



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HEARTENING VIEWS ON WHITE PAPER - SIR PHILIP
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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF CHIEF SECRETARY SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE'S WINDING-UP SPEECH IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG:

+SIR, I AM HEARTENED BY MOST OF THE VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DURING THIS DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

+AND I AM PLEASED THAT ALL WITH ONE EXCEPTION, AND I RESPECT OF COURSE MRS CHOW'S STANDPOINT, ALL HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY INTEND TO SUPPORT THE MOTION.

+AS I SAID IN MY OPENING SPEECH THE PLANS IN THE WHITE PAPER HAVE BEEN BASED ON FOUR PRINCIPLES; AND THOSE FOUR PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND REEMPHASISED BY MANY OF THE SPEAKERS IN THIS DEBATE, INCLUDING FOR EXAMPLE, DR HARRY FANG, MR PETER WONG, DR HO KAM-FAI, AND MANY OTHERS.

+AND INDEED, AS THE AG HAS JUST SAID, MOST MEMBERS GENERALLY ENDORSED THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH ADOPTED IN THE WHITE PAPER, ALTHOUGH I FEAR THAT MRS CHOW ARGUED THAT THE STEPS SHOULD BE BUILT BEFORE THEY HAD BEEN TRODDEN UPON.

+MISS DUNN HAS ALSO STRESSED, AND VERY RIGHTLY, THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE FOUR DETERMINANTS, WHICH SHE PERCEIVES TO BE THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL DETERMINANTS, OF HONG KONG'S SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS ARE NEITHER FORGOTTEN NOR UNDERMINED IN THE COURSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

+MR STEPHEN CHEONG PUT IN A FURTHER PLEA FOR A CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON PRAGMATISM.

+MR BILL BROWN AND MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS, HAVE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH CANDIDATES AND VOTERS DEVELOPING A PROPER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

+THESE ARE ALL SENTIMENTS WITH WHICH I AM SURE WE CAN ALL AGREE.

+ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN BY MR P.K. YEUNG, MR PETER C. WONG, DR HO KAM-FAI, MR ALLEN LEE, MR FRANCIS TIEN AND SEVERAL OTHERS TO THE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN FRAMING OUR PLANS FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG WILL ULTIMATELY BECOME UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHINA.

+THESE ARE VALID POINTS, AND THE PLANS IN THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN FRAMED ACCORDINGLY. AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST ENSURE THAT AS A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AT THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE LEVELS IS DEVELOPED, WE MUST ENSURE THAT IT IS SUITED TO HONG KONG'S PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO TRY TO THINK TOO FAR AHEAD, AND PERHAPS THEREBY BE UNDULY INFLUENCED BY THOUGHTS OF WHAT THE POSITION MIGHT BE AFTER 1997.

/+WE MUST

+WE MUST ALSO STAY TUNED IN, AS IT WERE, TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AS MR BILL BROWN HAS SAID, AND NOT BE CAUGHT WITHOUT A PAIR OF MR TIEN'S TROUSERS ON, SECURELY FASTENED.

+I ALSO WISH TO ENDORSE MR BILL BROWN'S COMMENTS ON MR EDWARD HEATH'S REMARKS ABOUT THE WHITE PAPER AND THE ATTITUDE OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG. THE TONE OF THE WHITE PAPER DOES NOT IMPLY THAT WE ARE DOING THIS GRUDGINGLY, AND THE SPEECHES MADE BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THIS DEBATE GIVE THE LIE TO ANY ACCUSATION THAT THEY DO NOT SUPPORT WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AT LEAST THE OBJECTIVES, OF THE WHITE PAPER.

+TO BE CAUTIOUS AND CAREFUL IN OUR APPROACH, TO ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES, IS SENSIBLE AND WISE. IT IS NOT GRUDGING.

+WE ARE, AFTER ALL, MAKING HISTORY, CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, AND WE HAVE, TO BE, THEREFORE, DELIBERATE IN OUR APPROACH. AND AS MR F.K. HU HAS POINTED OUT, AND AS MISS TAM AGREED, THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY UMELCO DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, SIR, DURING THE NEXT 12 YEARS, WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

+SOME MEMBERS, IN PARTICULAR MRS SELINA CHOW AND MR ALLEN LEE, AND MISS TAM AND MR CHAN YING-LUN TO SOME EXTENT, HAVE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE WHITE PAPER DOES NOT TAKE A SUFFICIENTLY STRATEGIC VIEW, THAT IS TO SAY THEY ARE NONE TOO HAPPY THAT THE WHITE PAPER DOES NOT CONTAIN OVERALL PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG UP TO 1997, AND THAT IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN THE PROCESS OF ASSEMBLING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE FUTURE, THE POSSIBILITY OF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM SEEN AS ONE WAY OF BRIDGE-BUILDING BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE, THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND THE FUTURE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR.

+OTHER MEMBERS UNDERSTOOD, PARTICULARLY MRS RITA FAN IN HER THOUGHTFUL SPEECH, AND AS I EXPLAINED IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY, ALL THESE INTER-CONNECTED QUESTIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED, WILL BE CONSIDERED, IN THE REVIEW IN 1987. I AM SURE MR CHAN YING-LUN WOULD AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR ME TO ATTEMPT TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THAT REVIEW AT THIS TIME, AND AS DR HO KAM-FAI STRESSED, WE DO NEED A PHASED PROGRAMME WITH A FLEXIBLE TIME FRAME.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE WHITE PAPER WE HAVE BEEN DEBATING IS TO SET OUT THE PLANS FOR THE FIRST STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. I WOULD NOT GO QUITE AS FAR AS DR KIM CHAM AS TO DESCRIBE THIS FIRST STAGE AS MERELY AN EXPERIMENTAL STAGE. IT IS MORE THAN THAT.

+HOW MANY MORE STAGES THERE WILL BE, AND WITHIN WHAT TIME FRAME, WE SHOULD NOT SEEK TO ANTICIPATE BEFORE THE 1987 REVIEW.

/+MR P.K. YEUNG

+MR P.K. YEUNG WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT PERSONALLY I CAN FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF SEVERAL MORE GREEN PAPERS AND WHITE PAPERS HAVING TO BE WRITTEN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, BY SOMEONE. BUT AT EACH STAGE, WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO TRY TO DO TOO MUCH AT ONCE.

+AS MR FRANCIS TIEN SO APTLY POINTED OUT, A DIET WHICH IS TOO RICH CAUSES INDIGESTION, OBESITY AND HEART ATTACKS.

+MR ALLEN LEE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE SPEEDING UP OF THE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN 1985 SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FOR DEMOCRATISATION FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. HE THEN WENT ON TO PROPOSE A VERY RAPID DEVELOPMENT INDEED IN THE COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1988, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE INTRODUCTION OF 20 DIRECTLY ELECTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE COMPLETE REMOVAL OF ALL THE APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+I FIND MR LEE'S SUSPICIONS AND HIS PROPOSAL DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE. FURTHERMORE, I CAN ASSURE HIM THAT THE MODIFICATIONS WHICH WERE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS WERE BASED ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, AND ON THE PRACTICAL, ONE MIGHT ALMOST SAY THE ARITHMETIC, REALITIES OF THE SITUATION.

+SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE COMMENTED ON THE PLANS FOR ELECTIONS BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

+ALTHOUGH JUDGING FROM VARIOUS COMMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE BY MR P.K. YEUNG, I DETECTED A GENERAL CONSENSUS, WITH MAY BE ONE OR TWO DISSENTING VOICES SUCH AS MR CARL TONG, I DETECTED A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THE PROPOSED MIX OF ELECTED, APPOINTED AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS -- 24:22:10 -- WAS ABOUT RIGHT FOR THE TIME BEING. AND THE VALUE OF RETAINING THE EXPERIENCE OF APPOINTED MEMBERS WAS RECOGNISED, I WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR, WAS RECOGNISED BY FOR EXAMPLE MR CHAN YING-LUN AND MR KEITH LAM.

+THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ALREADY DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF THE MORE LEGALISTIC POINTS RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND SO I WILL CONFINE MY COMMENTS TO THOSE OF A MORE GENERAL NATURE.

+MR F.K. HU THOUGHT THAT THE NUMBERS OF MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER -- NAMELY SIX OF EACH -- WAS SUFFICIENT.

+ON THE OTHER HAND MR WONG LAM THOUGHT THAT THE INCREASED NUMBER OF 12 MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS TOO SMALL.

+MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SUGGESTED THAT AN ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SHOULD BE CREATED FOR THE PROFESSION OF ACCOUNTANCY, AND AN ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENCY SHOULD BE CREATED IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR THE HEUNG YEE KUK. MR PETER POON, AND DR KAM CHAM SUPPORTED THE CLAIMS OF THE ACCOUNTANTS, AND SO DID MR CARL TONG, FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SEAT FOR THEM.

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+MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ALSO ENQUIRED WHY THE KOWLOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED AS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL CONSTITUENCY, AND HE MENTIONED THE TOURIST TRADE AND NURSES AS OTHER POSSIBLE CONTENDERS FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SEATS.

+DR HO KAM-FAI SAID THAT HE IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ANYWAY, AND SUGGESTED THEY SHOULD BE PHASED OUT BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN PHASED IN.

+MR S.L. CHEN ALSO REMINDED US, AND QUITE RIGHTLY, THAT THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY IS TO ENABLE THE VARIOUS GROUPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY, RATHER THAN TO PROTECT THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN DOING SO.

+AS REGARDS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE FOR THE POPULACE MEMBERS, DR HO KAM-FAI, MR WONG LAM QUERIED THE GROUPINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE SOUTH AND EAST NEW TERRITORIES CONSTITUENCIES, AND MRS PAULINE NG AND MR PETER POON AND DR HO KAM-FAI ALL SUGGESTED THAT IN THE FUTURE EACH DISTRICT BOARD ELECT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+AND MR KEITH LAM AND MR CARL TONG HAD CERTAIN ARITHMETIC IDEAS OF THEIR OWN AS WELL.

+DR KIM CHAM AND MR CHAN KAM-CHUEN, I SHOULD JUST NOTE IN PASSING, SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS AND COMPULSORY VOTING.

+ALL THESE MANY AND VARIED COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS EITHER HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. AND DR HENRIETTA IP'S COMPREHENSIVE BLUE-PRINT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF 1988 AND BEYOND WILL BE STUDIED WITH LOVING CARE.

+HOWEVER, AS MR F.K. HU SAID WITH REGARD TO THE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY EVERY GROUP, AND AS I SAID IN MY OPENING SPEECH, THERE HAS TO BE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WHICH CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BE INITIALLY ASSEMBLED.

+THE REVIEW IN 1987 WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND IF SO, WHICH GROUPS THEY SHOULD REPRESENT. I AM SURE THAT THE ACCOUNTANTS WILL HAVE A STRONG CLAIM FOR INCLUSION AND THAT WE SHALL BE REMINDED OF THAT CLAIM. IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE NO DOUBTS, SIR, WITH RESPECT, THAT THE PROFESSION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABLY REPRESENTED ON THIS COUNCIL BY MEMBERS APPOINTED BY YOU SIR.

/+AS REGARDS

+AS REGARDS THE POSITION OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT BY NOT PROVIDING A SEPARATE CONSTITUENCY FOR THE KUK THERE IS NO INTENTION IN ANY WAY TO DIMINISH ITS ROLE, NOR TO IGNORE THE VALUABLE PART THAT IT HAS PLAYED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE YEARS. ON THE CONTRARY, SPECIAL CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT WEIGHT AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE KUK SO THAT THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IT HAS MADE TO PUBLIC LIFE IS FULLY RECOGNISED. THE KUK WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH MEMBERSHIP WILL TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS FROM THAT BODY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THUS THE KUK WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THROUGH THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY.

+AS FOR THE GROUPINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES, THESE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED AT THE PRESENT TIME. BUT I HAVE NOTED MRS PAULINE NG'S AND MR PETER POON'S VIEWS AS TO NUMBERS LATER ON. FINALLY WE SHALL GIVE CONSIDERATION IN THE LONGER TERM TO THE SUGGESTION PUT FORWARD CONCERNING AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION AND COMPULSORY VOTING. HOWEVER, I SHOULD JUST MENTION NOW THAT THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE IDEAS ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY CONSIDERABLE.

+IN MY SPEECH MOVING THIS MOTION, I MENTIONED THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SCHOOLS. MANY MEMBERS INCLUDING MR ALEX WU, MRS RITA FAN, MR P.K. YEUNG, AND OTHERS, HAVE ALSO REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN THEIR SPEECHES. I NOTED MR ALEX WU, MR P.K. YEUNG AND MR KEITH LAM BY IMPLICATION, AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS, WHILE FULLY ENDORSING THESE EFFORTS, HAVE STRESSED THAT CIVIC EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO BE PROMOTED AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ALL LEVELS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ADULT EDUCATION. THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WHICH, IN ITS FIRST REPORT PUBLISHED ONLY YESTERDAY, HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO PURSUE THE MATTER IN THE SECOND PHASE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS. THE COMMISSION IS NOW CONSULTING THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE, HAVING ALREADY RECEIVED THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION PLAN FOR SCHOOLS. THIS PLAN IS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND THOSE RUN BY SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY BODIES.

/+AS REGARDS

+AS REGARDS CIVIL EDUCATION AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE NEED FOR INTENSIVE CAMPAIGNS TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, HAS ALREADY ARRANGED A FULL PROGRAMME DURING THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS. DISTRICT OFFICERS WILL BE PROVIDING PUBLICITY MATERIAL AND ORGANISING FORUMS FOR CANDIDATES TO MEET MEMBERS OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES. AT THE SAME TIME STAFF OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES WILL GIVE DETAILS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES, AND URGE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO VOTE. THEREAFTER FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO PUBLICISE FULLY THE PROCEDURES FOR THE INDIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER.

+IN CONCLUSION SIR, MAY I REITERATE THAT WE SHALL REFLECT UPON THE MANY USEFUL POINTS MEMBERS HAVE MADE IN THIS DEBATE, ON THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER. AND WE SHALL BEAR THEM IN MIND IN PREPARING LATER ON FOR THE 1987 REVIEW. AND I CAN ASSURE MRS CHOW THAT THE REVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON A STRUCTURED BASIS. TO THE EXTENT THAT SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN THIS DEBATE ARE OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN, WE SHALL TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WHEN PREPARING FOR THE ELECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

+THERE WILL OF COURSE BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITY, AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS SAID, FOR DEBATE ON THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THOSE ELECTIONS WHEN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL IS INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL.+

SIR, I BEG TO MOVE.

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GRADUAL APPROACH FAVOURED, AG SAYS
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THE APPROACH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES HAD BEEN GENERALLY WELCOMED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE WHITE PAPER DEBATE, MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAD REITERATED THE NEED FOR A GRADUAL, STEP BY STEP ADVANCE ALONG THE ROAD TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+OUR PLAN FOR 1985 TO 1988 IS NOW ESTABLISHED AND RELATED LEGISLATION WILL SOON BE BROUGHT FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION BY THIS COUNCIL.

/+BUT AT

+BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE COMMITTED TO TAKE STOCK OF OUR PROGRESS IN 1987 - TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT THE FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, TO OBTAIN THE REACTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO THE INDIRECT ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND TO SEE WHETHER THE NEW-STYLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS LIVED UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS OF IT,+ HE SAID.

HE STATED IT WOULD BE NEITHER WISE NOR REALISTIC NOW TO PLAN BEYOND 1988.

+THE DESIRE BY MR ALLEN LEE AND MRS SELINA CHOW FOR A CLEAR VISION OF THE SHAPE OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE THROUGH TO 1997 AND BEYOND IS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT THEIR CALL FOR AN OVERALL PLAN IS PREMATURE.

+IT IS TOO SOON TO DECIDE WHAT WOULD SUIT THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG IN THE 1990'S OR TO CHART THE COURSE THAT WILL TAKE US THERE,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THERE WAS NO GENERAL AGREEMENT UPON THE RIGHT FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR HONG KONG.

+I AM SURE CLEARER IDEAS WILL HAVE EMERGED IN THREE YEARS' TIME. WE SHOULD THEN PROCEED WITH CAUTION AND MANY MEMBERS HAVE TENDERED TO GOVERNMENT JUST THIS ADVICE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR PETER WONG, HE SAID, HAD MENTIONED THAT SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO RUSH THROUGH AN IMPORTANT PACKAGE HURRIEDLY PUT TOGETHER.

IN REPLY, MR THOMAS SAID, +IT IS TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH A VERY TIGHT TIME-TABLE AND THAT THE DRAFTING OF THE LEGISLATION IS A COMPLEX TASK.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT, WITH THE HELP OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, A SOLID, WORKABLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION WILL BE PRODUCED AND SERVE THE PURPOSE OF THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+THE LEGISLATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN 1987 AND THIS COUNCIL WILL THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SOLVE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE KIND THAT ARE INEVITABLY THROWN UP BY ANY PIECE OF COMPLICATED LEGISLATION IN A NOVEL FIELD.+

REFERRING TO DR HO KAM FAI'S EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN SHOULD BE REPLACED BY AN OATH TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT IN TERMS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, HONG KONG IS TO REMAIN UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION UNTIL 1997.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE TO ABOLISH THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS OWING ANY SPECIAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE CROWN FROM BECOMING MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, AND IS CONSIDERING AN OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVE FORM OF OATH FOR MEMBERS TAKING THEIR SEATS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID THAT DR HO HAD ALSO FELT THAT MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) SHOULD NOT BE BARRED FROM BEING MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON THIS POINT, MR THOMAS SAID THAT A CPPCC MEMBER HERE HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED A CANDIDATURE FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT HIS NOMINATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER AND THE GOVERNMENT SEES NO BAR TO THAT CANDIDATURE,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE BILL TO IMPLEMENT THE WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS WOULD BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NEXT MONTH (FEBRUARY).

HE DESCRIBED THIS BILL AS +THE FIRST MILESTONE FOR HONG KONG+ IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+WHEN ENACTED, IT WILL OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAW AND POLICY IN THIS TERRITORY AND TO CALL TO ACCOUNT THOSE WHO PRESENTLY ADMINISTER IT.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES AND WILL ENTHUSIASTICALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW ELECTORAL PROCESSES,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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DOUBTS ABOUT DIRECTLY-ELECTED LEGCO

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SERIOUS DOUBTS ON WHETHER THE FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY COULD BE MAINTAINED SIMPLY BY HAVING A TOTALLY DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE HERE BEFORE 1997 WERE EXPRESSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG.

SPEAKING DURING THE FINAL DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR CHEONG SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN +A CONCERTED EFFORT BY A RELATIVE FEW TO PUSH AND HARD SELL+ TO THE PUBLIC THE IDEA THAT TOTAL DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG WAS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE LEADING UP TO 1997.

/+THE ADMINISTRATION

+THE ADMINISTRATION MUST NOT BE MISLED BY SUCH WELL-ORGANISED TACTICS AND MISREAD THE REAL IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS TO OUR FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

+QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE HAVE TOLD ME THAT THEY DO NOT REALLY MIND WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE WE HAVE IN FUTURE, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THE CHANCE OF MAKING A REASONABLE LIVING TOGETHER WITH REASONABLE RETENTION OF THEIR PRESENT FREEDOMS.

+IF TOTAL DEMOCRACY CAN REALLY BRING THEM THAT, SO BE IT, BUT WILL IT?+ MR CHEONG ASKED.

+WILL TOTAL DEMOCRACY BE SUITABLE IN HONG KONG?

+SHOULD WE REALLY TRANSPLANT LOCK STOCK AND BARREL TO HONG KONG WHAT SEEMS TO WORK WELL IN THE WEST WITHOUT DUE CONSIDERATION OF OUR OWN UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES?

+SHOULD TOTAL DEMOCRACY BE SOLD TO HONG KONG AS AN END IN ITSELF WITHOUT DUE REGARD FOR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY?

+THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, ACCORDING TO MY OBSERVATIONS, IS A RESOUNDING 'NO',+ SAID MR CHEONG.

WE MUST THEREFORE APPROACH THIS ISSUE IN FUTURE WITH DUE CAUTION, HE SAID.

THERE MAY BE A CASE FOR AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTION TO OUR LEGISLATURE TO BE INTRODUCED IN FUTURE YEARS, BUT THE CASE FOR TOTAL WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG WAS CERTAINLY FAR FROM PROVEN, LET ALONE WIDELY ACCEPTED.

MR CHEONG SAID SHORTLY AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND IN THE MIDST OF THE RETURN OF SOME DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE TO HONG KONG, SOME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS AS WELL AS LOCAL PROFESSIONALS HAD SAID TO HIM THEY WERE NOT AFRAID THAT CHINA WOULD NOT HONOUR THE AGREEMENT- THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EROSION OF THE BRITISH RESOLVE IN GOVERNING HONG KONG EFFECTIVELY FOR THE NEXT 12 YEARS- THEY WERE NOT EVEN WORRIED THAT THE EXTERNAL LINKS OF HONG KONG AFTER 1997 WOULD DEVELOP INTO ANY UNSOLVABLE PROBLEMS.

WHAT THEY WERE MOST AFRAID OF WAS THE FACT THAT THE CRY OF TOTAL DEMOCRACY WOULD BE BLINDLY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THEREBY SERIOUSLY AFFECTING HONG KONG'S OWN CHANCES OF SURVIVAL AND PROGRESS, MR CHEONG SAID.

SUCH WERE THE PREVAILING SENTIMENTS AMONG PEOPLE WHO CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY, AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY FOOLHARDY TO BRUSH THOSE SENTIMENTS ASIDE.

THE SUCCESS STORY OF HONG KONG TO-DATE WAS THE RESULT OF A COMBINATION OF MANY FACTORS, YET IT MUST BE RIGHT TO SAY THAT ONE OF THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS LAY IN THE PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE THAT HK PEOPLE HAD ADOPTED THROUGHOUT THEIR STRUGGLE FOR PROGRESS.

IDEALISM NEVER SEEMED TO BE PART OF SOCIETY AND IDEALISM WOULD BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO BECOME THE CORNER STONE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

INDEED, THE ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL AND FUTURE PROGRESS LAY TOTALLY IN CONTINUING TO ADOPT REALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC ATTITUDES IN THE QUEST FOR SOLUTIONS TO FUTURE PROBLEMS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION.

WITH REGARD TO THE PACE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, MR CHEONG SAID THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER WERE JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO PUSH AND SHOVE FOR DRASTIC CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WITHOUT AT LEAST REACHING SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHINA.

+THUS, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER IN 1987, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT RAPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING IS DEVELOPED WITH CHINA.

+OTHERWISE, WHATEVER CHANGES ARE SO UNDERTAKEN MAY WELL PROVE TO BE INEFFECTIVE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING LONG TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN HONG KONG,+ MR CHEONG SAID.

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LEGO SEAT URGED FOR HEUNG YEE KUK
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A STRONG CALL FOR THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS MADE BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER, HE EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT THE HEUNG YEE KUK HAD NOT BEEN NOMINATED FOR A SEAT ON THE NEW COUNCIL.

+AS AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS FORMALLY EXISTED FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS, IT IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN A POPULATION THAT IS SPREAD OVER 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY AND HAS LONG REPRESENTED THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF THAT AREA,+ HE SAID.

+THE POPULATION IT SERVES TODAY IS SOME HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE WHITE PAPER, SHOULD FORM A SINGLE DISTRICT, NOMINATING THEM FOR A SEAT ON THE NEW COUNCIL.

/+SINCE, HOWEVER,

+SINCE, HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY THE HEUNG YEE KUK ARE SCATTERED OVER A VERY WIDE AREA, THEY CANNOT FORM A SEPARATE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICT. MAY I, THEREFORE, BOLDLY PROPOSE THAT, IN ALL FAIRNESS, THE HEUNG YEE KUK BE GIVEN A SEAT AS A SEPARATE CONSTITUENCY IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE SO THAT IT CAN PROPERLY REPRESENT THE RURAL POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES?+

HE SAID THAT A FEW SEATS ON THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL COUNCIL WERE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HEUNG YEE KUK'S FORMER ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN ADMINISTRATION ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

+OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, I HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THE RISE OF THESE COMPLEX PROBLEMS FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES: THE INROADS ON PRIVATELY-OWNED, FERTILE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESUMED FOR RAILWAYS AND ROADS, FOR RESERVOIRS AND CATCHMENTS, FOR POLICE-STATIONS AND MILITARY CAMPS, FOR CEMETERIES AND A CONTAINER PORT.

+I HAVE SEEN ENTIRE VALLEYS IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN TAKEN OVER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITE TOWNS AND HOUSING ESTATES ON A SCALE UNKNOWN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, EVEN WHERE RURAL LAND IS GOING ABEGGING, AND THE END OF LAND-RESUMPTION IS NOT YET IN SIGHT.

+IT IS THE HEUNG YEE KUK THAT HAS REPRESENTED THE NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGERS, FOUGHT THEIR BATTLES FOR FAIR COMPENSATION AND STRIVEN TO LESSEN THE SHOCK TO FARMERS AND VILLAGERS OF DISPLACEMENT AND DISORIENTATION.

MANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD ON THE LAND AND HAVE BEEN FORCED, WITHOUT PREPARATION, INTO URBAN LIFE.

+MANY OF THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN FORCED TO GO OVERSEAS TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER CATERING SERVICES AND HAVE SUFFERED FROM THE BREAKDOWN OF FAMILY TIES AND FAMILY TRADITIONS.

+IT HAS BEEN AND STILL IS THE HEUNG YEE KUK WHICH BEST UNDERSTANDS THEIR PROBLEMS AND IT ALONE CAN REPRESENT THEIR NEEDS FAIRLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY TO THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION. TO DO THIS PROPERLY IT MUST HAVE A VOICE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ SAID MR CHEUNG.

HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, ACCOUNTANTS, WOULD HAVE NO REPRESENTATIVE.

+THIS, I HOPE, IS ONLY AN OVERSIGHT,+ HE SAID.

/+SINCE HONG

+SINCE HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE YEARS TO COME WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE SUCCESS OF ITS BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS AND ITS PRESENT POSITION AS THE THIRD GREATEST FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD IS DUE TO THE RESPECT AND REPUTATION IT HAS ACQUIRED OVER THE YEARS FOR SOUND AND TRUSTWORTHY ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, ITS SUCCESS OWES MUCH TO THESE PROFESSIONALS.

+THIS SHOULD BE SUITABLY ACKNOWLEDGED AND THE FUTURE GOOD REPUTATION OF THIS TERRITORY BE MAINTAINED BY GIVING THEM AND THEIR EXPERTISE DUE WEIGHT IN THE NEW COUNCIL.+

MR CHEUNG SAID THAT THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE INCLUSION OF OTHER IMPORTANT GROUPS IN HONG KONG WHICH WERE EQUALLY WORTHY OF REPRESENTATION OR HOW PROPOSED GROUPS MIGHT BE MORE EQUITABLY REPRESENTED.

+WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER THAT ALL REGISTERED PROFESSIONALS IN THE NOMINATED PROFESSIONS SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO VOTE?+ HE ASKED.

+ARE THERE, PERHAPS, OTHER IMPORTANT GROUPS IN HONG KONG THAT MAY BE WORTHY OF INCLUSION? SHOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, THE VERY FLOURISHING TOURIST TRADE NOT HAVE A SEPARATE REPRESENTATION?

+WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NURSES HAVE A MORE DEDICATED CONCERN FOR HONG KONG AND ITS FUTURE THAN SOME OF THE OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROUPS WHOSE MEMBERS CAN MORE EASILY SETTLE DOWN ELSEWHERE?

+WOULD THEY NOT EVEN SERVE TO REDRESS SOMEWHAT THE LIKELY MALE PREDOMINANCE OF THIS PROPOSED COUNCIL?

+SUCH QUESTIONS AND MANY OTHERS MUST BE ADDRESSED AND ANSWERED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE SO THAT HONG KONG MAY SECURE THE VERY BEST REPRESENTATIVES TO GUIDE ITS FUTURE DESTINY,+ HE SAID.

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LEGCO MEMBERS REMINDED OF OBLIGATION TO PERFORM

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ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE YEARS TO COME HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE CONTENTS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER, MISS TAM SAID THOSE WHO ASPIRED TO BE OR WHO WERE IN GOVERNMENT MUST BE TOTALLY AWARE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE JOINT DECLARATION WHICH SHE LISTED OUT IN DETAIL:

- * BOTH CHINA AND BRITAIN WISH TO MAINTAIN THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG;

- * THE UK GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG RIGHT UP TO JUNE 30, 1997, AND CHINA WILL GIVE UK HER CO-OPERATION;
- * THE SAR GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO MANAGE ITS OWN AFFAIRS EXCEPT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE; AND
- * ITS TASK IS TO MAINTAIN THE LIFE STYLE, RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS UNDER THE LAW IN HONG KONG, TO KEEP IT AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE UNDER A FREE ECONOMY, TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY ETC, AND ENSURE THAT THIS WILL BE A PLACE WHERE OVER 5.4 MILLION (AND BY 1997, OVER 7 MILLION) PEOPLE CAN BUILD A COMFORTABLE HOME, WHATEVER IS THE COLOUR OR DESCRIPTION OF THEIR PASSPORTS, AND WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THEIR RIGHT OF ABODE IS ONLY IN HONG KONG.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE YEARS TO COME MUST HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT THE FIRST THREE OBJECTIVES THAT I HAVE MENTIONED, AND PLEDGE THEIR EFFORTS IN ACHIEVING THE LIFE STYLE AND SYSTEMS DESCRIBED UNDER THE FOURTH,+ SHE SAID.

+THEY COME INTO POWER UNDER ITEM 1 OF ANNEXE 1 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION= THEY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE REST OF THE CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENT AND MAKE HONG KONG A CONTINUED SUCCESS,+ MISS TAM SAID.

ON THE 1987 REVIEW, SHE SAID IT WOULD BE MADE ON OUR EXPERIENCE DURING THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS OF LIFE OF THE NEW COUNCIL.

+THIS BRIEF MUST COVER THE GOVERNMENT'S, UMELCO'S AND THE COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE OF POLITICAL CHANGES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE NEW COUNCIL,+ SHE ADDED.

ELABORATING, MISS TAM SAID THE 1987 REVIEW MUST INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR EXPERIENCE OF POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, I.E. OUTSIDE THE NEW COUNCIL, BEFORE GOVERNMENT CAN COME TO A DECISION ON HAVING DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWER AND PRIVILEGES) BILL, MISS TAM BELIEVED COUNCILLORS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS FROM ABUSING SUCH PRIVILEGES.

+ALSO, I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT EVENTUALLY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SO AS TO MAKE THEM 'ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE',+ SHE SAID.

FINALLY, MISS TAM SUGGESTED THE UMELCO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS PANEL SHOULD FORMULATE VIEWS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE 1987 REVIEW.

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EXPANDED LEGCO CALLED FOR
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DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP TODAY CALLED FOR AN EXPANDED LEGISLATURE WITH MORE MEMBERS FROM DISTRICT BOARDS AND MORE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER, DR IP SAID THAT HONG KONG SHOULD NOT HAVE A COMPLICATED ELECTION SYSTEM.

SHE SAID: +THE NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD EXPAND TO BETWEEN 60 TO 70 MEMBERS (I BELIEVE THE NEW CHAMBERS AT THE OLD SUPREME COURT SITE CAN SEAT THIS NUMBER).

+THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING REPRESENTATION FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT AS THEY SERVE AS A LINK WITH THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL.

+THEIR NUMBER SHOULD BE DOUBLED TO 24 AND THE DELINEATION OF THE DISTRICTS SHOULD BE SUCH THAT IN EFFECT THERE WOULD BE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH DISTRICT REPRESENTING A POPULATION OF AROUND 250 000.

+THIS IS BECAUSE IN THE LONG RUN, IT IS NOT IDEAL TO EXPECT ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM MORE THAN ONE DISTRICT TO BE ABLE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OTHER DISTRICTS.

+THE ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER WITH THE HIGHEST VOTE FROM HIS DISTRICT BECOMES AUTOMATICALLY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, UNLESS BY DISSENT OR DEFAULT, IN WHICH CASE THE NEXT IN LINE WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE.

+THIS WOULD INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF DIRECT ELECTION WITHIN OUR EXISTING FRAMEWORK AND WOULD OFFSET THE NEED FOR A BY-ELECTION IF A SEAT FALLS VACANT, AND YET ENSURE A LINK WITH ALL DISTRICTS AT ANY TIME.

+A DISTRICT CAN FORESEEABLY HAVE A POPULATION OF HALF A MILLION= IF SO IT SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE TWO REPRESENTATIVES.+

+THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD LIKEWISE HAVE DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE DIRECT METHOD MAKING THOSE WITH THE MOST DIRECT VOTES FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AUTOMATICALLY A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED.+

THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, DR IP ALSO SAID, WERE VERY IMPORTANT AS THEY WOULD ENSURE REPRESENTATION AND INPUT FROM A SPECTRUM OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE ALL VITALLY NECESSARY FOR THE RUNNING OF HONG KONG.

/THE NUMBER

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD ALSO BE DOUBLED, AS NOT ALL PROFESSIONS WERE REPRESENTED IN THE PROPOSED 12 SEATS. DOUBLING THIS NUMBER WOULD ENSURE THAT PROFESSIONS SUCH AS THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS, THE ACCOUNTANTS, THE PARAMEDICALS, THE SOCIAL WORKERS, THE ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS, COULD ALL BE REPRESENTED.

WHILE ALL PROFESSIONS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, THERE MUST BE A GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE LEGAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+SOME INITIAL ADJUSTMENTS OF THE YEAR OF ELECTION MUST BE MADE SO THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ALL FALL IN LINE IN 1988, WHEN THERE WILL BE ONE BIG ELECTION ONLY.

+SINCE THE ELECTED MEMBERS WITH THE MOST VOTES IN THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY MADE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR A SECONDARY INDIRECT ELECTION FROM THESE ELECTORAL COLLEGES,+ SHE SAID.

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REFORM, POWER TRANSFER SEEN AS MAJOR TASKS
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REFORMING THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND TRANSFER OF POWER WERE THE TWO MAJOR TASKS HONG KONG HAD TO COMPLETE BEFORE 1997, THE HON CHAN YING-LUN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR CHAN SAID THAT A STABLE GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE 1997, CONSISTING MAINLY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THAT THERE MUST BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF POWER FROM A BRITISH COLONY TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG.

ALTHOUGH THESE TASKS MUST NOT BE DONE IN HASTE, TIME WAS REALLY VERY PRESSING, HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO GOVERNMENT REFORM, MR CHAN SAID THE WHITE PAPER HAD PROVIDED A FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE FUTURE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL CONSIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, AS WELL AS APPOINTED AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS, AND WILL BE OF AN EVEN MORE REPRESENTATIVE NATURE THAN THE PRESENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO CONCERN THAT SOME SECTORS WERE LEFT OUT IN THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER, MR CHAN SAID THAT THIS WOULD IN NO WAY UNDERMINE THE REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT WE SHOULD ASK THESE REPRESENTATIVES, WHEN DECIDING POLICIES AFFECTING THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG INSTEAD OF JUST THE INTERESTS OF THE VOTERS AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES THEY REPRESENT, AS THIS PHENOMENON WILL LEAD TO SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION AND IMBALANCE.

+THEREFORE I THINK THE SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT THE VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD DISCUSS JOINTLY THE SOCIAL ISSUES FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES AND FROM THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE POSITIONS WHEN DECIDING ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN FUTURE, ESPECIALLY REGARDING DIRECT ELECTION, MR CHAN SAID HIS EXPERIENCE WITH DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS SHOWED THAT ELECTION WAS AN IDEAL POLITICAL SYSTEM.

HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, UNDER THE PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DIRECT ELECTIONS MUST NOT TAKE PLACE IN A HURRY.

ON THE TRANSFER OF POWER, MR CHAN WARNED THAT GOOD TIMING WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

+A TOTAL TRANSFER OF POWER BEFORE THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS WELL DEVELOPED MAY RESULT IN AN UNMANAGEABLE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS THE LOCOMOTIVE WHICH BRINGS ALONG THE TRANSFER OF POWER, SO THAT THE TWO MUST BE LINKED TOGETHER AND ARE INSEPARABLE.

+ACCORDING TO THIS PACE, THE REFORM OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG WILL PROCEED UPWARDS PROGRESSIVELY, STARTING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION UP TO THE REFORM IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE TIME FACTOR, HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD NOW BE PLACED NOT ONLY ON THE REFORM WORKING UPWARDS BUT ALSO IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION AS WELL, THAT IS, TO START WITH THE REFORM OF THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL POLICY-MAKING MACHINERY.

MR CHAN SAID THAT IF THE MINISTERIAL SYSTEM WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED, IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+AS THE MINISTERIAL SYSTEM MAY GIVE RISE TO A CABINET, AND THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CABINET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS IMPORTANT IN THE PROPER RUNNING OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TRANSFER OF POWER AT THE HIGH LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID HE SUPPORTED A GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL THAT FOUR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1988 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY, AND HE REGRETTED THAT IT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE WHITE PAPER.

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NEED TO PRESERVE GOOD SYSTEMS STRESSED

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A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR STRESSED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE MERITS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEMS MUST BE PRESERVED.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, THE HON MRS RITA FAN SAID OUR ACHIEVEMENT TODAY WAS DUE, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, TO THE GOOD SYSTEMS EXISTING.

+IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE MERITS OF THESE SYSTEMS MUST BE PRESERVED,+ SHE SAID.

+IF FOR ANY REASONS, SUCH AS POLITICAL REASONS, THE MERITS OF OUR EXISTING SYSTEMS ARE UNDERMINED, OR THERE IS A LOSS OF BALANCE, THEN AN OUTFLOW OF CAPITAL AND A BRAIN DRAIN MAY OCCUR WHICH WOULD THEN PUT THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AT RISK.

+I AM SURE THIS IS NOT WHAT CHINA AND BRITAIN AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO WITNESS,+ SHE SAID.

MRS FAN EMPHASISED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND SHE BELIEVED IT COULD BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY.

MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG POSSESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF ADAPTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY.

THEY WORKED CONSCIENTIOUSLY, THEY WERE REALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC AND NOT AFRAID OF HARDSHIPS.

+I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG,+ MRS FAN SAID.

/IF THE

IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD IMPLEMENT CIVIC EDUCATION EFFECTIVELY, THE LEVEL OF PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS COULD BE RAISED WITHIN A SHORT TIME.

ON THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, MRS FAN SAID CIRCUMSTANCES HAD ALREADY IMPOSED A TIME LIMIT, SO WE HAD TO COMPLETE OUR TASK BEFORE THE TIME LIMIT AND WE HAD TO SUCCEED BECAUSE WE SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD THE PRICE OF FAILURE.

SHE ADMITTED THAT THE FIRST STEP SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS A RATHER BIG STEP. YET, GIVEN THE TIME LIMIT, THIS WAS REALLY A FEASIBLE AND PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE IF NOT THE IDEAL AND PERFECT WAY.

+WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED A MORE MATURE POLITICAL SENSE AND THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG CAN BE PERCEIVED EVEN CLEARER,+ SHE SAID.

+SO IT MAY NOT BE A WISE MOVE TO LAY DOWN NOW AN OVERALL PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT,+ SHE SAID.

MRS FAN SAID WE HAD TO LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED BY THE WHITE PAPER ON THE ONE HAND, AND TO GIVE MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEW INFORMATION THAT BECAME AVAILABLE ON THE OTHER.

+TO WAIT TILL 1987 TO MAKE THESE IMPORTANT DECISION IS INDEED A CAUTIOUS AND SAFE APPROACH,+ SHE SAID.

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AVOID UNDUE HASTE, SAYS PAULINE NG
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DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED ONLY WHEN THE POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD REACHED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF MATURITY, THE HON PAULINE NG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, MRS NG SAID: +AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME IN OUR HISTORY, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT THE STABILITY OF OUR SOCIETY AT RISK BY INTRODUCING POLITICAL REFORMS WITH UNDUE HASTE.

+WE HAVE COME TO AN AGE WHEN THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET, TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO UNDERSTAND AND STRIVE FOR THE RIGHTS DUE TO THEM, AND BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY WITH JOINT EFFORTS.

/+IN AN

+IN AN AGE OF RAPID CHANGE, IF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN FACE CHANGE WITH CONFIDENCE AND AN UNDAUNTED SPIRIT, PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AND WORK HARD, HONG KONG WILL SURELY HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE,+ SHE SAID.

MRS NG BELIEVED WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE, HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BECOME A SOURCE OF ADMIRATION TO OTHERS AND +THIS SMALL PIECE OF LAND WE LIVED ON WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.+

COMMENTING ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER, MRS NG SUGGESTED THAT WHEN CARRYING OUT THE 1987 REVIEW, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER ALLOWING EACH OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS TO RETURN A MEMBER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER ALLOWING KWUN TONG, EAST ISLAND, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY AND SHAM SHUI PO TO EACH RETURN TWO MEMBERS, SHE ADDED.

+IN OTHER WORDS, THE DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ELECT 24 MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT CAN HELP TO ELIMINATE THE UNDESIRABLE SITUATION OF UNFAIR ALLOCATION OF SEATS ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION,+ SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, MRS NG SAID IN DUE COURSE HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE GOALS OF THE SYSTEM AND THE WAY IT OPERATED.

+THEY MUST BE CLEAR ABOUT THEIR DUTIES AND THEIR RIGHTS.

+THOSE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE SHOULD REALISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS ELECTED MEMBERS.

+THE ELECTORATE MUST BE AWARE OF HOW TO GET TO KNOW, SELECT AND MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES THEY SUPPORT,+ SHE SAID.

MRS NG COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR BRINGING FORWARD THE DATE OF THE REVIEW TO 1987 AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS TO BE RETURNED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FROM SIX TO 12.

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1987 REVIEW CRUCIAL, SAYS PETER POON

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THE 1987 REVIEW WILL BE CRUCIAL AS THE WHITE PAPER GIVES NO FURTHER IDEA AS TO HOW REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL BE DEVELOPED AFTER 1988, THE HON PETER POON SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE WHITE PAPER MOTION, MR POON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE PROBABLY GOOD REASONS FOR THAT AND EACH STEP SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND TESTED CAREFULLY.

+BUT WE ARE LEFT WITH THREE YEARS TO FEEL OUR WAY INTO UNFATHOMED WATERS FOR HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE, NOT KNOWING WHICH ULTIMATE GOAL SHOULD OR COULD BE ATTAINED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+NEVERTHELESS, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO DEVELOP A 'HONG KONG TYPE OF DEMOCRACY', WHICH MUST WORK TO KEEP HONG KONG NOT ONLY AS A STABLE, VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS CITY BUT ALSO AS A JUST AND FREE SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

ON CIVIC EDUCATION, MR POON SAID THIS DESERVED UTMOST AND URGENT ATTENTION.

+THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST BE EDUCATED QUICKLY ABOUT BASIC GOVERNMENT POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS IN ELECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS THINKING OF COMPILING A ROSTER OF ELECTORS WHICH WOULD ENABLE ALL REGISTERED VOTERS TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS EVEN IF THEY HAD NOT REGISTERED VOLUNTARILY.

HE FELT THAT MUCH MORE SHOULD BE DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF AND SUGGESTED LAUNCHING AN INTENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE ELECTION ASPECT OF CIVIC EDUCATION BY MEANS OF SIMPLE PAMPHLETS, RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMES AND DOCUMENTARIES.

+WHILE I AGREE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN TO BE TELLING THE PEOPLE WHAT TO DO, SUCH A CAMPAIGN CAN BE MADE INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL FOR THE PUBLIC AS OTHER SUCCESSFUL DOCUMENTARIES HAVE BEEN.

+SINCE THE NEXT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE IN MARCH 1985, WE SHOULD ACT SOON,+ HE SAID.

ON THE LIST OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, MR POON SAID IT WAS HIGHLY REGRETTABLE THAT THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION WAS MISSING, AS ACCOUNTANTS MADE A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG AS A LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+I WOULD URGE THAT, IN THE REVIEW IN 1987, IF IT IS DECIDED THAT THERE WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED TO BE A DESIGNATED FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY,+ HE SAID.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS THE 12 MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, MR POON SAID THIS WOULD GO A CONSIDERABLE WAY TO MEETING THOSE WHO WANTED TO SEE MORE ELECTED MEMBERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ON THE ELECTION OF 10 MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS ON BALANCED GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, HE SUGGESTED THAT IN THE 1987 REVIEW CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ONE MEMBER FOR EACH DISTRICT BOARD.

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CHINA-HK TIES MUST BE STRENGTHENED
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THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG TO ENSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED WILL EXTEND BEYOND 1997, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO HELP THE PEOPLE MAINTAIN FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH CHINA SO AS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

+WE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, ALL POLITICAL REFORMS IN HONG KONG MUST BE IN KEEPING WITH THE FUTURE BASIC LAW AND THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION,+ HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE PRESENT WHITE PAPER COULD ONLY BE TAKEN AS THE FIRST WHITE PAPER, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND AFTER THE REVIEW IN 1987 AND THE THIRD AFTER THE SECOND REVIEW.

+IT IS VITAL THAT AT THE PRELIMINARY STAGE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT A CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY PROGRESSING STEP BY STEP.

+BUT AS EXPERIENCE ACCUMULATES AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IS ACQUIRED, A MORE OPEN AND FAR-SIGHTED APPROACH SHOULD BE TAKEN IN DRAFTING THE SECOND OR EVEN THE THIRD WHITE PAPER TO ENSURE AN EARLY REALISATION OF THE ULTIMATE AIMS OF THE GREEN PAPER,+ HE STRESSED.

AS REGARDS ELECTION, HE DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL IN THE WHITE PAPER AS +A SENSIBLE AND PROGRESSIVE WAY OF DOING THINGS+.

HE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES MUST BE CAUTIOUS AND OBJECTIVE. THEY MUST BE PERFECTLY IMPARTIAL AND ENSURE THAT ALL THE REASONABLE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD KEEP A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WITH DUE REGARD TO ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY.

/MR YEUNG

MR YEUNG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, WHERE NECESSARY, ORGANISE SUITABLE ACTIVITIES TO ACQUAINT THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF THE REFORM TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND THEIR OWN RIGHTS AND DUTIES.

TURNING TO CIVIC EDUCATION, HE SAID IT SHOULD NOT JUST BE CONFINED TO REGULAR EDUCATIONAL BODIES AND SCHOOLS.

REGIONAL CIVIC EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR ADULTS THROUGH EFFECTIVE CHANNELS SUCH AS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES, HE SAID.

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TWO-STAGE VOTING PROCEDURE PROPOSED

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A MORE ELABORATE ELECTION PROCESS THAN THE COMMON +FIRST-PAST-THE-POST+ TYPE METHOD SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE ELECTIONS FOR THE 12 SEATS IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, DR THE HON KIM CHAM SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SECOND-DAY DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, DR CHAM URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER A TWO-STAGE VOTING PROCEDURE, WHICH WOULD ENABLE ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO FOCUS ON FEWER CANDIDATES FOR A BETTER DIRECT COMPARISON.

+IN A PRELIMINARY ROUND OF VOTING, CANDIDATES WITH LOWER THAN A PERCENTAGE OF VOTES ARE ELIMINATED, LEAVING CANDIDATES WITH A HIGHER PERCENTAGE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE SECONDARY ROUND OF VOTING.

+IN THE SECONDARY VOTE, ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES CAN FOCUS THEIR ASSESSMENT ON FEWER CAMPAIGNING PERSONALITIES BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN TO ELECT THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ HE EXPLAINED.

DR CHAM ADMITTED THAT THIS PROCESS WAS MORE COSTLY AS THERE WERE TWO ROUNDS OF VOTING INSTEAD OF ONE.

YET, GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTION AND THE IMPORTANCE TO GENERATE APPROPRIATE AND WELL CHOSEN CANDIDATES, THIS IS WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

ON THE COMPOSITION OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, DR CHAM SAID THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

+ACCOUNTANTS SERVE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE OF REPORTING TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS THE FINANCIAL STATUS AND PERFORMANCE OF THEIR COMPANIES, THUS SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF INVESTORS.

/+THIS IS

+THIS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY, BY KEEPING SHAREHOLDERS ABREAST OF COMPANIES THEY HAVE INVESTED IN,+ HE SAID.

+THUS, ACCOUNTANTS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF HONG KONG IS BASED ON A FIRST-HAND WORKING KNOWLEDGE AND NOT SIMPLY ON A THEORETICAL OR CONCEPTUAL LEVEL,+ HE ADDED.

DR CHAM EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THIS OMISSION, AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED WAYS TO ENSURE THAT VOTING RIGHTS WOULD BE EXERCISED, PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS.

+FIRST, NOT ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS WILL REGISTER. IN VIEW OF THIS, I SUGGEST THAT ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY REGISTERED,+ HE SAID.

+SECOND, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXAMINE THE PRACTICABILITY OF COMPULSORY VOTING IN DIRECT ELECTIONS, THIS IS, TO REQUIRE THAT ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, EVEN IF THEY CAST A VOTE OF ABSTENTION,+ HE SAID.

GIVEN THE LACK OF VOTING TRADITION IN HONG KONG, DR CHAM BELIEVED THAT COMPULSORY VOTING MIGHT BE A STEP TO INDUCE PEOPLE TO TAKE AN INTEREST WHEN DIRECT ELECTIONS WERE INTRODUCED.

FINALLY, TURNING TO THE ELECTED PORTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR CHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE WHITE PAPER DID NOT HAVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE VOTE ENTITLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ELECTORS WITH DIFFERENT CAPACITIES IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, OR BOTH.

+I SUGGEST THAT DUAL-ROLES OR MULTI-CAPACITIES WITH VARIOUS PERMUTATIONS SHOULD BE CLARIFIED,+ HE SAID.

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MOST PEOPLE SUPPORT GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT - KEITH LAM
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THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SUPPORTED THE +PROGRESSIVE+ DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, THE HON KEITH LAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID HE BASED THIS ON PUBLIC OPINION AS REFLECTED BY THE MASS MEDIA AND AS OBTAINED BY HIMSELF.

+TAKING ANY ACTION WITH UNDUE HASTE WILL RESULT IN THE TRAGIC EFFECT OF SPOILING THINGS BY EXCESSIVE ENTHUSIASM,+ HE SAID.

/MR LAM

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MR LAM CONSIDERED AS UNREALISTIC SOME PEOPLE'S PROPOSALS THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SHOULD BE OPEN FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS IMMEDIATELY.

HE WARNED AGAINST EXCESSIVE EMPTY THEORIES ON DEMOCRACY WITH NO REGARD FOR THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

+AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT, REFORMS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE PROGRESSIVELY INTRODUCED AND CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AFTER EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED,+ MR LAM SAID.

HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF CULTIVATING ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ON THE BASIC LEVEL.

+IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AND CULTIVATE A GREAT NUMBER OF POLITICAL TALENTS TO FACILITATE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RETURNING OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE, ALL MEMBERS OF THE 'GEOGRAPHICAL COUNCILS', INCLUDING THE DISTRICT BOARDS, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SHOULD BE RETURNED BY DIRECT ELECTIONS FROM 1988 ONWARDS.

+THROUGH ACTUAL PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, THEY WILL BECOME MORE FAR-SIGHTED AND ABLE PERSONNEL WHO WILL FORM A STRONG RESERVE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE ADMINISTERING HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR LAM DESCRIBED THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUTURE LEGCO AS THE COUNCIL'S +TRUNK+ AND +BRANCHES+.

HE SAID THE +GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIVES+ SHOULD BE THE +TRUNK+, AND HE THOUGHT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE THAT ONLY 10 SEATS WERE GIVEN TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

HE HOPED THAT IN THE 1987 REVIEW THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SEATS FORMED ON THE BASIS OF DISTRICT ELECTIONS SO THAT ALL 19 DISTRICT BOARDS COULD HAVE ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THEIR OWN DISTRICTS.

MR LAM REGARDED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AS THE +BRANCHES+ OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD NOT TAKE UP TOO LARGE A PROPORTION OF SEATS.

HE FELT THAT MEMBERS RETURNED BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WOULD INEVITABLY BE RESTRICTED BY THE INTERESTS OF THE ORGANISATIONS WHICH THEY REPRESENTED WHEN MAKING RESOLUTIONS IN THE DEBATES.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE A PRACTICABLE MEASURE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SEATS RETURNED BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO PREVENT IT FROM BECOMING TOO LARGE.

/+WHERE NECESSARY

+WHERE NECESSARY, THE GOVERNMENT CAN SET UP VARIOUS KINDS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AND ABSORB PROFESSIONAL ADVICE MORE FREQUENTLY, INTENSIVELY AND COMPREHENSIVELY,+ HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID APPOINTED AND DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO BE THE +BRANCHES+.

HE SUGGESTED THAT AS AN EXPERIMENT ON AN EVEN MORE OPEN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN IN THE 1987 REVIEW TO SETTING UP THREE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS, ONE EACH FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ON THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LAM SAID HE FAVOURED THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSED NUMBER (A TOTAL OF 56) AND FELT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE BY 1988.

HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT SEATS RETURNED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE COULD BE INCREASED TO 21, WITH 19 MEMBERS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND ONE EACH FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

A SEAT FOR ACCOUNTANTS COULD BE ADDED TO THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER TO 13.

+THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS CAN THEN BE REDUCED TO 12,+ HE SAID.

+IF THREE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS ARE PROVIDED, THEN THE NUMBER MAY BE FURTHER REDUCED TO NINE.

+ACCORDING TO THIS DISTRIBUTION PLAN, THERE ARE 46 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND 10 OFFICIAL MEMBERS,+ MR LAM SAID.

SINCE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WOULD HAVE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH ONE ANOTHER ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS, IT WAS EASIER FOR THEM TO MAKE THEIR CHOICE AND THERE WAS A GREATER CHANCE OF RETURNING SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LAM SAID.

FURTHERMORE, AS MEMBERS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL COUNCILS ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY LOCAL PEOPLE, THEY HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE VOTERS AND ARE UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION, HE ADDED.

+THUS, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR ELECTED IN THIS WAY CAN AUTHORITATIVELY REPRESENT HIS DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, MR LAM BELIEVED THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ACCORDING TO THE STRUCTURES OF THE RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS OR PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

MR LAM SAID HE HOPED THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WOULD KEEP IN VIEW THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG SO THAT IT WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE FUTURE BASIC LAW.

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FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE ABOLISHED - CARL TONG
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THE IDEA OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE ABOLISHED ALTOGETHER AND REPLACED BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE SEATS FROM THE PRESENT 12 TO 22, THE HON CARL TONG SUGGESTED TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR TONG SAID THESE SEATS SHOULD INCLUDE 18 DISTRICT BOARD SEATS, TWO URBAN COUNCIL SEATS AND TWO REGIONAL COUNCIL SEATS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS BY APPOINTMENT SHOULD REMAIN AT 22.

+THIS ARRANGEMENT LEAVES TWO SEATS WHICH COULD BE NOMINATED BY APPROPRIATE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

+I SHARE MY HONOURABLE FRIEND ALLEN LEE'S BELIEF THAT TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF GOVERNMENT IN 1997, WHATEVER CHANGES WE MAKE IN THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,+ HE SAID.

+THE PROPOSAL TO GIVE THE PRC THE RIGHT TO NOMINATE TWO LEGCO SEATS CAN ONLY HELP THE SMOOTH TRANSITION.

+I MAY WELL BE CRITICISED FOR SUGGESTING THIS - MY ARGUMENT WILL BE THAT WE MUST FACE UP TO REALITY AND ACCEPT THAT WE, WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, MUST WORK TOGETHER TO THIS END.

+IN ANY CASE, THE RESULT OF THE WHITE PAPER PROPOSAL IS THAT AT LEAST TWO LEGCO SEATS WILL GO TO ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE EITHER CONTROLLED BY THE PRC OR HAVE STRONG TIES WITH IT AS A RESULT OF THEIR INCLUSION IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES - E.G. THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND POSSIBLY ONE OF THE TWO LABOUR SEATS,+ HE SAID.

MR TONG SAID WE MUST BE REALISTIC, WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE COMMON GOAL OF MAINTAINING PROSPERITY AND STABILITY AND NOT BE HAMPERED BY ADVERSARIAL POLITICS IN THE HEADY STRIDE FOR DEMOCRACY.

THE STATUS QUO COULD ONLY BE ASSURED WITH OUR CONTINUAL ECONOMIC SUCCESS. WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THIS, HE STRESSED.

MR TONG SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WAS PRACTICABLE.

+I CANNOT SEE HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN JUSTIFIABLY PREFER SOME FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO OTHERS WITHOUT CRITICISM.

+FOR ONE, WHY SHOULD ACCOUNTANTS BE EXCLUDED AND DOCTORS INCLUDED?+ HE ASKED.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY ARGUE AWAY ANY GROUP'S COMPLAINT, SUCH AS THE ACCOUNTANTS' NON-INCLUSION IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, BY SAYING THAT THEY WOULD MAKE GOOD ANY IMBALANCE BY THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM.

ON THE POLITICAL APATHY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, MR TONG SAID THERE WAS THE NEED FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

HE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN CLEARLY AND CANDIDLY ITS THINKING BEHIND ITS POLICIES.

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MANY KEY QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED - SELINA CHOW

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THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT LEFT MANY KEY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, THE HON SELINA CHOW SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT, MRS CHOW SAID THE WHITE PAPER HAD RETROGRESSED FROM THE EARLIER GREEN PAPER.

SHE SAID: +IT IS TRUE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS RESPONDED TO POPULAR REQUEST BY EXTENDING THE NUMBER OF ELECTED SEATS FOR BOTH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, AND BY ADVANCING THE DATE OF REVIEW TO 1987.

+IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT IF WE ARE TO TAKE A STEP BY STEP APPROACH, WE KNOW AT LEAST WHAT THE NEXT STEP IS.

+BUT SURELY WHAT THE WHITE PAPER FAILS TO DO IS TO GIVE US A COMPLETE VIEW OF THE OVERALL THINKING TO THE PROGRESSION AND DESTINATION OF OUR GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT.

+IT FAILS TO SEE BEYOND THE NEXT STEP. THE WHITE PAPER APPEARS TO ME TO HAVE RETROGRESSED FROM THE GREEN PAPER, FOR THE LATTER WAS LOOKING AS FAR AHEAD AS 1991, WHEREAS THE FORMER DOES NOT PROCEED BEYOND 1987. THE ONLY CERTAINTY BEYOND 1987 IS WHAT WE FIND IN SECTION 1 OF ANNEX 1 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

+THERE IS A 10 YEAR GAP BETWEEN 1987 AND '97, WHEN, STILL AT THIS STAGE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN. KEY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN LEFT UNRESOLVED. FOR INSTANCE:

- 1) WILL THERE BE A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM?
- 2) HOW WILL THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BE CHANGED?
- 3) WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM?

/4) HOW WILL

- 4) HOW WILL THE GOVERNOR BE SELECTED?
- 5) HOW WILL THE ULTIMATE FORM OF ELECTION BE DETERMINED?+

MRS CHOW SAID THAT IN FACT ALL THESE ISSUES HAD BEEN TOUCHED UPON IN THE WHITE PAPER. WHAT WAS WORRYING WAS THAT NO ANSWERS WERE ATTEMPTED, AND WORSE STILL, THE DELIBERATION OF SUCH IMPORTANT AND URGENT QUESTIONS HAD NOT BEEN ASSIGNED ANY SPECIFIC SCHEDULE OR FORM. THE REPETITION OF THE PHRASE '+AT A LATER STAGE+' WAS NEITHER SATISFACTORY NOR REASSURING.

+WE HAVE NO TIME FOR PROCRASTINATION,+ SHE SAID. +WE NEED AN OVERALL PLAN.+

+IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT TO INCLUDE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE WHITE PAPER WOULD ALLOW US ROOM TO MANOEUVRE, AS WE ARE STILL EXPERIMENTING WITH VARIOUS IDEAS IN ORDER TO FIND THE UNIQUE SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG.

+I CANNOT AGREE WITH THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT. IN FACT, I THINK THE VERY EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT CALLS FOR VERY CLEAR AND DEFINITE THINKING SO THAT WE DO NOT STRAY TOO FAR FROM A CHARTED COURSE, THE DESTINATION OF WHICH IS ALREADY MARKED BY THE JOINT DECLARATION. WITHOUT THE PATH LAID OUT, HOW ARE WE TO BE SURE THAT WE WILL REACH OUR TARGET WITHIN THE TIME AVAILABLE?

+MANY LIKE MYSELF ARE GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THE WHITE PAPER ON THE ONE HAND TAKES A VERY BIG STEP FORWARD WITHOUT PROJECTING AND ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, WHILE ON THE OTHER FAILS TO PROVIDE AN OVERALL PLAN, OR EVEN AN INSTRUMENT TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL PLAN.

+THIS IS NO DOUBT A HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE AND UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE HAVE TO WORK WITHIN THE VERY LIMITED TIME FRAME OF 12 YEARS. IN VIEW OF THE GREAT URGENCY OF THIS MATTER, I ADVOCATE THAT A STANDING FORUM BE FORMED, WITH BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, TO ENABLE MORE STRUCTURED DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION WITH THE AIM TO PROPOSE THE MOST ACCEPTABLE AND WORKABLE SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.+

MRS CHOW CONCLUDED: +WITH MY GRAVE RESERVATIONS, I FIND MYSELF UNABLE TO VOTE FOR THE VERY EUPHORIC MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL, WHEN THE WHITE PAPER DOES NOT EVEN POINT TO A CLEAR WAY AHEAD. I WILL NOT HOWEVER VOTE AGAINST IT LEST IT BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS MY OBJECTION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MOVING TOWARDS A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+I AM THEREFORE ABSTAINING, WHILE I URGE THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL PLAN. AFTER ALL, IN 12-1/2 YEARS, WE ARE TO ADMINISTER OURSELVES. WE HAD BETTER KNOW, WELL BEFORE THAT TIME, HOW WE CAN BEST DO IT.+

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NEED TO PRESERVE PROSPERITY, STABILITY STRESSED

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ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO TAKE THEIR SEATS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MUST ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THAT THEIR OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE AND MANDATE IS TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, SIR ROGER LOBO SAID TODAY.

WINDING UP THE TWO-DAY DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID: +SHOULD THEY FAIL TO APPRECIATE THIS, AND TO ACT ACCORDINGLY, PROGRESS TOWARDS A FULLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE IS BOUND TO BE DELAYED OR, INDEED, MAY BE FRUSTRATED ALTOGETHER.+

HE SAID ANNEX I TO THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT PRESCRIBED THAT THE LEGISLATURE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS.

+MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES AND I, AND I AM SURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WARMLY WELCOME AND INDEED LOOK FORWARD TO THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND SEE THE PLANS OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER AS A SENSIBLE FIRST STEP IN THAT DIRECTION,+ SIR ROGER SAID.

+IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE CONSISTING LARGELY OF LOCAL PEOPLE IS IN PLACE AND IN PROPER WORKING ORDER WELL BEFORE 1997.+

+TO THIS END IT IS NECESSARY THEREFORE TO MOVE TO A MORE REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, TRANSFERRING THE POWERS OF THE PRESENT COLONIAL GOVERNMENT TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+BUT THERE ARE FEARS IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE THAT THIS PROCESS OF POWER TRANSFER IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF DECOLONISATION AND THAT DRASTIC AND RADICAL CHANGES OVER THE NEXT 12 YEARS MAY JEOPARDISE THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.+

SIR ROGER SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AN UNDERTAKING TO RETURN HONG KONG TO CHINA ON JUNE 30, 1997, IN A PROSPEROUS AND STABLE CONDITION, OTHERWISE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD BE CONSIDERED AS FAILING TO HONOUR ARTICLE IV OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

+IN THAT EVENT, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT THEN SAY THEY WERE NO LONGER UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO HONOUR ARTICLE III OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND TO GIVE HONG KONG THE SPECIAL STATUS OF A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR 50 YEARS BEYOND 1997,+ SAID SIR ROGER.

/+WHILE, THEREFORE,

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+WHILE, THEREFORE, AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO RUN HONG KONG MAY BE DELEGATED TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - AND THE WHITE PAPER BEFORE US IS ABOUT THIS - THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR MAINTAINING AND PRESERVING HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY.+

ON THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, SIR ROGER SAID HE BELIEVED THE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED MUST BE GIVEN A FAIR TRIAL.

+NO DOUBT WE SHOULD ALL LEARN A GREAT DEAL IN THE TWO YEARS TO THE 1987 REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON ALL WHO REGARD HONG KONG AS THEIR HOME AND HAVE THE INTERESTS OF THIS COMMUNITY AT HEART +TO CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND TO GIVE TRUE MEANING TO THE PROMISE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.+

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FAITH IN HK WILL BE REWARDED - SIR EDWARD
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THE FAITH DEMONSTRATED BY THE THOMAS DE LA RUE COMPANY IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WOULD BE WELL REWARDED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS WHEN HE OPENED THE COMPANY'S BANKNOTE PRINTING PLANT AT TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COMPANY SHOWED THIS FAITH BY BRINGING TO THE TERRITORY THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT, HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID HE HAD GREAT PLEASURE TO BE PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW PLANT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WHICH MARKED THE COMPANY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY.

+THE DE LA RUE COMPANY HAS A LONG AND IMPRESSIVE HISTORY DATING BACK TO 1835 WHEN ITS FOUNDER, THOMAS DE LA RUE, SET UP HIS FIRST FACTORY IN THE CITY OF LONDON.

+SINCE THEN, THE COMPANY HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S LARGEST SECURITY PRINTER, AND PRINTS BANKNOTES FOR OVER 70 COUNTRIES,+ SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT.

+YOU BRING TO HONG KONG THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT, AND BY THIS YOU DEMONSTRATE YOUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ALL WHO WORK FOR YOU AND WITH YOU IN HONG KONG WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE SHOWN IS WELL REWARDED,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE OPENING OF THE PLANT IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WAS ALSO AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, WHOSE OBJECTIVES ARE THE PROVISION OF WELL SERVICED SITES FOR THOSE INDUSTRIES THAT CANNOT BE OPERATED IN ORDINARY MULTI-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS.

+IN THIS RESPECT THE CORPORATION HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DIVERSIFYING AND BROADENING HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE CORPORATION WAS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF OTHER SERIOUS ENQUIRIES. HE HOPED THAT THESE WOULD LEAD TO MORE FACTORIES TAKING UP SITES.

HE CONGRATULATED THE COMPANY AND ALL THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT AND WISHED THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN POST OFFICE 100

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL OPEN HONG KONG'S 100TH POST OFFICE AT UNITS 121-122 TIP SUM HOUSE, GROUND FLOOR, BUTTERFLY ESTATE IN TUEN MUN, AT 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 12).

IT WILL BE THE FOURTH POST OFFICE IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, AND WILL PROVIDE THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES, EXCEPT LETTER INSURANCE.

TO MARK THE OPENING, THE NEW POST OFFICE WILL ACCEPT UNREGISTERED +FIRST DAY+ COVERS BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS FOR DATESTAMPING, BEFORE HANDING THEM BACK TO CUSTOMERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD CONTACT MR WONG KING-MAN, ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF POSTS, AT 9.15 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 12) AT THE EASTERN MAIN GATE OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

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BRIEFING ON EDUCATION REPORT

IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES AND THE GENERAL INTEREST SHOWN ON THE RECENTLY-ISSUED EDUCATION COMMISSION FIRST REPORT, A MEDIA BRIEFING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, 3/F.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR Y.T. LI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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LADY YOUDE TOURS KOWLOON CITY

LADY YOUDE, TODAY (THURSDAY) TOURED THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS PROJECTS AND VISITED A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS RUN BY CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES, AND SEVERAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, LADY YOUDE FIRST TOURED THE SAI TAU VILLAGE AND THE SITE FOR THE FUTURE CARPENTER ROAD PARK AND THE KOWLOON CITY TEMPORARY MARKET.

/THE PARTY

THE PARTY NEXT WENT TO THE LOK SIN TONG TO SEE THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CLINIC THERE.

LADY YOUDE ALSO VISITED THE CHUN SEEN MEI CHUEN, A NURSERY RUN BY THE KOWLOON WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB IN SHING TAK STREET AND THE HOLY CARPENTER COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HUNG HOM.

THE PARTY THEN VISITED A NUMBER OF PRIVATE STREETS IN TO KWA WAN WHERE WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE AREA.

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CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN COMMUNITY GROUPS URGED

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AS BASIC COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS PLAY A VITAL PART IN REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE TO THE AUTHORITIES, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S WISH THERE SHOULD BE GREATER CO-OPERATION AND BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CAUSEWAY BAY SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE SEMINAR IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO IMPROVE ORGANISATIONAL LINKS BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS COULD HELP REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE AREA COMMITTEES, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALSO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

+THUS, AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND VICE VERSA,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TOLD THE SEMINAR THERE ARE MORE THAN 5 000 BUILDING-BASED MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS IN THE TERRITORY, COVERING ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THESE ORGANISATIONS WERE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED FOR SPECIFIC AND FAIRLY NARROW PURPOSES, THEY HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A NETWORK REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS ON A WIDER BASIS.

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SAI KUNG DB TO MEET TOMORROW
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SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE JUNK BAY AND SAI KUNG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

THE BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE SAI KUNG TOWN PLANNING STUDY FINAL REPORT WHICH HAS MADE SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION, RECREATION, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED ABOUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AREA LOCATED BETWEEN SAI KUNG OLD TOWN AND TUI MIN HOI WITHIN A NARROW INLET OF INNER PORT SHELTER. THE INLET IS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF SQUATTER HOUSEBOATS, TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AND FISHING VESSELS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE LAYOUT PLANS FOR SHEUNG YEUNG AND JUNK BAY NEW TOWN; THE ELECTRONIC ROAD PRICING SYSTEM; A BRIEF ON A HALF-WAY HOME, MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT, AND A REPORT ON VICE-ASSOCIATED ESTABLISHMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, 2ND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SAI KUNG.

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OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS TO MEET HERE
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THE PRINCIPAL CONSULTANTS IN CHARGE OF THE FOUR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG FOR THEIR WEEK-LONG ANNUAL LIAISON CONFERENCE, STARTING ON MONDAY (JANUARY 14).

IT WILL BE THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN THE OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS AND THEIR HEADQUARTERS COLLEAGUES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1982 OF THE OVERSEAS OFFICES IN TOKYO, LONDON, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO.

AT A MEETING ON MONDAY, TO BE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, THE OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS WILL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN THEIR AREAS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION.

/THE OFFICERS

THE OFFICERS WILL ALSO BE MEETING OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO UPDATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HONG KONG. THEY WILL ALSO VISIT FACTORIES, AND HOLD BRIEFING SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

THE FOUR OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS ARE: MR MICHAEL KIKUCHI (JAPAN), MR DONALD FLETCHER (UK AND NORDICS), MR JOHN WHITE (CONTINENTAL EUROPE) AND MR ROBERT ASHWORTH (NORTH AMERICA).

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NEW TAI PO CLINIC BRINGS MORE SERVICES

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MORE AND BETTER MEDICAL SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR TAI PO RESIDENTS WHEN THE NEW WONG SIU CHING CLINIC OPENS ON MONDAY (JANUARY 14), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE NEW TWO-STOREY CLINIC WILL BE THE SECOND GENERAL CLINIC IN TAI PO.

LOCATED AT PLOVER COVE ROAD IN THE HEART OF THE TAI PO NEW TOWN, IT WILL PROVIDE FULL-TIME GENERAL OUT-PATIENT AS WELL AS FAMILY HEALTH, CHEST, SOCIAL HYGIENE AND OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

THE CHEST SERVICE, WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING ON JANUARY 15. THE SOCIAL HYGIENE SERVICE, WHICH WILL OPERATE EVERY FRIDAY MORNING, BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 1, WHILE THE OPHTHALMIC SERVICE, DUE TO START ON FEBRUARY 25, WILL OPERATE EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON.

FROM FEBRUARY 4, THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CENTRE IN THE CLINIC WILL OPERATE FULL-TIME, AND WILL PROVIDE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES.

THE WONG SIU CHING CLINIC OCCUPIES 2 400 SQUARE METRES AND HAS SIX CONSULTING ROOMS. IT WILL BE OPEN FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM AND ON SATURDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

WHEN THE NEW CLINIC BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE FAMILY HEALTH, CHEST, SOCIAL HYGIENE AND OPHTHALMIC SERVICES NOW PROVIDED IN THE TAI PO JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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SEMINAR ON YOUTH FESTIVAL

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LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, MISS MARIA TAM, WILL SPEAK TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON THE ROLE OF YOUTH LEADERS AMIDST CHANGING TIMES IN HONG KONG AT A +MEET THE KWUN TONG YOUTH FESTIVAL SEMINAR+.

DETAILS OF THE MORE THAN 30 ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL WILL ALSO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE SEMINAR.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF \$150 000, THE FESTIVAL IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AMONG 18 DISTRICTS AND WILL START JANUARY 20 (SUNDAY).

PRESENT AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE FESTIVAL'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR EDDIE LAMB; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE'S PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR TONG PO-KWAI; AND AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SANDRA LEE.

THE +MEET THE KWUN TONG YOUTH FESTIVAL+ WILL START AT 8 PM IN THE TELFORD GARDENS COMMUNITY HALL AND YOUTHS IN THE DISTRICT ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE +MEET THE KWUN TONG YOUTH FESTIVAL SEMINAR+.

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MENTAL HEALTH EXHIBITION

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AN EXHIBITION TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILLNESS WILL BE OPEN AT THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE NEW TOWN PLAZA, SHA TIN ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 12) AT 10 AM.

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION, OPENING TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM DAILY, IS ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR NEIL HENDERSON; A CHINESE UNIVERSITY PSYCHIATRIST, PROFESSOR C.N. CHEN, AND THREE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MESSRS NG CHAN-LAM, WAI HON-LEUNG AND WONG PO-MING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEW TOWN PLAZA EXHIBITION HALL, 4TH FLOOR, SHA TIN.

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NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE MOVES

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THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE WILL MOVE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO A NEW OFFICE AT JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AT THE FANLING ROUNDABOUT, AND WILL START OPERATION THERE FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 14).

THE \$8 MILLION NEW OFFICE CONSISTS OF FIVE TWO-STOREY BUILDINGS, EACH HAVING A FLOOR AREA OF 500 SQUARE METRES. THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE TAKES UP ONE AND A HALF BLOCKS INCLUDING A CONFERENCE ROOM FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS.

THE OLD NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING AT TAI PO MARKET WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE AND WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A CULTURAL MUSEUM.

ENQUIRIES TO THE NEW OFFICE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE CAN BE MADE ON 0-900444.

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INDOOR GAMES HALL BEING BUILT

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WORK HAS STARTED ON BUILDING AN INDOOR GAMES HALL ON AN 8 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF HIP WO STREET AND HIU KWONG STREET, KWUN TONG.

THE HALL WILL HAVE A GAMES AREA OF 36 SQUARE METRES, THREE SQUASH COURTS, A STAND FOR 400 SPECTATORS, CHANGING FACILITIES AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND REST GARDEN.

A \$13.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE INDOOR GAMES HALL WILL BE THE THIRD IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

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