



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974.

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POKFULAM BUILDING 'FREEZE' WILL BE LIFTED AT YEAR'S END
LEGCO GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCE
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN THE POKFULAM AND MID-LEVELS AREAS FOR ANOTHER YEAR — UNTIL JULY 31, 1975.

HOWEVER, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. WILLIAM BELL, ASSURED COUNCIL THAT THE RESTRICTIONS IN RELATION TO POKFULAM WOULD BE LIFTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

IN GIVING THE ASSURANCE, HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT IF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA BECAME CHAOTIC, +IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE SEVERE TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AND, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, TO RECONSIDER WAYS OF LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC.+

MR. BELL REITERATED THAT THE COMPLETION OF FURTHER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN POKFULAM MIGHT GIVE RISE TO A FURTHER DEGREE OF CONGESTION, BUT CONSIDERED THAT THE RISK SHOULD BE TAKEN BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE RESTRICTIONS, IN THE SUBMISSIONS OF PLANS TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY, THE EXTENT OF REDEVELOPMENT TO BE ALLOWED WILL BE LIMITED TO THAT PERMITTED UNDER EXISTING LEASE CONDITIONS AND WITHIN PRESENT PLANNING CONTROLS.

TURNING TO A PROPOSAL BY THE HON. JAMES WU, CONCERNING THE WATER STREET FLYOVER, MR. BELL SAID THIS WAS NOW BEING STUDIED BY HIS DEPARTMENT.

MR. WU HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT WATER STREET FLYOVER SCHEME MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY ON A LESS GRANDIOSE SCALE AND AVOIDING RESUMPTION DELAYS BY FOLLOWING FROM POKFULAM ROAD THROUGH THIRD STREET AND THENCE TO WATER STREET ACCOMMODATING TWO LANES OF TRAFFIC.

+UNDOUBTEDLY A COMFORTABLE AND EFFICIENT BUS SERVICE WILL DISCOURAGE THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. WU SAID IT WAS LAMENTABLE THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT SHOULD FIND HIMSELF SO HELPLESS IN GETTING THE BUS COMPANY TO USE ALTERNATIVE BRITISH-MADE BUSES WITH QUICK DELIVERY TO GIVE IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT.

+PERHAPS THEY SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT ANY APPLICATION FOR FARE INCREASES WOULD ONLY BE FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED SUBJECT TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF SERVICE HAVING BEEN FIRST PROVIDED.

+SURELY THIS COUNCIL'S RECENT ENDORSEMENT OF A FARE INCREASE FOR THE YAUMATI FERRIES IS AMPLE INDICATION,+ SAID MR. WU.

MR. WU SAID HE AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES COULD NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT RESERVATION THE PESSIMISTIC 'QUESTIMATE' BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS THAT THE TRAFFIC SITUATION WOULD BECOME UNTENABLE WHEN A TOTAL OF 55,000 PEOPLE INHABIT THE MID-LEVELS AREA.

/THE MID-LEVELS

THE MID-LEVELS, MR. WU SAID, HAS TO ACCOMMODATE MORE PEOPLE AND WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A CHOICE RESIDENTIAL AREA IF THE SIZE OF FLATS BUILT THERE IS ANY GUIDANCE. HE ALSO FELT THAT THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM TENDED TO BE SELF-REGULATING OWING TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO THE CENTRAL BUSINESS AREA.

RECENTLY, HE SAID, A UMELCO GROUP CONDUCTED A TEST BY DRIVING FROM CENTRAL TO THE WAH FU ESTATE THROUGH THE MID-LEVELS AND POKFULAM AREAS. THE GROUP STARTED AT 8.15 A.M. AND REACHED ITS DESTINATION THIRTY MINUTES LATER WITHOUT RUNNING INTO ANY TRAFFIC JAM. MR. WU'S OWN TRIAL RUNS THROUGH THE AREAS PROVED +AN EQUALLY PLEASANT EXPERIENCE.+

MR. WU COMMENDED THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIS PLANNERS FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE THE BUS PRIORITY SCHEME IN THE MID-LEVELS WHICH, HE SAID, HAD IMPROVED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

THE UMELCO TRIP THROUGH THE AREAS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MADE DURING OFFICE RUSH HOURS AND AT A TIME WHEN SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS. BUT WHILE THE RUSH HOURS WOULD BE PROLONGED DURING SCHOOL TIME -- ASSUMING SCHOOLS BEGIN AT 8 A.M. OR EARLIER -- IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY AGGRAVATE CONGESTION, HE SAID.

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PRIORITY TREATMENT FOR SEVERANCE PAY ON REDUNDANCY

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, TODAY INTRODUCED TWO NEW BILLS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEEKING TO AMEND THE BANKRUPTCY AND COMPANIES ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO GIVE SEVERANCE PAY ON REDUNDANCY EQUAL PRIORITY AS ARREARS OF WAGES OR SALARY.

THESE ARE THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 AND THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1974.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILLS, MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1974 AMENDS THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAKING OF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS BY EMPLOYERS TO EMPLOYEES WHO, IN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES, ARE DISMISSED BY REASON OF REDUNDANCY OR ARE LAID OFF.

IN THE EVENT OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE EMPLOYER OR WINDING UP OF THE EMPLOYING COMPANY, SEVERANCE PAYMENTS DUE SHALL, UNDER THESE TWO BILLS, ENJOY THE SAME PRIORITY ACCORDED TO OUTSTANDING WAGES AND SALARY, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$6,000 IN RESPECT OF EACH SEVERANCE PAYMENT, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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CONVERSION OF TAXI METERS
COMPLETION EXPECTED IN TWO MONTHS

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE CONVERSION OF ALL TAXI METERS IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE LATEST IN TWO MONTHS' TIME.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. JAMES WU, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT THE METERS, OF VIRTUALLY ALL FORMER HONG KONG TAXIS, HAD BEEN RE-CALIBRATED, TESTED AND SEALED TO REGISTER THE NEW FARES.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +SOME FORMER KOWLOON TAXIS HAVE YET TO BE RE-CALIBRATED. THE NUMBER OF THESE IS QUICKLY DWINDLING BECAUSE NO TAXI CAN PASS THE REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INSPECTION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT UNLESS ITS METER HAS BEEN RE-CALIBRATED.+

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CAREFUL WATCH KEPT ON SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS SITUATION

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS KEEPING A CAREFUL WATCH ON THE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS SITUATION, THE AIM BEING TO ENSURE THAT PUPILS USE EDUCATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXTBOOKS AT A REASONABLE COST, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. JOHN CANNING TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, HEADS OF SCHOOLS WILL BE INFORMED THAT WHERE THE ALTERATIONS IN A NEW EDITION OF A TEXTBOOK ARE OF A MINOR NATURE, THEY SHOULD TOLERATE THE USE OF AN OLDER EDITION IN THE CLASSROOM, WITH THE TEACHERS MAKING APPROPRIATE ALTERATIONS TO THE TEXT IN THE COURSE OF A LESSON.

+SCHOOL AUTHORITIES WILL ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE SECOND-HAND BOOK SALES BY PUPILS ON SCHOOL PREMISES,+ HE SAID.

MR. CANNING WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LO TAK-SHING WHO ASKED: +IS THE GOVERNMENT SATISFIED THAT TEXTBOOKS RECOMMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME FOR USE BY STUDENTS ARE NOT AMENDED UNNECESSARILY OR TOO FREQUENTLY THUS DENYING THE SAVINGS THAT STUDENTS CAN MAKE BY USING SECOND HAND COPIES.+

THE DIRECTOR SAID IT WAS TRUE TO SAY THAT IN PAST YEARS PUBLISHERS HAD MADE FREQUENT AMENDMENTS TO THEIR TEXTBOOKS. THIS HAD RESULTED IN DIFFICULTIES IN THE USE OF SECOND-HAND TEXTBOOKS.

+MY DEPARTMENT HAS IN THE PAST MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO PUBLISHERS ON THIS POINT AND I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE NUMBER OF MINOR TEXTUAL AMENDMENTS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS,+ MR. CANNING SAID.

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ENQUIRY INTO ESCAPE OF WOMAN DRUG SUSPECT
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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS INSTITUTED AN ENQUIRY INTO THE ESCAPE FROM THE SHEUNG SHUI POLICE STATION ON JULY 13 OF A WOMAN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A \$1 MILLION HEROIN SEIZURE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEVIS DAVIES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HOWEVER, MR. DAVIES SAID ALTHOUGH HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT REGARDING THIS INCIDENT, THE FACT THAT CERTAIN COURT PROCEEDINGS WERE PENDING, AND CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT FROM THE INCIDENT, PRECLUDED HIM FROM GOING INTO DETAILS AT THIS STAGE.

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HE SAID THE WOMAN HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH A HEROIN SEIZURE AND SHE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE.

SHEUNG SHUI POLICE STATION IS A RURAL STATION AND AT THE TIME THERE WERE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORM BRANCH ON DUTY UNDER THE COMMAND OF A SERGEANT.

+THIS ENQUIRY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND THE OBJECT IS TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS AND CAUSE OF THE ESCAPE.

+IF NECESSARY, RELEVANT PROCEEDINGS WILL BE INSTITUTED AGAINST ANY PERSON OR PERSONS FOR NEGLIGENCE OR ANY OTHER IRREGULAR OR UNLAWFUL INVOLVEMENT.

+SO FAR THE HUSBAND OF THE WOMAN CONCERNED HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH AIDING AND ABETTING HER ESCAPE FROM THE POLICE STATION,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

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INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS RAISED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON CLEARED THE WAY FOR INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS TO BE INCREASED BY ONE PER CENT TO FIVE PER CENT.

THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE WHEN THE COUNCIL APPROVED A RESOLUTION INCREASING FROM FOUR PER CENT TO FIVE PER CENT THE MAXIMUM RATE OF INTEREST PAID BY BANKS WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO INTEREST TAX.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAYE, TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT AT PRESENT THERE IS A CASE FOR A FURTHER RISE IN THE TAX EXEMPT RATE SO THAT SMALL SAVERS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE GENERALLY HIGHER LEVEL OF INTEREST RATES.

+THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE INTEREST RATE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FROM FOUR PER CENT TO FIVE PER CENT AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS MOTION IS TO MAKE THAT POSSIBLE BY A SIMILAR INCREASE IN THE TAX EXEMPT RATE WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW,+ HE ADDED.

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POLICY ON SUBVENTIONS TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE
AGENCIES CLARIFIED

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AN IMMEDIATE CORRESPONDING INCREASE IS MADE IN SUBVENTION TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES WHEN GOVERNMENT SALARIES ARE RAISED, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN SUBVENTION WOULD BE MADE ONLY IN RESPECT OF AGENCIES SUBVENTED ON A DEFICIENCY BASIS, AND NOT IN RESPECT OF AGENCIES SBVENTED ON A DISCRETIONARY BASIS.

MR. LI WAS CLARIFYING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ISSUE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICY ON THIS MATTER WAS DEALT WITH BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH ON MARCH 27 IN WINDING-UP THE DEBATE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1974.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DID SAY THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SEEKING SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL GRANTS PROVIDED THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SUBVENTED ON A DISCRETIONARY BASIS CAN PERSUADE THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, AND THEY IN TURN CAN PERSUADE THE SECRETARIAT, THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN COSTS DURING A FINANCIAL YEAR ARE AFFECTING THE AGENCIES' ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES FOR WHICH THEY ARE SUBVENTED.

+IT WAS STRESSED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE TAKEN AS IMPOSING AN OBLIGATION ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS WHICH, IN ALL CASES, WOULD DEPEND ON THE BUDGETARY POSITION OF THE MOMENT.+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT AND N.T.

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN NORTH POINT, INCLUDING THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY, VICTORIA PARK AND HONG KONG ELECTRIC POWER STATION, WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS BEGINNING AT 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 2) TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY ELECTRIC ROAD, LAU SIN STREET, HING FAT STREET AND THE SEA FRONT.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ALL PREMISES ALONG KAM SHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN KAM TIN ROAD AND SHEUNG TSUEN INCLUDING NG KA TSUEN, KAM TSIN WAI, TIN SAM TSUEN, HO PUI, YUEN KONG TSUEN, YUEN KONG SAN TSUEN, NGAU KENG TSUEN, SHUI LAU TIN, LIN FA TEI AND SHEUNG TSUEN, WILL HAVE THEIR SUPPLY TURNED OFF FROM 10 P.M. ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 2) TO 6 P.M. ON SATURDAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS.

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**EXTENTION OF RETIREMENT AGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS
DISCUSSIONS CONTINUING**

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DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF BRINGING THE RETIRMENT AGE OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO 60 ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO REACH AN AGREED SOLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. J.H. BREMRIDGE, MR. BRAY SAID IT HAD NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE STAFF SIDE WHICH WANTED THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE NORMAL RETIRING AGE TO 60 BE COMBINED WITH A RIGHT FOR A PUBLIC OFFICER TO RETIRE WITH HIS EARNED PENSION AT 45.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE BEYOND THE AGE OF 55 ENABLED OFFICERS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE UNTIL THE AGE OF 60.

+AND INDEED BEYOND THAT AGE IN SOME CASES, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE PHYSICALLY FIT AND FULLY EFFICIENT AND THAT THE PROMOTION PROSPECTS OF PROMISING BUT LESS SENIOR OFFICERS ARE NOT UNDULY BLOCKED.+

HE ADDED THAT AT PRESENT SEVERAL HUNDRED OFFICERS OVER THE AGE OF 55 ARE EMPLOYED IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

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TYPHOON SHELTER IN SOUTH-WEST APPROACHES PROPOSED

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, DISCLOSED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVESTIGATING A RECOMMENDATION BY THE PORT COMMITTEE TO BUILD A TYPHOON SHELTER IN THE SOUTH-WEST APPROACHES, POSSIBLY ON LANTAU OR CHEUNG CHAU.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO THE HON. H.M.G. FORSGATE WHO ASKED WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TYPHOON SHELTERS TO MEET THE AGREED SHORTAGE OF 113 ACRES IN 1977.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT NOTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS FULLY RECOGNISED AND +IT IS APPRECIATED THAT ADDITIONAL TYPHOON SHELTER SPACE WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED.+

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PLANNING TEAM TO DRAW UP REHABILITATION PROGRAMME
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A SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING TEAM WAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED, USING THE TECHNIQUES NOW ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, STRESSED THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WOULD BE CONSULTED AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING THE PROGRAMME AND WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN WHEN IT IS COMPLETED AND APPROVED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG WHO ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT THE PLANNING TEAM AIMED AT CARRYING FORWARD PRESENT PLANS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP ON REHABILITATION, TO IDENTIFY THE MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE NEEDED AND TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME WHICH COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO BE UNDERTAKEN OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS.

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+MEET THE MEDIA+
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ANOTHER SESSION OF MEET THE MEDIA WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE 35 MM THEATRE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR.

THE SESSION WILL START AT 3 P.M. AND THE SPEAKER WILL BE MR. DAVID JORDAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

SOUND FEED WILL BE PROVIDED BY RADIO HONG KONG. RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS WHO WISH TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS SERVICE ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE THEATRE EARLIER TO SET UP EQUIPMENT. ONLY MICROPHONES WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE AND PORTABLE TAPE RECORDERS MUST BE SET ASIDE, SO THAT VIBRATION WHICH AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF SOUND FEED COULD BE AVOIDED. CO-OPERATION FROM REPORTERS IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

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THIRD MANPOWER SURVEY OF ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

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A MAJOR SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WILL BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN AUGUST 15 TO SEPTEMBER 6 TO COLLECT DATA ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

THE SURVEY - THE THIRD OF ITS KIND - WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES:

- A) THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED=
- B) THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT UNDER TRAINING=
- C) THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES= AND
- D) A FORECAST OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS REQUIRED BY AUGUST 1975.

SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT EACH OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SURVEY TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

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

HE SAID THE SECOND SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN MARCH 1970 IN WHICH ALL THE ESTABLISHMENTS SURVEYED WILLINGLY SUPPLIED THE INFORMATION REQUIRED.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COMING SURVEY WILL MEET WITH EQUAL SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN 1970 WAS COMPILED AND ANALYSED AND THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED. SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

+IN VIEW OF THE MANY CHANGES SINCE THE LAST SURVEY, THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO CONDUCT ANOTHER SURVEY TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON NEW TRAINING REQUIREMENTS,+ HE SAID.

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550 VOCATIONAL COURSES TEACHERS IN NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR
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THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME TEACHING STAFF WHO WILL BE ENGAGED ON VOCATIONAL COURSES IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR, INCLUDING THE POLYTECHNIC, THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, THE KWUN TONG VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CENTRES WILL BE AROUND 550, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. DANIEL WATERS SAID TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTED A GROWTH OF SOMETHING LIKE 27 FOLD WHEN COMPARED TO ONLY ABOUT 20 FULL-TIME TEACHERS ENGAGED ON VOCATIONAL COURSES IN THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO.

+THIS RATE OF EXPANSION COMPARES WITH ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD,+ MR. WATERS SAID.

HE ESTIMATED THAT BY 1978 THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 1,120 TEACHERS FOR VOCATIONAL COURSES.

MR. WATERS WAS SPEAKING AT THE KWUN TONG VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

THE GOVERNMENT, MR. WATERS EMPHASISED, HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP AND DRIVE BY SETTING UP A TECHNICAL BRANCH WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WITH AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 14 PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF. FURTHER EXPANSION COULD BE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE.

+THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM 1967 WHEN THE FIRST TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED OFFICER WAS SECONDED TO THE EDUCATION HEADQUARTERS FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE RAPID EXPANSION OF INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, MR. WATERS POINTED OUT THAT +INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN, AT THE SAME TIME, SOME SOUND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UNDERTAKEN, IN THE MAIN, AT THE OLD TECHNICAL COLLEGE, TO COMPLEMENT THE TRAINING BEING DONE ON-THE-JOB IN INDUSTRY.+

DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR 15 TEACHERS OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS WERE EXPECTED TO BE SENT ON COURSES OR FOR PERIODS OF ATTACHMENTS OVERSEAS, HE SAID.

FROM 1961 TO 1973 A TOTAL OF 51 TECHNICAL TEACHERS WERE SENT OVERSEAS FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING OR FOR ATTACHMENTS. STAFF WERE ALSO ATTACHED TO INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

+WE ARE ENGAGING 24 NEW, FULL-TIME TECHNICAL TEACHING STAFF THIS SEPTEMBER AND GIVING THEM ONE YEAR OF FULL-TIME IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING. THEY WILL THEN TAKE UP POSTS IN THE TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

+FROM THESE EXAMPLES YOU CAN SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING SOMETHING POSITIVE TO OVERCOME STAFFING DIFFICULTIES,+ THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID.

/HE DISCLOSED

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HE DISCLOSED THAT THE CAPITAL COST OF SEVEN NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AT PRESENT DAY PRICES WAS ESTIMATED AT AROUND \$220 MILLION.

THESE WERE THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG AND SCHEDULED FOR OPENING BY SEPTEMBER 1975, THE ONE PLANNED FOR CHEUNG SHA WAN, THE ONE DUE TO BE OPENED IN 1977 IN SAN PO KONG AND THREE OTHERS WHICH WERE DUE TO BE BUILT IN SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN TOWARDS THE END OF THE PRESENT DECADE +DEPENDING ON TO WHAT DEGREE PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED INSTITUTES ARE SUPPORTED BY INDUSTRY,+ MR. WATERS SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WHICH WOULD BEGIN COURSES IN SEPTEMBER WOULD ALSO BE RUNNING UPGRADING COURSES FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL TEACHER AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AT THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WAS ALREADY ABSORBED BY THE NEW COLLEGE AND NEW QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED STAFF WERE BEING APPOINTED.

EARLIER THIS MONTH THE COLLEGE RAN A SEMINAR FOR SERVING TECHNICAL TEACHERS.

MR. WATERS SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT IN 1976 THE COLLEGE WOULD MOVE FROM ITS TEMPORARY PREMISES IN THE OLD JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL BUILDING TO THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL BUILDING WHERE THE OLD TECHNICAL COLLEGE USED TO BE.

SOMETIME AGO THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MADE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ENHANCED FINANCIAL GRANTS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MATURE, EXPERIENCED PEOPLE FROM INDUSTRY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE UP TEACHER TRAINING FOR ONE-YEAR FULL TIME.

+THIS SCHEME HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT. WE ADVERTISED IT AND RECEIVED 697 APPLICATIONS. IN THE COMING SEPTEMBER A NUMBER OF STUDENT TECHNICAL TEACHERS WILL BE ENROLLED ON THIS BASIS,+ MR. WATERS SAID.

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CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION
NEW FEES FOR 1975
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NEW FEES WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL SIT FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1975.

THE INCREASED FEES WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT FEES WHICH HAVE BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1969.

THE NEW FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS (THE FIGURES IN BRACKETS ARE EXISTING FEES):

INITIAL ENTRY FEE (ALL CANDIDATES)	\$20 (\$15)
PER SUBJECT FEE (SCHOOL CANDIDATES, ALL SUBJECTS EXCEPT SPECIFIED LANGUAGES)	\$ 3 (\$ 2)
PER SUBJECT FEE (PRIVATE CANDIDATES, ALL SUBJECTS EXCEPT SPECIFIED LANGUAGES)	\$ 5 (\$ 2)
SPECIFIED LANGUAGE FEE (ALL CANDIDATES, LANGUAGES OTHER THAN CHINESE, ENGLISH AND FRENCH)	\$50 (\$25)

+THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE FINANCING OF THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS, LAID DOWN IN THE 1965 EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT, IS TO COVER DIRECT RECURRENT COSTS BUT NOT CAPITAL OR PERMANENT STAFF COSTS,+ A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

THE REVISED FEES THEREFORE INCLUDE THE COST OF COMPUTER TIME, PRINTING, DUPLICATING, STATIONERY AND SUNDRY EXPENSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF RISING COSTS, THE FEES CHARGED FOR THE 1974 EXAMINATION PRODUCED SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF THE REVENUE APPROPRIATE TO THE APPROVED POLICY. THE PRESENT UPWARD REVISION WILL GO SOME WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE SHORTFALL, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT FURTHER INCREASES WILL BE REQUIRED IN LATER YEARS.

THE NEW FEES WERE DECIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER CONSULTING THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD.

THE COST TO PUBLIC FUNDS OF THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE NEW FEES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +REMISSION IS PERMITTED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF TEN PERCENT WITHIN EACH SCHOOL. THERE IS NO REMISSION OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES' FEES.+

WIDER MARKET TO BE CREATED FOR CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL SHARES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AS A SHAREHOLDER AND THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, WILL ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO UNDUE DELAY IN THE CREATION OF A WIDER MARKET FOR SHARES OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY WHEN CONDITIONS ARE FAVOURABLE.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO SAFEGUARD IN THE TERMS OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL FRANCHISE TO ENSURE THAT THE MINIMUM 25 PER CENT SHARES BE OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC AT A FAIR MARKET PRICE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE COMPANY DID OFFER TO THE PUBLIC 25 PER CENT OF ITS ISSUED CAPITAL, OR A TOTAL OF 31,625,000 SHARES.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE MEANING OF +FAIR MARKET PRICE+ COULD VARY ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MARKET.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE PRICE AT WHICH THESE SHARES WERE OFFERED WAS, IN THE OPINION OF THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS TO THE COMPANY, PITCHED AT THE RIGHT LEVEL FOR THE ISSUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE MARKET CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT THE TIME THE PROSPECTUS WAS ISSUED.

SUBSEQUENTLY WHEN MARKET CONDITIONS CHANGED, THE VENDORS ARRANGED TO REPURCHASE +AT THE OFFER PRICE+ ANY SHARES HELD BY SUB-UNDERWRITERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

+IT IS THE FIRM INTENTION OF THE ORIGINAL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY TO PLACE MORE SHARES WITH THE PUBLIC AS AND WHEN MARKET CONDITIONS WARRANT THIS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT ONE SECTION OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT ITS SHARES MUST BE LISTED AND QUOTED ON THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE OPENING DATE OF THE TUNNEL.

MR. HADDON-CAVE FURTHER NOTED THAT +THE RULES OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE ALSO PROVIDE THAT NORMALLY A COMPANY'S SHARES SHALL NOT BE LISTED OR QUOTED ON THE EXCHANGE UNLESS 25 PER CENT OF ITS ISSUED CAPITAL HAS BEEN OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC.+

MOREOVER, THE SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE STATED THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN NOT LESS THAN 25 PER CENT OF THE ISSUED CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974

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TRIBUTE TO LATE HON. DHUN RUTTONJEE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PAID ITS LAST TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. DHUN RUTTONJEE, A FORMER MEMBER WHO HAD SERVED IN THE COUNCIL WITH GREAT DISTINCTION FOR 15 YEARS -- THE LONGEST PERIOD OF SERVICE OF ANY MEMBERS SINCE THE WAR.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, MR. DENYS ROBERTS, SAID AT TODAY'S COUNCIL MEETING THAT THOSE WHO WERE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM WOULD REMEMBER HIM AS +A WISE AND TOLERANT MAN, FIRM IN HIS OPINIONS AND COURAGEOUS IN THE DEFENCE OF HIS PRINCIPLES.+

+HE WAS INVARIABLY COURTEOUS AND GOOD HUMOURED WHATEVER THE PRESSURES AND HE ATTRACTED AND HELD THE FRIENDSHIP OF MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL RACES,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED HIM AS +A HONG KONG MAN, EXPERIENCED IN ITS PROBLEMS, DEVOTED TO ITS WELFARE, AND DEDICATED TO ITS SUCCESS.+

+IN THE TURBULENT DAYS OF 1967,+ HE WENT ON, +HE SET AN EXAMPLE OF COURAGE, LEADERSHIP AND FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WHICH WERE OF AN ESTEEMABLE WORTH.

+WE OFFER OUR SYMPATHY TO HIS WIDOW AND FAMILY AND HOPE THAT THEY MAY TAKE CONSOLATION FROM THE CERTAINTY THAT THIS WAS A GOOD MAN WHO LED A FINE LIFE AND WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED BY THE COMMUNITY WITH AFFECTION AND RESPECT.+

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN NOTED THAT MR. RUTTONJEE WAS +A VERY SPECIAL TYPE OF PERSON.+

DR. CHUNG SAID: +HE WAS A MAN OF ACHIEVEMENT, A MAN OF HONOUR, A MAN OF COMPASSION AND A MAN OF MORAL COURAGE. HE WAS VERY OUT-SPOKEN AND AT TIMES VERY CONTROVERSIAL.

+THE LATE MR. RUTTONJEE WAS IN THE VANGUARD OF THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG. HIS PERSONAL EFFORT AND PHILANTHROPY CONTRIBUTED VERY SUBSTANTIALLY TO OUR PRESENT ABILITY TO CONTROL THIS DISEASE.

+HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN THIS COUNCIL, HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF THIS COMMUNITY, AND HIS PERSONAL STYLE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE COLOURFUL 'TIGER ORCHID' HE USUALLY WORE ON HIS LAPEL WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED BY HIS FRIENDS AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

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BILLS PASSED
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SEVEN BILLS PASSED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TO BECOME LAW.

THEY WERE: THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS OWNERS INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE BILL 1974, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1974, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)(NO.3) BILL 1974, THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1974, AND THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

NINE OTHER BILLS HAD THEIR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE: THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1974, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 1974, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1974, THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1974, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1974 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

TODAY'S MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL AUGUST 14 WHEN THE LAST MEETING OF THE CURRENT SESSION WILL BE HELD.

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WIDER SCOPE FOR URBCO MEMBERSHIP
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THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCE TO LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE URBAN COUNCIL, RECEIVED ITS FIRST READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS THE LAW NOW STANDS POTENTIAL MEMBERS MUST BE PROFICIENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP. UNDER THE BILL, THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE DROPPED TO ENABLE PERSONS WHO ONLY SPEAK CANTONESE AND WHO CAN READ AND WRITE THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID IT MIGHT BE THOUGHT THAT THIS IS TAKING AN UNDUE RISK FOR EVEN PERSONS WHO ARE OTHERWISE QUALIFIED BUT ARE CAPABLE OF SPEAKING NOTHING BUT DOUBLE DUTCH WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO THE COUNCIL.

THE RISK IS THERE, HE SAID, BUT THE ALTERNATIVE OF PROVIDING FOR TESTS OF SPOKEN CANTONESE IN THIS CITY OF STRANGE HALF DIALECTS WAS EVEN MORE FEARSOME.

MR. BRAY RECALLED THAT THE THEN COLONIAL SECRETARY HAD IN JULY LAST YEAR SPOKEN OF THE NEED TO REMOVE THE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT AS SOON AS ENOUGH INTERPRETERS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. SUFFICIENT INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS WERE NOW AVAILABLE TO ALLOW FOR THE CHANGE.

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BILL TO REMOVE UNCERTAINTY IN
TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE TABLED

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, TODAY INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL 1974 WHICH SEEKS TO REMOVE UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

THIS UNCERTAINTY FOLLOWED A SUPREME COURT RULING THAT THE WANCHAI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN WAS INVALID AS THE EXPLANATORY NOTES CONTAINED IN THE PLAN WERE NOT A PROPER PART OF THE PLAN, AND THAT THE MEANING OF THE NOTES THEMSELVES WAS NOT CLEAR.

+THE RESULT,+ MR. HOBLEY NOTED, +IS THAT ALL TOWN PLANS MUST NOW BE REGARDED AS INEFFECTIVE.+ HE ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST CLEARLY REQUIRED THAT REMEDIAL STEPS BE TAKEN AT ONCE.

MR. HOBLEY SAID THE BILL STIPULATED THAT, FOR THE FUTURE, EXISTING TOWN PLANS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TREATED AS VALID NOTWITHSTANDING THE INCLUSION OF NOTES OR ANY UNCERTAINTY IN THEM.

+AT THE SAME TIME, IT INTRODUCES A NEW PROVISION SPECIFICALLY AUTHORISING THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO INCLUDE ANY MATTER IN A FUTURE PLAN BY MEANS OF NOTES, DIAGRAMS, ILLUSTRATIONS OR OTHER DESCRIPTIVE MATTER AND ALSO ENABLES THE BOARD, FOR THE PURPOSE ONLY OF REMOVING UNCERTAINTY, TO MODIFY THE NOTES IN EXISTING PLANS.+

HE STRESSED THAT THE CLARIFICATION OF THE NOTES WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE NO EFFECT ON BUILDING PLANS ALREADY APPROVED.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOTED THAT THE BILL WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH THE PAST, THAT IS, ANY TIME BEFORE THE BILL BECOMES LAW.

+FIRSTLY, IT SAYS THAT TOWN PLANS SHALL BE TREATED AS HAVING BEEN VALID FROM THE OUTSET NOTWITHSTANDING THE INCLUSION OF NOTES OR ANY UNCERTAINTY IN THEM.

+SECONDLY, IT PROVIDES THAT PAST REFUSALS OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TO APPROVE BUILDING PLANS ON THE GROUND THAT THEY DO NOT CONFORM WITH A TOWN PLAN SHALL ALSO BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN VALID NOTWITHSTANDING THE NOW ESTABLISHED INVALIDITY OF THE TOWN PLAN.+

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**MORE LEGAL POWERS FOR INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SOUGHT
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AMENDING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WITH MORE ADEQUATE LEGAL POWERS IS NOW IN AN ADVANCED DRAFTING STAGE, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN A REPLY TO THE HON. LI FOOK-WO WHO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOSING POTENTIAL REVENUE BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

WHILE THE STAFF POSITION WOULD INEVITABLY DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH CASES WERE EXAMINED AND INVESTIGATED, MR. HADDON-CAVE REITERATED THAT A NECESSARY STEP WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE INVESTIGATION POWERS AND PENALTY PROVISIONS OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE AND THEREBY PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH ADEQUATE LEGAL POWERS.

ON THE STAFF SITUATION, HE SAID THERE IS AT PRESENT SIX VACANCIES AT THE ASSESSOR GRADE OUT OF AN OPERATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 88.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND LOCAL CANDIDATES WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE AND RECRUITMENT EXERCISES CONDUCTED RECENTLY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA HAVE NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY WAS MAINLY TO RECRUIT ASSISTANT ASSESSORS AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NECESSARY TRAINING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THEM TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY QUALIFICATIONS, THEREBY PRODUCING ITS OWN SUPPLY OF POTENTIAL ASSESSORS.

+THIS POLICY STILL PROVIDES THE BEST SOLUTION TO THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED STAFF, ALTHOUGH ITS EFFECTIVENESS IS REDUCED BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF OFFICERS TRAINED AT PUBLIC EXPENSE LEAVE FOR POSITIONS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT EACH YEAR,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974

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MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HK ARTS CENTRE URGED
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THE HON. LEE QUO-WEI TODAY URGED MORE DONORS TO SUPPORT THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE WHICH WILL +PROVIDE ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO INDULGE IN AND DEVELOP CULTURAL PURSUITS AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF LIFE AND NOT AS A LUXURY.+

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE BILL, HE POINTED OUT THAT SO FAR THE CENTRE HAD IN HAND JUST UNDER HALF OF THE \$29 MILLION REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND FULLY EQUIP THE CENTRE AS PLANNED. AS A RESULT, CONSTRUCTION CAN ONLY PROCEED IN STAGES.

+THIS PROJECT DESERVES THE WIDEST PUBLICITY TO ENABLE FURTHER DONORS TO KNOW ABOUT IT AND COME FORWARD TO ASSIST THIS WORTHY AND NECESSARY CAUSE IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.+

HE HAILED THE ARTS CENTRE BUILDING AS +ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED AND OUTSTANDING BUILDINGS EVER PUT UP IN HONG KONG FOR WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD OF.+

MR. LEE ADDED THAT LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EXPERTS WHO HAVE RENDERED INVALUABLE ADVICE TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS A UNIQUE CONCEPT WORLD-WIDE.

HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE CENTRE HAD ALREADY STARTED ITS ACTIVITIES, AND +WE CAN BE SURE THAT UPON FULL COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING, VERY MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ALSO WELCOMED THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE BILL, AND SAID THAT THE ARTS CENTRE WOULD PLAY A MOST STIMULATING ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF A MUSIC CONSERVATORY, A LOCAL BALLET GROUP, OR EVEN A SCHOOL FOR CHINESE OPERA.

+WITHOUT DOUBT,+ HE SAID, +THE PASSAGE OF TIME WILL WITNESS A WIDER PARTICIPATION BY MORE CHINESE ART GROUPS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE WHICH WILL MAKE IT AN INSPIRING INSTRUMENT FOR THE INTER-FUSION OF CHINESE AND WESTERN ART FORMS.+

WHILE MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, ALSO POINTED OUT THAT +FURTHER CAPITAL DONATIONS ARE STILL REQUIRED AND I HOPE THESE WILL BE FORTHCOMING TO ENABLE THE BUILDING TO BE COMPLETED IN ONE GO.+

HE EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE TO THE DONORS WHO HAD MADE POSSIBLE A START ON THE ARTS CENTRE.

MR. BRAY REFERRED TO AN EARLIER QUOTE BY MR. LEE QUO-WEI THAT +WHAT IS TAKEN FROM THE COMMUNITY SHOULD ALSO BE USED IN IT,+ AND SAID: +I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT HIS ASSERTION THAT THIS COMMUNITY DOES HAVE PEOPLE PREPARED TO GIVE, OF THEIR WEALTH WILL PROVE WELL FOUNDED ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED SO FAR.+

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PERMANENT LANDS TRIBUNAL RECEIVES SUPPORT
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THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG TODAY SUPPORTED THE SETTING UP OF A PERMANENT LANDS TRIBUNAL STAFFED WITH A PERMANENT PRESIDENT AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ITS EXERCISE WITH +A QUIET CONFIDENCE.+

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL BILL 1974, MR. CHEUNG SAID THAT IN HIS CAPACITY AS A LAWYER, HE WELCOMED THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DIFFERENT RULES OF PRECEDURE UNDER WHICH THE OLD TRIBUNALS WORKED WITH ONE UNIFORM SET OF RULES OF PROCEDURE.

UNDER THE BILL, THE NEW LANDS TRIBUNAL WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND TRIBUNALS WHICH HAVE ARBITRATED UPON COMPENSATION DUE TO THE SUBJECT FOR THE RESUMPTION OF LAND AND VARIOUS CURTAILMENT OF HIS RIGHTS.

MR. CHEUNG ALSO SPOKE ON THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

HE REFERRED TO A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE UMELCO OFFICE THAT COMPENSATION AGREED OR AWARDED UNDER THE CROWN LAND RESUMPTION ORDINANCE HAD NOT BEEN PAID TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED AFTER THE SUM WAS DUE FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS.

+WE HAVE INVESTIGATED INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS, AND I AM INFORMED THE UMELCO SECRETARIAT HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT TO THESE INDIVIDUAL CASES.+

BUT, HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE ALLEGATION ON THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WAS WIDESPREAD AND UNIVERSALLY PREVALENT.

+GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE THAT DELAY IN PAYMENT MIGHT WORK CONSIDERABLE HARDSHIP, AND MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES WILL BE GRATEFUL IF GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE ENQUIRY AND LET US KNOW WHAT THE POSITION IS.+

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SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION: A CLARIFICATION
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS THE ABOLITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY DESCRIBED AS +MISLEADING+ THE HEADLINE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF A MORNING NEWSPAPER WHICH READ: +SSEE TO BE SCRAPPED IN '76+. HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF NEUSPAPERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO RAISE THE HOPES OF CHILDREN WHO WOULD HAVE TO SIT FOR THE EXAMINATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ABOLITION OF THE EXAMINATION DEPENDED ON THE PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT SECONDARY PLACES FOR CHILDREN IN THE 12-16 AGE GROUP.

+NO EXACT DATE CAN BE PREDICTED AT PRESENT ON WHEN THE EXAMINATION CAN BE REMOVED,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (EXAMINATION), MR. BASIL BOARD TOLD A SEMINAR THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THE ABOLITION OF THE SSEE +NOT ONLY FOR ITS LIBERATING EFFECT ON THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, BUT ON WIDER GROUNDS ALSO.+

MR. BOARD POINTED OUT THAT THE EXAMINATION HAD GROWN TO ITS PRESENT SIZE AND ELABORATION PARTLY BECAUSE OF SPONTANEOUS DEMAND FROM NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE, AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC SUBSIDY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION REQUIRED SOME PUBLIC CONTROL OVER THE SELECTION AND ALLOCATION PROCESS.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974

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

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	---	-
CHU CHO	---	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.79
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70/
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
U.S. RICE	---	-
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.67
PAKISTAN RICE	---	-
TAIWAN RICE	---	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	NORMAL
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.30	1.80	2.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.20	0.50	1.50
SQUID	LIMITED	5.50	2.00	4.50
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.40	0.60	1.00
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.30	1.20	2.50
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.60	0.70	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.70	1.30	1.50
MELON COAT	LIMITED	1.50	0.70	0.90
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.00	2.50	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	2.00	0.50	1.40
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.70	4.00	4.50
RED GOAT FISH	---	---	---	---
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	0.80	0.50	0.60
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	5.00	2.50	4.20
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.20	0.70	1.40
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.50	8.00	8.20
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	8.00	6.00	7.00
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	7.50	5.80	6.80

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.50	0.50	1.00
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.20	0.50	0.80
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.80	0.80	2.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.20	0.30	0.70
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE SPINACH	GOOD	0.60	0.10	0.35
TOMATO	SCARCE	3.60	1.50	2.80