



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD  
COMMODITIES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974.

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WORKING PARTY TO STUDY ISSUE OF NON-COMMONWEALTH  
MEDICAL GRADUATES

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPROVED THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING PARTY TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY WHEN WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

DR. CHOA SAID HE WAS GLAD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE RELATING TO THE POSITION OF NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES AND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE DECISION TO SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO LOOK INTO IT.

+IN 1966,+ HE SAID, +THE MEDICAL CLINICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT PRACTITIONERS WHO WERE PERMITTED TO PRACTISE IN EXEMPTED CLINICS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, IF THEY SO DESIRED, TO EXAMINATIONS, AND ON PASSING BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE AND HAVE THE TITLE OF ASSISTANT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

+NATURALLY, THE RECOMMENDATION RELATED TO PRACTICE IN HONG KONG ONLY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO EXTEND ITS RECOGNITION TO THEM TO PRACTISE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

+THIS RECOMMENDATION, HOWEVER, WAS OPPOSED BY BOTH THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HONG KONG BRANCH), AND IT WAS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WOULD NOT WISH TO CONDUCT EITHER REFRESHER COURSES OR EXAMINATIONS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES .

+FOR THESE REASONS, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT THIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH WOULD HAVE HELPED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES AT THAT TIME -- AND COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN EXTENDED FOR OTHERS IN LATER YEARS.

+HOWEVER, NOW THAT IT SEEMS THAT THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MIGHT BE WILLING TO TAKE A DIFFERENT STAND, THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RECONSIDER THE PROBLEM.+

IN A REFERENCE TO OTHER POINTS BROUGHT UP BY MEMBERS DURING THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, DR. CHOA TOUCHED IN PARTICULAR ON THE SHORTFALL OF DOCTORS, NURSES, COMMUNITY NURSING, THE REHABILITATION SERVICE, ASSESSMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AND THE ACCIDENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICES.

THE GREEN PAPER WHICH PRECEDED THE WHITE PAPER HAD STATED THAT A LOCAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY TO PRODUCE BY 1982 AN ADDITIONAL 100 DOCTORS ANNUALLY WOULD BE NEEDED -- 40 TO MEET THE SHORTFALL OF 1973-1982, ANOTHER 40 TO MEET THE NEEDS OF 1983-1992, AND 20 FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

DR. CHOA RECALLED THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS HAD BEEN REFERRED TO, AND HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY, THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE. WHO HAD RECOMMENDED A SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. THIS SCHOOL WOULD PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING 100 ADDITIONAL DOCTORS EACH YEAR.

IN THEIR REPORT, THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAD EXPLAINED THAT STOP-GAP MEASURES, SUCH AS USING EXISTING HOSPITAL FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS, WERE NOT PRACTICAL FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING THE HEAVY EXPENDITURE INVOLVED AND THE DISRUPTION OF NORMAL SERVICES.

SIMILARLY, THE COMMITTEE HAD ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES BEFORE IT MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

+FURTHERMORE, I HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED TO THIS COUNCIL THAT TO APPRECIATE THE TRUE POSITION OF VACANCIES IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER RANK, THE NUMBER OF LEAVE RESERVE POSTS MUST BE BORNE IN MIND,+ HE SAID.

+IT HAS BEEN CONTENDED THAT THE LONG QUEUES OUTSIDE THE GENERAL CLINICS AND THE CAMP BEDS IN THE MAJOR HOSPITALS REFLECT A SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS. I WOULD RATHER ATTRIBUTE THESE PHENOMENA TO THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PATIENTS OVER THE YEARS, AND THE PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF THE EXISTING HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE.+

AS REGARDS NURSES, DR. CHOA SAID IN CONNECTION WITH THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME PROPOSED IN THE WHITE PAPER, PLANS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO REORGANISE THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF BOTH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH AND THE NURSING SERVICES.

+THE REORGANISATION IS MUCH MORE INVOLVED IN THE NURSING SERVICES, AND THE PROVISION OF A BETTER CAREER STRUCTURE FOR NURSING OFFICERS IN THE CLINICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STREAMS HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT,+ HE TOLD THE COUNCIL.

+IN THIS LATTER RESPECT, OUR PLANS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL STREAM HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY A NURSING ADVISER (MISS MARGARET LAMB) WHO RECENTLY VISITED HONG KONG. IT IS MY INTENTION THAT HER REPORT SHOULD BE CIRCULATED TO INTERESTED BODIES FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT.+

DR. CHOA REPEATED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO CONSIDER INAUGURATING A COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE. THE REASONS WERE THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE A RESERVOIR OF RECRUITS, THERE WOULD REMAIN A SHORTAGE OF STAFF TO ADMINISTER IT, AND ALSO THE NURSE TUTORS TO GIVE THE NECESSARY TRAINING, CONSIDERING THAT SUCH A SERVICE SHOULD APPLY TO THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

HE PROMISED THAT THE FEASIBILITY OF SUBSIDISING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE SUCH A SERVICE IN INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST REVIEW OF THE WHITE PAPER NEXT YEAR.

ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, HE SAID ALL THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HAD AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR A FULL-TIME SERVICE FOR SUCH ADULTS AND CHILDREN. A PLAN WAS UNDERWAY TO SET UP A FULL-TIME ASSESSMENT CLINIC IN THE ARRAN STREET CLINIC IN MONG KOK BY THE ADDITION OF ONE FLOOR TO THE EXISTING BUILDING.

ADVISE HAD BEEN GIVEN ON THE REHABILITATION OF THE PARAPLEGIC BY TWO EXPERTS, AND THEY HAD RECOMMENDED THE PROVISION OF SUCH A SERVICE IN THE DUCHESS OF KENT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, AND THE KOWLOON AND GRANTHAM HOSPITAL FOR ADULTS.

DR. CHOA NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES HAD ALREADY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT A PROGRAMME PLAN WAS ALREADY IN HAND TO COVER THE WHOLE FIELD OF REHABILITATION SERVICES. THERE WOULD BE FULL CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL INTERESTED BODIES AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE.

IN A REFERENCE TO THE ACCIDENT SERVICE, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES OF EXISTING CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS. A TWO-TIER ACCIDENT SERVICE WOULD BE INTRODUCED BY USING REGIONAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS AS DESIGNATED ACCIDENT CENTRES AND ACCIDENT CENTRES RESPECTIVELY.

IT WOULD NOT TAKE LONG, OR MUCH PREPARATION, TO IMPLEMENT THIS SYSTEM ONCE REGIONALISATION WAS COMPLETED. A PROGRAMME PLAN HAD NOW BEEN STARTED ON THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, AND THIS WOULD ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACCIDENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICES WOULD GO FORWARD TOGETHER.

DR. CHOA ENDED ON A NOTE OF THANKS TO THE STAFF OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING THE WHITE PAPER.

HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, CHAIRMAN OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND HIS COLLEAGUES, FOR THE REPORT ON WHICH THE WHITE PAPER HAD BEEN BASED.

HE WAS ALSO GRATEFUL TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAD OFFERED THEIR VIEWS.

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**MAKE FULLER USE OF NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES  
GOVERNMENT URGED**

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY CAME OUT STRONGLY IN SUPPORT OF NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG.

THE MANY NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES IN HONG KONG PRESENTED A VALUABLE SOURCE OF EXPERTISE WHICH SHOULD BE TAPPED TO HELP OFFSET THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS, THEY FELT. THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT TOO MUCH OUTLAY ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PART.

EXPANDING ON THE SUBJECT DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER, THE PRINCIPAL UNOFFICIAL SPEAKER, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, SUGGESTED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG COULD BE GIVEN A MANDATE TO HOLD EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO A LICENTIATE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY OF AN EQUIVALENT STANDARD TO THE M.B.B.S.

THE EXAMINATIONS, HE SUGGESTED, SHOULD BE HELD AT REGULAR INTERVALS, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, SO AS TO ENABLE ALL THOSE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME REGISTERED FOR PRACTICE IN HONG KONG.

AS SOME OF THE NON-COMMONWEALTH GRADUATES MIGHT REQUIRE REFRESHER COURSES BEFORE SITTING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO OFFER SUCH COURSES. IN THIS RESPECT, HE FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO REQUIRE THOSE ATTENDING REFRESHER COURSES TO SIGN AN UNDERTAKING TO SERVE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR INTERSHIP. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE METHOD OF FINANCING.

SINCE THE PROPOSED LICENTIATE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY WOULD BE A LOCAL REGISTRATION ONLY, DR. FANG SAID THAT RECOGNITION BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL IN BRITAIN WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

THE SCHEME, HE ADDED, WAS NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT AND WAS IN FACT IN OPERATION IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

DR. FANG SAID THE PROPOSED SCHEME WOULD NOT IMPOSE A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT AS IT WOULD BE LARGELY SELF-FINANCING EXPENDITURE WOULD BE RECOVERED BY WAY OF FEES.

AS AN ANOTHER STOP-GAP MEASURE TO HELP EASE THE DOCTOR SHORTAGE, DR. FANG SAID THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE STARTED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AND SUGGESTED THAT STUDENTS BE TAKEN IN AT THE MATRICULATION LEVEL INSTEAD OF LOWER FORM VI.

THIS WOULD NOT ONLY SAVE ONE YEAR, BUT ALSO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING, HE SAID.

/EVEN IF .....

EVEN IF EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN, HE SAID, THE FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS FROM THE MEDICAL SCHOOL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO GRADUATE UNTIL 1984, +WE SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT THAT LONG,+ HE STRESSED.

AS ANOTHER STEP IN THE RACE AGAINST TIME, DR. FANG SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN WAITING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE PROPOSED TEACHING HOSPITAL AT SHA TIN, PART OF THE FACILITIES OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK - IS DUE FOR COMPLETION NEXT YEAR - COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE CLINICAL TRAINING FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS UNTIL THE SHA TIN TEACHING HOSPITAL WAS READY.

+THIS WOULD SAVE AT LEAST THREE YEARS OF WAITING AND SHOULD ENSURE GRADUATES FROM THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL WELL BEFORE 1984.+

TURNING TO NURSING, DR. FANG DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO RELAX THE MANDATORY REQUIREMENT OF TWO SCIENCE SUBJECTS FOR REGISTERED NURSE TRAINING. HE VIEWED THIS AS A "RETROGRADE" STEP WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

A SCIENCE BACKGROUND WAS AN IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE IF FIRST LEVEL NURSES WERE TO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THEY MUST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, FOR INSTANCE, THE NORMAL BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE BODY AND THEIR EFFECTS.

DR. FANG ALSO STRESSED THAT WITH THE PROPOSED NEW TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES, THERE MUST BE A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TUTORS AND CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS OF WHICH THERE IS ALREADY A SHORTAGE.

HE FELT THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE SHORTAGE WAS THE LACK OF PROMOTION PROSPECTS FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT CHOOSE TO BECOME ADMINISTRATORS, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER TWO DISTINCT STREAMS FOR PROMOTION -- ONE FOR THE ADMINISTRATORS AND THE OTHER FOR SPECIALIST NURSES. AT PRESENT, PROMOTION PROSPECTS ARE LIMITED TO ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS ONLY.

FK=.FANG SUPPORTED PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY NURSING SCHEME AND FOUND IT +HIGHLY REGRETTABLE+ THAT THE GOVERNMENT FELT UNABLE TO INTRODUCE SUCH A SERVICE WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF STAFF SHORTAGE.

+I FIND THIS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT SINCE THERE IS A READY-MADE RESERVOIR OF EXPERTISE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS CONVINCED THAT SUCH A SCHEME WAS REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT IT WOULD HELP RELIEVE MUCH NEEDED HOSPITAL BEDS.

DR. FANG ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE WHITE PAPER GAVE LITTLE EMPHASIS TO THE NEED TO DEVELOP REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

+REHABILITATION MUST BE CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF MODERN MEDICAL SERVICES,+ HE SAID. +MODERN MEDICINE AND SURGERY CAN DO WONDERS IN SAVING LIVES, BUT THEREAFTER PATIENTS MUST BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE IF THEY ARE NOT TO BECOME AN IMPOSSIBLE DRAIN ON OUR RESOURCES.+

HE WELCOMED THE PROGRAMME PLAN BEING PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IDENTIFY THE MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO DEVELOP CO-ORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION SERVICES, BUT URGED THAT EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON THE NEED TO TRAIN MORE PARA-MEDICAL STAFF, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND SPEECH THERAPISTS.

+IT IS STAGGERING,+ HE SAID, +THAT WITH A POPULATION OF 4.20 MILLION, WE HAVE LESS THAN 20 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF SPEECH THERAPISTS.+

HONG KONG COULD NOT RELY ON OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT SINCE DEMAND IS OUTSTRIPPING SUPPLY EVERYWHERE, HE SAID, AND HE URGED THAT TOP PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING INSTITUTE, EITHER IN THE POLYTECHNIC OR UNDER THE WING OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TURNING TO THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, DR. FANG REMAINED CONVINCED OF THE NEED, IN ADDITION TO SPECIALISED ASSESSMENT CLINICS, FOR TWO CENTRAL COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT CENTRES - ONE IN HONG KONG AND THE OTHER IN KOWLOON - TO BE ESTABLISHED TO ASSESS THE RESIDUAL DEGREE OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABILITIES IN BOTH HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

+SUCH FACILITIES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING WHAT EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING IS NEEDED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PATIENT, SO THAT OPTIMUM USE MAY BE MADE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.+

FACILITIES FOR THE PARAPLEGICS WERE ALSO WANTING, HE WENT ON. AT PRESENT THERE IS ONLY ONE SUCH CENTRE AT THE KOWLOON HOSPITAL FOR PEOPLE WHO BECOME PARALYSED AS A RESULT OF SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASES. DR. FANG URGED THAT PLANS BE MADE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER PARAPLEGIC CENTRE TO CATER FOR SUCH PATIENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SAYING +AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, THESE PATIENTS ARE TAKING UP VALUABLE ACUTE BEDS IN THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, WHILST THE KOWLOON PARAPLEGIC CENTRE HAS A VERY LONG WAITING LIST.+

FINALLY, DR. FANG WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO REVIEW THE MANNER IN WHICH CERTAIN ASSISTED HOSPITALS ARE AT PRESENT SUBVENTED, AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE REVIEW BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL ASSISTED HOSPITALS.

/+IT IS .....

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+IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THOSE HOSPITALS AT PRESENT SUBVENTED ON A DISCRETIONARY BASIS ARE FINDING IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RETAIN THEIR STAFF IN THE LIGHT OF THE SALARY INCREASES GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT STAFF.

+THE PROFESSIONAL WORKERS IN THESE VOLUNTARY INSTITUTES HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT SIMILAR INCREASES FOR EQUAL WORK, AND UNLESS THEY GET THEM, CAN BE EXPECTED TO LEAVE.+

HE STRESSED THAT THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THESE HOSPITALS FACED A CRITICAL AND VERY REAL PROBLEM AND SOME MAY SOON BE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN OR CURTAIL THEIR SERVICES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

REFERRING TO THE BOARD WHICH WILL BE REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL PROGRAMME IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, DR. FANG URGED THAT IT MAKE FULL USE OF AVAILABLE EXPERTS AMONG PROFESSIONAL BODIES IN HONG KONG TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE.

HE DESCRIBED THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER AS A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND CONGRATULATED THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THEIR PAINSTAKING EFFORTS.

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BETTER MEDICAL DEAL URGED FOR 'FORGOTTEN' MIDDLE CLASS

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THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, TODAY CALLED FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR THE FORGOTTEN MIDDLE CLASS WHO, HE SAID, WERE NOT CATERED FOR IN THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER.

WITH THE EMERGENCE OF AN INCREASING MIDDLE CLASS IN THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG, THERE ARE RISING NUMBERS OF PATIENTS WHO WANT A BETTER SERVICE THAN THE THIRD CLASS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, HE SAID.

IN HIS OPINION, THE GAP IN CHARGES BETWEEN THE THIRD AND SECOND CLASS WARDS OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WAS ALREADY TOO GREAT, AND THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT THIS GAP WOULD BE FURTHER WIDENED.

THIRD CLASS PATIENTS, HE NOTED, RECEIVED COMPLETELY FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PAID ONLY A FEW DOLLARS A DAY FOR FOOD, WHEREAS FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PATIENTS HAD TO PAY A DAILY SUBSISTENCE AS WELL AS FEES FOR EXAMINATIONS, TESTS AND OPERATIONS -- UNLESS THEY WERE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

IN ADDITION, IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE PROVISION OF SECOND CLASS BEDS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IS VERY INADEQUATE AND, UNLESS ONE IS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT -- IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE -- TO GAIN ADMISSION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

DR. CHUNG POINTED OUT THAT MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY TAXPAYERS BUT ALSO FAST BECOMING THE BACKBONE OF OUR SOCIETY.

TURNING TO THE TRAINING OF ADDITIONAL DOCTORS, DR. CHUNG WELCOMED THE DECISION TO SITE THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

WHILE HE DID NOT DISAGREE THAT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL SHOULD BE OPEN TO CANDIDATES FROM BOTH CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOLS, HE REGARDED THE PROPOSAL ON ADMISSION PUT FORWARD BY THE UNIVERSITY POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AS RATHER UNDESIRABLE FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS.

THE U.P.G.C. HAD PROPOSED THAT ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL SHOULD BE CHOSEN FROM THOSE WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FIRST YEAR AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY. AS A RESULT, ENTRANTS TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL WOULD CONSIST PARTLY OF STUDENTS FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR AND PARTLY OF STUDENTS ENTERING FROM OUTSIDE THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WHO HAD PASSED THE APPROPRIATE A+ LEVEL EXAMINATIONS.

ALTHOUGH A MEDICAL ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SUGGESTED TO AVOID FAVOURITISM TO INTERNAL CANDIDATES, DR. CHUNG SAID HE STILL ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES.

/ANOTHER IMPORTANT .....

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ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE MIXED ADMISSION PROCESS WAS THE +EXTRAVAGANT USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS,+ HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THE COST PER STUDENT A YEAR BETWEEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS WAS \$22,000 AS AGAINST \$4,000 -- A RATIO OF MORE THAN FIVE TO ONE.

IN VIEW OF THE REPEATED CONCERN EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON THE FAST AND VAST INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, DR. CHUNG SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISH UPPER FORM 6 CLASS IN CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS SO THAT ADMISSION COULD BE CONFINED TO ONLY EXTERNAL CANDIDATES.

ON A WIDER BASIS, HE FELT THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY TO RECONSIDER ITS FOUR-YEAR SYSTEM WITH A VIEW TO CHANGING IT TO THE MORE ECONOMICAL THREE-YEAR SYSTEM AS PRACTISED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+ SINCE GRADUATES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL SHOULD BE AND WOULD BE RECOGNISED BY THE BRITISH GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL AS EXPECTED, IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM AND THE TEACHING LANGUAGE WOULD BE ALMOST IDENTICAL FOR BOTH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS THEREFORE DESIRABLE FOR REASONS OF FAIRNESS, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY THAT THERE SHOULD BE COMMON MATRICULATION EXAMINATIONS FOR BOTH UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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COMPULSORY SERVICE IN GOVT HOSPITALS URGED  
FOR ALL NEW MEDICAL GRADUATES  
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THE HON. LI FOOK-WO TODAY SUGGESTED THAT, AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO EASE THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND NURSES IN HONG KONG, NEW MEDICAL GRADUATES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO SERVE IN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS BEFORE MOVING INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE.

+IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR TRAINING OF MEDICAL STUDENTS,+ HE SAID,+ I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE REASONABLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR ALL NEW GRADUATES TO SERVE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS FOR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE MOVING INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE.+

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT SINCE IN SOME COUNTRIES PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS ARE ASKED TO WORK PART-TIME IN GOVERNMENT CLINICS AT APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT SALARIES OR NOMINAL REMUNERATION.

+PERHAPS, IF APPEALED TO, THERE WOULD EVEN BE GREATER RESPONSE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE,+ HE SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER.

MR. LI ENDORSED THE REGIONALISATION CONCEPT IN THE WHITE PAPER AND DESCRIBED ITS APPROACH AS +REASONABLE AND REALISTIC.+

+THE SCHEME IS ALSO FLEXIBLE IN THAT IT IS PLANNING FOR THE BASICS TO BE COMPLETED BY 1984 AND LEAVING THE REMAINING ESSENTIALS FOR A LATER STAGE,+ HE NOTED.

HOWEVER, MR. LI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE FACT THAT THE RATIO OF 5.5 BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED BY 1982. THIS FIGURE, HE NOTED, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A DESIRABLE ONE FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

HE HOPED THAT THIS RATIO COULD BE ACHIEVED SOONER BY UTILISING EVERY AVAILABLE BED IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS WHILE NEW HOSPITALS WERE BEING BUILT.

MR. LI NOTED THAT WHILE THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF OVERCROWDING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, THE OCCUPANCY RATES IN MOST GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS WERE +LOWER THAN DESIRABLE,+ AND HE URGED THAT A THOROUGH STUDY BE MADE WITH A VIEW TO ENABLING A MORE EVEN USE OF AVAILABLE BEDS.

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ON GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO ASSISTED HOSPITALS, MR. LI SAID THAT WHEN THE RECOGNISED HOSPITALS WERE STANDARDISED AS TO SERVICES AND CHARGES, IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO SUBVENT ALL THOSE GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS OF RECOGNISED AND ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS ON THE BASIS OF DEFICIENCY GRANTS.

+IN THIS WAY, ALL EMPLOYEES OF THESE HOSPITALS WILL NATURALLY RECEIVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL SERVICES RENDERED AND THE PROBLEM OF DISPARITY IN THE STANDARD AND QUALITY OF SERVICE SHOULD BECOME NON-EXISTENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. LI SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THIRD CLASS PATIENTS, BUT WITH A UNIFORM FEE FOR SUBSISTENCE AND A SPECIAL REMISSION SCHEME IN CASE OF NEED.

HE FELT THAT A SMALL FEE, HOWEVER SMALL, +ADDS VALUE TO SERVICES RECEIVED AND GIVES AN OTHERWISE CHARITABLE PATIENT SOME PRIDE BY REMOVING THE STIGMA OF BEING A FREE PATIENT.+

MR. LI DEPLORED THE +RATHER ARROGANT AND SUPERIOR ATTITUDE+ DISPLAYED BY SOME GOVERNMENT MEDICAL STAFF TOWARDS PATIENTS, AND HOPED THAT CONTINUED EDUCATION COURSES WOULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

TURNING TO ALLEGATION OF TIPS SQUEEZED OUT OF PATIENTS BY MENIAL STAFF FOR SERVICES RENDERED, MR. LI CALLED FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL STEPS.

IT WAS ESSENTIAL, HE STRESSED, THAT BOTH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES AND PERSONNEL MUST BE AIMED AT.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBSTANTIAL PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY PLANNING AND TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION, MR. LI HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE INCREASED GOVERNMENT LIAISON WITH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED IN BOTH FIELDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT.

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COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE PROPOSED

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A COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE WHICH, IN EFFECT, WOULD EXTEND HOSPITAL SERVICE TO THE HOME AND FREE MORE HOSPITAL BEDS FOR URGENT CASES, WAS PROPOSED TODAY BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH.

EXPERIENCE FROM SOME SMALL EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED IN HONG KONG, SHE TOLD COUNCIL, SHOWED THAT SUCH A SERVICE WAS NOT ONLY FEASIBLE BUT WAS WELCOMED BY CUSTOMERS, ESPECIALLY IN CARING FOR BABIES AND THE AGED.

NOTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS IN EXPANDING THE PROGRAMME ON A COLONY-WIDE BASIS DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS AND QUALIFIED NURSES, MISS KO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER +SUBSTANTIAL SUBSIDY+ TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CAPABLE OF STARTING PILOT SCHEMES IN THEIR DISTRICTS. BUT THE ULTIMATE AIM SHOULD BE TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME.

+THROUGH COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE,+ MISS KO SAID, +PATIENTS COULD BE ENCOURAGED, WITH THE HELP OF THEIR FAMILIES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR OWN REHABILITATION. RELAPSE OF ILLNESS COULD BE PREVENTED BY PROVIDING NURSING CARE AND HEALTH EDUCATION TO PATIENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN HOMES.

+AT THE SAME TIME THE FAMILY COULD BE EDUCATED IN PREVENTIVE SELF-CARE, THUS POSSIBLY AVOIDING THE NECESSITY OF HOSPITALISATION.+

THROUGH SUCH A SERVICE, MISS KO WENT ON, PATIENTS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME SOON AFTER INTENSIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND THIS WOULD LEAD TO AN ECONOMY IN THE USE OF HOSPITAL BEDS.

+HOME NURSING CARE COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR PATIENTS WHOSE GENERAL CONDITION IS UNSUITABLE FOR OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCE, THUS RELIEVING OVERCROWDED OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENTS AS WELL,+ SHE SAID.

MISS KO NOTED THAT DUE TO THE INCREASE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE AND HOSPITAL BEDS, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DEMAND FOR MORE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS, AND SHE HOPED THAT IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR ALL THOSE SERVING IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS IN THE FUTURE.

THE TIME HAD ALSO COME, SHE ADDED, FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A POPULATION POLICY FOR HONG KONG SINCE POPULATION GROWTH WAS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST DANGER TO SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

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CALL FOR MORE POSITIVE APPROACH  
TO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN TODAY CALLED FOR A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH IN THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICE IN EMERGENCY CASES, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

+WITH THE HIGH COST THAT WE WILL HAVE TO MEET IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER AND MORE ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS DESERVE MORE ATTENTION,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER, MR. TIEN NOTED THAT OCCUPATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AMOUNTED TO 30,000 A YEAR, AND A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THIS MUST HAVE OCCURRED IN INDUSTRIES.

HE DESCRIBED THE EXISTING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEME AS +A WEAK REMEDY+ AS NO AMOUNT OF MONEY COULD RECOMPENSE THE PHYSICAL SUFFERINGS OF THE RECIPIENTS.

+ONCE AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS, THE VICTIMS ARE HELPLESS AND THE HOPE OF SURVIVING OR BEING SPARED DISABLEMENT IS PINNED ON THE MEDICAL TREATMENT THAT IS GIVEN IN THE PRECIOUS EARLY MOMENT,+ HE SAID, EMPHASISING THAT HIGH PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT ACCIDENT SERVICE SUPPORTED BY AN ADEQUATE AND WELL-TRAINED AMBULANCE SERVICE. THE COST OF THIS, HE FELT, WOULD NOT REACH ANY SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION IN THE OVERALL PROJECT.

WHILE THE WHITE PAPER RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDING THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SERVICE TO A FULL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, HE SAID, IT APPEARED TO BE LESS PRECISE IN REGARD TO THE CLINICAL ASPECT IN ITS MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE CASUALTY AND ACCIDENT SERVICE.

+IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN US SOME REAL CONSOLATION IF THE WHITE PAPER COULD BE MORE POSITIVE IN ITS APPROACH TO EMERGENCY SERVICE -- FROM AMBULANCE TO EMERGENCY TREATMENT.+

MR. TIEN FELT THAT THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, NOW UNDER THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, COULD BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE WHITE PAPER TO OBTAIN CO-ORDINATED PROGRESS OF AN ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICE.

SOME REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE POSSIBLE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CASUALTY AND ACCIDENT SERVICE, HE NOTED, BUT THIS IN ITSELF WOULD DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS WHICH HAD YET TO BE LAUNCHED UNTIL THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED HOSPITAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

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HONG KONG MUST AIM TO BECOME A LEADER  
IN MEDICAL SERVICES

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AS A PROGRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL CITY, HONG KONG SHOULD AIM TO HAVE HOSPITAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES THAT ARE SECOND TO NONE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER, HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE TO BUILD NEW HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO MEET EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH WAS A LAUDABLE ONE, BUT HE COULD NOT HELP FEELING THAT THE ASSUMED 1982 POPULATION OF 4.96 MILLION, ON WHICH PLANNING IS BASED, WAS ON THE LOW SIDE. THE WHITE PAPER HAS PROJECTED AN INCREASE IN THE RATIO OF BEDS FROM 4.25 BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION IN 1972 TO 5.5 BEDS WHEN THE EAST KOWLOON HOSPITAL IS BUILT.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO FELT THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR SIX NEW POLYCLINICS, SIX ADDITIONAL GENERAL CLINICS AND THE REPROVISIONING OF FOUR EXISTING CLINICS, WOULD PROBABLY ALSO 'FALL SHORT OF THE MARK IN PROVIDING REASONABLY ADEQUATE CLINIC FACILITIES,' ESPECIALLY IF THE REGIONAL APPROACH WAS TO BE ADOPTED AND A STANDARD URBAN CLINIC WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVERY 100,000 OF URBAN POPULATION.

+THE BUILDING OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLINICS MUST PROCEED WITH UTMOST SPEED,+ HE STRESSED, +AND EXISTING CLINIC FACILITIES BE IMPROVED CONTINUOUSLY SO THAT THEY ARE PUT TO MAXIMUM USE TO REDUCE QUEUING CONGESTION AND LONG WAITING HOURS.+

HE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND A DENTAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, BUT REGRETTED THAT THE SERVICES OF SEVERAL HUNDRED NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES WERE NOT PUT TO GOOD USE IN HONG KONG.

CALLING FOR A LONG HARD LOOK AT THE PROBLEM, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID: +IT DOES SEEM TO BE AN ANOMALY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW CHINESE HERBALISTS AND ACUPUNCTURISTS TO PRACTISE THEIR HEALING ART WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION WHATSOEVER, WHILE NON-COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL GRADUATES WITH FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS' TRAINING OR MORE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO URGED NON-COMMONWEALTH DOCTORS TO EXERCISE DIGNITY AND RESTRAINT WHILE SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM.

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MODERNISATION OF AMBULANCE SERVICE URGED  
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THE AMBULANCE SERVICE SHOULD BE MODERNISED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY WITH UP-TO-DATE ORGANISATION AND EQUIPMENT, THE HON. ROGER LOBO SAID TODAY.

+WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO STATION IN EACH AMBULANCE PARA-MEDICAL STAFF WITH A HIGHER DEGREE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE THAN EXISTING CREWS AND TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF SHORT-WAVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AMBULANCES AND REGIONAL HOSPITALS SO THAT CASUALTIES COULD BE BETTER ATTENDED TO EN ROUTE UNDER EXPERT INSTRUCTION,+ HE SAID DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER.

THIS, HE ADDED, WOULD ENABLE THE RECEIVING CENTRES TO BE MADE AWARE IN ADVANCE OF THE DETAILS OF INCOMING CASES, AND FACILITATE PREPARATIONS FOR THEIR RECEPTION AND FOR NECESSARY EMERGENCY ACTION.

MR. LOBO TOLD COUNCIL HE WAS NOT CRITICISING THE GOOD WORK OF PRESENT AMBULANCE CREWS.

+HOWEVER, SINCE THERE ARE NOW OVER 125,000 PATIENTS CARRIED EACH YEAR -- ABOUT ONE EVERY FOUR MINUTES -- ONE MUST CERTAINLY SEE THAT THERE IS JUSTIFICATION FOR IMPROVING IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE THE STANDARDS OF A SERVICE WHICH IS VITAL AND WHICH IS INDEED A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.+

MR. LOBO SAID HE AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES IN PRINCIPLE ACCEPTED THE WHITE PAPER ON FURTHER MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELCOMED THE MAJOR STEPS FORWARD PROVIDED IN IT. THEY ALSO WELCOMED THE ASSURANCE THAT THE WHITE PAPER WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE UNOFFICIALS, HE SAID, APPRECIATED THAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATION WAS THE PRIMARY FACTOR GOVERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MASSIVE PROGRAMME.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE ALL OUR NEEDS AT ONCE, THE QUESTION COULD NOT ONLY BE LOOKED AT IN TERMS OF COST -- ESTIMATED AT TODAY'S PRICES AT \$690 MILLION CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND \$800 MILLION RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR PHASE ONE.

+WHAT IS PROPOSED IN THE WHITE PAPER IS A MAJOR ADVANCE, AND THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE MONEY MUST BE FOUND FOR IT,+ HE STRESSED.

IN PASSING, MR. LOBO PAID WARM TRIBUTE TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS DESPITE HEAVY ODDS. IN PARTICULAR, THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN ERADICATING TUBERCULOSIS AND IN MAINTAINING A HIGH DEGREE OF FREEDOM FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

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### TOWN PLANNING POLICY CRITICISED

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THE HON. JAMES WU TODAY CALLED FOR AN EARLY ENACTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION TO CORRECT AN +INEQUITABLE SITUATION+ ARISING FROM +INJURIOUS AFFECTATION OF PROPERTIES BY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMS AND OF FAILURE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION.+

HE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY AND +A MOST IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE,+ WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED IN FORMULATING DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE PAST.

+EQUALLY IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED IN SOME RESPECTS IN GOING AHEAD WITH THE MASS TRANSIT SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES PLANNED FOR SLUM CLEARANCE, OR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY OR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

+BUT THERE IS A COROLLARY TO THIS. IF DURING THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS ARE AFFECTED CLEARLY THEY MUST RECEIVE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION.+

APART FROM DEALING WITH THE DIFFICULTIES AND HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY MANY PROPERTY OWNERS, HE ALSO TOUCHED ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS THAT PRIVATE DEVELOPERS FACED.

MR. WU WAS SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL WHICH WAS PASSED WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS.

THE BILL AIMED AT REMOVING UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WHICH AROSE FOLLOWING A COURT JUDGMENT IN JUNE THIS YEAR. THE JUDGMENT BROUGHT INTO DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF ALL DRAFT AND APPROVED TOWN PLANS.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL WERE AGREED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

UNDER ONE AMENDMENT, THE BILL WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON WHOSE PLANS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED.

OTHER AMENDMENTS PROVIDE FOR A RIGHT OF APPEAL FROM THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO A HIGHER TRIBUNAL, AND THAT THE DIAGRAMS, ILLUSTRATIONS, NOTES OR DESCRIPTIVE MATTERS ON PLANS WHICH WILL BE VALIDATED BY THE BILL ARE LIMITED TO THOSE WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, MR. WU SAID WHILE THERE APPEARED TO BE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PASS THE LEGISLATION IT WAS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR AN APPEAL BEYOND THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ITSELF AND FOR COMPENSATION AS IN THE CASE OF SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

/+ANOTHER POINT .....

+ANOTHER POINT IS THAT THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE MAKES NO PROVISION FOR COMPENSATION FOR FROZEN PROPERTIES -- THAT IS TO SAY, THOSE PROPERTIES WHICH BECAUSE OF OUTLINE ZONING PLANS CANNOT BE DEVELOPED.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH PLANS FOR WANCHAI AND YAU MA TEI, THE UMELCO OFFICE RECEIVED SEVERAL COMPLAINTS FROM PEOPLE WHOSE PROPERTIES WERE AFFECTED IN THIS WAY.

THEIR OBJECTIONS WERE DISMISSED AND THEIR OFFERS TO SELL THEIR PROPERTIES WERE TURNED DOWN. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY COULD NEITHER REDEVELOP THEIR PROPERTIES NOR SELL THEM, RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL LOSS.

+SINCE THIS SITUATION IS CLEARLY MOST INEQUITABLE UMELCO TOOK UP WITH GOVERNMENT THE QUESTION OF ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED, SUGGESTING THAT IT SHOULD BE COMPULSORY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOULD THE PROPERTY OWNER SO WISH, FOR THE CROWN TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY WITHOUT WAITING UNTIL IT BECAME NECESSARY TO RESUME THE LAND IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PARTICULAR PROJECT AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

+THE POINT OF PRINCIPLE WAS ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT AND UMELCO WERE INFORMED FUNDS WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH PROPERTIES. AN ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN THAT OWNERS OF SUCH PROPERTIES COULD APPROACH THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEY TO OFFER THEIR PROPERTY FOR SALE AT ANY TIME.+

HOWEVER, MR. WU SAID THE GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO HAVE GONE BACK ON THIS UNDERTAKING.

COMMENTING ON THE HIGH RENTAL FOR BUSINESS AND DOMESTIC PREMISES PARTICULARLY ON THE ISLAND, MR. WU SAID: +RENTALS FOR OFFICE SPACE HAVE NOW REACHED \$10 PER SQ.FT. PER MONTH IN THE CENTRAL AREA, HIGHER THAN EVEN IN TOKYO AND NEW YORK, AND JUSTIFYING THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH-RISE BLOCK LESS THAN 20 YEARS OLD.

+DOMESTIC PREMISES ARE COSTING A MINIMUM OF \$250-\$300 PER SQ.FT. TO PURCHASE, OR \$2.50 TO \$3.50 PER SQ.FT. PER MONTH TO RENT SO THAT A FAMILY OF FOUR OR FIVE LIVING IN A FLAT OF 350-400 SQ.FT. WOULD HAVE TO PAY ABOUT \$1,000 PER MONTH, A RATE THE FAMILY CAN HARDLY AFFORD IF THE INCOME IS BELOW \$3,000 PER MONTH.+

BUILDING RESTRICTION, HE SAID, HAD MADE PERMANENTLY INACCESSIBLE OR HAVE TEMPORARILY FROZEN HUGE AREAS OF AVAILABLE LAND WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT TO HELP EASE THE ACUTE LAND SHORTAGE. HE QUOTED AS EXAMPLES THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE POKFULAM AND MID-LEVELS AREAS.

+YET AGAIN, THERE HAVE BEEN EXAMPLES OF OVER-IDEALISTIC TOWN PLANNING SUCH AS THE DRAFT TOWN PLAN OF THE PEAK AREA PERMITTING DEVELOPMENT TO A PLOT RATIO OF ONLY 0.5, AND THE RESERVATION OF THE 100-ACRE WANCHAI RECLAMATION TO MAINLY GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL USE.

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+SUCH PLANNING CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, INASMUCH AS PEOPLE WOULD STILL LIKE TO LIVE NEAR THEIR WORK TO AVOID INADEQUATE AND DIFFICULT TRAFFIC CONDITIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU CONTINUED THAT ANOTHER SERIOUS INHIBITION TO PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT WAS THE +UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENT+ OF CAR PARKS.

IN THE LOTS OF ZONE 11 (SUBURBAN AREA) CROWN LAND PUT OUT FOR AUCTION WITHIN THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS, THERE WAS A PROVISION IN THE CONDITIONS OF SALE TO PROVIDE CAR PARKING AT THE RATE OF 1.5 CAR-PARK PER FLAT.

BUT HE SAID IT WOULD BE TOO COSTLY TO PROVIDE CAR PARKS AT THIS RATIO, ESPECIALLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALLER FLATS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD VERY BOLDLY LAUNCHED A 10-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME TO ALLEVIATE HONG KONG'S HOUSING PROBLEM.

+WHY NOT LET THE PRIVATE SECTOR HELP AND IN THE PROCESS GENERATE MORE REVENUE IN LAND SALES, RATES, ETC., AS THEY HAVE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES FINANCIALLY AND ABILITY WISE, AND AT A TIME WHEN A LOT OF THEIR FACILITIES AND MANPOWER ARE LYING IDLE?

+YET OUR PRIVATE HOUSING INDUSTRY CANNOT BE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS THE INDUSTRY HAS LAND TO BUILD ON, AND BE PERMITTED TO BUILD ON.

+WE WOULD THEREFORE BE GREATLY MISTAKEN TO BRUSH ASIDE THE APPEALS OF THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS AS BEING ONLY OF SELF INTEREST,+ MR. WU ADDED.

THE HON. LO TAK-SHING ALSO SPOKE ON THE BILL, AND SAID THAT MOST OF WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AGAINST IT +IS PERFECTLY VALID+ AS AGAINST THE MAIN ORDINANCE RATHER THAN THIS ACTUAL BILL.+

HE ADDED: +HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT WHATEVER MAY BE WRONG WITH OUR TOWN PLANNING POLICY TODAY, IT WOULD CLEARLY BE WRONG TO ELIMINATE THEM SUMMARILY.+

MR. LO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING ON A NEW TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE AND HE EXPECTED IT TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 12 TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

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THREE-MONTH TIME LIMIT SET FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENTS  
FOR PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY MTR SYSTEM

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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) BILL PASSED ITS THIRD AND FINAL READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE MOVED BY THE HON. LO TAK-SHING AND RELATED MAINLY TO THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM. THE AMENDMENTS RELATE ONLY TO THE FIRST FOUR STAGES OF THE RAILWAY, BUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL BE LOOKING INTO COMPENSATION WITH REGARD TO STAGES V TO IX IN THE COURSE OF NEXT YEAR.

MR. LO SAID THAT THE BILL, IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DID NOT MAINTAIN THE BALANCE THAT MUST BE CONSTANTLY STRUCK BETWEEN THE OVERRIDING DUTY OF THE STATE TO ENSURE THAT ESSENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND THE EQUALLY COMPELLING NEED TO COMPENSATE THOSE WHOSE RIGHTS MAY BE INJURED IN THE PROCESS.

ONE IMPORTANT AMENDMENT PROVIDES FOR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO A PERSON WHOSE PROPERTY IS AFFECTED BY THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM, WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE AGREEMENT OR AWARD, UNLESS THERE IS A DISPUTE AS TO THE PERSON ENTITLED TO SUCH COMPENSATION. THE ORIGINAL BILL DID NOT IMPOSE A TIME LIMIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY SUCH COMPENSATION.

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ALSO SPOKE ON THE BILL AND URGED THAT WORK ON THE FIRST FOUR STAGES OF THE RAILWAY SYSTEM BE STARTED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, HE NOTED, HAD RECENTLY STATED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DEFER THE BUILDING OF THE SYSTEM AND USE THE MONEY TO BUILD MORE PUBLIC HOUSING. WHILE THIS WAS SUPERFICIALLY ATTRACTIVE, MR. CHEONG-LEEN FELT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

HONG KONG WAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO A MASSIVE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME, HE NOTED, AND AN ADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM TO MEET INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RISING POPULATION NEEDS WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

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SEVERANCE PAY BILL PASSED WITH MODIFICATIONS  
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THE SEVERANCE PAY BILL COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AND WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON A DATE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOV, MOVED A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL -- SOME TECHNICAL, AND OTHERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON IT IN RECENT MONTHS.

HE SAID THAT THE BILL IN ITS FINAL FORM REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE BETWEEN DIRECTLY OPPOSING VIEWS.

+HOWEVER IT GIVES EVERY QUALIFIED WORKER A LEGAL RIGHT TO CLAIM SEVERANCE PAY WHEN HE IS DISMISSED BY REASON OF REDUNDANCY, HE SAID. +THE SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF ESTABLISHING THIS PRINCIPLE HAVE BEEN JUDGED OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO OUTWEIGH THE RISKS OF CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALLER EMPLOYERS.

+THIS CAN ONLY BE REGARDED AS A CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION, AND ONE ON WHICH WE SHOULD AIM TO BUILD IN THE FUTURE.+

THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL BECOME PART VA OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

COMMENTING ON IT THIS AFTERNOON, THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID : +THE PASSING OF THIS BILL REPRESENTS A GREAT STEP FORWARD. IT IS THE CULMINATION OF OVER FOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK BY MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES IN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON A COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT SUBJECT.

+THIS SEVERANCE PAY LEGISLATION WILL COME TO RANK IN IMPORTANCE WITH THE FAR-REACHING AMENDMENT MADE TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IN 1970, PROVIDING WORKERS WITH FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH.

+THERE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN CRITICISM OF THE LEGISLATION. SOME SAY THAT IT HAS GONE TOO FAR AND IS TOO WIDE-REACHING. OTHERS FEEL THAT IT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH AND IS TOO NARROW IN SCOPE.

+THESE COMMENTS WERE EXPECTED AND, TO SOME EXTENT, ANTICIPATED IN THE DRAFT BILL PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE OF JUNE 7. HOWEVER, MOST CRITICS OVERLOOKED THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT - THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SEVERANCE PAY ON DISMISSAL BY REASON OF REDUNDANCY IS NOW RECOGNISED AND ENSHRINED IN THE LEGISLATION.

+THIS PROVIDES A GOOD, SOUND BASIS UPON WHICH I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO BUILD AND IMPROVE IN THE LIGHT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES IN FUTURE - JUST AS WE HAVE, OVER THE YEARS, BUILT ON, AND REPEATEDLY IMPROVED, OTHER ITEMS AT LABOUR LEGISLATION.

## WITHHOLDING TAX ISSUE RAISED IN COUNCIL

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID TODAY THAT THE ABOLITION OF THE WITHHOLDING TAX WOULD RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF REVENUE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE GOOD BY HIGHER RATES OF OTHER TAXES OR SOME OTHER LEVY.

HE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO RECONSIDER THE ABOLITION OR PARTIAL ABOLITION OF INTEREST TAX, HE WAS SURE THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF FRESH ARGUMENTATIONS GOVERNMENT'S CONCLUSION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT DIFFER FROM THOSE IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO WHO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RE-CONSIDER THE ABOLITION OF INTEREST TAX.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY INCOME IN THE FORM OF INTEREST SHOULD BE TREATED MORE GENEROUSLY THAN THE THREE OTHER FORMS OF INCOME WHICH WERE SUBJECT TO TAX UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOLITION OF INTEREST TAX WOULD LEAD TO A LOSS IN GOVERNMENT REVENUE WHICH, IN 1973-74 AMOUNTED TO \$75 MILLION. RECEIPTS FROM INTEREST IN 1974-75 WERE NOW EXPECTED TO BE IN THE REGION OF \$100 MILLION.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED A CASE FOR THE ABOLITION OF INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX, THEN IT WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW, I THINK, THAT INTEREST EARNINGS CAUGHT UP IN PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENTS WOULD ALSO NEED TO BE EXEMPTED FROM PROFITS TAX,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

THE LOSS IN REVENUE WOULD ALSO BE AGGRAVATED BY COMPANIES MOVING INCREASINGLY TO LOAN FINANCE, AND ALL SORTS OF SCHEMES WOULD BE HATCHED UP TO CONVERT VARIOUS FORMS OF INCOME INTO, OR DISGUISE THEM AS, INTEREST EARNINGS.

+IT IS QUITE INCONCEIVABLE THAT REVENUE LOSSES OF THIS ORDER COULD BE MADE GOOD BY INCREASED PROFITS TAX ON THE BORROWING OR LENDING TRANSACTIONS THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THE ABOLITION OF INTEREST TAX. SO, THE LOSS OF REVENUE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE GOOD BY HIGHER RATES OF OTHER TAXES OR SOME OTHER LEVY.+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE MONETARY ASPECTS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE ARGUMENT THAT THE WITHHOLDING OF INTEREST TAX FROM PAYMENTS OF INTEREST BY BANKS (AND FINANCE HOUSES) HAD THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS RESIDENT IN HONG KONG TO TRANSFER AT LEAST PART OF THEIR EXCESS LIQUIDITY ABROAD, WITH ERODING EFFECTS ON THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT BASE OF THE LICENSED BANKS AND THUS ON THEIR ABILITY TO FINANCE HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

/MR. HADDON-CAVE .....

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT QUITE APART FROM THE VERY DOUBTFUL CASE FOR THE ABOLITION OF INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX, THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO ARGUMENTS AGAINST ABOLITION.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE SAID, THE RELIEF GIVEN WOULD EFFECTIVELY WIND UP WITH THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND THE WEALTHIER GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY AND THIS WOULD BE INEQUITABLE.

SECONDLY, THE POSSIBILITY WOULD ARISE OF NON-RESIDENTS SWITCHING HIGHLY VOLATILE SPECULATIVE FUNDS INTO HONG KONG DOLLARS WHEN THEY DECIDED TO TAKE A PARTICULAR VIEW OF RELATIVE EXCHANGE RISKS AND THEN SWITCHING THEM OUT AGAIN WHEN THAT VIEW CHANGED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MONEY SUPPLY AND THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WOULD THEN BE OBVIOUS AND THAT IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO OVERLOOK THE DAMPENING EFFECT ON DESTABILISING INWARD FLOWS OF THE WITHHOLDING TAX.

REFERRING TO THE SUGGESTION THAT NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THIS WOULD PRESENT ENORMOUS ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES BOTH FOR THE BANKS AND FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, WHICH ONLY THE EXISTENCE OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS COULD OVERCOME.

+IN ANY CASE,+ HE SAID, +I WOULD NOT BE KEEN TO ENCOURAGE VOLATILE INFLOWS OF SPECULATIVE OVERSEAS FUNDS.+

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS ALSO AGAINST THE IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE TAX FOR DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS IN VIEW OF THE DAMAGE IT WOULD CAUSE TO HONG KONG'S DEVELOPING MONEY MARKET.

HE ALSO REFERRED TO ANOTHER SUGGESTION FOR PARTIAL ABOLITION WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD FLOATED IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH. THIS WAS THE EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, WHICH HE NOTED, WOULD SIMPLY GIVE THE BUSINESS TO LOCAL BANKS AND FINANCE HOUSES INSTEAD OF OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS.

+THIS IS A WORTHY MOTIVE,+ HE SAID, +BUT ALL THE INDICATIONS I HAVE ARE THAT THE NUMBER OF BANKS WHICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY THE PRICE, IN THE FORM OF PROFITS TAX ON THEIR +TURN+ IS VERY SMALL.

+THE MAJORITY OF BANKS AND FINANCE HOUSES, WHILE EAGER FOR THE PRESTIGE OF A LICENCE FOR A SPECIAL DEPARTMENT TO BORROW AND LEND FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND BE EXEMPT FROM THE OBLIGATION TO WITHHOLD TAX ON INTEREST PAID ON DEPOSITS, WOULD IN PRACTICE CONTINUE TO ACT SIMPLY AS INTERMEDIARIES IN THE PLACING OF SUCH BUSINESS IN OTHER CENTRES WHERE IT ATTRACTS NEITHER INTEREST TAX NOR PROFITS TAX.+

HE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT UNTIL HE WAS SATISFIED THAT A VERY SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF INCOME ASSESSABLE TO PROFITS TAX WOULD BE GENERATED, HE WOULD NOT THINK THAT THE SETTING UP OF THE NECESSARY MACHINERY FOR THESE SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

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GRANTS TOTALLING OVER \$1.5 MILLION  
AWARDED BY SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION  
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ANNUAL REPORTS FOR TWO TRUST FUNDS PROVIDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS — THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION AND THE SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND — FOR THE YEAR 1973/74 WERE TABLED AT TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

IN HIS REPORT, THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, MR. DOUGLAS BLYE, WHO IS ALSO TRUSTEE OF THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION, SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR GRANTS TOTALLING \$693,500 WERE APPROVED. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL GRANTS APPROVED SINCE THE FUND WAS SET UP IN 1970 TO OVER \$1.5 MILLION. THE FUND BEGAN WITH A DONATION OF \$3.2 MILLION, AND NOW STANDS AT \$5.40 MILLION, AFTER ALLOWING FOR GRANTS OF \$500,000, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BUT NOT COMPLETED.

THE GRANTS WENT MAINLY TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND BOOKS, PROMOTING SCOUTING ACTIVITIES, AND TRAINING CLASSES.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE AIM OF THE FUND TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH CATER FOR LARGE NUMBERS AND TOUCH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CROSS-SECTION OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

THE SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED IN 1960 HAS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF PROVIDING FOR PERSONS OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES OR TRAINING IN ORDER TO DEVELOP CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP.

MORE THAN \$180,000 WAS AWARDED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DURING THE YEAR TO PROMOTE POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND TO SUBSIDISE FUNDS FOR ATTENDING SEMINARS AND STUDY TOURS.

THE BIGGEST SINGLE VOTE WAS THE CONTRIBUTION OF \$40,000 TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL.

TWELVE YOUTH WORKERS FROM THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WERE GRANTED \$20,250 TO GO ON A STUDY TOUR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

A SUM OF \$118,500 WAS ALSO APPROVED TO ENABLE 16 STUDENTS TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING OR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES ABROAD.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TRUST FUND WHAS CONTINUED ITS POLICY OF NOT AWARDING NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES, SECONDARY OR TECHNICAL STUDENTS IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.

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/24 .....

WORK TO START THIS MONTH  
ON POWER AND WATER SUPPLY FOR LICENSED AREAS  
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WORK ON A PROGRAMME TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY AND WATER TO LICENSED AREAS WILL START BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, HOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

DETAILS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR EXISTING AREAS - INVOLVING THE INSTALLATION OF AN OVERHEAD SUPPLY SYSTEM IN SIX LICENSED AREAS - ARE NOW BEING FINALISED. OTHER AREAS WILL BE TACKLED THEREAFTER, HE TOLD THE COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR. BELL URGED RESIDENTS NOT TO TAP ELECTRICITY ILLEGALLY. +THIS IS DANGEROUS AND CAN, AND HAS DONE RECENTLY, LEAD TO TRAGIC ACCIDENTS,+ HE WARNED.

ALL AREAS, HE ADDED, WERE BEING EXAMINED WITH A VIEW TO REMOVING PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS WIRES.

MR. BELL EXPLAINED THAT 10 YEARS AGO, IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1964 WHITE PAPER ON POLICIES FOR SQUATTER CONTROL, RESETTLEMENT AND GOVERNMENT LOW COST HOUSING, THAT ONLY MINIMUM ESSENTIAL SERVICES WERE TO BE PROVIDED IN LICENSED AREAS. IN PRACTICE, THIS AMOUNTED TO THE PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTING. NO DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES WERE PROVIDED, BUT THIS WAS NOT AN UNREASONABLY HARSH ARRANGEMENT IN THOSE DAYS.

+HOWEVER, IN RECENT YEARS, THE DEMAND FOR ELECTRIC POWER FOR LIGHTING, TELEVISION, REFRIGRATORS HAS LED TO THIS BEING INSTALLED ILLEGALLY IN MOST LICENSED AREAS,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE ITS FORMATION LAST YEAR, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS REVIEWED THE 1964 POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED, IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THAT AN INDIVIDUAL SUPPLY BE PROVIDED TO EACH HOUSEHOLD IN EVERY LICENSED AREA. THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO START THIS PROGRAMME WERE APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL LAST MONTH.+

TURNING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH ON WATER SUPPLY TO LICENSED AREAS, MR. BELL SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE 1964 WHITE PAPER, WATER STANDPIPES WERE PROVIDED IN ALL SUCH AREAS AT A RATIO OF ONE TO EVERY 500 PERSONS, +AND THIS HAS IN THE PAST BEEN FOUND SUFFICIENT FOR THE RESIDENTS' NEEDS.+

+HOWEVER, IT IS APPARENT FROM THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL PIPES INSTALLED IN THESE AREAS THAT MANY RESIDENTS WANT INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIES AND ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR THEM.

+THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED, AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY APPROVED THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A FULL RETICULATION SYSTEM PROVIDING AN INDIVIDUAL SUPPLY TO EACH FAMILY.+

MR. BELL STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD BE PROVIDED IN ALL NEW LICENSED AREAS, AND IN EXISTING AREAS WHERE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

WORK ON THE FIRST SCHEME WILL BE STARTED IN KOWLOON BAY WITHIN THIS MONTH.

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NO ORGANISED TRIAD ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS  
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITIES, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY MEASURABLE PENETRATION BY ORGANISED TRIAD ELEMENTS IN SCHOOLS.

HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE INDIVIDUAL TRIAD MEMBERS IN SOME SCHOOLS. +THIS PRESENCE, WHILE DISTURBING AND UNDESIRABLE, STEMS IN MOST CASES FROM INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS HAVING JOINED ILLEGAL SOCIETIES OUTSIDE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL HOURS,+ HE SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHETHER THE CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS WOULD BE SOUGHT TO PREVENT TRIAD ACTIVITY FROM INFILTRATING AMONG STUDENTS, MR. DAVIES SAID POLICE HAD ALREADY INITIATED A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO PROMOTE A MORE BALANCED AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

TALKS WERE HELD BETWEEN THE POLICE AND HEADMASTERS OF SCHOOLS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN MAY AND JUNE, HE SAID, AND PLANS WERE NOW IN HAND TO HOLD FURTHER MEETINGS WITH PRINCIPALS OF KOWLOON SCHOOLS.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TRIAD SOCIETY BUREAU HAD ALSO ADDRESSED A FULL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG PRIVATE ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION LAST MAY.

+IN A FURTHER BID TO CREATE A BALANCED AWARENESS OF THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM, EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AT PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL HAS INCLUDED WITHIN ITS SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMME GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO REPORT CRIME, INCLUDING VIOLENT CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES,+ SAID MR. DAVIES.

IN ADDITION, POLICE, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TOOK PART IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF RADIO HONG KONG'S +NEEDLE POINT+ PROGRAMME TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF SCHOOLS AND TRIADS.

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TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE FOR WANG TAU HOM SQUATTERS  
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CONSTRUCTION IS NOW UNDER WAY ON A TEMPORARY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS LUNG CHEUNG ROAD TO CATER FOR RESIDENTS OF THE SQUATTER/RESITE AREA OPPOSITE THE WANG TAU HOM ESTATE.

IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

HE ADDED THAT A PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE INTEGRAL WITH THE FLYOVER WOULD BE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE FUNG MO INTERCHANGE PROJECT, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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### STREET LIGHTING IN DEVELOPMENT AREAS

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THE STREET LIGHTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF KWAI CHUNG ARE EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPERATION NEXT MONTH, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS SAID TODAY.

STREET LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL ZONES IN RECENTLY DEVELOPED AREAS, INCLUDING NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID, WERE GENERALLY CARRIED OUT IN PHASE WITH ALL BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS. +HIGH PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THESE INSTALLATIONS IN THE STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME,+ HE ADDED.

CITING KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT AS AN EXAMPLE, MR. BELL POINTED OUT THAT INSTALLATIONS IN SUCH A LARGE DEVELOPMENT AREA USUALLY TOOK A NUMBER OF YEARS TO COMPLETE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE DELAY IN THE PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS SUCH AS KWAI CHUNG.

MR. BELL AGREED WITH MR. TIEN THAT THE LACK OF STREET LIGHTING CAUSED INCONVENIENCE AND INCREASED THE RISK OF CRIME.

+FOR THESE REASONS,+ HE SAID, +THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LIGHTING SCHEMES ARE A CONTINUING PROCESS FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND DEVELOPMENT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.+

HE ADDED THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND THE RESOURCES OF THE POWER COMPANIES WHO INSTALL AND OWN THE EQUIPMENT MUST ALSO BE BORNE IN MIND WHEN ASSESSING THE SITUATION.

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### OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WESTERN RECLAMATION

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A TOTAL OF FIVE OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND THESE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED.

THE PROJECT WAS GAZETTED IN JULY LAST YEAR, AND THE OBJECTIONS WERE LODGED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TOLD COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. H.M.G. FORSGATE, WHO HAD ASKED FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION RUNS ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, AND WILL PROVIDE SOME 79 ACRES OF LAND.

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PROMPT ACTION ON +ENFORCED+ HOSPITAL TIPS

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ANY REPORT ON +ENFORCED+ TIPPING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IS ALWAYS FULLY INVESTIGATED AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, REFERRED TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TAKING EARLY STEPS TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF +ENFORCED+ TIPS BEING PAID BY PATIENTS IN THIRD-CLASS WARDS OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

DR. CHOA SAID ALL PATIENTS WERE GIVEN A FORM ON ADMISSION TO A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL STATING THAT NO MEMBER OF THE STAFF IS PERMITTED TO RECEIVE ANY GRATUITY OR PRESENT FROM A PATIENT,

IN ADDITION, A REQUEST FOR A GRATUITY OR A PRESENT MUST BE REPORTED TO THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOSPITAL, OR THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES. LARGE NOTICES REAFFIRMING THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY WERE DISPLAYED IN ALL THE WARDS.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN FOLLOWED UP HIS QUESTION BY ENQUIRING HOW MANY REPORTS OF ENFORCED/ TIPPING HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE ICAC SO FAR.

DR. CHOA REPLIED THAT A TOTAL OF 13 COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR, OF WHICH THREE WERE FROM NEWSPAPERS. +SINCE ALL OF THEM ARE ANONYMOUS, NONE OF THEM CAN BE SENT TO THE ICAC,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION RAISED BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF +EFFECTIVE FACILITIES+ FOR LODGING COMPLAINTS AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, THE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT SUCH FACILITIES ALREADY DO EXIST.

+ALL HOSPITAL WARDS ARE VISITED REGULARLY BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF WHO ARE ALWAYS READY TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FROM PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

1 IN EACH MAJOR HOSPITAL, SUGGESTION BOXES WERE PLACED AT VARIOUS POINTS FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC. THESE WERE OPENED BY THE HOSPITAL SECRETARY AND SUBMITTED TO THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT. FROM TIME TO TIME, COMPLAINTS WERE ALSO ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR PERSONALLY, OR TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS.

+SHORT OF INVITING PATIENTS OR THEIR RELATIVES TO MAKE COMPLAINTS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT FURTHER STEPS CAN BE TAKEN,+ DR. CHOA SAID, ADDING THAT COMPLAINTS WERE FULLY INVESTIGATED NO MATTER AT WHAT ADMINISTRATION LEVEL THEY WERE RECEIVED.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974.

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NEW MONITOR SYSTEM UNDER STUDY  
TO KEEP SENIOR OFFICIALS BETTER ATTUNED TO CHINESE PRESS COMMENTS  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING A PROPOSAL TO PRODUCE A DAILY TABLOID COMPRISING TRANSLATIONS FROM CHINESE NEWSPAPERS TO ENSURE THAT SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO CANNOT READ CHINESE ARE WELL BRIEFED ON REPORTS AND OPINIONS OF TOPICAL INTEREST IN THE CHINESE PRESS.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID FACILITIES ALREADY EXIST TO KEEP SENIOR OFFICIALS INFORMED OF OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE CHINESE PRESS, BUT HE FELT THAT THE PROPOSED TABLOID WOULD BE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT +IF IT DOES NOT COST TOO MUCH.+

OUTLINING THE PRESENT SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU, MR. BRAY SAID THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT CIRCULATED AN ENGLISH WEEKLY REVIEW OF CHINESE PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTS -- GLEANED FROM SOME 25 MORNING AND EVENING CHINESE NEWSPAPERS. SPECIAL DAILY REPORTS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES WERE ALSO PRODUCED AS AND WHEN NECESSARY.

IN MATTERS OF URGENCY REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE FIRST GIVEN A VERBAL REPORT OVER THE TELEPHONE AND THEN MORE DETAILED WRITTEN REPORTS. BACKGROUND INFORMATION PAPERS ON PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTS ON ISSUES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BECOME CONTROVERSIAL ARE ALSO COMPILED FOR REFERENCE BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT ALSO BRINGS TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF BOTH THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE PRESS WHICH REQUIRE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

IN ADDITION, MOST DEPARTMENTS MONITOR REPORTS AND COMMENTS IN THE MASS MEDIA ON MATTERS OF DEPARTMENTAL INTEREST IN ORDER THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN.

DESPITE ALL THIS, MR. BRAY SAID HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS THAT +THE IMPACT OF GLEANED TRANSLATIONS AND SUMMARIES MAY NOT BE THE SAME AS THAT PRODUCED BY DAILY PAPERS READ DIRECT,+ AND HE FELT THAT THE PROPOSED TABLOID WOULD CONSIDERABLY IMPROVE MATTERS.

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/29 .....

GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO RETIRING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE PAID TRIBUTE TO TWO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT ITS FINAL SITTING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE MEMBERS WERE MR. JACK CANNING, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AND MR. DAVID ALEXANDER, DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES.

HE COMMENDED THE TWO MEMBERS FOR THEIR +VERY DISTINCTIVE AND CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS+ TO BOTH THE COUNCIL AND TO THE GOVERNMENT.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, WE WILL DO SO WITHOUT TWO MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MR. CANNING AND MR. ALEXANDER. BOTH HAVE MADE VERY DISTINCTIVE AND CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COUNCIL AND, INDEED, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

+I THINK THAT MR. CANNING'S NAME WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VERY RAPID EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE DURING HIS DIRECTORSHIP. MR. ALEXANDER'S NAME WILL BE ASSOCIATED, I AM SURE, BOTH WITH THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND WITH THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN — AN EVENT WHICH HAS MADE HISTORY IN HONG KONG IN OUR WAYS.

+MR. CANNING WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG ON RETIREMENT VERY SOON. MR. ALEXANDER WILL BE DOING SO EARLY NEXT YEAR. I AM SURE THAT ALL MEMBERS WILL JOIN ME IN WISHING THEM THE BEST OF SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON. DR. CHUNG SAID: +ON BEHALF OF MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, I RISE TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THE REMARKS WHICH YOU, SIR, HAVE MADE ON THE RETIREMENT OF MY TWO HONOURABLE FRIENDS, MR. J. CANNING AND MR. D.R.W. ALEXANDER, AFTER THEIR LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

+I ALSO EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS SUCCESS, GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME.

+THANK YOU, SIR.+

**GOVERNOR THANKS LEGCO MEMBERS FOR HARD WORK**  
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BEFORE CLOSING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THANKED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR HARD WORK.

HE SAID: +BEFORE THIS COUNCIL ADJOURNS, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY BUSY SESSION AND WE HAVE MUCH LEGISLATION TO SHOW FOR IT. I LIKE TO THANK HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR THE IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK THEY HAVE PUT IN, BOTH IN THIS COUNCIL AND OUTSIDE IT.

+HONG KONG HAS EVERY REASON TO BE GRATEFUL TO THEM. I DO HOPE THAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE HOLIDAY THAT NOW TAKES PLACE, THEY WILL HAVE SOME TIME FOR RELAXATION.

+I NOW ADJOURN THIS COUNCIL. THE NEXT SITTING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, WHEN THE NEW SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WILL START,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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**BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO**  
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FIFTEEN BILLS COMPLETED THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO BECOME LAW.

SIX OF THEM PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE. THEY ARE: THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1974, THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) BILL 1974, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1974, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) BILL 1974, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1974 AND THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

THE OTHER NINE BILLS PASSED TODAY ARE: THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1974, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1974, PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE LANDS TRIBUNAL BILL 1974, AND THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES ON NEW BILL

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COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM.

THE NOTES WILL BE IN THE FORM OF THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM WHICH ACCOMPANIES THE BILL.

THE MOVE WAS OUTLINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION BY THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI FOR A BI-LINGUAL CIRCULAR EXPLAINING THE NEW REQUIREMENTS TO BE SENT TO ALL COMPANIES AFFECTED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE AGREED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL SHOULD BE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE A MORE INFORMATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE BILL'S PROVISIONS THAN THAT CONTAINED IN THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

ANY AMENDMENT TO THE BILL WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM AND THESE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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REMOVAL OF URBCO LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT WELCOMED

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M THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN REMOVING ALL REFERENCE TO LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS HIP TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AS ONE FURTHER STEP TO PUT THE CHINESE LANGUAGE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

HE HOPED THAT THE MOVE WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH TO COME FORWARD AND OFFER THEMSELVES FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY BY WAY OF THE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1974, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT +NO UNDUE RISK IS TAKEN SO LONG AS THE URBAN COUNCIL EXERCISES ITS POWER UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO MAKE STANDING ORDERS REQUIRING THE USE ONLY OF THOSE LANGUAGES WHICH ARE PRACTICAL FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS, AND WHICH AT PRESENT ARE CANTONESE AND ENGLISH.+

HE NOTED THAT SOME URBAN COUNCILLORS WERE IN FAVOUR OF INTRODUCING THE USE OF THE MANDARIN DIALECT AT AN EARLY DATE. WHILE HE FAVOURED THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, MR. CHEONG-LEEN FELT THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THIS RESPECT HAD TO GO ABOUT IT +IN A CAREFUL, SYSTEMATIC AND EMPIRICAL MANNER.+

HE ADDED: +THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN THE URBAN COUNCIL IS TO GIVE THE INTERPRETERS MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE IN UNDERSTANDING AND ACCURATELY INTERPRETING THE COLOURFUL VARIETY OF CANTONESE SPOKEN, WHICH INCLUDES HONG KONG CANTONESE, SHANGHAI CANTONESE, WESTERNERS' CANTONESE, OVERSEAS CHINESE CANTONESE, AND EVEN SHAMEEN CANTONESE.+

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## RENT PETITION TO BE RE-SUBMITTED

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THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR. DONALD LIAO, TOLD A GROUP OF WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE RESIDENTS THAT HE WOULD RE-SUBMIT THEIR PETITION AGAINST A RENT INCREASE TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR FURTHER STUDY, EVEN THOUGH THEIR INITIAL PETITION HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN.

MR. LIAO GAVE THIS ASSURANCE TO THE GROUP AT A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE TODAY.

HE REAFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE RENT REVIEW WHICH WAS FAIR AND REASONABLE AND HAD BEEN THOUGHTFULLY WORKED OUT.

THE RENT REVISION AFFECTS ALL PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS LET OUT ON OR AFTER MAY 17, 1974.

HE SAID THAT THE RENT ADJUSTMENT APPLIED TO ALL 11,500 FLATS WHICH WERE UNLET AT THAT DATE AND NOT JUST TO THOSE IN WONG CHUK HANG.

+ I AM SURE THAT YOU ALL REALISE THAT THE COST OF MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND RUNNING OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAVE RISEN IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT BECAUSE OF HIGHER COSTS OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND LABOUR, CONSTRUCTION COST OF RECENTLY COMPLETED HOUSING BLOCKS IS MANY TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF YEARS AGO, + HE SAID.

MR. LIAO EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS MOST WILLING TO HELP THOSE GENUINE HARDSHIP CASES BY OFFERING THEM LOWER RENTAL UNITS IN OTHER ESTATES, OR BY REFERRING THEIR CASES TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR RENT SUBSIDY OR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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## LION ROCK AERIAL ROPEWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF SITING THE LOWER STATION OF A PROPOSED AERIAL ROPEWAY ON THE SHA TIN SIDE OF LION ROCK AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXISTING PROPOSALS FOR THE LOWER STATION TO BE SITED ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL ANXIOUS TO PROCEED WITH SUCH A PROJECT, BUT IT WISHES TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT IS SELECTED +CONSISTENT WITH SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OFFERING THE MOST ATTRACTIVE SCENIC VIEWS TO THOSE USING THE ROPEWAY.+

HE SAID IF THE STUDY SHOWED THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS FEASIBLE, TENDERS WOULD BE CALLED FOR A ROPEWAY ON THE NORTHERN SLOPE.

IF, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE, THEN FRESH TENDERS WOULD BE CALLED FOR THE ORIGINAL SCHEME UP THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF LION ROCK.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT THE TENDERS RECEIVED FOR THIS SCHEME LAST YEAR DID NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND NONE WAS CONSEQUENTLY ACCEPTED.

THE STUDY IS EXPECTED TO TAKE TWO TO THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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## SIX PRE-WAR SHAMSHUIPO BUILDINGS CONDEMNED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED SIX BUILDINGS IN SHAMSHUIPO TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION. THEY ARE NOS. 108, 110, 111, 113, 115 AND 117 FUK WING STREET, KOWLOON.

THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT NOS. 108 AND 110 WERE SURVEYED IN THE COURSE OF A ROUTINE INSPECTION AND THE REINFORCED CONCRETE TO THE STRUCTURAL FRAMING, FLOORS AND ROOF WAS FOUND TO BE IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF DETERIORATION AND COULD GIVE RISE TO A COLLAPSE.

THE OTHER FOUR BUILDINGS WERE INSPECTED FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC. DETAILED INSPECTION REVEALED EXTENSIVE DETERIORATION OF THE REINFORCED CONCRETE ELEMENTS OF ALL FOUR BUILDINGS.

THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION PARTICULARLY IN THE KITCHEN BLOCKS COULD RESULT IN FAILURE WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A COLLAPSE.

REPAIRS REQUIRED WOULD BE SO EXTENSIVE AS TO BE IMPRACTICABLE, HE SAID, AND IT WAS PROPOSED TO CLOSE THE BUILDINGS AND ORDER THEIR DEMOLITION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WERE POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS TODAY. THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE HEARD IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 11.

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## TALK ON RESITE ACCOMMODATION OFFER

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ABOUT 100 SQUATTERS FROM A CLEARANCE AREA AT CHING CHUNG VILLAGE, NGAU CHI WAN, CALLED AT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE IN MIDDLE ROAD THIS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON FOR TALKS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER OF RESITE ACCOMMODATION.

EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES WERE RECEIVED. THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS PREPARED TO OFFER THEM LICENSED AREA ACCOMMODATION AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, HO HAN TII (PART-BUILT STRUCTURE), KOWLOON BAY AND SAM KA CHUEN.

A SURVEY OF ALL RESIDENTS CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT EARLIER, HOWEVER, SHOWED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE FAMILIES CONCERNED WISHED TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE NEW LICENSED AREA OF CHEUNG SHA WAN.

THE GROUP WAS INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS READY TO REGISTER THEM FOR SITE ALLOCATION AS FROM FRIDAY. HOWEVER, THE REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY MIGHT NEED A FEW DAYS MORE TO PREPARE FOR THE MOVE.

THE SQUATTERS ARE REQUIRED TO MOVE FROM THE AREA FOR ROAD WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE NGAU CHI WAN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND A SITE FOR CONTROLLED REFUSE TIPPING.

A TOTAL OF 121 FAMILIES OF 547 PEOPLE FROM THIS AREA LIVING IN SURVEYED HUTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REHOUSED IN SAU HAU PING ESTATE. THE REMAINING 120 FAMILIES OF 450 PEOPLE LIVING IN UNSURVEYED HUTS ARE BEING ARRANGED FOR LICENSED AREA SPACES.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974

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**SURVEY OF ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY STARTS TOMORROW**  
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THE THIRD MAJOR SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, TO COLLECT DATA ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, STARTS TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IT IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WERE SENT TWO WEEKS AGO TO ALL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED= THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT UNDER TRAINING= THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES= AND A FORECAST OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 1975.

SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT EACH OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SURVEY, WHICH ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 6, TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MR. AU-YEUNG MAN-TAK, SAID THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT.

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CONFIDENCE IN CROWN AGENTS REAFFIRMED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE CROWN AGENTS HAVE EXECUTED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S FUNDS, THE SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

+I KNOW OF NO CRITICISMS OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE CROWN AGENTS HAVE MANAGED THEIR PRINCIPALS' FUNDS,+ HE TOLD COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. J.H. BREMRIDGE.

MR. BREMRIDGE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARD HONG KONG FUNDS HELD BY THE CROWN AGENTS, IN VIEW OF CRITICISM OF THE AGENTS' INVESTMENT AND LENDING POLICIES.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID MR. BREMRIDGE MIGHT BE REFERRING TO THE DISQUIET EXPRESSED IN SOME CIRCLES IN RECENT YEARS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THE CROWN AGENTS HAVE BEEN INVESTING THEIR OWN FUNDS, BUT HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE AGENTS HAVE EXECUTED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

THEIR PERFORMANCE, MR. HADDON-CAVE ADDED, AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR ADVICE COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS HONG KONG USED IN LONDON AND ELSEWHERE.

FOLLOWING UP HIS QUESTION, MR. BREMRIDGE ENQUIRED ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE MATTER OF CROWN AGENTS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE REPLIED THAT THE STATEMENT AIMED TO POINT OUT THE CREATION OF A BOARD OF CROWN AGENTS, AND STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD OF CROWN AGENTS AND PRINCIPALS.

+IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CIRCULATE COPIES OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE  
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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGNAISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	---	---
CHU CHO	---	---
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.80
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.72
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
<u>U.S. RICE</u>		
	GOOD	1.87
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>		
	GOOD	1.67
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>		
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<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>		
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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	LIMITED	5.90	1.80	4.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.30	0.60	2.00
SQUID	GOOD	3.70	1.20	2.20
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	1.60	0.50	0.80
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.75	0.30	1.10
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.80	1.30	1.50
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	2.50	1.00	1.70
MELON COAT	--	-	-	-
BREAMS	LIMITED	6.00	3.20	4.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.60	0.45	1.10
MACKERELS	LIMITED	6.00	5.00	5.50
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	0.90	0.50	0.60
FORK-TAIL	--	-	-	-
HORSE-HEAD	SCARCE	7.00	3.00	4.50
MELON SEED	GOOD	1.60	0.65	1.10
POMFRETS	SCARCE	9.50	7.00	8.50
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	9.00	5.00	7.00
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	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	0.80	0.30	0.60
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.60	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.00	0.50	1.40
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.50	0.50	1.00
SPINACH	--	-	-	-
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
CHINESE SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.20	2.00	3.00