THEY ARE GIVEN NEW CHASSIS NUMBERS, REPAINTED AND FIXED UP AND RE-SOLD TO INNOCENT BUYERS."

SENIOR INSPECTOR DAVID GRANT, IN CHARGE OF THE VEHICLE CRIME UNIT SAID: "WE HAVE CARS GOING AROUND AT THE MOMENT WHICH WE KNOW HAVE BEEN STOLEN AND HAVE HAD THEIR CHASSIS NUMBERS ALTERED.

"THEY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY INNOCENT PURCHASERS. BUT WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IS PROOF THAT SOMEONE HANDLED THE CARS KNOWING THEM TO BE STOLEN.

"IT'S A DIFFICULT JOB AS THOSE INVOLVED GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO CONFUSE THE TRAIL THROUGH BOGUS REGISTRATION AND OTHER MEANS. ONE CAR MAY HAVE HAD AS MANY AS 10 OWNERS, MOST OF THEM BOGUS.

"ONE MERCEDES BENZ WE KNOW OF CHANGED HANDS FOUR TIMES IN ONE DAY WITH ONE "OWNER" POSSESSING THE CAR FOR ONLY 1-1/2 HOURS.

/"SOME PEOPLE

"SOME PEOPLE ARE EVEN USING STOLEN ID CARDS TO GET CARS REGISTERED TO HELP THROW US OFF THE TRAIL.

"IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE ARE HIGHLY ORGANISED SYNDICATES OPERATING THE CAR RACKETS. THERE ARE THREE GROUPS : THOSE THAT STEAL THE CARS, THOSE WHO DO THE RINGING, THAT IS ALTERING THE CHASSIS NUMBER AND CAR'S APPEARANCE, AND THOSE WHO DO THE SELLING.

TO COMBAT THE SYNDICATES IT WAS DECIDED LAST MAY TO SET UP A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS IN THE CAR TRADE WHO KNEW THE MOTOR BUSINESS.

ALREADY THE TEAM HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS. THIS MONTH ALONE THEY HAVE MADE 16 ARRESTS IN WHICH 30 CARS WERE INVOLVED AND FROM WHICH ABOUT 50 CHARGES ARE LIKELY TO ARISE.

THE RCU 6 COMMANDING OFFICER MR GODFREY SAID :
"ALL THE MEN IN THE UNIT HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON THE FRINGES OF THE CAR TRADE.

"THE WORD IS NOW OUT THAT THERE IS A SPECIALIST CAR THEFT UNIT THAT KNOWS WHAT IT IS DOING."

IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY VEHICLE CRIMES OF ONE TYPE OR ANOTHER ARE POPULAR -- THE REWARDS ARE HIGH.

ONE CASE CONCERNED A MERCEDES BENZ WHICH WAS WRITTEN OFF BY AN INSURANCE COMPANY AND SOLD FOR SCRAP. THE CHASSIS NUMBER WAS CUT OUT AND FIXED TO ANOTHER MERCEDES WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN. THE STOLEN CAR, REPAINTED AND OTHERWISE ALTERED IN APPEARANCE WAS PUT ON THE OPEN MARKET FOR \$200 000.

SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES, STRIPPED FROM STOLEN CARS IS HIGHLY PROFITABLE.

"A GOOD SET OF ALLOY WHEELS AND TYRES CAN COST \$15 000 WHILE A GOOD RADIO CAN COST \$10 000 TO \$12 000. THESE ACCESSORIES ARE THE CREAM ON THE CAKE WHEN A CAR IS STOLEN. THEY ARE EASY TO GET RID OF BECAUSE EVERYBODY WANTS THE BEST IN HONG KONG," MR GODFREY EXPLAINED.

ONE CAR COMPANY IS KNOWN TO HAVE HANDLED AS MUCH AS \$1 MILLION WORTH OF STOLEN CARS IN THE PAST YEAR.

LIKE STOLEN COMPUTER PARTS, STOLEN CAR PARTS, ONCE STRIPPED FROM THE ORIGINAL VEHICLE, ARE HARD TO IDENTIFY. THE MOST POPULAR MODELS FOR CAR THIEVES ARE MIDDLE-OF-THE RANGE JAPANESE CARS AND THESE MODELS HAVE ONLY TWO IDENTIFICATION MARKS ON THE WHOLE CAR.

PARTS FROM EUROPEAN MODELS ARE EASIER TO IDENTIFY AS THESE CARS CARRY MANY MORE MARKS, ALTHOUGH FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THE TEAM IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THIS AS EVEN SOME OF THE CAR THIEVES DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MARKS ARE.

/ME GODFREY

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MR GODFREY SAID IT WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY IF IDENTIFICATION MARKS WERE ETCHED ON THE GLASS AND OTHER PARTS OF CARS. THIS WOULD MAKE THE JOB OF THE RINGER MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND MUCH LESS PROFITABLE.

AND IT'S NOT ONLY CAR THEFTS THAT THE TEAM DEALS WITH. ENQUIRIES HAVE REVEALED SOME VERY DIRTY, LOW TRADE TRICKS OF MAKING CARS APPEAR NEWER THAN THEY ARE BY MASKING THE EXTERNAL APPEARANCE.

FOR INSTANCE A BMW REGISTERED IN 1976 HAD BEEN GIVEN A SUN-ROOF, REAR SPOILER, ALLOY WHEELS, FLANGED MUDGUARDS AND HAD HAD ITS MODEL NUMBER ON THE BOOT ALTERED.

SAID MR GODFREY : "IF I'D SEEN THAT CAR DRIVEN DOWN THE STREET I WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT FOR A 1980S REGISTERED MODEL. WITHOUT CHECKING CAREFULLY, THE AVERAGE BUYER WOULD CERTAINLY BE FOOLED."

"WE KNOW OF ONE ORGANISATION THAT OPERATES FROM A PRIVATE HOUSE WITH SEVERAL TELEPHONES. THEY ADVERTISE CARS FOR PRIVATE SALE IN THE NEWSPAPER.

"WHEN SOMEONE RINGS UP ABOUT A PARTICULAR MODEL THEY SEND A SALESMAN ROUND WHO PRETENDS TO BE THE OWNER OR SON OF THE OWNER AND GIVES SOME STORY ABOUT THE FAMILY EMIGRATING SO THEY HAVE TO SELL THE CAR.

"IF A BUYER IS INTERESTED THE SALESMAN TAKES HIM TO A HIRE PURCHASE COMPANY TO ARRANGE A LOAN. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCE THE HIRE PURCHASE COMPANY RETAINS THE LOG BOOK UNTIL THE LOAN IS PAID.

"IT'S NOT UNTIL THE BUYER HAS PAID OFF THE LOAN THAT HE FINDS OUT FROM THE LOG BOOK THAT THE CAR IS A MUCH EARLIER MODEL THAN THE ONE HE THOUGHT HE WAS BUYING."

MR GODFREY STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE VEHICLE CRIME UNIT WAS MAKING LIFE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR CAR THIEVES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD ALSO HELP BY EXERCISING GREATER CARE WHEN BUYING SECOND-HAND CARS.

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READY FOR FESTIVE FUN
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PREPARATIONS ARE WELL UNDER WAY IN EASTERN DISTRICT FOR THREE LARGE-SCALE LANTERN CARNIVALS IN NORTH POINT, SHAU KEI WAN AND CHAI WAN TO CELEBRATE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL NEXT WEEK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THESE CELEBRATIONS WOULD HERALD ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE LUNAR CALENDAR WHEN THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS WOULD SHARE THE FUN AND JOY.

ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 10), A LANTERN CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE FACTORY STREET PLAYGROUND IN SHAU KEI WAN FROM 7.30 PM TO 10.30 PM, FEATURING A VARIETY SHOW WITH POP MUSIC, A LION DANCE, GAMES STALLS, LANTERN RIDDLES AND A LUCKY DRAW.

AT THE SAME TIME IN CHAI WAN, ANOTHER LANTERN CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE NO. 1 FOOTBALL PITCH IN HING WAH ESTATE. IT WILL FEATURE A MAGIC SHOW, ACROBATICS, A LION DANCE, AND A POP CONCERT. THERE WILL ALSO BE A DRAGON DANCE PARADE ALONG THE STREETS TO THE CHAI WAN TOWN CENTRE.

ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 11), A LANTERN CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE KING'S ROAD PLAYGROUND IN NORTH POINT FROM 7.30 PM TO 11 PM. THERE WILL BE A VARIETY SHOW WITH BOTH POP MUSIC AND CHINESE MUSIC, A LION DANCE, LANTERN RIDDLES, AND AN EXHIBITION OF LANTERN DESIGNS FROM A RECENT COMPETITION.

THE LANTERN CARNIVALS, COSTING ABOUT \$86 000, ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS AREA COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, AND SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL GROUPS.

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DENG CALLS ON URBAN COUNCIL
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE OF CHINA WELFARE FUND FOR THE HANDICAPPED, MR DENG PUFANG, CALLED ON THE URBAN COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR DENG WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED, DR HARRY FANG, WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE.

DURING THE MEETING, VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING CULTURAL EXCHANGES, REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED, AND INCREASED CULTURAL AND SPORT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

/MR HILTON

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MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN LATER PRESENTED MR DENG WITH A PHOTO ALBUM ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG SINCE 1840S, A COPY OF THE 1984 URBAN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE COUNCIL'S OPEN MEETING YESTERDAY AND AN URBAN COUNCIL TIE.

MR DENG IS CURRENTLY VISITING HONG KONG ON A FUND-RAISING MISSION TO AID CHINA'S HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

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SITE FOR SHORT TERM LEASE

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA IN YUEN LONG.

THE 440 SQUARE-METRE SITE MAY BE USED FOR STORING AND REPAIRING TENANT'S GOODS, THE REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING PAINT SPRAYING) OF MOTOR VEHICLES NOT EXCEEDING TWO TONNES, OR AS A FOUNDRY OR A METAL WORKSHOP.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 21.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICE AND CONDITIONS AS WELL AS A PLAN FOR INSPECTION ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET; AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

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