



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY
HERE ON AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, AND THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BY AIR THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON FOR AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT.

THE PRINCESS AND MR. OGILVY WERE WELCOMED AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE.

SIR MURRAY THEN PRESENTED TO THE PRINCESS HIS AIDE-DE-CAMP, MR. DENIS SHACKLETON= THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, LT. GENERAL SIR JOHN ARCHER AND LADY ARCHER= THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THE HON. SIR GEOFFREY BRIGGS= THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. DENIS BRAY AND MRS. BRAY= THE HON. SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LADY KAN= DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MRS. CHUNG= THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR. BRIAN SLEVIN AND MRS. SLEVIN.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION, THE PRINCESS AND MR. OGILVY LEFT BY CAR FOR FANLING LODGE.

THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE PRINCESS TODAY AND TOMORROW. ON FRIDAY, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL VISIT THE POLICE CADET SCHOOL IN FANLING AND THE LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

THE PRINCESS WILL VISIT THE OCEAN PARK IN WONG CHUK HANG AND ATTEND THE FOLK FESTIVAL IN TSZ WAN SHAN ON SATURDAY.

ON SUNDAY, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL ATTEND THE SILVER JUBILEE THANKS GIVING SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AND OPEN THE ARTS FESTIVAL AT CITY HALL WHERE A GALAXY OF ARTISTS WELL ACCLAIMED IN THEIR OWN FIELD OF PERFORMING ART WILL GIVE PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL.

THE PRINCESS'S OTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE ON MONDAY, AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT IN HING WAH ESTATE AND THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL BE MEETING MANY LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AT THE COMMUNITY RECEPTION AT CONVENTION CENTRE ON TUESDAY EVENING.

DURING HER STAY HERE, THE PRINCESS WILL ALSO ATTEND ARTS FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES BY THE BERLIN RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND BY MR. EMLYN WILLIAMS.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL RETURN TO LONDON NEXT WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE 1ST BATTALION, THE LIGHT INFANTRY AT STANLEY FORT.

THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME THE PRINCESS IS VISITING HONG KONG. THE PRINCESS WAS FIRST HERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN 1961. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY SHORT INFORMAL VISITS IN 1965 AND 1967. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AND MR. OGILVY RETURNED IN 1972 TO OPEN A BRITISH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AND TO UNVEIL A PLAQUE TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

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BUT HE QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF AN ABSOLUTE EXCLUSION OF INDUSTRIES WHICH CAN OR DO OPERATE IN MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

+THE FACT THE INGENUITY AND ENTERPRISE HAS ENABLED CERTAIN PROCESSES TO BE ADAPTED TO UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS OPERATE UNDER SUCH HANDICAPS,+MR. WU SAID.

+THERE ARE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WHICH COULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY AS WELL AS THE EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION IF THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE UNDER CONDITIONS THAT PERMITTED A BETTER PLANT LAY-OUT.

+IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THE NET GAIN TO THE ECONOMY FROM SUCH AN UP-GRADING OF EXISTING LOCAL INDUSTRY WOULD IN MANY CASES BE AS GREAT AS THAT RESULTING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS INDUSTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT PROVED THEMSELVES AS ADAPTABLE.

+IF A CASE CAN BE MADE FOR GREATLY IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY BY MOVING SUCH AN INDUSTRY INTO MORE SUITABLE PREMISES, THAT CASE DESERVES CONSIDERATION AND APPLICATIONS SHOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED.

+A CLARIFICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW ON THIS ASPECT OF SELECTION OF INDUSTRIES FOR SITES IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES WOULD BE WELCOME AT THIS TIME.+

BEFORE TAKING HIS SEAT, MR. WU ASKED WHETHER THE PUBLIC COULD BE INFORMED HOW LAND INTENSIVE IS DEFINED.

SPEAKING ON THE SAME BILL DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS A PRACTICAL WAY TO ACHIEVE A MORE BALANCED AND HEALTHIER STATE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HE RECALLED THAT EARLIER, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WANTED TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION BUT WERE INFORMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MTR CORPORATION AND THEREFORE COULD NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTION RELATED TO THAT CORPORATION.

+THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS CONSIDER THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS VERY UNSATISFACTORY,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ORGANISATIONS WHICH WERE MOSTLY OR WHOLLY OWNED BY GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE MTR CORPORATION AND THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, MUST BE ANSWERABLE TO GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+THEY SHOULD THEREFORE BE SUBJECT TO OPEN QUESTIONS AND DEBATES IN THIS COUNCIL,+ HE STRESSED.

+THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT, WITH SECTION 32 AND 33 OF THE BILL, THE GOVERNOR, THENCE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF ANSWERING ANY QUESTION AND REPLYING TO ANY DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL CONCERNING THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION.

+MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES AND I WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF GOVERNMENT COULD CONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING. IF, HOWEVER, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS NOT CORRECT, WE WOULD RESERVE OUR POSITION WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.+

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY UNDER THE 1976 BILL HAD FOR SOME TIME BEEN RECEIVING MANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT SITES BOTH FROM OVERSEAS AND FROM LOCAL INDUSTRIAL SOURCES.

+THE VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT IS NO LONGER IN QUESTION, AND WE SHOULD NOW MOVE AHEAD WITH ALL SPEED TO HAVE A PERMANENT LEGAL STRUCTURE FOR THESE NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATES,+ HE STRESSED.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED, WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF INDUSTRIAL ZONES OR ESTATES ELSEWHERE, PROVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR DECENT HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR WORKERS ADJACENT TO THE ESTATES, AS WELL AS FOR ADEQUATE PROVISION OF RECREATION FACILITIES, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE WORKERS.

+FOR THE SAKE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO A PROGRAMME OF INDUSTRIALISATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BUT IN CARRYING OUT SUCH PROGRAMME LET US PROVIDE THE BEST CONDITIONS FOR WORK AND LIVING TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN AFFORD, AND WITH DUE REGARD TO PRESERVING AS MUCH OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS OUR PLANNERS CAN CREATIVELY DEVISE,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL WAS THE HON. JAMES WU.

HE SAID THAT EXORBITANT RENTS WERE CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR MANY OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

+THIS SENTIMENT WAS FULLY MANIFESTED BY A MEETING ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE TOP OFFICIALS OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT REPORTS BY THE PRESS,+ HE STATED.

+THE GENERAL PLEA WAS FOR MUCH MORE LAND TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL INDUSTRIAL USE TO BRING RENTS DOWN AND TO HELP HOUSE MORE MODERN, MASSIVE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT SO THAT WE CAN MEET ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH OUR COMPETITORS.

+OTHERWISE, THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, UPON WHICH HONG KONG'S FUTURE RELIES, WOULD BE LIMITED, AS ANY INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY BY LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN LIKELY OFF-SET BY HIGH LAND PRICES AND RENTS FUELED BY SPECULATION AND PLENTIFUL MONEY SUPPLY.+

MR. WU ADDED THAT FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF PRESENT INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, IT APPEARED FEASIBLE TO RECLAIM LAND FROM THE SEA AND ALLOCATE SAME FOR FULL DEVELOPMENT FOR GENERAL INDUSTRIAL USE TO EASE THE SITUATION.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE VARIOUS RELEVANT POINTS RAISED IN THE DEBATE WOULD BE PUT TO THE CORPORATION AND MEANWHILE THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

IN REGARD TO TWO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM MR. ALEX WU, HE SAID THE ANSWERS MUST LIE IN THE REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT EMBARKED ON A POLICY OF DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN THE FIRST PLACE.

+AS I REMINDED MEMBERS IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THIS BILL THE PURPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IS TO BROADEN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE BY CATERING TO THOSE INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT OPERATE IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+SO THE SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS THAT TO BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY APPLICATION FROM FIRMS ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS PURPOSE, AND TO THE SECOND QUESTION THE ANSWER IS THAT LAND INTENSIVE IS NOT REALLY THE POINT. IT IS THE INABILITY TO OPERATE IN A MULTI-STOREY BUILDING.+

IN REPLY TO A NUMBER OF POINTS RAISED BY DR. CHUNG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE CONCERN OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ABOUT THEIR RIGHT TO ASK QUESTIONS RELATING TO SOME STATUTORY CORPORATIONS.

SOME SUCH QUESTIONS, HE POINTED OUT, MIGHT BE ASKED AS THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS STAND, BUT THERE WAS ROOM FOR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN PARTICULAR CASES.

+THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE A FURTHER PROVISION INTO STANDING ORDERS DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH QUESTION ABOUT CERTAIN STATUTORY CORPORATIONS, WHICH WILL, WE HOPE, MEET UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' WISHES AND REMOVE AREAS OF DOUBT,+ HE REVEALED.

+THE GENERAL INTENTION IS THAT QUESTIONS MAY BE ASKED IN RELATION TO ANY STATUTORY CORPORATION TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR HAS POWER TO GIVE DIRECTIONS AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHERS. THAT DESCRIBES THE CLASS OF CORPORATION.

+I NOW TURN TO THE CLASS OF QUESTION WHICH IT IS SUGGESTED MAY BE ASKED. THESE COULD RELATE TO THE EXERCISE OR NON-EXERCISE OF THE PARTICULAR POWER TO GIVE DIRECTIONS AND TO ANY MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY OF OR RELATING TO THE CORPORATION.+

HOWEVER, MR. HOBLEY STRESSED, THE GOVERNMENT'S STICKING POINT, AND ON THIS IT MUST STAND FIRM, WAS THAT IT COULD NOT ACCEPT A RESPONSIBILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERNED THE DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS OR ADMINISTRATION OF A STATUTORY CORPORATION.

HE REITERATED THAT SUCH CORPORATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED BY THIS COUNCIL AS ESSENTIALLY AUTONOMOUS BODIES.

OVER 76 PER CENT OF POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES FIND JOBS
ANOTHER 18 PER CENT CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES

OUT OF 989 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE POLYTECHNIC LAST JULY ONLY 44 OR 4.5 PER CENT WERE STILL LOOKING FOR WORK IN NOVEMBER AND ONLY EIGHT OR 0.8 PER CENT CANNOT BE TRACED, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

IN TABLING THE POLYTECHNIC'S FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 1976, HE SAID : +758 GRADUATES, OR 76.6 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OUTPUT WERE PLACED IN APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY IN THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

+THE REMAINDER, THAT IS 179 GRADUATES OR 18.1 PER CENT OF THE OUTPUT, MOVED ON TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES, EITHER IN THE POLYTECHNIC OR ELSEWHERE.+

DR. CHUNG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE POLYTECHNIC, ALSO SPOKE OF ANOTHER YEAR OF RAPID GROWTH IN STUDENT POPULATION.

COMPARED WITH 1972-73 WHEN THE POLYTECHNIC WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED, THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS HAD INCREASED BY 153 PER CENT (FROM 1,583 TO 3,998), PART-TIME DAY RELEASE STUDENTS BY 81 PER CENT (FROM 1,025 TO 1,854) AND PART-TIME EVENING STUDENTS BY 44 PER CENT (FROM 9,819 TO 14,117).

IN ADDITION THERE WERE 3,541 STUDENTS IN VARIOUS SPECIAL SHORT COURSES THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

+THE POLYTECHNIC LAST YEAR, THEREFORE, PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL-ORIENTED TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR A TOTAL OF 23,510 STUDENTS WHICH IS INDEED A VERY SIGNIFICANT FIGURE IN HONG KONG'S CONTEXT,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG REFERRED TO THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW BUILDING COMPLEX.

+WITHOUT THIS ADDITION TO ITS CAMPUS, THE POLYTECHNIC WOULD HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO INCREASE ITS STUDENT POPULATION OR EVEN SUSTAIN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG CONTINUED THAT WORK WAS NOW IN PROGRESS ON THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME, WHICH WOULD BE LARGELY DEVOTED TO MUCH-NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT AMENITIES, INCLUDING A SWIMMING-POOL FUNDED BY AN ANONYMOUS PRIVATE DONATION.

IT WAS THE EARNEST HOPE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND HIMSELF THAT MORE PRIVATE DONATIONS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TO DEVELOP THE POLYTECHNIC +WHICH IS PLAYING AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELFARE OF HONG KONG+.

HE SAID HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HAD GRACIOUSLY CONSENTED TO OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE POLYTECHNIC'S NEW LIBRARY. +THE POLYTECHNIC IS DEEPLY HONOURED BY THIS RECOGNITION OF ITS GROWING IMPORTANCE IN HONG KONG'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.+

CHILD LABOUR
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IN THE FIVE YEARS FROM 1972 TO 1976 PROSECUTIONS BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RESULTED IN 1,476 CONVICTIONS FOR EMPLOYING CHILDREN BELOW THE LEGALLY PERMITTED AGE OF 14 IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS THE DEFINITION OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING DID NOT INCLUDE RESTAURANTS, MR. PRICE SAID, NONE OF THESE CONVICTIONS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT IN RESTAURANTS LICENSED TO SELL LIQUOR.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, +THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (LIQUOR) REGULATION 29, WHICH IS ENFORCED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, STATES AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT NO LICENSEE SHALL EMPLOY OR PERMIT THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 14 AT ANY TIME.+

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT HE WAS INFORMED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT DETAILS OF OFFENCES UNDER THIS REGULATION WERE RECORDED AS INDIVIDUAL CONVICTIONS AND BECAUSE CRIMINAL RECORDS WERE NOT YET COMPUTERISED, IT WOULD TAKE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT TO COLLATE THE INFORMATION SOUGHT.

HE ADDED THAT GIVEN ADEQUATE TIME, SUCH FACTS COULD BE OBTAINED.

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STATISTICS GIVING TRUE PICTURE OF HK FINANCIAL SCENE
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY GIVEN PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF STATISTICAL COVERAGE OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPING FINANCIAL SECTOR, BOTH GENERALLY AND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEPOSIT TAKING FINANCE COMPANIES.

THIS WAS STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. Q.W. LEE.

MR. LEE'S QUESTION WAS THAT SINCE THE PUBLISHED STATISTICS OF DEPOSITS, LOANS AND OTHER DATA RELATING TO THE BANKING SECTOR DID NOT REVEAL THE TRUE PICTURE OF THE FINANCIAL SCENE OF HONG KONG SHORT OF SIMILAR DATA OF DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES, WOULD GOVERNMENT CONSIDER COLLECTING ALSO SUCH STATISTICS PERTAINING TO DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES AND DISSEMINATING THE SAME FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION SO AS TO BRIDGE A MISSING LINK IN FINANCIAL INDICATORS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID: +IN FACT, I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED TO THE DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT THEY WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER SHORTLY A PAPER ON JUST WHAT STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THEIR BUSINESS MIGHT BE, WITH ADVANTAGE, COLLECTED.

+THE FORM IN WHICH THESE STATISTICS MIGHT BE PUBLISHED WILL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE PAPER ON WHAT SHOULD BE COLLECTED IS DISCUSSED.+

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MANNING REPORT ROOMS POLICE WORK

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MANNING THE REPORT ROOM IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF BASIC POLICE WORK BEST UNDERTAKEN BY A POLICE OFFICER, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER TRANSFERRING THE WORK DONE BY POLICEMEN IN REPORTING ROOMS TO CIVILIANS SO THAT THEY CAN BE RELEASED FOR PATROLLING AND OTHER MORE ACTIVE DUTIES.

MR. DAVIES SAID THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAD CONCLUDED THAT CURRENT MANNING ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT AFTER A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF WORKLOADS, TYPES OF DUTY, ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER THE WORK TO CIVILIANS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT DUTIES PERFORMED BY REPORT ROOM STAFF REQUIRED POLICE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO ENSURE THAT REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WERE PROPERLY ASSESSED AND CORRECTLY AND EFFECTIVELY PROCESSED.

REPORT ROOM STAFF WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE, MR. DAVIES ADDED, FOR ALL INITIAL PROCESSING OF SUSPECTS, INCLUDING PHYSICAL SEARCHING WHERE NECESSARY, AND FOR THEIR SAFE CUSTODY.

+THESE TASKS COULD NOT BE APPROPRIATELY PERFORMED BY CIVILIAN STAFF,+ HE SAID.

MR. DAVIES SAID THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED AND WELL-EDUCATED POLICE OFFICERS IN ALL PLACES WHERE POLICE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, SUCH AS BEAT PATROLS AND REPORT ROOMS.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE COMMISSIONER DID NOT CONSIDER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO STRENGTHEN THE ONE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER.

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NEW WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSION SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING UP A NEW WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSION SCHEME WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE DRAFTING OF THE BILL WAS WELL ADVANCED.

+ADDITIONAL MATTERS INTRODUCED INTO OUR CONSIDERATIONS BY THE MINISTRY LATE LAST YEAR HAVE HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS,+ MR. SCOTT SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THE BILL WOULD SOON BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

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STREET LIGHTING

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS ENGAGED A LIGHTING EXPERT TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF STREET LIGHTING STANDARDS IN HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE EXPERT WOULD SUBMIT DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TOGETHER WITH PROPOSALS FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

MR. MCDONALD WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM MR. ALEX WU WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT THE INTENSITY OF THE LUMINOSITY AT CERTAIN FERRY CONCOURSES AND TUNNELS AND PUBLIC AREAS IN SOME HOUSING ESTATES WAS LESS THAN OTHERS.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THIS AND HAD ALREADY ENGAGED AN EXPERT TO REVIEW CURRENT STANDARDS WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IMPROVEMENTS.

HE SAID THE ADEQUACY OF STREET LIGHTING WAS DETERMINED BY ITS ABILITY TO SAVE AFTER-DARK ROAD ACCIDENTS, PREVENT CRIME AND PROVIDE FOR PEDESTRIAN AND AMENITY NEEDS.

+AREAS WITH PARTICULARLY HEAVY TRAFFIC FLOWS OR WITH A HIGH INCIDENCE OF CRIME REQUIRE BETTER STANDARDS OF LIGHTING AND SUCH AREAS ARE GIVEN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY THE HON. ALEX WU, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. DENIS BRAY SAID THE ANNUAL STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME WAS DRAWN UP AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH KAIFONG AND LOCAL CIVIC LEADERS IN THE DISTRICTS.

+THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS AND OFFICERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHO WILL INCLUDE IN THEIR SUBMISSIONS SUGGESTIONS BY LOCAL PEOPLE TO PROVIDE NEW OR IMPROVED STREET LIGHTING AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

THESE SUBMISSIONS ARE THEN EXAMINED BY A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WHO WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THIS COMMITTEE IS WELL AWARE OF THE EFFECT WHICH GOOD STREET LIGHTING HAS IN HELPING TO REDUCE INCIDENTS OF MUGGING AND ROBBERY AND PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO CRIME BLACK SPOTS AND AREAS OF HEAVY PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WHEN DRAWING UP THE PROGRAMME,+ MR. BRAY ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977.

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PRESENT SYSTEM OF FACTORY INSPECTION EFFECTIVE
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THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF FACTORY INSPECTION EFFECTIVE.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE WAS ALWAYS SEEKING MEANS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF INSPECTION THROUGH RE-TRAINING OF INSPECTORS AND A CAREFUL WATCHING OF THEIR WORKLOAD.

MR. PRICE WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING WHO HAD ASKED THE INTERVALS AT WHICH FACTORIES ARE INSPECTED AND WHETHER THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FACTORY INSPECTORS AVAILABLE TO ENSURE THAT INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID: +UNDER A NEW SYSTEM OF INSPECTION RECOMMENDED BY THE ORGANISATION AND METHODS UNIT OF THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, FACTORIES ARE INSPECTED BETWEEN ONCE AND FOUR TIMES A YEAR. ON AVERAGE EACH FACTORY IS VISITED TWICE A YEAR.+

HE RECALLED THAT IN A RECENT REPORT THE LABOUR ADVISER (FACTORIES), WHO WAS SECONDED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM FACTORY INSPECTORATE, CONSIDERED THAT THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE GRADE, WHEN UP TO ITS FULL ESTABLISHMENT OF 119, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A SOUND INSPECTION SERVICE.

+AT PRESENT THE GRADE IS 18 UNDER STRENGTH BUT A RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IS ALREADY UNDERWAY,+ MR. PRICE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE HAD TAKEN STEPS TO IMPLEMENT A RECOMMENDATION BY THE LABOUR ADVISER THAT NEW RECRUITS TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST THREE YEARS' INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE.

BUT HE ADDED THAT EFFECTIVENESS OF AN INSPECTION ALSO DEPENDED ON THE RECEPTIVENESS OF MANAGEMENT TO ADVICE GIVEN.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977

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INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE AGAINST
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY PREMATURE

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THE GOVERNMENT STILL THINKS IT IS PREMATURE TO INTRODUCE
COMPULSORY INSURANCE AGAINST EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON.
IAN PRICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION
FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

MR. PRICE RECALLED THAT IN OCTOBER 1969 WHEN THE WORKMEN'S
COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1969 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL
IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THERE WAS NO NECESSITY TO IMPOSE COMPULSORY
INSURANCE GENERALLY OR FOR ANY PARTICULAR EMPLOYMENT AT THAT TIME.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, PART IV OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH HAS NOT
BEEN BROUGHT INTO FORCE, WAS INCLUDED TO ENABLE COMPULSORY INSURANCE
TO BE INTRODUCED IN RESPECT OF PARTICULAR EMPLOYMENTS TO BE
PRESCRIBED UNDER SECTION 38, AS AND WHEN THIS BECAME NECESSARY.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID : +IN SEPTEMBER 1974 THE GOVERNOR IN
COUNCIL, AFTER CONSIDERING CERTAIN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS PREMATURE
TO INTRODUCE COMPULSORY INSURANCE.+

MR. PRICE SAID HE KEPT THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW AND HE REMAINED
OF THE OPINION THAT THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO NECESSITY TO IMPOSE
COMPULSORY INSURANCE EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENTS.

+FOR INSTANCE, IF THE PROPOSED SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS
SCHEME IS ADOPTED IN THE FORM NOW BEING PURSUED, PART IV OF THE
ORDINANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE IN RESPECT OF THE
RELEVANT EMPLOYMENTS IN DUSTY TRADES,+ HE ADDED.

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ADEQUATE HEALTH STAFF AT AIRPORT
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SOME HEALTH STAFF, WHO PREVIOUSLY CHECKED DOCUMENTS AT THE RECEPTION DESK AT THE AIRPORT, HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN AS THE NUMBER OF HEALTH DOCUMENTS REQUIRING TO BE CHECKED IS MINIMAL, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE POINTED OUT THAT NOT ALL PORT HEALTH STAFF WERE WITHDRAWN.

DR. THONG EMPHASISED THAT AN ADEQUATE STAFF OF DOCTORS, NURSES AND HEALTH INSPECTORS HAD BEEN RETAINED AT THE AIRPORT TO CARRY OUT HONG KONG'S HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO DEAL WITH SICK EMERGENCIES ARRIVING ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT THE AIRPORT ON A 24-HOUR BASIS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE ONLY FOUR DISEASES SUBJECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS, NAMELY SMALLPOX, PLAGUE, CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER.

ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, HE WENT ON, HONG KONG NOW REQUIRED VALID CERTIFICATES OF INOCULATION AGAINST SMALLPOX ONLY FROM TRAVELLERS WHO HAD BEEN IN AN AFFECTED AREA WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 14 DAYS AND SOMALIA WAS THE ONLY REMAINING INFECTED AREA IN THE WORLD TODAY.

DR. THONG ADDED THAT NO INOCULATION CERTIFICATES WERE REQUIRED FOR PLAGUE, CHOLERA OR YELLOW FEVER.

+THE NUMBER OF HEALTH DOCUMENTS THEREFORE NOW REQUIRING TO BE CHECKED IS MINIMAL, MAINLY BEING THE COMPLETED DECLARATION OF HEALTH SUPPLIED BY EVERY AIRCRAFT ON LANDING,+ HE SAID.

+IMMIGRATION OFFICERS CHECKING PASSPORTS WILL ALERT PORT HEALTH OFFICERS AT THE AIRPORT IN REGARD TO TRAVELLERS FROM SMALLPOX INFECTED AREAS AND IT HAS BEEN THEREFORE POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW SOME HEALTH STAFF WHO PREVIOUSLY CHECKED DOCUMENTS AT RECEPTION DESK,+ HE ADDED.

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BILLS PASSED
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FOUR BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE GAMBLING BILL 1977.

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AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES FOR TRAINS

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A NUMBER OF TRAINS TRAVELLING BETWEEN KOWLOON AND LO WU WILL HAVE AN AIR-CONDITIONED FIRST CLASS COACH FROM MONDAY (FEBRUARY 7).

AND PASSENGERS WISHING TO TRAVEL IN EXTRA COMFORT WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$1 ABOVE THE NORMAL FIRST CLASS FARE -- IRRESPECTIVE OF THE DISTANCE OF THE JOURNEY.

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY, MR. REGINALD GREGORY, SAID THE AIR-CONDITIONED CARRIAGES WOULD BE ATTACHED TO EIGHT TRAINS -- FOUR FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU AND FOUR FROM LO WU TO KOWLOON -- ON WEEKDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

THE CARRIAGES WOULD ALSO BE HEATED IN COOL WEATHER, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A SUPPLEMENTARY TICKET WOULD BE REQUIRED AND THIS COULD BE OBTAINED AT KCR'S BOOKING OFFICES.

ALTERNATIVELY, HE CONTINUED, PASSENGERS WOULD BE ABLE TO PAY SUPPLEMENTARY FARES ON ENTERING THE COACHES.

HOWEVER, THE SUPPLEMENTARY TICKET MUST BE SHOWN ON ENTERING THE CARRIAGE AND SURRENDERED ON LEAVING IT.

ALSO, HE CONTINUED, PASSENGERS TRAVELLING IN THESE COACHES MUST PRODUCE THE SUPPLEMENTARY AND THE NORMAL FARE TICKETS WHEN DEMANDED BY CARRIAGE ATTENDANTS DURING INSPECTIONS.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TIMETABLE FOR THE AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICE :

<u>WEEKDAYS :</u>	<u>FROM KOWLOON</u>	<u>FROM LO WU</u>
	TRAIN NO. 6 (7.27 A.M.)	TRAIN NO. 13 (8.57 A.M.)
	18 (11.10 A.M.)	23 (12.38 P.M.)
	26 (3.05 P.M.)	31 (4.33 P.M.)
	36 (6.43 P.M.)	41 (9.12 P.M.)

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS :

TRAIN NO. 2 (6.30 A.M.)	TRAIN NO. 5 (7.53 A.M.)
12 (10.23 A.M.)	17 (12 NOON)
24 (2.45 P.M.)	29 (4.28 P.M.)
36 (7.24 P.M.)	39 (8.47 P.M.)

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1977

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FIRE FIGHTING EXERCISE IN LYEMUN

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FULL-SCALE FIRE FIGHTING EXERCISE IN THE SQUATTER AREA ALONG THE SEA-FRONT OF SHUNG SHUN STREET IN SAM KAR CHUEN, LYEMUN, ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 4).

THERE ARE ABOUT 240 WOODEN HUTS, MOST OF WHICH ARE POSITIONED ABOVE THE WATER AND ARE SUPPORTED BY FIR POLES OR HARDWOOD PILES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THESE STRUCTURES WERE SERIOUS FIRE RISKS.

THE MOCK FIRE-FIGHTING OPERATION, CODE NAMED +EXERCISE LYEMUN+, IS AIMED AT EDUCATING THE RESIDENTS ON THE DANGER OF FIRE OUTBREAKS DURING THE DRY WINTER MONTHS AS WELL AS ENABLING FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL TO BE FAMILIAR WITH FIGHTING FIRES ON SQUATTER HUTS PARTLY BUILT OVER WATER.

NINE APPLIANCES, INCLUDING TWO AMBULANCES AND A MOBILE COMMAND UNIT, FROM YAU TONG, KWUN TONG AND TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATIONS WILL TAKE PART IN THE EXERCISE. IN ADDITION, A FIREBOAT WILL ALSO BE PRESENT IN THE EXERCISE.

FIRE PREVENTION PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE PRESS, TELEVISION AND RADIO REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE EXERCISE WHICH WILL START AT 10.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY. THE SITE IS SITUATED NEXT TO THE YAU MA TEI FERRY PIER AT SAM KAR CHUEN.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 4) TO ALLOW THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE THOSE IN TAI WO HAU ROAD AND BLOCK NOS. 27 TO 42 OF KWAI CHUNG ESTATE.

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