



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1976

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CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND FOR MANUAL WORKERS ADVOCATED

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DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN TODAY REPEATED HIS CALL FOR THE SETTING UP OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND FOR MANUAL WORKERS.

OPENING THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ON OCTOBER 6, HE SAID THAT THE KIND OF CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND HE HAD IN MIND WAS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND ADMINISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR ITS AGENCY.

+AN EMPLOYEE IS FREE TO CHANGE HIS EMPLOYER WITHIN HONG KONG WITHOUT ANY PENALTY. IT SHOULD BE A COMPULSORY CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME BUT ONLY THE EMPLOYERS AND NOT THE EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE.+

DR. CHUNG BELIEVED THAT THIS KIND OF FUND WOULD NOT ONLY HELP PROVIDE THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR THE LOWER INCOME WORKERS BUT WOULD ALSO HELP PROMOTE THE INVOLVEMENT OF A GREATER MASS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD THEN HAVE A STAKE IN HONG KONG AND A SENSE OF BELONGING.

HE RECALLED THAT THE CALL WAS MADE TWO YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME, HE ALSO DREW THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT TO THE LACK OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN HONG KONG.

DR. CHUNG VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME SO AS TO PROVIDE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ABLE-BODIED PERSONS BETWEEN 15 AND 55 YEARS.

HE FELT SURE THAT THE WORKING POPULATION AND PARTICULARLY THOSE ON THE SHOP FLOOR WOULD WELCOME THE PROPOSAL.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSAL, DR. CHUNG POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S COMPETITORS IN THIS REGION, BOTH KOREA AND TAIWAN HAD STATUTORY RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR WORKERS AND BOTH SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA HAD CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUNDS FOR WAGE EARNERS.

ON THE ROLE OF UMELCO, DR. CHUNG SAID THAT THE AVERAGE OF SUCCESSFUL CASES HANDLED OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS WAS AROUND 26 PER CENT.

+THIS FIGURE COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THAT OF OMBUDSMANLIKE SYSTEMS ELSEWHERE OF WHICH THE SUCCESSFUL RATE, AS I UNDERSTAND, RANGES BETWEEN 20 TO 25 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE UMELCO COMPLAINTS SYSTEM CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1970-71, THE NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED IN THAT YEAR TOTALLED 843.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, HE SAID, THE CASE LOAD HAD GROWN MORE THAN FOUR TIMES TO 3,304.

/HE ATTRIBUTED .....

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HE ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESSES SCORED BY THE UMELCO TO THE THREE RIGHTS GRANTED TO THE MEMBERS BY THE GOVERNOR -- THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION, THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.

DESPITE THE RATHER SATISFACTORY RATE OF GROWTH AND SUCCESSFUL CASES ATTAINED, DR. CHUNG SAID, THE UMELCO COMPLAINTS SYSTEM AT PRESENT WAS NOT WITHOUT SOME PROBLEMS.

+THE FINDING OF INFORMATION AND FACTS BY UMELCO OFFICERS WITH THE AID OF THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED IS MANPOWER CONSUMING ESPECIALLY IN THESE CASES WHEN THE TIME FACTOR IS IMPORTANT,+ DR. CHUNG SAID.

HE SAID THAT +AT PRESENT THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE UMELCO COMPLAINTS SECTION IS VERY TIGHT AND EACH OFFICER, ON THE AVERAGE, HAS TO HANDLE ABOUT 300 CASES, SIMPLE AND COMPLICATED, A YEAR. WE NEED NOT ONLY MORE STAFF BUT GREATER NUMBER OF HIGH-CALIBRE STAFF.+

HOWEVER, DR. CHUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT FINANCIAL AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY SYMPATHETIC AND GENEROUS BUT WERE IN DIFFICULTY OVER THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF STAFF.

SECONDLY, HE SAID, WAS A MATTER OF PROCEDURE REGARDING THE DOCTRINE OF SUB-JUDICE.

+THE UMELCO OFFICE USUALLY ACTS ON COMPLAINTS WITH SOME SPEED. HOWEVER, IF A COMPLAINT IS PRESENTED TO UMELCO AND PROCEEDINGS ARE TAKEN AGAINST THE COMPLAINANT IN COURT ON THE SAME OR A CLOSELY RELATED MATTER, UMELCO CANNOT CONTINUE TO PROCESS THE MATTER UNDER COMPLAINT UNTIL THE COURT PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN FINISHED OR ABANDONED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE COMPLAINANTS WHO WERE UPSET BY THE DELAY, IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR UMELCO OR ANY COMPLAINT SYSTEM TO OPERATE IN ANY OTHER WAY.

+WE MUST NOT BE SEEN TO BE ACTING IN CONFLICT WITH THE COURTS,+ HE STATED.

HOWEVER, DR. CHUNG SAID THE UMELCO COMPLAINTS SYSTEM WAS WITHOUT DOUBT EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS TO AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.

REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR SETTING UP A BRANCH OFFICE IN KOWLOON, DR. CHUNG SAID THAT +IT IS A MATTER WHICH NEEDS FURTHER CONSIDERATION.+

HE EXPLAINED: +GEOGRAPHICALLY AND FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SERVICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC LIVING IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR AN UMELCO OFFICE IN KOWLOON TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMPLAINTS.+

/+ON THE .....

+ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS REALISED THAT THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS, AS WE DO ACHIEVE AT PRESENT, LIES IN CENTRALISATION, SPEED OF PROCESSING, AND IMMEDIATE ACCESSIBILITY TO MOST MEMBERS, ALL UMELCO STAFF AND MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.+

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALSO THE CONSIDERATION OF INCREASED COSTS OF OPERATION RESULTING FROM DUPLICATION AND INTERNAL RED-TAPE.

ON CONSUMER COUNCIL, DR. CHUNG SAID, IT HAD OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS DONE SOME GOOD WORK IN THE FIELD OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, ITS DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES WERE MUCH HAMPERED DUE TO CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES.

+ONE SUCH DIFFICULTY IS THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IS NOT A STATUTORY BODY,+ HE SAID.

+THE COUNCIL, AS IT NOW STANDS, CAN NEITHER SUE NOR BE SUED AND, SHOULD THERE BE ANY SUIT FOR DEFAMATION, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE LIABLE TO BE SUED INSTEAD.+

HE DISCLOSED THAT THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CASES WHERE THE NAME OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY USED IN ADVERTISEMENTS AND AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO WAY THE COUNCIL COULD TAKE THE OFFENDERS TO COURT.

+OTHER DIFFICULTIES WHICH IMPEDE THE WORK OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ARE THE ANTIQUITY OF CONSUMER LEGISLATION AND THE LACK OF LEGAL BACKING,+ HE ADDED.

DR. CHUNG PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT UPDATE ALL CONSUMER LEGISLATION AND CONSIDER GRANTING THE CONSUMER COUNCIL THE NECESSARY POWER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION SO THAT THE COUNCIL COULD CARRY OUT ITS CONSUMER PROTECTION WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY FOR THE OVERALL GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HE SAID THAT OVER THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY, +OUR FOREIGN TRADE HAS GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS AND IS NOW APPROACHING \$100 BILLION A YEAR.+

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HE ADDED, HAD CORRESPONDINGLY BECOME MUCH WIDER, DIVERSIFIED AND COMPLICATED. YET THE ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT HAD SO FAR REMAINED PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW SHOWING SIGNS OF STRESS AND STRAIN.

+LEST MY HONOURABLE MEMBERS MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTION, I HASTEN TO SAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS DONE EXTREMELY WELL IN THE TRADE RELATIONS, IN CERTIFICATION AND IN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION.

+NONETHELESS, IT URGENTLY NEEDS MODERNISATION, REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION TO KEEP PACE WITH OUR RAPID COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH, WITHOUT DISPUTE, IS THE VERY LIFEBLOOD OF THE 4.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.+

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SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S TARGET ON HOUSING

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT GOOD PUBLIC HOUSING AT REASONABLY LOW RENTALS WAS ESSENTIAL IN CREATING A SENSE OF IDENTITY AND LOYALTY TO HONG KONG.

IN SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET TO HAVE +SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING IN A DECENT ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL AND WITHIN THE MEANS OF ALL, BY THE EARLY 80S+, HE SAID IT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL TO GIVE THE SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN THE PRESSURE NECESSARY TO SEE THAT THE BACK OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM WAS BROKEN BY 1984.

REGARDING HOME OWNERSHIP, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE PROMOTION OF THIS SCHEME PARTICULARLY FOR THE LOWER MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS WITH A MAXIMUM FAMILY MONTHLY INCOME OF \$3,500 TO \$4,000, DESERVED SUPPORT AND THAT THE COUNCIL WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING MORE ABOUT THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE DEvised BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S WORKING PARTY AS TO HOW THE SCHEME WOULD OPERATE.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO ELIMINATE PRINCIPAL DEFECTS IN HONG KONG'S SOCIETY IN 10 YEARS.

THIS LONG-TERM PLANNING, HE SAID, CONTRIBUTED CONFIDENCE TO HONG KONG AND ENCOURAGED ITS CITIZENS TO FACE THE FUTURE WITH DETERMINATION AND CONVICTION.

+MANY OF GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM PLANS SEEK TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS AND THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT,+ HE STATED.

+THE THRUST TOWARDS BETTER CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS, IF SENSIBLY APPLIED AT THE RIGHT POINT IN TIME, WILL PROGRESSIVELY DEMOLISH IN OUR SOCIETY THE TIME-WORN BELIEF THAT THE BLUE-COLLAR WORKER IS AT THE LOWER RUNG OF THE SOCIAL LADDER THAN THE WHITE-COLLAR WORKER OR MANAGER.

+YET IN ADVANCING TOWARDS MORE WORKERS' WELFARE, WE CANNOT SUCCUMB TO ANY ILL-ADVISED PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, NO MATTER HOW WELL-INTENTIONED, TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF SUCH SOCIAL REFORMS BEYOND THE GROWTH CAPACITY OF OUR ECONOMY.+

+HONG KONG'S VERITABLE EXISTENCE,+ HE STRESSED, +DEPENDS FIRSTLY ON CONFIDENCE AND SECONDLY ON AN EXPANDING ECONOMY CAPABLE OF ABSORBING A STEADY PACE OF SOCIAL REFORMS.+

ON UMELCO, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PRESENT SYSTEM IMPROVED EVEN FURTHER THROUGH CLOSER LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE UMELCO OFFICE.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE, HE ADDED, WAS TO EXPOSE THOSE AREAS WHERE +POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATION NEEDS TO BE CHANGED, WHERE THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR DEPARTURE FROM POLICY IN THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHERE NO ACTION IS FORTHCOMING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.+

/MR. CHEONG-LEEN .....

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, PREVENTIVE SERVICE FOR YOUTH AND CRIME.

ON THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, HE WAS DISTURBED TO FIND THAT DESPITE THE LOW CHARGE OF \$5 A YEAR PER STUDENT, ENROLMENT STOOD AT ONLY 10 PER CENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF REGRET THAT AS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR ONLY 136 DOCTORS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 204 PARTICIPATING WERE ALLOCATED PANELS OF STUDENTS, WHILE 68 DOCTORS STILL AWAITED ALLOCATION OF STUDENTS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT PARTICIPATION.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CARRY OUT A RESEARCH TO FIND OUT WHY SO MANY OF HONG KONG'S STUDENTS WORE GLASSES.

REFERRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME PLAN TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN CRIME AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, HE SAID: +PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO STUDY THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SCOTLAND WHICH HAS RECENTLY ABOLISHED JUVENILE COURTS AND REPLACE THEM BY WELFARE TRIBUNALS WHICH CARRY OUT CHILDREN'S HEARINGS AND WHICH ARE STAFFED BY LAY PEOPLE.

ON THE PRESENT METHOD OF REPORTING CRIME, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE WONDERED WHETHER THE POLICE HAD REALLY DONE THE BEST IT COULD TO FACILITATE THE REPORTING OF CRIME.

+THERE IS A NEED FOR THE POLICE TO SET UP A CENTRALISED TELEPHONE REPORTING SYSTEM WHEREBY ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REPORTING A CRIME BY TELEPHONING 999 COULD GIVE THE INFORMATION RIGHT AWAY TO A CENTRAL REPORTING CENTRE SWITCHED OVER TO THE INTERNAL EXTENSION OF THE POLICE STATION CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THAT HONG KONG'S STANDARD RATE OF TAXATION WAS LOW AND +WE WANT TO KEEP IT AS LOW AS IS PRACTICABLE, FOR THIS IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS ATTRACTING CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY INTO HONG KONG TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE.+

IN A FEW MONTHS, HE SAID, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WOULD PRESENT HIS NEXT BUDGET.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WOULD, AT THE TIME, ELUCIDATE FURTHER AS TO +WHETHER ALL THE VERY DESIRABLE AND WORTHWHILE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES WE ARE EMBARKING ON WILL BE FINANCED ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT RATES OF TAXATION AND THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF SIX PERCENT PER ANNUM FOR THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.+

+HONG KONG IS NOW EXPERIENCING A SOCIAL REVOLUTION THAT WILL GIVE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A BETTER EDUCATION TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALITY AND ATTAIN A GOOD STANDARD OF LIVING,+ HE SAID.

+IN THIS PROCESS WE HOPE THEY WILL ACQUIRE A SENSE OF LOCAL IDENTITY AND LOYALTY BY CHANNELLING THEIR SPARE TIME INTO VOLUNTEER WORK IN THEIR DISTRICT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

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SUPPORT FOR GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES

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DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG TODAY GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES WHICH, HE SAID, +HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS+.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE WELCOMED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ENDEAVOUR TO EXPLORE THE MANY FACETS OF REHABILITATION, TO PINPOINT DEFICIENCIES, AND TO SUGGEST REALISTIC MEANS OF CLOSING THE GAP.

DR. FANG ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND TO CO-ORDINATE THE POLICY ASPECTS OF ACTIVITIES BOTH WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD APPOINT ITS CHAIRMAN AND THAT MEMBERS SHOULD CONSIST OF BOTH OFFICIALS AND UNOFFICIALS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, SHOULD GET ON IMMEDIATELY WITH TWO PRIMARY TASKS, NAMELY: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY TO PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED STATISTICS FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO REGIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT CENTRES, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE HARBOUR, TO BE ATTACHED TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE LATTER WAS A SOUND PROPOSAL AND WOULD PROVIDE THE NERVE CENTRE FOR DISPENSING REHABILITATION NEEDS.

WHILE SUPPORTING A SUGGESTION IN THE GREEN PAPER THAT THE POLYTECHNIC SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING THE MANPOWER NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE PLANS OUTLINED, DR. FANG EMPHASISED THAT THE AIM SHOULD BE TO PRODUCE TWO TIERS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, ONE AT A LOWER LEVEL AND THE OTHER AT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL.

+EXPERIENCE IN MANY COUNTRIES SUGGESTS THAT MUCH OF THE REPETITIVE WORK INVOLVED IN REHABILITATION SERVICES CAN BE PERFORMED EFFICIENTLY AND SATISFACTORILY BY A GRADE OF SEMI-PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL STAFF UNDER SUPERVISION.+

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S IMMEDIATE AIM SHOULD BE TO PRODUCE TRAINED PERSONNEL GEARED TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS AND NOT NECESSARILY TO STRIVE FOR RECOGNITION BY INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

DR. FANG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EDUCATION ON THE PRINCIPLES OF REHABILITATION SHOULD START IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND ALSO IN TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES, FOR TEACHERS AND CHILDREN ALIKE SHOULD BE SHOWN HOW DISABILITIES COULD BE AVOIDED.

+CONSIDERATION FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE DISABLED SHOULD BE NUTURED IN THE YOUNG AT AN EARLY AGE SO THAT THIS CARE AND SYMPATHY MAY BE REFLECTED IN LATER LIFE, WHETHER AS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, A REHABILITATION WORKER OR A POTENTIAL EMPLOYER OF THE DISABLED,+ HE SAID.

/+I BELIEVE .....

+I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN REAP CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS FOR A VERY MODEST INVESTMENT IN THIS DIRECTION.+

DR. FANG GAVE HIS SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH A DENTAL SCHOOL IN THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY. HOWEVER, HE ADVOCATED THAT THE SCHOOL SHOULD NOT FORM PART OF THE EXISTING MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY, BUT SHOULD FUNCTION AS A SEPARATE ENTITY TO AVOID HAVING TO COMPETE WITH OTHER NEEDS OF THE FACULTY FOR MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO STATE ITS POLICY ON DENTAL CARE FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND TO INDICATE WHEN SUCH SERVICES MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

ON THE CURRENT POSITION OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN WHICH THERE IS AN ENROLMENT OF 94,000 PUPILS AND A PANEL OF 200 DOCTORS, DR. FANG SAID: +CONSIDERING THE STUDENT POPULATION, ITS COVERAGE IS NOT WIDE AND I BELIEVE THERE IS ROOM FOR DEVELOPING THE SERVICE.+

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE DOCTORS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHEME FOR THEIR PUBLIC SPIRIT SINCE THE FEES INVOLVED -- AT \$25 PER CHILD PER YEAR INCLUDING CONSULTATION AND MEDICINE -- HARDLY MADE IT WORTH THEIR WHILE.

DR. FANG SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S SUBSIDY OF \$20 PER CHILD SHOULD BE INCREASED SO THAT A GREATER NUMBER OF DOCTORS MIGHT BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

REFERRING TO THE PARENTS' CONTRIBUTION OF \$5, HE SAID IT SHOULD ALSO BE WAIVED BECAUSE IT WAS HARDLY WORTH COLLECTING.

HOWEVER, HE PROPOSED, PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF NINE YEARS OF SUBSIDISED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLING FOR ALL.

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HONG KONG'S WAGE RATES NEXT ONLY TO  
HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES  
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ANY FURTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AFFECTING THE USE OF LABOUR, OR ANYTHING THAT WOULD UNDULY INCREASE THE BURDEN OR OVERHEADS OF INDUSTRY SHOULD BE EXAMINED WITH THE UTMOST CARE AND CONSIDERATION, THE HON. JAMES WU TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING ADDRESS, HE SAID THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH MEASURES COULD BE FAR-REACHING AT OUR PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND COULD GREATLY HARM OUR FLEXIBILITY AND COST US MANY ORDERS AND JOBS.

HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING TO TURN THE CLOCK BACKWARDS AND THAT HONG KONG INDUSTRIALISTS WERE PROUD TO BE ABLE TO OFFER BETTER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT WHERE THEY COULD AFFORD.

+IN ANY CASE IT IS THE HARD FACT OF LIFE THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO WORK HARDER TO CATCH UP WITH THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS BETTER RESOURCES AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN IMPROVING LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE LAST SIX OR SEVEN YEARS, NOTING THAT A TOTAL OF 135 PIECES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED FROM 1968 TO DATE.

+IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THESE HAVE BEEN PASSED WITHOUT MUCH OF A MURMUR, WITH INDUSTRY GENERALLY AGREEABLE AND BEING ABLE TO AFFORD THE IMPROVEMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE FELT THAT THE PROPOSED ONE WEEK'S HOLIDAY WITH PAY WAS NOT LIKELY TO AROUSE MUCH OBJECTION +BEARING IN MIND THAT WORKERS DO TAKE LEAVE AS AND WHEN THEY LIKE, WITH OR WITHOUT PAY, AND SO AT WORSE THIS AMOUNTS TO A TWO PER CENT INCREASE IN PAY+.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IF THE HOLIDAYS MUST BE TAKEN IN ONE CONSECUTIVE PERIOD AND NO PAYMENT IN LIEU WAS ALLOWED, THEN THE QUESTION OF COSTS WOULD BE GREATLY MAGNIFIED AND THE PROBLEMS OF PRACTICAL APPLICATION SO GREAT THAT INDUSTRY AT THIS STAGE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BEAR IT BY AS SOON AS 1978.

+ONE INDUSTRIALIST ESTIMATES THAT IT WOULD CAUSE A LOSS IN OUR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY \$500 TO \$1,000 MILLION PER YEAR, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO THE COST OF HOUSING 100,000 PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

/HE ADDED: .....

HE ADDED: +ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ONE REST DAY A WEEK INSTEAD OF FOUR A MONTH WOULD ATTRACT EVEN LESS ATTENTION, AS IT IS LOGICAL AND ONE WONDERS WHY IT WAS NOT ENACTED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.+

+IMPROVEMENTS IN SEVERANCE PAY AND SICKNESS BENEFITS HAVE HOWEVER BEEN MATTERS OF SPECULATION AND CONCERN TO LARGE AND SMALL FACTORIES IN THAT THE FIRST ONE IMMEDIATELY IMPOSES INCREASED CONTINGENT LIABILITY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE FIRM'S BORROWING POWER, THUS INHIBIT EXPANSION AND EMPLOYMENT, AND THE SECOND TENDS TO ENCOURAGE OR ASSIST MALINGERING,+ MR. WU SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN THAT WE MIGHT BE IMPOSING TOO MANY BURDENS TOO SOON ON OUR INDUSTRY, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT IF ALL THESE HAD BEEN FORCED ON HONG KONG FOR SELFISH REASONS RATHER THAN FOR HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION, THEY MUST BE RESISTED.

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIALIST WAS FACED WITH A HOST OF +SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES+ AND ADDED, +PARADOXICALLY, YET UNDERSTANDABLY, IT IS THE WORKING MEN AND GIRLS ON THE SHOP-FLOOR WHO WITH IMMEDIATE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING SHARE THE MUTUAL APPRECIATION WITH MANAGEMENT TO TACKLE THE COMMON PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THEM+.

THIS CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT, HE WENT ON, BROUGHT HONG KONG THROUGH THE RECESSION AND ENABLED IT TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY +WITH LABOUR BENEFITTING FROM A HEFTY INCREASE IN PAY UPWARDS OF 20-30 PER CENT, AND EVEN GREATER PERCENTAGE IN EARNING, IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS THROUGH THE SHEER NATURAL MARKET FORCES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND+.

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT THE WAGE RATES OF HONG KONG WERE NEXT ONLY TO THE HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA, WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN, COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE U.K., AND MUCH BETTER THAN THOSE OF TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT HONG KONG COULD LEAST AFFORD TO IGNORE THE LOW WAGES AND BARGAINS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AT ITS OWN PERIL, +AND IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE QUICK RESPONSE AND FLEXIBILITY OF OUR MANUFACTURERS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE RECOVERY OF OUR MARKETS OVERSEAS LAST YEAR THUS REVERSING THE ECONOMIC RECESSION+.

TURNING TO THE ICAC, MR. WU SAID IT WAS REASSURING TO HEAR THAT BASICALLY THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ITS PRIORITIES AND THAT, SPECIFICALLY, IT SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC RATHER THAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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+WHILST BUSINESS IS UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED WITH EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THE COURSE OF LAST YEAR, AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON OUR TRADE, IT IS HOPED THAT A CONTINUED DIALOGUE AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION CAN DEVELOP WITH THE COMMUNITY TO ASSIST THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS OFFICE IN FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS VEXING PROBLEM DURING OUR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TOWARDS REALLY CLEAN AND STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALING IN BUSINESS, A FORMIDABLE GOAL FOR ANY COMMUNITY, BUT WORTHY OF OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR BETTER VALUES AND QUALITY OF LIFE,+ HE SAID.

ON HOUSING, MR. WU SAID IT WAS GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT GOVERNMENT WAS TO EMBARK ON A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, LONG ADVOCATED BY UMELCO MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC.

+LET US THEREFORE EXPEDITE WITH VIGOUR THE PROGRAMMES AND BRING REASONABLE HOUSING TO THE REACH OF ALL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU FELT REASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEDDED TO THE ADVICE OF UMELCO MEMBERS NOT TO COMPARE HOUSING DEPARTMENT RENTS TO INFLATED MARKET RENTS, THAT HOUSING SUBSIDY TO THE ELIGIBLE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE GOVERNMENT POLICY, AND THAT ANY RENT INCREASE WOULD BE TOLERABLE AND GRADUAL AND TO MEET INCREASED MAINTENANCE COSTS ONLY.

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SUPPORT FOR PAID ANNUAL LEAVE  
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THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN TODAY VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE WORKERS WITH SEVEN DAYS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE FROM 1978.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE, HE SAID A COMPLETE BREAK FROM WORK WOULD NOT ONLY ENABLE THE WORKERS TO MAKE GOOD THE LOSS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FORCES BUT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND THIS PERIOD OF LEISURE WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, EMPLOYERS MIGHT WISH TO MAKE USE OF THIS PERIOD TO OVERHAUL OR REPAIR THEIR MACHINERY, REDECORATE THEIR PREMISES, OR MAKE ALTERATIONS TO THE WORK-PLACE TO IMPROVE PRODUCTION FLOW WITHOUT DISRUPTING DAY TO DAY WORK.

REGARDING GARMENT FACTORIES WHERE LABOUR TURN-OVER WAS HIGH, MR. TIEN POINTED OUT, +THE ANTICIPATION OF LEAVE WITH PAY WHICH IS COMING MAY ENCOURAGE MORE WORKERS TO STAY WITH THE JOB+.

+THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TO EMPLOYERS WOULD BE MINIMAL AND ARE LIKELY TO BE MET IN PART BY HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND A SLOWER RATE OF TURN-OVER IN THE WORK FORCE,+ HE STRESSED.

+ALTHOUGH MANY LOCAL COMPANIES ALREADY OBSERVE GOOD LABOUR POLICIES FOR THEIR STAFF, IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT A GREAT MANY DO NOT.

+NOT ONLY WILL THE PROPOSED PAID ANNUAL LEAVE IMPROVE LABOUR RELATIONS, IT WILL ALSO REMOVE ONE OF THE UNFORTUNATE DISTINCTIONS WHICH NOW EXIST BETWEEN BLUE COLLAR WORKERS AND WHITE COLLAR WORKERS AND AS A RESULT, ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE INDUSTRIES WHICH IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF HONG KONG.+

MR. TIEN THEN CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, CURRENTLY HOUSED IN THE FIRE BRIGADE BUILDING, TO NEW PREMISES.

HE SAID IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH OFTEN RECEIVES DELEGATIONS AND PROMINENT VISITORS, SHOULD STILL BE HOUSED IN SUCH INFERIOR ACCOMMODATION.

+IT IS TIME FOR A MOST SERIOUS EFFORT TO BE MADE TO OBTAIN NEW PREMISES NOT MERELY AS GOOD AS, BUT PROBABLY, FOR VERY GOOD REASONS, SUPERIOR TO THOSE IN WHICH THE OTHER MAIN DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT ARE HOUSED,+ HE ADDED.

MR. TIEN RECALLED THAT LAST YEAR, IN ANSWER TO A SUGGESTION MADE BY HIM, THE CHIEF SECRETARY INDICATED THAT CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSAL THAT THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BE REGRADED TO ONE OF SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO BE RE-ORGANISED INTO TWO OR THREE DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE SECRETARY.

/HE ASKED . . .

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HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN ASSURANCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS BEING AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN RESOURCES ADEQUATE TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TURNING TO THE TEXTILE CONTROL SYSTEM, MR. TIEN FELT THAT THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED MODIFICATIONS TO THE SYSTEM WERE REASONABLE DESPITE CRITICISM THAT NO PROVISION WAS MADE FOR NEW COMERS.

+THEY HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SO-CALLED QUOTA FARMERS TO CONTINUE IN THEIR RATHER UNIQUE TRADE. TO KEEP THE QUOTAS, THEY MUST BECOME TEXTILE TRADERS AGAIN,+ HE POINTED OUT.

EMPHASISING THAT HE WAS NOT DEFENDING THE SYSTEM, MR. TIEN SAID: +MY CONCERN IS HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, WHICH IN TURN MEANS EXPORTS AND, IN TERMS OF COLD CASH, TEXTILE EXPORTS GIVE HONG KONG A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF OF ITS EARNINGS FROM OVERSEAS TRADE.

+WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TURN THE TEXTILE CONTROL SYSTEM INTO A SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM NOR INTO A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME,+ HE STRESSED.

+TEXTILE QUOTAS ARE NOT GIVEN ON THE SAY SO OF COMPANIES THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO USE IT. THEY ARE ALLOCATED ON THE BASIS OF A DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO USE THEM.+

MR. TIEN SAID, +LET THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE, OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, EARNED HONG KONG A RESPECTED PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

+THE SYSTEM STILL HAS IMPERFECTIONS BUT IT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE BY CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY.+

MR. TIEN SAID THAT THE SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED FOR THE GOOD OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, TO ENABLE THE MAXIMUM USE OF THE LIMITED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE UNDER THE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS AND FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH OPPORTUNITIES FAIRLY AMONG MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS.

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REVIEW OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME WELCOMED

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THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW CONDUCTING A MAJOR REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MISS KO DESCRIBED THE MOVE AS +VERY WISE AND NECESSARY+.

SHE SUPPORTED WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO COVER ABLE-BODIED PERSONS BETWEEN 15 AND 55 SO THAT THE UNEMPLOYED WOULD ALSO BE ASSISTED.

+THIS IS A GREAT LEAP FORWARD IN MENDING THE MOST OBVIOUS HOLE IN OUR SAFETY NET FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, MISS KO STRESSED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT ABUSE, INCLUDING A RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION, A DEFINED PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND EFFECTIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

SHE PROPOSED THAT DURING THE REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE CATEGORISED ASSISTANCE METHOD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHOSE NEED WAS DEMONSTRABLY GREATER SHOULD NOT ONLY BE PROVIDED WITH ASSISTANCE THAT SUPPORTS THEM AT THE MINIMUM SUBSISTENCE LEVEL BUT AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE THEM TO MAINTAIN THEIR LIVELIHOOD WITH A MEASURE OF SELF-RESPECT.

+IN OTHER WORDS,+ SHE SAID, +A REASONABLE AND HIGHER SCALE RATE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CATERING FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NEED SHOULD BE PROVIDED.+

MISS KO THOUGHT THAT THIS CATEGORISED ASSISTANCE METHOD WOULD HELP THOSE MORE WHO WERE MORE IN NEED AND MAKE THE WHOLE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM MORE FLEXIBLE AND EQUITABLE.

IT WOULD ALSO SERVE TO REGULATE SOME OF THE DISCRETIONARY POWERS PRESENTLY EXERCISED BY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICERS, SHE NOTED.

MISS KO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF LOWERING THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE FROM 75 TO 70.

TURNING TO PREVENTIVE YOUTH SERVICES, MISS KO SAID THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THE EXPANSION OF THE YOUTH GUIDANCE PROJECTS, THE EXTENSION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAYLEADERSHIP SCHEME AND DETACHED WORK AND THE INTEGRATION OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION INTO ALL PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH.

/SHE SUGGESTED .....

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE FOUR PILOT YOUTH GUIDANCE PROJECTS SHOULD CONTINUE AND AT LEAST ONE OR TWO SUCH SCHEMES BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH OF THE MORE CROWDED PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

ON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, SHE SAID THAT MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN THIS SERVICE= THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SHOULD WORK EVEN MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER AND MORE SUBVENTION SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH WERE OR WOULD BE ENGAGED IN THIS FIELD.

MISS KO URGED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL TYPES OF WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

SHE HOPED THAT THE NEW SET OF STANDARDS FOR THE OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES WOULD BE DRAWN UP ACCORDING TO REAL NEEDS AND LOCAL SITUATIONS.

THIS, SHE SAID, WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL GUIDELINE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LAW AND ORDER IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, MISS KO STRESSED THAT MEASURES TO FIGHT CRIME, TO FOSTER BETTER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND TO COORDINATE SERVICES IN THE ESTATE, SHOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED.

SHE SAID THAT THE POLICE FORCE SHOULD BE EVEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND PATROLS ORGANISED BY THE RESIDENTS THEMSELVES SHOULD LIKEWISE BE STRENGTHENED AND THEIR NUMBERS SHOULD BE INCREASED AS THEY WOULD ALSO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

TURNING TO REHABILITATION FOR THE DISABLED, MISS KO SUGGESTED THAT AN OPERATIONAL PLAN BE JOINTLY DESIGNED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED.

IN CONCLUSION, SHE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER FAVOURABLY THE NEED FOR EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNITY NURSING NOT ONLY HELPED TO RELEASE MORE HOSPITAL BEDS FOR OTHER PATIENTS BUT ALSO SAVED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PUBLIC MONEY.

+THE AVERAGE COST FOR KEEPING A PATIENT IN HOSPITAL IS ABOUT \$80 PER DAY,+ SHE SAID. +WHEN THIS IS COMPARED WITH THE COST OF \$10 PER DAY IF COMMUNITY NURSING IS EMPLOYED FOR THE SAME PATIENT, THE DIFFERENCE IS SIGNIFICANT.+

THROUGH THIS SERVICE, MISS KO SAID PATIENTS COULD BE ENCOURAGED, WITH THE HELP OF THEIR FAMILIES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR OWN REHABILITATION.

+ALSO, THE RELAPSE OF ILLNESS CAN BE PREVENTED BY PROVIDING NURSING CARE AND HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PATIENTS IN THEIR OWN HOMES,+ SHE ADDED.

MISS KO HOPED THAT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD ARISE FOR GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO DISCUSS AND STUDY THE WHOLE AREA IN ORDER TO MAKE DETAILED PLANS TO PROMOTE THE SERVICE.

SHE URGED THAT GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ALREADY WORKING IN THIS AREA AND MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BE ENCOURAGED TO RENDER SERVICE IN THIS FIELD.

BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE

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THE PROBLEM FACING US IN THE FUTURE IS ONE OF STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THE PACE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE PACE OF FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE, THE HON. Q.W. LEE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ADMITTING THAT IT WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO STRIKE THE PERFECT BALANCE, HE SAID, +BEARING IN MIND THAT SOCIAL EXPENDITURE IS OUR INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE AND WILL YIELD DIVIDENDS, IT IS A BETTER POLICY TO ATTEMPT TO DO MORE THAN LESS, PROVIDED IT IS WITHIN OUR MEANS TO DO SO.+

HOWEVER, MR. LEE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD CONFIDENTLY DEPEND ON THE VERY CAREFULLY AND EFFECTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS TO DECIDE WHAT THE PRIORITIES WERE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE.

LOOKING BACK ON WHAT WE HAD ACHIEVED IN THE PAST YEARS, MR. LEE NOTED THAT THERE WERE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHTS - SOME FEARED THAT WE MIGHT GO TOO FAR IN OUR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND THOSE WHO FELT THAT WE HAD NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH.

TO THE FIRST GROUP, HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT FIND COMFORT WHEN COMPARING OUR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GROWTH IN THE FOUR YEARS 1972 TO 1976.

+THE FIGURES SHOW THAT EVEN ON A LARGER BASE THE GROWTH WAS BIGGER THAN THAT IN THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING FOUR-YEAR PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

IN THESE FOUR YEARS, MR. LEE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND EXTERNAL TRADE, DEPOSITS IN BANKS AND REVENUE COLLECTED FROM SALARIES TAX.

TO THOSE WHO FELT THAT WE HAD NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH, MR. LEE CITED THE EXPANSION IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE AS EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS DESPITE THE RECESSION.

HE BELIEVED THESE WERE JUST A FEW INDICATORS TO SHOW THAT FIRSTLY, WE HAD THE CAPACITY TO FINANCE OUR SOCIAL SERVICES AND SECONDLY, CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL PROGRESS HAD IN FACT TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST YEARS.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 1977 AND BEYOND, MR. LEE SAID THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DUTY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE INDUSTRY'S ACCESS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS.

HE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ANY ACTION TO STRENGTHEN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT +TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT ITS INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED AND VITAL FUNCTIONS+ AND TO ACCORD THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT THE APPROPRIATE TITLE OF SECRETARY SO AS TO BE IN LINE WITH THE STATUS OF HIS COUNTERPARTS IN THE COUNTRIES OF OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS.

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SIR PETER MEETS LEADING H.K. BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS  
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THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, SIR PETER THORNTON, TODAY HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN.

THE MEETING, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WAS HELD IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN. PRESENT WERE MEMBERS OF BOTH THE TEXTILES AND THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARDS.

THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED MAINLY ON TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG. VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON BOTH PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANSION. SUBJECTS INCLUDED PRESENT AND FUTURE TEXTILE ARRANGEMENTS, IMPROVED SALES PROSPECTS IN HONG KONG FOR U.K. MANUFACTURES AS A RESULT OF CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES, AND THE EEC GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES, SIR PETER THORNTON SAID IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING ITS FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE EEC TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO HONG KONG TEXTILES.

+I CAN ASSURE YOU+, SIR PETER SAID, +YOU HAVE GOT A STRONG AND POWERFUL VOICE SPEAKING UP ON HONG KONG'S BEHALF IN THIS MATTER. I BELIEVE THAT VOICE WILL PREVAIL, WITH THE HELP OF OUR PARTNERS+.

SIR PETER THORNTON IS HERE FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT ON HIS WAY BACK TO LONDON FROM JAPAN.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT AND TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN WESTERN DISTRICT, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY HIGH STREET, EASTERN STREET, FIRST STREET, WESTERN STREET AND THE SECTION OF POKFULAM ROAD BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND HIGH STREET.

IN TSIM SHA TSUI, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD, BETWEEN AUSTIN ROAD AND MIDDLE ROAD, CARNAVON ROAD, CAMERON ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD, HART AVENUE AND HANOI ROAD, INCLUDING PRAT AVENUE.

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'HUMAN ASPECT' OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY PAINTED ANOTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE OF THE BOOM IN THE NEW TERRITORIES - THE HUMAN SIDE.

HE SAID THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA HAD BROUGHT A NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT - AND THE COMMUNITY - TO CONTROL A NEW ENVIRONMENT THRUST UPON THEM BY THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND THE PROBLEMS OF PROVIDING FOR SO MANY PEOPLE.

MR. AKERS-JONES TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ZONTA CLUB :  
+A VISIT TO THE NEW TERRITORIES THESE DAYS CAN NOT BUT LEAVE THE TOWNSMAN BEWILDERED AT THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENT, SHOCKED TO SEE PEACEFUL VALLEYS ECHOING TO THE CRASH OF PILE-DRIVERS= AND DISMAYED TO FIND LAND WHERE THE SEA WAS.+

BUT ALL THIS WAS BEING DONE, HE SAID, TO REMOVE WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAD DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MAJOR AND MOST CONSTANT SOURCES OF UNHAPPINESS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POPULATION - THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

REAL EVIDENCE OF THE EFFORTS TO REMOVE THIS SOURCE OF UNHAPPINESS COULD BE SEEN EVERYWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE ADDED. +IT IS THE PRIME IMPETUS BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENT THAT WE NOW SEE ALL AROUND US AND WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY RAISE THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM JUST OVER 400,000 IN 1961, OR 13 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, TO NEARLY 2-1/2 MILLION, OR 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, IN 1986.

+THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT FEW DECADES.+

DEALING WITH THE HUMAN PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE FIRST WAS THE DISTURBANCE AND DISRUPTION TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE ALREADY LIVING ON THE LAND TO BE DEVELOPED.

+RESTAURANTS, MONASTERIES, PIGSTIES, FACTORIES, MAHJONG SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS, ORCHARDS, SWEET POTATOES, BONE POTS - EVERY ASPECT OF HUMAN EXISTENCE.

+EACH HAS TO BE DEALT WITH AS FAIRLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IN THE END, WHATEVER COMPENSATION, THE WRENCH FROM THE HOUSE YOU HAVE LIVED IN, THE PATTERN OF LIFE YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED IS CONSIDERABLE AND WE SHOULD AND MUST MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR IT.

+AND THEN THERE ARE THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT IN THE DEVELOPED AREA.

+THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WE ARE TRYING TO TIGHTEN UP THE SINEWS OF SOCIETY. A SOCIETY WHOSE TRADITIONAL VALUES AND STRUCTURE IS BEING SHAKEN FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

/+FROM WITHIN .....

+FROM WITHIN IT IS BEING SHAKEN BY THE PILE-DRIVERS OF DEVELOPMENT, CONCRETE WALLS AND HIGH-RISE LIVING- LIFE FAR REMOVED FROM THE MARKET PLACE WHICH WAS ROOTED IN AND DREW ITS STRENGTH FROM THE LAND AND AGE-OLD TRADITIONS.

+FROM WITHOUT, TRADITIONAL VALUES HAVE BEEN ASSAULTED, AND EVEN DELIBERATELY PULLED APART AND DISCARDED WITHOUT THOUGHT THAT A REPLACEMENT WAS NEEDED.+

WHAT WAS HAPPENING NOW, MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED, WAS A +TIGHTENING OF THE SINEWS OF SOCIETY, EVOLVING A NEW SOCIAL PATTERN.+

+AND THIS PROCESS IS AS NECESSARY IN THE NEW TOWNS AND THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS AS IT IS IN HONG KONG. AND SO THE ORGANISATION OF GOVERNMENT IS BEING ADAPTED TO MEET THIS COMPARATIVELY NEWLY-PERCEIVED REQUIREMENT.

+THE OLD DISTRICT OFFICE SYSTEM HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO MEET HIGH DENSITY URBAN LIFE, AND NEW ORGANISATIONS ARE COMING INTO BEING AMONG OUR URBAN COMMUNITY TO RESTORE ORDER AND TRANQUILITY TO THE DISORDERLY PARTS OF OUR SOCIETY.+

MR. AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THAT TSUEN WAN ALREADY HAD MORE THAN 400,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN HOUSING ESTATES, WHILE ANOTHER THREE ESTATES WOULD BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND ANOTHER SEVEN WERE BEING PLANNED.

+IN THE 1960S, THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS HOUSING AND NOW IN TSUEN WAN WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS TASK TO MAKE UP DEFICIENCIES IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

+BUT WE HAVE STARTED THE PROCESS : LAST YEAR SAW THE OPENING OF A DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION IN KWAI CHUNG, A SEVEN-POOL SWIMMING CENTRE AND A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.+

THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THE EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON THE PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE PLANNING OF A TOWN HALL. BY 1980, IT WAS HOPED TO COMPLETE 25 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

THE +NEWER NEW TOWNS+ OF SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN EACH HAD ONE HOUSING ESTATE, ANOTHER CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND LAND FORMATION ON A VAST SCALE FOR FUTURE BUILDING.

+IN THESE TOWNS, FACILITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED TO KEEP PACE WITH THE BUILD-UP OF POPULATION,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID. +IN THE LEK YUEN ESTATE, AT SHA TIN, PARTICULAR EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL AREAS, PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS, MARKETS AND SHOPS.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN DEVELOPMENT, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAD A VITAL ROLE. +WE MUST HAVE FACTORIES TO PROVIDE WORK, PRIVATE EFFORT OVER ALL THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT - COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION AND HOUSING - IF THE NEW TOWNS ARE TO DEVELOP A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.+

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NEW REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS

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MR. YIU YAN-NANG TODAY SUCCEEDS MR. TSANG TAT-SING AS REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS.

MR. YIU, AGED 41, WAS FORMERLY A SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER. HE FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS A HEALTH INSPECTOR II IN 1957 AND WAS APPOINTED, ON TRANSFER, AS AN ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICER IN 1965. HE WAS PROMOTED TO LABOUR OFFICER IN 1969 AND TO SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN 1973. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

MR. TSANG, WHO IS AGED 55, WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS A TEMPORARY INTERPRETER IN 1951 AND PROMOTED TO INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR IN 1952. HE HAS BEEN IN THE REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS FOR 21 YEARS, HAVING SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AS AN ASSISTANT REGISTRAR FROM 1955, DEPUTY REGISTRAR FROM 1969 AND AS REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS FROM 1973. MR. TSANG IS MARRIED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A NUMBER OF STREETS IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29).

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AIMED AT IMPROVING TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROVISION OF ON-STREET PARKING SPACES IN THE AREA.

FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY KING LAM STREET BETWEEN TAI NAN STREET AND TUNG CHAU STREET WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND, KING LAM STREET BETWEEN KOM TSUN STREET AND TUNG CHAU STREET WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND, TUNG CHAU STREET BETWEEN KING LAM STREET AND WING HONG STREET WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND AND KOM TSUN STREET BETWEEN KING LAM STREET AND WING HONG STREET WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO ADVISE MOTORISTS.

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