



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

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HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TO VISIT HK NEXT FEBRUARY

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY ARE TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HONG KONG FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 13 NEXT YEAR.

DURING HER VISIT, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA WILL OPEN THE FINAL SECTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY LINKING IT TO HONG KONG ISLAND. SHE WILL ALSO OPEN THE NEW TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AND CARRY OUT OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.

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GOVERNMENT IN ALL DAY MEETING WITH NURSING STAFF

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. MARTIN ROWLANDS, TODAY (THURSDAY) MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT NURSING STAFF FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN A FRANK AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. AS A RESULT, BOTH SIDES HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POINTS OF VIEW.

IN EXPLAINING THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH CIRCULAR NO. 26/79 CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE CONFIRMED THAT IF THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT NURSING STAFF SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIM BEFORE NOVEMBER 17, THEY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT NURSING STAFF PLANS TO REVIEW THEIR PLANNED INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION.

GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO MEET THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 5).

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO
HK'S PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY
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A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT MONTHS, PARTICULARLY IN HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS, HAVE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO ITS PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AND THESE DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD TAKE A LONGER TERM VIEW OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PAST, THE HON. DAVID NEWBIGGING SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

WITHOUT ATTEMPTING AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, HE SINGLED OUT THAT EXCELLENT TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LONDON, HONG KONG AND PEKING AND ALSO THE EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S TERM.

+DESPITE MANY DAUNTING PROBLEMS, I SUGGEST THAT HONG KONG WILL ACHIEVE ITS MASSIVE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES, PARTICULARLY IN HOUSING AND THE CREATION OF NEW TOWNS, WHILE CONTINUING TO MAKE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

HE WARNED HOWEVER THAT TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE CANNOT BE FACED WITH PERIODIC AND UNPREDICTABLE POPULATION EXPLOSIONS OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL, AS WAS EMPHASISED BY THE GOVERNOR.

WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER WHAT KIND OF HONG KONG WE WANT TO SEE ONCE THESE PRIMARY, BASIC OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

+IN PARTICULAR WE MUST CONSIDER THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT THE PEOPLE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO ENJOY WITHOUT, HOPEFULLY, DESTROYING THEIR WILL TO WORK,+ HE SAID.

THERE WAS ALSO THE DANGER OF NULLIFYING OUR MASSIVE EFFORT IN +LIFTING THE LIFE OF HONG KONG ON TO A PLATEAU+ - IN THE GOVERNOR'S WORDS, IF THAT LIFE IS ONE OF INDUSTRIAL SQUALOR AND POLLUTION.

HE RECOGNISED HOWEVER THAT THE PROBLEM IS HIGHLY COMPLEX : ON THE ONE HAND THE 'ENVIRONMENTAL RED TAPE' THAT OBSTRUCTS SENSIBLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD MUST BE AVOIDED- ON THE OTHER THE AUTHORITIES MUST COME DOWN SHARPLY ON THE MINDLESS ABUSE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

+THIS ABUSE WOULD APPEAR TO REFLECT A HERE-TODAY-GONE-TOMORROW MENTALITY WHICH IS QUITE INCONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE VIEW OF HONG KONG'S LONG TERM FUTURE WHICH I FEEL ALL STRATA OF OUR POPULATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT FASTER PROGRESS IN IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT IS POSSIBLE, EVEN WITHOUT THE COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. IN PARTICULAR, HE BELIEVED THAT IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE CIVIC-MINDEDNESS, WE HAVE RELIED TOO MUCH ON THE CARROT, IN THE FORM OF ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS, AND TOO LITTLE ON THE STICK, IN THE FORM OF STIFFER FINES AND OTHER SANCTIONS WHICH COULD BE ADMINISTERED WITH MINIMUM INVOLVEMENT OF THE COURTS.

+WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO AVOID SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES THAT COULD UNDERMINE THE HEALTH OF THE GOOSE THAT LAYS OUR GOLDEN EGG.

/+THIS SURELY

+THIS SURELY IS THE PERSPECTIVE IN WHICH WE SHOULD SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG INTO A HIGH WAGE, HIGH TECHNOLOGY ECONOMY AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROCESS OF TRADING UP TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT THIS IMPLIES FOR EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.

+THIS PROCESS WILL INVOLVE THE GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF OUR BASIC, TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES WITH GENERALLY CLEANER 'KNOWLEDGE-INTENSIVE' UNDERTAKINGS, AND ALSO THE FREEING-UP OF VALUABLE RESOURCES BY SO DOING.

+FURTHERMORE, WE CAN EXPECT, IN TIME, A MIGRATION OF SOME OF THIS 'SECOND GENERATION' INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY FROM HONG KONG TO CHINA THUS FURTHER ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH HAS PROVED SO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL,+ HE SAID.

MR. NEWBIGGING ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THREE ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY - INFLATION, OUR MARKET PROSPECTS IN THE US AND OUR INVISIBLE TRADE.

HE SAID INFLATION REMAINS OUR 'PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE' AND HAS INTENSIFIED, WITH MUCH OF IT BEING IMPORTED. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES TO THOSE BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, HE WARNED THAT ANY SOCIETY WITH INFLATION OF 10 PER CENT OR MORE IS A SOCIETY AT RISK.

ON THE UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS OF OUR MAJOR EXPORT MARKET IN THE US AND THE RECESSION BEING PREDICTED THERE, MR. NEWBIGGING COMMENTED THAT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THAT COUNTRY APPEARS TO FACE COULD BE DESCRIBED AS PSYCHOLOGICAL - WHICH CREATE A LACK OF CONFIDENCE - WHEREAS THEIR OWN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS HAS IN FACT BEEN IMPROVED QUITE SIGNIFICANTLY THIS YEAR.

AS TO THE QUESTION OF OUR INVISIBLE TRADE, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH IS INCREASING WITH THE GROWING SOPHISTICATION OF OUR ECONOMY, MR. NEWBIGGING REGRETTED THE APPARENT LACK OF PROGRESS IN HAVING IT QUANTIFIED IN STATISTICAL TERMS, DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY. HE CONSIDERED THIS KNOWLEDGE GAP, CONCERNING WHAT IS PROBABLY A LARGE SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY, A WEAKNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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EMPHASIS ON GOVT NETWORK OF ADVISORY AND
CONSULTATIVE BODIES WELCOMED

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DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG WELCOMED THE EMPHASIS THE GOVERNOR PLACED ON THE INCREASINGLY COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE BODIES AND AVENUES OF APPROACH TO THE GOVERNMENT IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEAKING IN THE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, DR. HUANG POINTED OUT THAT WITH A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE NOW CONCERNED WITH COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND EXPECT TO BE INFORMED AND CONSULTED ON GENERAL ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THEM.

/TC BRING

TO BRING ABOUT A CLIMATE OF TRUST BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY, BOTH GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES SHOULD BE OPEN TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY LISTEN TO THE ADVICE IT RECEIVES FROM THE PUBLIC BUT SHOULD ALSO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF ITS REASONS WHEN IT DOES NOT TAKE THAT ADVICE, HE SAID.

HE FELT THAT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, ALTHOUGH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC, SUCH AS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, HAVE BEEN SEEN TO AFFECT DECISIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT, THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT CONSULTATION ABOUT THE METHODS IN WHICH THESE DECISIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED AND ABOUT CONSEQUENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

+THE COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME A REVIEW OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN ITS ENTIRETY, RATHER THAN ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS, AND NOW, RATHER THAN WHEN WE HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS,+ HE SAID.

HE LISTED SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES: TEACHER TRAINING, CURRICULA, AND THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION SYSTEM, ALL OF WHICH ARE INTERRELATED.

HE COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT IT HAS GIVEN TO THE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN PROVIDED WITH A SOUND FINANCIAL BASIS AND WILL AFFORD FURTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIFTH AND SIXTH FORM LEAVERS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT AT THIS STAGE WHAT IS NEEDED IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF PERIODIC REVIEW OF REGISTRATION: TO SCRUTINISE STANDARDS, TO ENSURE THAT THESE ARE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED BY COLLEGES ALREADY REGISTERED, AND POSSIBLY ALSO TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS WHICH OTHER INSTITUTIONS MIGHT MAKE FROM TIME TO TIME FOR SIMILAR RECOGNITION.

HE NOTED THAT THE NEW SCHEME FOR POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES ALSO PROVIDES THAT THEY MAY OFFER THEIR ABLER STUDENTS UP TO FIVE YEARS OF FULL-TIME EDUCATION BEYOND THE O-LEVEL STAGE.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE POLYTECHNIC'S MOUNTING A LIMITED DEGREE PROGRAMME IN AREAS NOT ALREADY COVERED IN HONG KONG, WILL MEAN INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION UP TO DEGREE LEVEL, HE SAID.

IN ORDER THAT STUDENTS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS CAN BE ASSURED OF THE STANDARD OF THEIR EDUCATION AND FULL RECOGNITION OF THE EDUCATION LEVEL THEY WILL ATTAIN, GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOW BE LOOKING INTO THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF VALIDATION FOR THE COURSES AND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH DEGREES MAY BE CONFERRED, HE SAID. WHATEVER BODY THAT MAY BE SET UP FOR THESE PURPOSES MUST HAVE COMPLETE COMPETENCE, INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WITH THE INCREASING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY, MORE OPEN CONTACT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND AVENUES OF INFORMED OPINION SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITIES, SO THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES CAN BE EVALUATED AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE.

TURNING TO OUR MANPOWER SITUATION, DR. HUANG THOUGHT THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY TAKEN WELCOME MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF WORKERS, THE TIME IS NOW RIPE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, FLEXIBILITY AND UTILISATION OF OUR LABOUR FORCE.

+THERE APPEARS TO BE NO OVERALL MANPOWER POLICY AIMED AT BALANCING THE DEMAND FOR AND THE SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LABOUR AT A GIVEN TIME.

+BETTER UTILISATION OF MANPOWER CAN OFTEN BE ACHIEVED BY TRAINING IN ADVANCE THOSE WORKERS LIKELY TO BE IN GREAT DEMAND,+ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION OF HOUSING, DR. HUANG WAS WORRIED THAT WITH RENTS CONTINUING TO ROCKET AND HOUSING PASSING MORE AND MORE INTO THE HANDS OF SPECULATORS, IT HAS BECOME A PROBLEM OF FEARSOME DIMENSIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK TO RESOLVE THIS BY IMMEDIATE AS WELL AS LONG-TERM MEASURES, HE SAID. ONE POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE MEASURE HE SUGGESTED IS THE CONTROL OF RENTS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY EXTENDED THE PRESENT RENT INCREASES CONTROL LEGISLATION FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS, NO HOUSING COMPLETED AFTER DECEMBER 15, 1973, IS SUBJECT TO CONTROL.

HE URGED THAT CONSIDERATION BE NOW GIVEN TO EXTENDING THE COVERAGE OF PROTECTION STEP BY STEP. SPECIFICALLY, THE PRESENT REGULATION COULD BE EXTENDED AS FROM JANUARY 1980 TO ALL HOUSING COMPLETED BETWEEN DECEMBER 1973 AND DECEMBER 1974, AND AS FROM JANUARY 1981 TO ALL HOUSING COMPLETED BETWEEN DECEMBER 1974 AND DECEMBER 1975, AND SO ON.

+THIS WOULD AT LEAST HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TENANTS UNDER PROTECTION AND AT THE SAME TIME FULFIL THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE THAT ALL NEW HOUSING WOULD HAVE FIVE YEARS OF FREEDOM FROM ANY RENT CONTROLS.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE PRESENT RENT CONTROLS TO FRESH-LETTING MIGHT ALSO BE EXPLORED.

+HOWEVER, RENT CONTROL CAN ONLY BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO COMBAT THE PROBLEMS AT HAND- FOR THE LONG-TERM THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO AN INCREASED PRODUCTION OF HOUSING AND TO THIS THE GOVERNMENT MUST WITHOUT DELAY ADDRESS ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

SUGGESTIONS TO SPEED UP PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME

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THE HON. F.K. HU, IN HIS FIRST SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, SUGGESTED SEVERAL WAYS TO SPEED UP THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AND TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE TO ACCEPT CUTTING THE ANNUAL PUBLIC HOUSING TARGET IN ORDER TO AVOID OVERHEATING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, BUT SHOULD THERE BE ANY SIGN OF A SLOW DOWN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THIS TARGET HAS TO BE INCREASED SO THAT A CONSTANT HOUSING PRODUCTION CAN BE MAINTAINED.

JUDGING FROM THE RATIO OF RENTED AND HOME OWNERSHIP ACCOMMODATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, AND THE FACT THAT 70 PER CENT OF NEW PRIVATE FLATS BOUGHT IN HONG KONG ARE FOR OWNER-OCCUPATION, OUR RATIO OF HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS SHOULD BE HIGHER, AND SHOULD BE INCREASED GRADUALLY FROM THE PRESENT 15 PER CENT TO 50 OR EVEN 70 PER CENT, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK COULD BE INCREASED THROUGH ENCOURAGING MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, AND RELEASING MORE SITES TO THEM FOR TENDER, WITH EMPHASIS ON SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEM RATHER THAN FINANCIAL GAIN.

THE PROPORTION OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES TO LETTER B HOLDERS SHOULD ALSO BE INCREASED SO THAT ITS EXCHANGE COMMITMENT COULD BE CLEARED AT AN EARLIER DATE.

THE ADDITIONAL SITES COULD BE DEVELOPED WITH THE CONDITION THAT A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THE FLATS TO BE BUILT SHOULD BE SOLD ON THE SAME TERMS AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, HE SUGGESTED.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO ENSURE MAXIMUM UTILISATION OF THE SITES ALLOCATED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH REQUIRE USE OF THE GROUND FLOORS ONLY. THE SPACE ABOVE COULD BE USED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, MR. HU SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL MUST CO-ORDINATE CLOSER TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE RESULTS. +DIRECT CONTACT AND DISCUSSION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE BETTER CO-ORDINATION, UNDERSTANDING AND MAXIMUM UTILISATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS WITHOUT UNDUE DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS,+ HE STRESSED.

THIS CO-ORDINATION IS REQUIRED +IN PROMOTING AND TRAINING POTENTIAL TALENTS, TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY INVOLVEMENT AND SPONSORSHIP, TO PROMOTE APPRECIATION AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PERFORMING ARTS, TO PROVIDE VENUES FOR THESE ARTS AND TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST LOCAL TALENTS.+

HE SUGGESTED THAT IT IS MORE DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM AND FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS, TO TRAIN OUTSTANDING LOCAL TALENT IN THE MAJOR CONSERVATORIES IN THE WORLD. PERFORMING ARTS OTHER THAN MUSIC SHOULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED AND EITHER OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES SHOULD SET UP A DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA AND THEATRE, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO A THEATRE CONSERVATORY IN HONG KONG.

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FURTHERMORE, THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION OF ART SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY BY THE GOVERNMENT. AMATEUR GROUPS WILL SOONER OR LATER LEAD TO PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND IF FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS REQUIRED, THE GOVERNMENT MUST EXERT CONTROL IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE PURPOSE, ORGANISATION AND DETAILS WILL FIT INTO AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, HE SAID.

IN THE AREA OF SPORT PROMOTION, MR. HU COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME WHICH OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNING SPORT BODIES TO HELP THEM ENGAGE SECRETARIES AND MEET LIMITED OFFICE EXPENSES. HE URGED THAT IT BE EXPANDED TO OFFER MORE ASSISTANCE AND TO INCLUDE OTHER BODIES, WHILE THE SMALLER BODIES SHOULD BE HELPED BY A CENTRAL SECRETARIAT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE CARE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE RUNNING OF THEIR BUSINESS AS THEIR INDEPENDENCE MUST BE MAINTAINED AND RESPECTED. THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE REQUIRES THEIR CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF THE RELEVANT SPORT, SINCE IT APPEARS THAT ITS PRESENT EMPHASIS IS ON MASS PARTICIPATION RATHER THAN QUALITY, HE ADDED.

MR. HU WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH HE SAID IS STILL LAGGING BEHIND THE URBAN AREAS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT PRIVATE NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE FACILITIES, SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

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GOVT URGED TO BE ACTIVE IN SOLICITING VIEWS FROM PUBLIC
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THE HON. WONG LAM URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE ACTIVE WHEN IT SOLICITS THE VIEWS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR. WONG ACKNOWLEDGED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROVIDING CHANNELS FOR THE PUBLIC TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS, TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT, WERE +PASSIVE AND DEPENDENT ON THE PEOPLE TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO LODGE COMPLAINTS OR EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.+

+ONLY TO A VERY SMALL EXTENT DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTIVE STEPS TO SOLICIT VIEWS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY THE SILENT MAJORITY, AND EVEN WHEN THIS IS DONE IT IS GENERALLY ISSUE OR PROGRAMME ORIENTATED,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EVEN LEAVING ASIDE STRICT STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS, SUCH SURVEYS AT BEST WILL ONLY BRING FORTH THE OPINION OF SOME OUTSPOKEN PEOPLE ON CERTAIN TOPICS.

+THEY WILL NOT ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO KNOW OR FULLY APPRECIATE THE REAL CONCERNS AND VIEWS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY AT A GIVEN TIME,+ HE SAID.

/WHILE HE

WHILE HE AGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR CREATING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THEIR ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION.

ALTHOUGH REGIONALISATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF SOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL HELP THEM GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL PROBLEMS AND MAKE THEM FEEL MORE CONCERNED FOR THEIR SOLUTION, THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES. IF THE LEVEL OF THE OFFICERS IS TOO LOW THEY MAY BE INSUFFICIENTLY EXPERIENCED AND MAY LACK ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS. IF THEY ARE AT TOO HIGH A LEVEL, MANPOWER MAY BE WASTED AND PARKINSON'S LAW MAY TAKE EFFECT, LEADING TO THE BUILDING UP OF A PYRAMID OF REDUNDANT STAFF, HE SAID.

HE THOUGHT THAT FOR ANY CO-ORDINATION WORK, THE KEY TO SUCCESS LIES IN THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND SINCERE CO-OPERATION OF STAFF FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, AND NOT IN SUBSERVIENCE TO A CO-ORDINATOR OF A HIGHER RANK, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE IS NOT THEIR DIRECT SUPERIOR.

NEVERTHELESS, MR. WONG SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVOLVE +A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN THE PROCESS OF ADVISING, WARNING AND STIMULATING THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT ADMINISTRATION IN THEIR OWN AREA.+

HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW THE CONSULTATIVE SYSTEM NOW IN FORCE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS, EXTEND ITS REPRESENTATION AND GIVE IT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF POWER, EVEN IN FINANCIAL MATTERS IF NECESSARY.

IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING, MR. WONG SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO LOOK INTO WAYS TO ASSIST FAMILIES WITH INCOME ABOVE \$5 000 A MONTH. HE WAS HOWEVER DISAPPOINTED WITH THE REDUCTION IN THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PROBLEMS IN OTHER FIELDS ARE BEING ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT HOUSING IS CONTINUING TO DISTURB A VAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE. HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HANDLE THE PROBLEM WITH COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE AS IT HAD HANDLED THE MTR.

HE SUGGESTED THAT IF POSSIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES AND POSTPONE THE LESS IMPORTANT ONES SO AS TO REDIRECT MANPOWER AND RESOURCES TO PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.

ON THE QUESTION OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. WONG SAID BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC TEND TO HAVE THE MISCONCEPTION THAT AN UPWARD REVISION OF SALARIES IS A PANACEA FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS.

IN FACT, THROUGH HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH SOME CIVIL SERVANTS, HIS IMPRESSIONS WERE THAT DISCONTENT AROSE FROM MISMANAGEMENT ON THE PART OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS, LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING, AND UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF SOME SENIOR OFFICERS.

HE HOPED THESE WOULD BE RECTIFIED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

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PLEA FOR EARLY EXPANSION OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES
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THE HON. PETER C. WONG MADE TWO PLEAS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY), ONE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR EARLY EXPANSION OF THE TWO NEW FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES, AND ANOTHER TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG.

MR. WONG'S FIRST PLEA AROSE FROM HIS CONCERN FOR THE GROWING DEMAND FOR THE SERVICE OF THE SCHEMES, ONE OF WHICH AT PRESENT SERVED BY ABOUT 100 PRACTISING LAWYERS OFFERS FREE ASSISTANCE TO ALL DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH SCHEDULED OFFENCES AT THE MAGISTRACIES AT CAUSEWAY BAY, SAN PO KONG AND NORTH KOWLOON.

ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED AS LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT SERVICE IS UNAVAILABLE AND CLIENTS ARE NEITHER MEANS TESTED NOR MERIT TESTED.

FROM JANUARY TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER, THE LAWYERS PROVIDED HELP TO 3 036 DEFENDANTS IN A TOTAL OF 2 821 CASES. THE ACQUITTAL RATE AT 54 PER CENT WAS HIGH AND HEADING THE LIST OF CHARGES WERE 'POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS' (44 PER CENT) AND 'LOITERING' (24 PER CENT).

+THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SERVICE BECOMES MORE APPARENT WHEN ONE REALISES THAT MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF OUR CRIMINAL CASES ARE TRIED IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURTS, WHICH ARE EMPOWERED TO ORDER CUSTODIAL SENTENCES OF UP TO THREE YEARS. AND THE PEOPLE TRIED IN THESE COURTS ARE THE ONES LEAST ABLE TO AFFORD LEGAL REPRESENTATION,+ HE SAID.

THE OTHER LEGAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH MR. WONG SAID WAS PROVIDING A MUCH-NEEDED AND LONG-OVERDUE SERVICE WAS THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME ON CIVIL MATTERS OPERATING AT THE EASTERN AND MONG KOK CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

+IT IS ENTIRELY FLEXIBLE WITH THE MINIMUM OF FORMALITIES. EMERGENCY CASES ARE DEALT WITH BY THE ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS LEGALLY QUALIFIED. IN ALL CASES SOME FOLLOW UP ACTION IS AVAILABLE AND IF FURTHER APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY THEY ARE ARRANGED,+ MR. WONG SAID. OVER 1 500 PEOPLE WERE HELPED UNDER THE SCHEME SINCE THIS JANUARY.

THE TWO SCHEMES ARE CHEAP TO RUN, EFFICIENT AND HAVE CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES IN THE FORM OF 170 TRAINED LEGAL MINDS AT THE PUBLIC'S DISPOSAL. THE LAWYERS PROVIDE THEIR SERVICE FREE AT THE CDO'S AND ONLY RECEIVE A VERY LOW FEE FROM THE SCHEME FUND FOR TAKING UP CASES AT THE MAGISTRACIES.

MR. WONG POINTED OUT THAT WITH A FURTHER \$2.8 MILLION THE TWO SCHEMES COULD BE EXPANDED SO THAT LEGAL REPRESENTATION WOULD BE OFFERED AT THE REMAINING FIVE MAGISTRACIES AT WESTERN, SOUTH KOWLOON, TSUEN WAN, KWUN TONG AND FANLING, AND A LEGAL ADVICE BUREAU WOULD BE SET UP IN EVERY MAJOR AREA OF POPULATION CONCENTRATION - TWO MORE ON THE ISLAND AND FOUR MORE IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING ONE TO BE OPENED THIS MONTH IN WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

/+IN OTHER

+IN OTHER WORDS, FOR \$6 MILLION AT CURRENT PRICES, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RUN EIGHT LEGAL ADVICE BUREAUS AND OFFER LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES IN HONG KONG TO ALL PEOPLE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SCHEDULED OFFENCES. MANPOWER IS AVAILABLE AND THE ADMINISTRATOR IS CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS SUFFICIENT HUMAN RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL TO COPE WITH THE EXPANSION,+ HE SAID.

HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT AT A LATER STAGE, THE RANGE OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE SHOULD BE BROADENED AND THE LIST OF SCHEDULED OFFENCES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN UP AT MAGISTRACIES LENGTHENED TO INCLUDE ALL OFFENCES OF DISHONESTY AND ALL OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

+ONLY THEN WILL GOVERNMENT BE ABLE TO CLAIM THE PROVISION OF AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES IN THE MAGISTRACIES,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO HIS OTHER PLEA FOR SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES, MR. WONG REPORTED THAT AT THE 15TH AUSTRALASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION WHICH HE RECENTLY ATTENDED AT PERTH, A MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO CONGRATULATE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON THE MAGNIFICENT HUMANITARIAN JOB IT WAS DOING.

+WHILE WE ARE PLEASED TO RECEIVE SUCH CONGRATULATIONS, THE MAIN REQUIREMENT FOR HONG KONG IS AN INCREASE IN RESETTLEMENT PLACES. HONG KONG NOW HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES IN THE WHOLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHILST ITS RATE OF RESETTLEMENT IS STILL AMONGST THE LOWEST,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED DEPARTURES FROM HONG KONG AS A PERCENTAGE OF ARRIVALS IN 1979 WAS 18 PER CENT, YET IN THE CASE OF MALAYSIA FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS 100 PER CENT. EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA HAD NEARLY 50 000 BOAT PEOPLE AND HONG KONG ONLY 5 400 AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, DEPARTURES IN 1979 SHOW THAT ONLY 17 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ARRIVED HAVE DEPARTED FROM HONG KONG COMPARED WITH 54 PER CENT IN MALAYSIA AND 36 PER CENT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

MR. WONG THEREFORE CALLED UPON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE COMMONWEALTH, TO OFFER MORE PLACES TO THOSE IN HONG KONG.

WORLD LEADERS MUST ACCEPT THAT THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS A WORLD PROBLEM AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT.

+IT IS THE ACCEPTING OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY THAT WILL GIVE CREDENCE TO THEIR PROFESSED CONCERN. IF THEY DID, AND INDEED THEY MUST, IT WOULD GO DOWN IN HISTROY AS ONE OF THE FINEST MANIFESTATIONS OF HUMANITY,+ HE SAID.

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PROPOSAL TO ENLIST ELDERLY PEOPLE IN ORGANISED VOLUNTEER SERVICES
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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENLIST HONG KONG'S ELDERLY PEOPLE, A GOOD PROPORTION OF WHOM ARE PHYSICALLY FIT AND MENTALLY ALERT, TO TAKE PART IN ORGANISED VOLUNTEER SERVICES, DR. THE HON. HO KAM-FAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE BENEFITS TO THE ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS ARE MULTIPLE, HE SAID :
+THEY ACQUIRE A NEW SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND SATISFACTION, THUS FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM, AND GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE AGEING PROCESS AS A RESULT OF HELPING OTHERS TO OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS.

+MORE IMPORTANT, THEY ATTAIN A FEELING OF SOCIAL USEFULNESS AND PERSONAL WORTH. THE VERY FACT THAT THEY PROVIDE A USEFUL AND MUCH-NEEDED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IS THE MOST POTENT INSTRUMENT THERE IS TO SHATTER THE PREJUDICE THAT THEY ARE A BURDEN RATHER THAN A RESOURCE TO THE SOCIETY.+

DR. HO POINTED OUT THAT THE SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE, THOUGH ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING THEM IN THE COMMUNITY, HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING THEM INTO
+PASSIVE RECIPIENTS OF SERVICES, CONSUMERS OF RESOURCES AND DEPENDENTS OF OUR SOCIAL SYSTEM.+

+MODERN MEDICINE ADDS YEARS TO LIFE- BUT A CARING GOVERNMENT ADDS LIFE TO YEARS,+ HE OBSERVED.

HE SUGGESTED THREE AREAS IN WHICH THE ELDERLY CAN PARTICIPATE IN PRODUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES. FIRSTLY, THEY COULD WORK WITH CHILDREN IN A VARIETY OF INSTITUTIONS. +THEY CAN ATTEND TO CHILDREN IN DAY CARE CENTRES, COMFORT THE SICK IN THE PAEDIATRIC WARDS, TEACH CHILDREN WITH SPEECH DEFECTS TO SPEAK AND HELP THE BLIND CHILDREN WALK WITH CANES. THEY CAN ALSO HELP TO FEED THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, BATHE AND DRESS THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND TELL STORIES TO THE ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED.

SECONDLY, THEY COULD RUN A VARIETY OF ERRANDS FOR OTHER ADULTS WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF DOING THE CHORES THEMSELVES.
+FOR INSTANCE, THEY COULD TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE MEALS-ON-WHEELS SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY CRIPPLED, GO SHOPPING FOR THEIR AILING COUNTERPARTS, SEW AND MEND, READ AND WRITE LETTERS FOR THE ILLITERATE, OR ASSIST YOUNG MOTHERS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR NEW-BORN BABIES.+

+THIRDLY, THEY COULD VISIT THE SICK IN HOSPITALS AND HOMES, CHEER UP THE DEPRESSED, ENCOURAGE THE INTROVERTED TO SOCIALISE OR SIMPLY PROVIDE COMPANIONSHIP TO THE ELDERLY, DETACHED PERSONS,+ DR. HO SAID.

SOME FORM OF MACHINERY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RECRUIT THEM, PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME BASIC SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE, MATCH THE PARTICULAR ASSIGNMENT WITH THEIR APTITUDE, AND PROVIDE SUPERVISION WHEREVER NECESSARY.

/HE CALLED

HE CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY SO AS TO TURN THE ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS INTO PROVIDERS OF SERVICE AND PROMOTE THEIR INDEPENDENCE. AS THE CHINESE SAYING GOES : +TO BE AGED, AND YET TO BE USEFUL.+

DR. HO ALSO COMMENTED ON THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER FOR CARRYING OUT SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND ITS REVIEW OF THE WELFARE CLASS IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE ANY MANPOWER MEASURE CAN BEGIN TO TAKE EFFECT IN TURNING OUT MORE TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RETAIN ALL EXISTING QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN THE SERVICE.

THE REVIEW, INVOLVING A RESTRUCTURING OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND CERTAIN POSTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TWO-YEAR CADETSHIP TRAINING SCHEME AIMED AT IMPROVING THE CAREER STRUCTURE OF HOLDERS OF THE SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA IN THE DEPARTMENT, COULD HAVE DISTURBING EFFECTS ON THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHICH CURRENTLY ENGAGES ALMOST 60 PER CENT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE WORKFORCE, HE SAID.

HOLDERS OF THE DIPLOMA WILL INEVITABLY BE ATTRACTED TO JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHEME, AND BECAUSE OF SALARY DISPARITIES THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECRUIT OR RETAIN THEM. THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO SWITCH OVER WILL BE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PAY DIFFERENCES AND WILL SUFFER IN MORALE AND EFFICIENCY.

+ULTIMATELY, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A DISPROPORTIONATE DISTRIBUTION OF TRAINED MANPOWER BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTORS, JEOPARDISING THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLE OF THE LATTER AS A PARTNER IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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CALL FOR OIL REFINERY REVIVED * * * * *

NEWLY APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON. WONG PO-YAN TODAY (THURSDAY) REVIVED THE SUGGESTION OF BUILDING A PETROLEUM REFINERY IN HONG KONG.

IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. WONG SAID IT APPEARED RIDICULOUS TO HIM THAT HONG KONG, WITH ITS POPULATION AND SCALE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, SHOULD NOT HAVE A SINGLE REFINERY.

WITHOUT A REFINERY HERE TO PROCESS CRUDE OIL PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT A FIXED PRICE, WE ARE UNABLE TO ENJOY RELATIVELY STABLE PRICES. AS OIL PRODUCT PRICES ARE RAISED AS MANY AS FIVE TO SIX TIMES A YEAR AND ELECTRICITY CHARGES ARE CHANGED EVERY MONTH, THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH PRODUCTION COSTS CAN BE PREDICTED OR FIXED, EVEN WITHIN A REASONABLY SHORT PERIOD, HE SAID.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXCESSIVE PRICE WE ARE PAYING COULD IN THE LONG RUN TURN OUT TO BE MANY TIMES THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING A REFINERY, WITHOUT MENTIONING THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING OUR OWN DOWN-STREAM PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE SO VITAL TO OUR CLOTHING, TEXTILE AND PLASTIC INDUSTRIES.

AS TO THE DIFFICULTIES THAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARISE, MR. WONG SAID OUR FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY TO HANDLE SUCH A PROJECT HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN THE MTR.

POLLUTION IS NOT AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM UNDER PRESENT TECHNOLOGY AND AS REGARDS A SUITABLE SITE, HE REPORTED THAT AN EXPERT FROM A JAPANESE CONSULTING FIRM HAD INITIALLY FOUND THE AREA AROUND TAP SHEK KOK SUITABLE.

+THE RECENT OIL FIND IN FRONT OF OUR DOOR STEP CAN BE A CONSIDERABLE, AND INDEED DECISIVE, INFLUENCE IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH AN IDEA. THE MODERNISATION PLANS OF CHINA MAY ALSO CREATE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF RELATED PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I SUGGEST WE CAN HARDLY IGNORE SUCH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT PROMOTION, MR. WONG SAID THAT THE OVERALL APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS TOO PASSIVE, AND HE HOPED TO SEE MORE DIRECT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY THE GENERAL STAGNANCY IN THE WORLD MARKET BUT INSTEAD SHOULD AIM TO IMPROVE OUR PERFORMANCE SO AS TO OUTPERFORM THE GENERAL TREND.

IN PURSUING THIS, MR. WONG POINTED OUT THAT SOME NEIGHBOURING COMPETITORS HAVE ADOPTED AGGRESSIVE AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MEASURES TO INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS, OFTEN AT HONG KONG'S EXPENSE.

HE ASKED THEREFORE THAT WHEN TAKING MEASURES TO COOL DOWN THE ECONOMY WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL TO AVOID DAMAGING THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. HE APPRECIATED THE MOVE BY SOME BANKS IN OFFERING CONCESSIONARY INTEREST RATES FOR THE IMPORT OF MACHINERY AND RAW MATERIALS.

HE ALSO ASKED FOR INJECTION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES INTO TRADE PROMOTION AGENCIES SUCH AS THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND MORE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF THE EFFORTS BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE TDC WILL OPEN ITS 18TH OVERSEAS OFFICE IN PANAMA SOON, SOUTH KOREA'S TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION 'KOTRA' ALREADY HAS MORE THAN 70 OVERSEAS OFFICES.

MR. WONG ALSO SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL FOR A FACTORY OWNERSHIP SCHEME. +WHILST WE NEED A REINFORCED AND MORE CONCERTED EFFORT IN PROMOTING OUR EXPORTS, WE MUST AT THE SAME TIME MAKE MORE RATIONAL USE OF OUR LOCAL RESOURCES TO HELP THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID SMALL MANUFACTURERS WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SMALL SIZE FACTORY UNITS AND WERE INEVITABLY SHOULDERED OUT OF THE MARKET BY LAND SPECULATORS.

UNDER THE SCHEME HE SUGGESTED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SELL INDUSTRIAL LAND ASSESSED AT FAIR MARKET VALUE DIRECT TO THE SMALL MANUFACTURERS, WITH SPECIFICATIONS THAT THE LAND CANNOT BE RESOLD AND MUST BE USED BY THE BUYERS THEMSELVES.

THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE FLOOR AREA OF EACH FACTORY UNIT AND THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF UNITS TO BE BUILT SHOULD ALSO BE SPECIFIED AND A CONDITION LAID DOWN THAT THE UNITS CANNOT BE RESOLD WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF COMPLETION UNLESS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITES SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE MANUFACTURERS THEMSELVES, SO AS TO RELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN AND YET GIVE THE MANUFACTURERS FLEXIBILITY TO DESIGN ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN NEEDS.

SMALL MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO STATUTORY CO-OPERATIVES, PREFERABLY BY TRADE, TO BID FOR THE SITES. IF ONLY ONE GROUP IS BIDDING, THE SITE SHOULD BE GRANTED AT FAIR MARKET VALUE AND IF MORE GROUPS BID, THE SITE CAN BE OFFERED IN A RESTRICTED TENDER, SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM PREMIUM. ALL GROUPS SHOULD BE VETTED BEFOREHAND TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE GENUINE SMALL MANUFACTURERS.

MR. WONG SAID THAT THE SCHEME IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, +IN THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE INDUSTRIAL LAND ON A NON-SUBSIDY BASIS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO ENHANCE THEIR ABILITY TO EXPORT, AND SMALL MANUFACTURERS CAN BE PROTECTED FROM SPECULATIVE FORCES.+

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UNOFFICIAL WANTS EXEMPTION FROM INTEREST TAX FOR CREDIT UNIONS
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THE HON. ANDREW SO PLEADED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) ON BEHALF OF THE CREDIT UNIONS IN HONG KONG FOR THEIR EXEMPTION FROM INTEREST TAX.

HE SAID THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IS DEMANDING IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF INTEREST TAX BY ALL THE 51 CREDIT UNIONS, NOT FOR THIS YEAR ONLY, BUT DATING BACK TO 1973.

IF THIS IS INSISTED UPON, ALL OF THEM MIGHT HAVE TO GO INTO LIQUIDATION AND THIS WOULD CAUSE PANIC, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN MOST COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, THE USA AND IRELAND, CREDIT UNIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM TAXATION, AND SECTION 25 OF THE NEW CREDIT UNIONS ACT, PASSED IN THE UK LAST MAY EXPLICITLY EXEMPTS CREDIT UNIONS FROM INTEREST TAX.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT IN HONG KONG, THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE MUST CHARGE THE TAX IF THE ORDINANCE WHICH HE ADMINISTERS LEAVES HIM NO OPTION. HE WOULD HOWEVER REQUEST THAT IMMEDIATE AND URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO AMENDING THE ORDINANCE AND IN THE MEANTIME A MORATORIUM BE PLACED ON THE DEMAND FOR SUCH TAX.

MR. SO GAVE FURTHER REASONS WHY CREDIT UNIONS IN HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED THE TAX.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CREDIT UNIONS WERE GIVEN LEGAL STATUS WHEN THE CREDIT UNIONS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN 1968. WHEN INTRODUCING THE BILL, THE THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD SAID HE HOPED THEY WOULD PROVIDE +A READY SOURCE OF CREDIT, WITH A MINIMUM OF INCONVENIENCE, FOR THE LOW SALARIED WORKER WHO FINDS IT DIFFICULT OR EVEN IMPOSSIBLE TO BORROW OTHERWISE THAN AT VERY HIGH RATES OF INTERESTS.+

IT WAS ALSO NOTED BY HIM AT THAT TIME THAT YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY BENEFITTED, SINCE ONE OF THE MAIN AIMS OF THE CREDIT UNION IS TO INCULCATE THRIFT AND TO TEACH MEMBERS THE WISE USE OF MONEY.

IN HONG KONG TODAY, MR. SO SAID, THERE ARE 51 CREDIT UNIONS WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF NEARLY 12 000 DRAWN FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE. MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES CIVIL SERVANTS, RESIDENTS IN HOUSING ESTATES, COMPANY EMPLOYEES, HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, HOSPITAL STAFF AND SMALL FACTORY OWNERS.

THEY HAVE FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY SAVED A TOTAL OF \$12 MILLION TO HELP THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS IN NEED. THEY DO NOT ASK FOR OR RECEIVE ANY SUBSIDY FROM THE GOVERNMENT. EVERY CENT WHICH THEY LEND TO THEIR MEMBERS COMES FROM THEIR OWN VOLUNTARY SAVINGS. A SMALL INTEREST OF ONE PER CENT OR LESS ON THE REDUCING BALANCE OF THE LOAN IS CHARGED TO THE BORROWERS, TO DEFRAY THE RUNNING COST, AND THE BALANCE IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERS AT THE END OF THE YEAR. RUNNING COSTS ARE KEPT LOW BECAUSE ALL THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND IN FACT ABOUT 900 MEMBERS SACRIFICE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY AFTER WORK TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR FELLOW-MEMBERS.

HE SAID IF THESE CREDIT UNIONS HAVE TO GO INTO LIQUIDATION, THE 12 000 MEMBERS AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE PREPARING TO FORM CREDIT UNIONS AND THOSE SETTLING IN THE NEW TOWNS WHERE THERE ARE AS YET NO CREDIT UNION WILL NO LONGER FIND READY CREDIT AND MAY BE THROWN BACK INTO THE HANDS OF LOAN-SHARKS.

IN FACT, HE POINTED OUT, STATISTICS SHOW THAT LOAN-SHARKS AND MONEY-LENDERS ARE STEADILY EXPANDING THEIR ACTIVITIES.

IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED MONEY-LENDERS WAS 1 295. IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL REGISTRATIONS HAD ALREADY REACHED 765, AND ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, MANY OF THE RECENTLY REGISTERED MONEY-LENDERS WERE IN FACT LOAN-SHARKS, USING THE SAME METHODS AS BEFORE AND CHARGING SIMILAR HIGH RATES OF INTEREST.

THE 12 000 EXISTING MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND MANY OTHERS WILL HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY IN ITS REPEATED STATEMENTS ABOUT ENCOURAGING SELF-HELP PROJECTS.

+THEY WILL ALSO ASK WHY IS IT THAT THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IS SPENDING SO MUCH ENERGY IN HOUNDING A LOW INCOME GROUP WHEN ALL THE WORLD SUSPECTS THAT MANY RICH PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO EVADE TAX IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER,+ HE SAID.

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COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHEME URGENTLY REQUIRED
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A COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHEME MUST BE IMPLEMENTED RAPIDLY, TO KEEP PACE WITH AND TO MAKE UP FOR GROUND LOST DUE TO GROWING COMPETITION FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, THE HON. ALLEN LEE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

+IT CANNOT BE EMPHASISED STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT WE MUST RAISE THE LEVEL OF SKILL OF OUR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS QUICKLY, IF WE ARE TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

+LOW-END PRODUCTS WILL BE OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE GROWING COMPETITION FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, ON THE OTHER, OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN OUTSTRIPPED IN RECENT YEARS BY COMPETITORS LIKE TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA. IN ADDITION, THE MODERNISATION OF CHINA REPRESENTS INTENSE COMPETITION FOR OUR LOW-END PRODUCTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HE WAS THEREFORE EAGER TO KNOW THE VIEWS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION ON HOW TO FINANCE A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING SCHEME WHICH HE SAID MUST BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ON LABOUR LEGISLATION, MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT INDUSTRIALISTS HERE ACCEPT AND WELCOME SUCH LEGISLATION TO PROTECT WORKERS AND IMPROVE THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS. +INDEED WITHOUT SKILLED LABOUR, THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY WOULD BE IMPEDED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG, TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF ITS INDUSTRY- AND THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION SO WELL APPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

MR. LEE COMMENTED ON FOUR ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY. HE SAID IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THE MONETARY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE MARKED RISE IN EXPORT PERFORMANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT THIS IS TRADITIONALLY A HIGH SEASON.

HE STRESSED THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED TO CURB INFLATION, CURRENTLY RUNNING AT ABOUT 11 PER CENT. A STRONG HONG KONG DOLLAR, TO BE ACHIEVED BY INCREASED EXPORT-EARNINGS, SHOULD HELP TOWARDS CONTROLLING IMPORTED INFLATION, AND DOMESTIC INFLATION COULD BE EASED BY DISCOURAGING SPECULATION.

SINCE THE OIL SITUATION PLAYS A DOMINANT ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY, HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE AN ENERGY POLICY, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE USE OF OIL BY PUBLIC UTILITIES, THEN INDUSTRY, AND THIRDLY TO DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD INTRODUCE AND PROMOTE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES AND EXPAND OIL STORAGE FACILITIES THROUGH AN ENERGY POLICY COMMITTEE, WORKING IN CONSULTATION WITH ESTABLISHED INSTITUTES.

/AS TO

AS TO OUR STRATEGY TOWARDS THE WORLD ECONOMY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE, MR. LEE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD TRADE UP AND SEEK NEW MARKETS.

HE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING POLICY AND SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT PRODUCTION OF FLATS THIS YEAR WOULD BE 35 000 UNITS AND NOT THE PLANNED 45 000 UNITS.

MR. LEE SAID REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR THIS REDUCTION, IT IS THE LESS PRIVILEGED FAMILIES WHO SUFFER. HE FURTHER URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND RAISE THE MAXIMUM INCOME QUALIFICATION TO \$8 000.

+IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR FAMILIES TO BUY THEIR OWN 600 TO 700 SQUARE FEET FLAT WHICH CURRENTLY COSTS SOME \$400 000 TO \$500 000,+ HE SAID. +I REGARD HOUSING AS ONE OF OUR MOST CRITICAL DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND IT CERTAINLY DESERVES FURTHER CONSIDERATION.+

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PROMOTION OF THE USE OF MANDARIN
AND SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS URGED

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THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG SUGGESTED THAT THE USE OF MANDARIN AS SPOKEN CHINESE AND THE SIMPLIFIED SCRIPT OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE BE PROMOTED IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, HE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS, MANDARIN IS THE MOST COMMON LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD, BEING SPOKEN BY ABOUT ONE-SEVENTH OF THE WORLD POPULATION.

HOWEVER, CANTONESE IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED CHINESE DIALECT IN HONG KONG AND NOT MANY PEOPLE HERE KNOW HOW TO SPEAK MANDARIN PROPERLY.

AS FOR THE WRITTEN FORM OF THE LANGUAGE, THE MOST COMMONLY USED AND ACCEPTED IN HONG KONG IS THE NEW VERSION, AS OPPOSED TO THE LITERARY VERSION, BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL SCRIPT. THE SIMPLIFIED SCRIPT IS USED AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA.

MR. YEUNG THOUGHT IT IS NOW THE RIGHT TIME TO MAKE OUR CHOICE OF THE FORM OF CHINESE WE WANT PROMOTED IN HONG KONG. +IN SETTING OUR AIMS WE MUST BE FAR-SIGHTED, RATIONAL AND UNBIASED AND OUR CHOICE MUST BE BOLD AND PRACTICAL. THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND OUR YOUNG GENERATION MUST OUTWEIGH ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE OBSERVED THAT AT PRESENT, ENGLISH IS STILL THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE USED HERE AS THE MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION BY BOTH THE COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC SECTORS, AND PARTICULARLY IN TRADING WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

+IT IS THE SECOND COMMONEST LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD USED BY 10 PER CENT OR MORE OF THE WORLD POPULATION IN 34 SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES.

+IF HONG KONG IS TO PLAY ITS INTERNATIONAL ROLE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY BE MAINTAINED BUT SHOULD BE IMPROVED.+

IN PARALLEL WITH ITS USE, THE USE OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE MUST BE PROMOTED SO THAT HONG KONG CAN CONTINUE TO OFFER ITS SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES, AS WELL AS SERVING SUCCESSFULLY AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

+THIS FACTOR HAS GAINED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE NOW THAT CHINA HAS LAUNCHED HERSELF INTO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF WORLD ACTIVITIES AND WILL REMAIN IN ALL PROBABILITY AS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE WORLD SCENE,+ HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS PARITY OF SUBSIDY REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTED * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE APPLICATION OF THE PARITY OF SUBSIDY PRINCIPLE TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOLS, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. Q.W. LEE.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE: MR. ROGER LOBO= MR. CHARLES YEUNG= MRS. KATHERINE YAU= MR. D.R.Y. BLUCK= MR. C.M. GUILFORD= THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. E.P. HO= THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. D.B.M. BOARD= AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, MR. CLIVE OXLEY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING YESTERDAY, AND IT HOPED THAT ITS REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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LIMITED SIZE FOR GRAVE MONUMENTS * * * *

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT GRAVE MONUMENTS IN PUBLIC CEMETERIES SHOULD NOT EXCEED 900 MM IN LENGTH OR WIDTH AND A HEIGHT OF 1 500 MM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 61 URN GRAVE MONUMENTS IN WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY WERE FOUND TO BE OVER-SIZED.

+TO MAINTAIN UNIFORMITY OF GRAVE MONUMENT SIZES IN PUBLIC CEMETERIES, A REGULATION WAS GAZETTED ON MARCH 31 THIS YEAR TO LIMIT THE SIZES OF GRAVE MONUMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THERE ARE ALTOGETHER FOUR PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES - WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY, CHEUNG CHAU CEMETERY, SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY AND TAI O CEMETERY.

/+HOWEVER,

+HOWEVER, OVER-SIZED URN GRAVE MONUMENTS ARE FOUND IN WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY ONLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+APART FROM PUTTING UP NOTICES ON THE GRAVE MONUMENTS IN QUESTION, WARNING LETTERS WERE ALSO POSTED ON OCTOBER 25 TO THE NEXT OF KIN NAMED IN OUR REGISTER OF THE DECEASED.

+THE OVER-SIZED MONUMENTS SHOULD BE MODIFIED WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THE LETTER TO CONFORM WITH THE REGULATION. OTHERWISE THE MONUMENTS WILL BE REMOVED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE,+ HE ADDED.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD CALL THE WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY OFFICE AT TELEPHONE NO. : 12-902296.

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SNT TO OPEN FIRST SPORTS FESTIVAL IN NT
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THE FIRST EVER SPORTS FESTIVAL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED IN TSUEN WAN ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 3).

SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL PERFORM THE CEREMONY AT TSUEN WAN'S YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND AT 3 P.M.

ALSO ATTENDING THE OPENING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR. HARNAM GREWAL, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE FESTIVAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. CHOW HAU-CHEN.

THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE DRAGON, LION AND CHINESE FOLK DANCES BY LOCAL GROUPS, AFTER WHICH THERE WILL BE AN EXHIBITION FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN YUEN LONG AND HAPPY VALLEY.

THE FESTIVAL IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SPORTS FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 3). TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE PROVIDED. IT WILL LEAVE FROM THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 1.45 P.M.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT TO HOLD AUTUMN FAIR
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MRS. M. DAVIES, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, WILL OPEN THE 27TH AUTUMN FAIR OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AT NOON ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 3), ON THE SPORTS FIELD NEXT TO STANLEY PRISON.

ALL PROCEEDS OF THE FAIR, WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SPORTS ASSOCIATION, WILL GO TO VARIOUS CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT'S WELFARE SERVICES.

IN THE FAIR THERE WILL BE OVER 30 STALLS SELLING A WIDE RANGE OF PRISON INDUSTRIAL AND HOBBY CLASSES PRODUCTS.

THE FAIR WILL ALSO FEATURE A 'FREE-FALL' PARACHUTE DISPLAY BY MEMBERS OF THE JOINT SERVICE PARACHUTE CENTRE, A BICYCLE DEMONSTRATION BY THE SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S BICYCLE TEAM AND A MARCHING DISPLAY BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE BAND.

THE POPULAR FIGURE OF THE REDIFFUSION TELEVISION LIMITED'S 'WHIZ KID' PROGRAMME, MO MO THE PANDA, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO ENTERTAIN THE CHILDREN. REFRESHMENT STALLS AND A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT A FEE OF \$2 WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME.

LIMITED PARKING SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OPEN SPACE OUTSIDE STANLEY PRISON'S MAIN GATE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE FAIR WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AFTER THE OPENING BY MRS. DAVIES. IT WILL BE CLOSED AT 6 P.M.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE 27TH AUTUMN FAIR OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT BY MRS. M. DAVIES, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, AT NOON ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 3) AT THE SPORTS FIELD NEXT TO STANLEY PRISON.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

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NEW DATES FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A
SECTION OF ARGYLE STREET
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THE TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF ARGYLE STREET FROM YIM PO FONG STREET TO PEACE AVENUE BETWEEN OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 6 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

THIS SECTION OF ARGYLE STREET WILL NOW BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN NOVEMBER 4 AND 10 FROM 1 A.M. TO 5 A.M. TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BRIDGE.

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE, AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE FROM THE GROUND LEVEL OF THE ARGYLE STREET FLYOVER VIA WATERLOO ROAD, RIGHT TURN INTO YIM PO FONG STREET AND LEFT TURN INTO ARGYLE STREET.

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO TURN RIGHT INTO YIM PO FONG STREET, LEFT TURN ONTO WATERLOO ROAD TO REJOIN ARGYLE STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE AT JACKSON ROAD AND CLUB STREET
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 4) JACKSON ROAD AND CLUB STREET JUNCTIONS WITH CHATER ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FOR TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE WORK ON CHATER ROAD.

DURING THE PERIOD, BOTH JACKSON ROAD AND CLUB STREET WILL BECOME A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.

ALSO, KMB AIRPORT COACH ROUTE 200 ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY FROM THE AIRPORT WILL BE DIVERTED TO MURRAY ROAD NORTHBOUND AND REJOIN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, TERMINATING AT ICE HOUSE STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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