



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED .....	1
LEGCO UNOFFICIALS SUGGEST NEW WAYS TO FURTHER DEVELOP REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG .....	8
INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES LOWERED .....	16
UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS URGED TO HELP ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR .	17
TUEN MUN WILL HAVE FOUR NEW SCHOOLS OVER NEXT THREE YEARS .	18
SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR MOVING OF PILE-DRIVERS BEING STUDIED	19
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCES BEING REVISED .....	20
UTILITY SERVICES ARE PROTECTED DURING MTR CONSTRUCTION ....	21
ADEQUATE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO CATER FOR CHILDREN COMMITTED TO CARE OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE .....	22
LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED TO FACILITATE ISSUE OF DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATES .....	23
MORE PSYCHIATRIC BEDS BEING PROVIDED .....	24
FOOTBRIDGE TO BE BUILT ACROSS CHAI WAN ROAD TRAFFIC BLACK SPOT .....	25
MOST GOVERNMENT FORMS NOW HAVE CHINESE VERSIONS .....	26
GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING HOW TO DEVELOP JUNK BAY .....	26
HOUSING AUTHORITY AIMS TO MOVE ALL HAWKERS INTO SHOP-STALLS .....	27
SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR SECOND QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1976-77 APPROVED .....	27
MORE RESIDENTS VISIT CHINA DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR .....	28
MODEL FISHERMEN TO BE COMMENDED AT PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY ..	29
DIRECTOR OF MARINE RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS SERVICE .....	30
NINE BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO TODAY .....	30
HEAVY TRAFFIC EXPECTED NEAR SHA TIN DURING CHE KUNG FESTIVAL .....	31
CASTLE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FOR 12 WEEKS .....	31

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 1 -

THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE  
REVIEW REPORT PUBLISHED  
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THE REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS SET UP FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST YEAR. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. J. ARTHUR JOHNSTONE, A FORMER COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE IN BRITAIN, IT STARTED ITS WORK IN JUNE 1976 AND PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO THE ACTING GOVERNOR IN MID-DECEMBER.

THE COMMITTEE DIFFERED IN TWO IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM THE TWO EARLIER POST-WAR REVIEW COMMITTEES. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WAS SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED TO LOOK AT MATTERS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE QUESTIONS OF FISCAL POLICY AND, THEREFORE, OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EARLIER COMMITTEES. SECONDLY, MATTERS OF MACHINERY SUCH AS THE COLLECTION OF TAX, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE'S POWERS, ETC. WERE PLACED OUTSIDE ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AS WERE THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF TAX RATES AND THE LEVEL AND EXTENT OF PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.

BEFORE CONSIDERING THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN STRICTURES IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE.

THESE WERE :-

+HAVING REGARD TO THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG  
-----  
WHICH DICTATE-  
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- (A) A COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF DIRECT TAXATION=
- (B) THAT THE SYSTEM AT GIVEN TAX RATES SHOULD BE AS PRODUCTIVE OF REVENUE AS POSSIBLE= AND
- (C) THAT THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER=+

THESE THREE THEMES, I.E. A LOW LEVEL OF TAX, THE SIMPLICITY AND THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE SYSTEM WERE CONSTANTLY BORNE IN MIND BY THE COMMITTEE WHEN PREPARING THEIR REPORT.

AT THE OUTSET THE REPORT STRESSES THAT, FOR A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, IT IS NECESSARY TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN FEATURES WHICH ARE UNIQUE TO THE HONG KONG ORDINANCE. THESE ARE, FIRSTLY, THE EXISTENCE OF FOUR SEPARATE TAXES ON FOUR SEPARATE SOURCES OF INCOME= SECONDLY, THE FACT THAT ONLY INCOME ARISING IN HONG KONG IS TAXED= AND, THIRDLY, THAT THE RATES OF TAX ARE NOT AS PROGRESSIVE AS THOSE FOUND ELSEWHERE.

/THE MAIN .....

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ARE AS FOLLOWS :

1. THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT BE REPLACED BY A COMPULSORY SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT ON TOTAL INCOME FROM SALARIES, BUSINESS PROFITS, INTEREST AND RENT.

THIS WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY EXTEND THE TOTALITY OF THE EXISTING CHARGES BUT WOULD MEAN THAT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, ALL PERSONS DERIVING INCOME OF THE KINDS MENTIONED WOULD BE OBLIGED TO FILE A RETURN OF TOTAL INCOME AND WOULD IN DUE COURSE RECEIVE AN ASSESSMENT ON TOTAL INCOME.

THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THIS WOULD-

- (A) REMOVE THE MULTIPLICITY OF RETURNS AND ASSESSMENTS INHERENT IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF PERSONAL ASSESSMENT AND THE HEAVY EXPENDITURE ON MANPOWER WHICH THIS ENTAILS AND THAT IT WOULD PERMIT THE DIVERSION OF THIS MANPOWER TO THE DETECTION AND PREVENTION OF EVASION.
- (B) ASSIST THE INVESTIGATION SECTION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IN ITS WORK.
- (C) REMOVE CERTAIN ANOMALIES IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THESE ANOMALIES ARISE WHERE TWO TAXPAYERS RECEIVING THE SAME AMOUNT OF INCOME CHARGEABLE TO TAX PAY SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF TAX.
- (D) REMOVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLICATIONS INHERENT IN A SYSTEM WHICH DEPENDS ON AN ELECTION BEING MADE BY THE TAXPAYER.
- (E) BE AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARDS THE INTRODUCTION OF A FURTHER DEGREE OF PROGRESSIVITY IN THE RATES OF TAX SHOULD THIS BE THOUGHT NECESSARY.

2. THAT PROPERTY TAX, BASED AS IT IS ON ESTIMATED RENTAL VALUES SUPPLIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, SHOULD BE COMPLETELY ABOLISHED AND REPLACED BY INCLUDING THE ACTUAL NET RENT IN THE RETURN OF TOTAL INCOME AND ASSESSMENT MENTIONED EARLIER.

THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT THE EXISTING PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM WAS NEITHER SIMPLE NOR EFFICIENT AND NOTED THE FOLLOWING DEFECTS-

- (1) THE FACT THAT THREE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WERE INVOLVED IN ITS ADMINISTRATION.

/THE FACT .....

- (2) THE FACT THAT OF THE PROPERTY TAX CHARGED, A LARGE PROPORTION IS EVENTUALLY EITHER DISCHARGED OR REFUNDED EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF THE PROVISIONS FOR RELIEF IN THE ORDINANCE.
- (3) THE EXISTING SYSTEM INVOLVED A MULTIPLICITY OF ASSESSMENTS WHERE PROPERTY OWNERS OWNED SEVERAL PROPERTIES. THIS MULTIPLICITY ALSO AFFECTED THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION OF THE COLLECTION OF A TAX. THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT IN RELATIVE TERMS THE ARREARS OF PROPERTY TAX FAR EXCEED THE ARREARS OF OTHER TAXES.
- (4) A REVENUE LOSS OF SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTIONS WHERE REVALUATIONS DID NOT OCCUR ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THEY NOTED THAT THERE WAS ALREADY A BUILT-IN LOSS IN THE SYSTEM BECAUSE PROPERTY TAX IS BASED ON THE ESTIMATED NET RENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT AND THEREFORE IN EFFECT REFLECTED THE INCOME OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS MEANT THAT THERE IS A PRIVILEGED BAND OF TAXPAYERS PAYING LESS THAN THE STANDARD RATE OF TAX. THESE TAXPAYERS ARE IN A FAVOURABLE POSITION VIS-A-VIS CORPORATIONS WHO PAY TAX ON THE ACTUAL NET RENT RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.
- (5) THE LARGE NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING GENERATED FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF VALUES WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM RATEABLE VALUES.

AFTER CONSIDERING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE ACTUAL NET RENTAL SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RETURN OF TOTAL INCOME MENTIONED EARLIER. IT NOTED THAT IF THIS WAS DONE THE NOTIONAL ATTRIBUTION OF RENT WHICH OCCURS IN THE CASE OF NON-RENTAL PRODUCING PROPERTY, FOR EXAMPLE, CLUB PREMISES, ANCESTRAL PROPERTIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SECOND HOMES OCCUPIED AS RESIDENCES ETC., WOULD AUTOMATICALLY FALL AWAY. ONE SIDE EFFECT OF THIS RECOMMENDATION IS THAT TENANTS AS OPPOSED TO OWNERS, WOULD HAVE NO LIABILITY UNDER THE ORDINANCE. AT PRESENT THE TAX IS COLLECTED, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FROM THE RATEPAYER, WHETHER HE IS THE OWNER OR THE TENANT.

3. THAT THE PLAN TO INTRODUCE A DIVIDEND WITHHOLDING TAX SHOULD BE ABANDONED BUT THAT THE TAX RATE ON CORPORATE PROFITS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ONE OR TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE STANDARD RATE.

/THE COMMITTEE .....

THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT AS IT WAS HARD TO DECIDE WHETHER THE RECEIPT OF A DIVIDEND COULD JUSTLY BE CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE SOURCE OF INCOME, IT WAS NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS FOR IMPOSING A DIVIDEND WITHHOLDING TAX AND THE RELATED UNDISTRIBUTED PROFITS TAX AND, HAVING DONE SO, IT CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT (A) IN THE LEGISLATION AS DRAFTED THE NEED FOR SIMPLICITY AND THE REQUIREMENT OF EQUITY WERE IN CONFLICT- AND (B) THAT THE SIMPLER APPROACH OF RAISING THE PROFITS TAX RATE ON THE ASSESSABLE PROFITS OF COMPANIES WOULD BE JUST AS APPROPRIATE WHEN A METHOD IS SOUGHT TO REGULATE THE TAX BURDEN ON SHAREHOLDERS WHO ARE INDIVIDUALS.

4. THAT IN BROAD TERMS THE EXISTING RESTRICTION OF THE VARIOUS CHARGES IN THE ORDINANCE TO INCOME HAVING A HONG KONG SOURCE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BUT THAT BUSINESS PROFITS ACCRUING TO A TRADE OR BUSINESS EXERCISED IN HONG KONG, WHICH ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY CAUSED BY THE ACTION OF A BRANCH OUTSIDE HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT TO CHARGE. THIS EXTENSION OF THE CHARGE WOULD ALSO APPLY WHERE THE BUSINESS PROFITS TAKE THE FORM OF INTEREST DERIVED BY BANKS AND ALLIED INSTITUTIONS.

THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THE EXISTING TESTS TO IDENTIFY THE ORIGIN OF PARTICULAR PROFITS HAVE OVER THE YEARS BEEN PUT UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRAIN AND THAT AN INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY OF PROFITS, WHILST EXEMPT FROM HONG KONG TAX AT PRESENT, ARISES FROM THE EXISTENCE OF A BUSINESS AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG. IT IS POINTED OUT THAT THE FAILURE OF THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION TO TAX THESE PROFITS IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE THE RESULT THAT THEY DO NOT SUFFER TAX ANYWHERE. THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE FELT THAT IN INCLUDING THESE PROFITS, THE DOUBLE TAXATION PROBLEMS FEARED BY ITS PREDECESSORS WOULD NOT ARISE.

THE COMMITTEE STATED THAT IT DID NOT, AS DID ITS PREDECESSORS, FEEL THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE PROFITS TAX CHARGE IN THE WAY RECOMMENDED WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE HONG KONG TAX STRUCTURE AND, WHILST IT RESPECTED ITS PREDECESSORS' DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE EXTENSION WOULD BE EFFECTIVE, NEVERTHELESS IT CONSIDERED THAT THE ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE.

5. THAT THE CHARGE TO INTEREST TAX SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE IN ITS AMBIT INTEREST PAID BY A PERSON CARRYING ON A TRADE OR BUSINESS HERE ON MONEY BORROWED BY HIM OR EMPLOYED OR EXPENDED IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSABLE PROFITS OF THAT TRADE OR BUSINESS.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH DETERMINE WHERE INTEREST ARISES FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CHARGE TO INTEREST TAX AND PROFITS TAX AND AFTER NOTING THAT IT HAS BEEN THE TENDENCY TO TREAT THE PLACE WHERE THE CREDIT IS PROVIDED TO THE BORROWER AS THE MAIN FACTOR, THE COMMITTEE STATED THAT MANY OF THESE FACTORS WERE CAPABLE OF MANIPULATION AND THAT IF HONG KONG WERE TO SUBJECT TO TAX ALL SIGNIFICANT FLOWS OF INCOME WHICH ARE THE RESULT OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG, IT WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF THE CHARGING WORDS WERE TO BE EXTENDED AS RECOMMENDED BY IT. IT ALSO THOUGHT THAT APART FROM COUNTERING TAX AVOIDANCE THIS WOULD GIVE EFFECT TO CORRECT TAX PRINCIPLES. THIS RECOMMENDATION COULD MAKE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF WHAT IS KNOWN AS EURO DOLLAR OR ASIA DOLLAR INTEREST LIABLE TO TAX FOR THE FIRST TIME.

6. THAT RESIDENT SHIP-OWNERS SHOULD BE CHARGED TAX ON ALL CHARTER HIRE WITH THE LIMITED EXCEPTION OF CHARTER HIRE RECEIVABLE UNDER GENERAL CHARTERS WITHOUT DEMISE.

THE COMMITTEE ADMITS THAT THE STRUCTURE OF THE SHIP-OWNING TRADE (AND TYPICAL PATTERNS ARE OUTLINED BY IT) IS SUCH THAT WHILST TAX HAVENS EXIST, EVEN THE CHARGING OF THE WHOLE OF A RESIDENT'S SHIP-OWNING PROFITS IS UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE INCREASED REVENUE AND WHILST IT WOULD HAVE LIKE TO SEE SHIP-OWNERS CONTRIBUTE MORE TO PUBLIC REVENUE, ANY MOVE TO REACH THESE LARGE PROFITS WOULD REQUIRE DETAILED AND COMPLICATED LEGISLATION AND WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IT NEVERTHELESS GOES ON TO MAKE THE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL MENTIONED EARLIER. IF ACCEPTED, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE FOR A RESIDENT SHIP-OWNER TO AVOID HONG KONG TAX BY ATTRIBUTING CHARTER HIRE TO A PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT ABROAD. IT ALSO NOTED IN PASSING THAT, ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT, NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD ARE THE CHARTER HIRE EARNINGS OF A NON-RESIDENT SHIP-OWNER TAXED IN THE COUNTRY VISITED BY A SHIP, THUS THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE WERE IN EFFECT GIVING THE RESIDENT HONG KONG SHIP-OWNER A TAX-FREE BONUS. IT FOLLOWED THAT TO FALL INTO LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, THE EXISTING CHARGE ON NON-RESIDENT SHIP-

OWNERS IN RESPECT OF CHARTER HIRE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. A SECONDARY RECOMMENDATION IN RELATION TO NON-RESIDENT SHIP-OWNERS IS THAT THEY SHOULD BE ASSESSED ON A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF FREIGHT ETC. UPLIFTED IN HONG KONG AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE A FINAL FIGURE AND NOT A PROVISIONAL ONE. THIS WOULD SIMPLIFY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

7. THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF AGGREGATING A WIFE'S INCOME WITH THAT OF HER HUSBAND SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT THAT A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED.

THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, BE A RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SO-CALLED WORKING WIFE'S ALLOWANCE WHICH WAS REPEALED IN 1973-74. THE COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ALLOWANCE, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY ONLY AVAILABLE IN RESPECT OF SALARIED WIVES, SHOULD ALSO APPLY WHERE WIVES DERIVE PROFITS FROM A BUSINESS OR PROFESSION.

THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT ANYTHING LIKE A COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THE INCOMES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE WOULD RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF REVENUE AND WOULD LEAD TO A RELATIVELY HIGHER TAX BURDEN FOR THOSE HUSBANDS WHO ARE THE ONLY INCOME EARNERS OF THEIR FAMILIES.

IN RECOMMENDING THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING WIFE'S ALLOWANCE, THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE TRAINED MARRIED WOMEN BACK TO WORK FORCE AND WOULD ALSO RECOGNISE THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED WHEN BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE EMPLOYED. IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT TO PRESERVE ITS RELATIVITY THE ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE SET AT A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCE.

8. THAT THE EXISTING TREATMENT FOR SALARIES TAX PURPOSES OF  
BENEFITS IN KIND SHOULD, WITH CERTAIN MINOR EXCEPTIONS, BE  
MAINTAINED.

THIS WOULD MEAN THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VALUE OF QUARTERS, BENEFITS IN KIND WHICH CANNOT BE CONVERTED INTO MONEY WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE THE CHARGE. THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT A SYSTEMATIC EXPLOITATION OF THIS TAX-FREE AREA DOES NOT OCCUR ON ANY SIGNIFICANT SCALE AND THAT BECAUSE OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF QUANTIFYING THE BENEFITS THE ONLY EXTENSIONS WHICH IT COULD RECOMMEND WERE-

- (A) CASES WHERE THE EMPLOYER MEETS THE COSTS OF ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER BILLS AT THE EMPLOYEE'S RESIDENCE= AND
- (B) CASES WHERE THE EMPLOYER SIMILARLY MEETS CHARGES OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SERVANTS.

IN CONSIDERING BENEFITS IN KIND, THE COMMITTEE GAVE ITS ATTENTION TO THE EXISTING VALUATION OF FREE QUARTERS SUPPLIED BY EMPLOYERS AND FELT THAT AS THE EXISTING PERCENTAGE (10%) WAS INTRODUCED AS RECENTLY AS 1975, IT WAS NOT INCUMBENT ON IT TO ATTEMPT ANY REAPPRAISAL OF THE SOCIAL COMPARISONS WHICH WERE EVALUATED IN FIXING THAT LEVEL.

THE COMMITTEE DID, HOWEVER, MAKE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR OVERCOMING ONE WEAKNESS IN THE SYSTEM. THIS OCCURS WHEN DIRECTOR-CONTROLLED COMPANIES AVOID OR MINIMISE SALARIES TAX ON THE VALUE OF QUARTERS PROVIDED TO DIRECTORS BY KEEPING THEIR SALARIES ARTIFICIALLY LOW AND BY PERMITTING THE DIRECTORS TO TAKE A PROPORTIONATELY LARGER AMOUNT OF PROFITS BY WAY OF DIVIDENDS.

IT ALSO EXPLORED OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS, SUCH AS THE DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES AND THE DEGREE OF PROGRESSIVITY IN THE SYSTEM WHERE FOR VARIOUS REASONS IT MAKES NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 7 -

IN MAKING PUBLIC THE REPORT TODAY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE WOULD STUDY THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUBMIT HIS APPRAISAL TO HIM IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS TIME.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD THEN CHAIR A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY PUBLIC COMMENT WHICH MAY BE MADE IN THE INTERIM, WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL. THEREAFTER, SOME TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR DRAFTING OF THE NECESSARY AMENDING LEGISLATION AND THE REORGANISATION OF DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURES.

IN THE MEANTIME, ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE 160-PAGE REPORT ARE BEING PRINTED AND WILL BE ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC SHORTLY AT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRES.

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UNOFFICIALS COMMENT ON GREEN PAPER  
ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HK  
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AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY, NINE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS MADE WIDE-RANGING COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH WAS PUBLISHED LAST OCTOBER.

AMONG THE POINTS RAISED WERE THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE VOTE FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET, THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE WIDER PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

THE UNOFFICIALS WERE SPEAKING ON A MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES AS SUMMARISED IN THE GREEN PAPER AND ANTICIPATES THAT A DEFINITIVE PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER WHICH WILL BE TABLED IN THE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG DESCRIBED THE GREEN PAPER AS +A GENUINE ADMISSION OF OUR DEFICIENCIES AND AN ENERGETIC ATTEMPT IN PUTTING REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE+.

DR. FANG PROPOSED THAT INSTEAD OF BEING FUNDED MAINLY THROUGH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS, REHABILITATION SERVICES SHOULD BE FUNDED IN FUTURE UNDER A SEPARATE ITEM AMONG THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

+IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, THE FUNDING OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN FUTURE MUST BE GUARANTEED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL NOT BE SUBMERGED UNDER VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS,+ HE SAID.

DR. FANG SUGGESTED THAT THE PRIORITY FOR FUNDING OF ALL NEW PROJECTS MUST BE DECIDED AT THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) TO BE SET UP UNDER THE GREEN PAPER.

+THE IDEAL SITUATION IS TO HAVE A SEPARATE VOTE FOR REHABILITATION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO BE MONITORED BY THE RDCC ON WHICH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED INCLUDING THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED.+

COMMENTING ON THE TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, DR. FANG CONSIDERED THE SUM OF \$75 MILLION FOR THE DECADE 1975-85 AS ESTIMATED IN THE GREEN PAPER TO BE +ON THE LOW SIDE+ BECAUSE THERE APPEARED TO BE AN INADEQUATE ESTIMATION IN THE CHAPTER ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

MANY, IF NOT ALL, SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES WERE LACKING IN THE PROVISIONS AND PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE NEEDS, HE SAID.

+IF PROJECTION OF NEEDS IS PROPERLY DONE, THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REQUIRED SHOULD DEFINITELY BE MORE THAN IS FORECAST BY THE PAPER,+ HE STRESSED, ADDING THAT THE OVERALL BUDGET SHOULD BE REVISED ACCORDINGLY.

DR. FANG NOTED THAT SERVICES FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WAS SPARSELY PROVIDED IN THE GREEN PAPER BECAUSE TWO STATISTICAL STANDARDS WERE USED IN THE ESTIMATIONS, OWING TO LACK OF ACCURATE STATISTICS.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SOME SENIOR FORM PLACES IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL CLASSES FOR THOSE CAPABLE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AFTER THEIR NINE-YEAR SCHOOLING.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TRAINING OF THE DISABLED FOR EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE WELL PLANNED AND CLOSELY GEARED TO INDUSTRIAL REQUIREMENTS. THIS WOULD MEAN SECURING THE EXPERT ADVICE OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT STANDARDS AND HAVING AN OVERALL STRATEGY OF OPENING MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, THE HON. ALEX WU BELIEVED THAT FOR SUCH TRAINING TO BE EFFECTIVE, INDUSTRY MUST BE GIVEN A GREATER VOICE IN THE PLANNING OF THE APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM.

THIS COULD BE BEST ACHIEVED, HE CONTINUED, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE TWO TRAINING CENTRES OF BOTH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY AND THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY AUTHORITY IN COORDINATING TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED WITH SPECIAL REHABILITATION CENTRES.

AS AN INCENTIVE FOR THOSE WHO EMPLOY THE DISABLED, MR. WU PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER SOME FORM OF TAX RELIEF OR SUBSIDY, IN ADDITION TO TAKING THE LEAD ITSELF.

HE ALSO AGREED THAT POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE DISABLED.

ON FAMILY COUNSELLING, HE FELT THAT FAMILIES MUST BE MADE AWARE OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES WHICH WERE AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND LEARN HOW, WITH PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE, THEY COULD LESSEN THEIR OWN BURDENS AND ADVANCE THE PROCESS OF REHABILITATION.

+EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT WE MUST ENSURE THAT WHEN REHABILITATION INVOLVES TREATMENT OR CARE OUTSIDE THE HOME, SUCH TREATMENT DOES NOT LEAD TO ANY BREAK IN FAMILY TIES.+

IN MR. WU'S VIEW, THE GREEN PAPER WAS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE IDEA OF PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING OF PUBLIC POLICY COULD TAKE ON REAL MEANING. +IT IS A DOCUMENT WHICH PROVIDES CONCRETE PROOF THAT WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT CARES,+ HE OBSERVED.

TO THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH, THERE SHOULD BE MORE EMPHASIS IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE TRAINING OF STAFF INVOLVED IN REHABILITATION WORK. THESE INCLUDE PARA-MEDICAL STAFF, SOCIAL WORKERS, COUNSELLORS, INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHERS.

SHE POINTED OUT THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF PARA-MEDICAL STAFF WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE OBVIOUS WHEN THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OCCURRED. THE NEED FOR THE LOCAL TRAINING OF OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPISTS, SHE CONTINUED, HAD LONG BEEN RECOGNISED, AND SUCH TRAINING MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT DELAY.

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, MISS KO SAID SOME MODERATELY RETARDED CHILDREN WERE GRANTED DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES WHILE SOME WERE NOT, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD SIMILAR INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT (I.Q.). SHE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT A MORE SATISFACTORY SET OF CRITERIA BE DRAWN UP.

ON THE CODE OF AID FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, SHE FELT THAT THE CODE AND THE UP-TO-DATE AND IMPROVED MANNING SCALE SHOULD BE TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AS +THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE QUALITY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SCHOOLS AND CLASSES+.

MISS KO SAID THERE WAS A LACK OF DIRECTION AND OVERALL PLANNING FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE GREEN PAPER. IT WAS DESIRABLE, SHE WENT ON, THAT AN OVERALL POLICY FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES BE DEvised, AND THAT THE DIRECTION SHOULD BE IN THE FORM OF THE +PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED+ CLUB ACTIVITIES, INTEGRATING THE DISABLED AND ABLE-BODIED.

SHE ALSO THOUGHT THAT A SEPARATE VOTE SHOULD BE CREATED FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER DEPENDED A GREAT DEAL ON THE METHOD OF FUNDING.

THIS POINT WAS FURTHER AMPLIFIED BY DR. THE HON. HENRY HU WHO SAW ADEQUATE FINANCING AND COORDINATION OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION AS THE TWO KEY FACTORS UPON WHICH THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREEN PAPER HINGED.

WHILE ENDORSING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, DR. HU STRESSED THE NEED FOR A NEW UNIT TO BE SET UP IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, TO BE HEADED BY A COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, SIMILAR IN RANK TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS.

HE THOUGHT THAT ONE OF THE MAIN DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE THE INSTITUTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME DIRECTED TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE HANDICAPPED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

+WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IS NOT A ONE-SHOT PUBLICITY BLITZ, BUT A SUSTAINED EFFORT THROUGH THE MEDIA TO THE MAN-IN-THE-STREET, THE CURRICULAR OF SCHOOLS, THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATIONS, AND OTHERS TO CHANGE ATTITUDES OF FEAR, HOSTILITY AND INDIFFERENCE INTO ACCEPTANCE AND HELPFUL ASSISTANCE+.

DR. HU INDICATED THAT WHILE IMPRESSIVE STATISTICS HAD BEEN GATHERED AND PRESENTED IN THE GREEN PAPER, THE EXISTING DATA ABOUT THE NUMBERS AND KINDS OF DISABLED WAS INADEQUATE.

THUS, ANOTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RDCC AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION WAS THE SETTING UP OF MACHINERY TO GATHER SUCH INFORMATION FROM ALL SOURCES.

+PROBABLY EXPERT TECHNICAL ADVICE WOULD BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO DEVISE AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD YIELD NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, CAREFULLY GUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED AND THEIR FAMILIES,+ DR. HU OBSERVED.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED AND TO ENSURE THAT SUCH SERVICES AS EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING WERE AVAILABLE TO THEM, IN LINE WITH SIMILAR LEGISLATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

TAKING UP DR. HU'S POINT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE HON. WONG LAM HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO PROMOTE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF AND CONCERN FOR THE DISABLED. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, HE SAID, TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE APPRECIATIVE OF THE SPECIAL STRENGTHS AND GOOD POINTS OF THE DISABLED AND THE KINDS OF DIFFICULTIES THEY FACED.

MR. WONG FELT THAT THE GREEN PAPER WAS RATHER SILENT ABOUT TRANSPORT SERVICES, WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WAS A MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FOR THE BLIND, THE LAME AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

HE HOPED THAT THE SUGGESTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY ON THE TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE DISABLED AND THE ACCESS COMMITTEE FORMED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE WHITE PAPER FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AT A SUITABLE TIME.

MEANWHILE, AS A START, MR. WONG SUGGESTED THAT MORE PRACTICAL MEASURES SUCH AS PROVIDING MORE BUS STOPS IN THE VICINITY OF REHABILITATION CENTRES OR MORE PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE DISABLED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN FOUND HIMSELF IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH THE COMMENT BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE THAT +THERE IS A SERIOUS LACK OF PLANNING FOR ADULT SERVICES IN THE GREEN PAPER. THERE IS NO PROJECTION AT ALL FOR VOCATIONAL AND PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS.+

FATHER MCGOVERN SAID WHILE HE ENTIRELY AGREED THAT THE STRESS SHOULD BE ON THE REHABILITATION OF THE YOUNG AS THEY COULD BE MORE EASILY TRAINED AND COULD HOPEFULLY +LIVE A LONGER LIFE OF GREATER SATISFACTION TO THEMSELVES AND OF GREATER USE TO THE COMMUNITY+, HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE AT THE COST OF NEGLECT OF TRAINING AND OTHER SERVICES FOR ADULTS.

HE WONDERED IF SOME SYSTEM COULD BE FOUND BY WHICH EMPLOYERS, ESPECIALLY IN INDUSTRY, COULD BE PERSUADED TO GIVE GREATER COOPERATION IN RETRAINING AND FINDING ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE WHO HAD BEEN HANDICAPPED IN WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS.

AS THE ACCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE WORKPLACE, IT SEEMED FAIR THAT THE EMPLOYER MIGHT BE ASKED TO DO MORE THAN THE LEGAL CASH PAYMENT, HE MAINTAINED.

IT MIGHT EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THIS CONCEPT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, HE ADDED.

THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF A SHORTFALL OF 9,388 SCHOOL PLACES BY 1985-86 FOR CHILDREN WHO WERE MENTALLY RETARDED, SLOW LEARNING OR MALADJUSTED WAS CRITICISED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AS AN UNACCEPTABLE +GLARING DEFICIENCY+ IN THE GREEN PAPER.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE THE SHORTFALL WITHIN A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND NOT AT +AN INDETERMINATE DATE+ AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER.

REFERRING TO THE LONG-TERM BENEFIT OF REHABILITATION ON SOCIETY, MR. CHEONG-LEEN STRESSED THAT FOR EVERY HANDICAPPED CHILD WHO WAS DENIED AN EDUCATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INTEGRATED TO THE COMMUNITY, THERE WOULD BE THE CUMULATIVE COSTS OF A LIFETIME OF CARE, LOST INCOME AND SOCIAL DISORIENTATION.

+BUT FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON REHABILITATION, THE RETURNS CAN BE MULTI-FOLD, AS HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE IT IS ESTIMATED THAT FOR ONE DOLLAR SPENT ON REHABILITATION, RETURNS ARE BETWEEN \$17-\$35 TO THE ECONOMY.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN PROPOSED THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN PROVIDING THE HOUSING AND REHOUSING NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, AS WELL AS THE PREMISES FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES.

HE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THERE WAS AS YET NO LONG-TERM POLICY OR STRATEGY IN PROVIDING HOUSING OR REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

+THEREFORE, APART FROM TACKLING THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF FAMILIES WITH PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY SEVERELY DISABLED MEMBERS LIVING WITH THEM IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PLAN FOR DIFFERENT REHABILITATION SERVICES IN ESTATES WHICH ARE BEING BUILT, ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE, OR ARE TO BE REBUILT,+ HE SAID.

CONFINING HIMSELF TO THE LOT OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED, THE HON. T.S. LO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SINGLE OUT AND DEAL WITH THE +NEGLECTED PLIGHT+ OF THE 30,000-ODD MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

/HE EMPHASISED .....

HE EMPHASISED THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER RELATING TO THE MENTALLY RETARDED AS HE DID NOT CONSIDER THEY REPRESENT ANY GENUINE ATTEMPT ON GOVERNMENT'S PART TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

MR. LO PINPOINTED FOUR REASONS ON WHICH HIS DISAPPROVAL WAS BASED:

- \* THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACHIEVE BY 1985/86 THE MISERABLE AND PATHETIC TARGET OF A SHORTFALL OF 9,388 SCHOOL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED=
- \* THE WORKING GROUP'S FAILURE IN ATTEMPTING TO DIAGNOSE IN THE GREEN PAPER THE ANNUAL SHORTFALL OF SPECIALLY TRAINED TEACHERS=
- \* THE RESHUFFLING OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, AS IMPLIED BY THE WORKING GROUP, BEFORE ANYTHING CAN BE DONE AND
- \* THE WORKING GROUP'S FAILURE IN DIAGNOSING WHY THERE IS A SHAMEFUL SHORTFALL OF 18,236 SCHOOL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

+UNLESS THE FORCES AT WORK IN GOVERNMENT WHICH PRODUCED THIS DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS ARE DETECTED AND NEUTRALISED, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY EVERY CHANCE THAT THE PROBLEM WILL REMAIN A PROBLEM DEALT WITH ONLY ON PAPER, WHATEVER ITS COLOUR,+ MR. LO STRESSED.

IN THE VIEW OF REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT, THE WEAKNESS OF THE GREEN PAPER LAY IN THE FACT THAT THE TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL WERE NOT CLEARLY SPELT OUT.

SHE FELT THAT TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS FOR THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED SHOULD RECEIVE TRAINING, ON A REGULAR BASIS, IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION INSTEAD OF RELYING, AS AT PRESENT, ON IN-SERVICE COURSES RUN BY THE SPECIAL SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE EXTRA-MURAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITIES.

+A PROPER SYSTEM MUST BE DRAWN UP SO THAT ALL TEACHERS CAN HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE OPENINGS AVAILABLE TO THEM,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT ALSO SAW THE NEED FOR MORE SPECIALIST STAFF LIKE OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPISTS TO BE TRAINED LOCALLY.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT LACK OF A CODE OF AID FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS HAD CREATED DIFFICULTIES IN THE STAFFING OF THESE SCHOOLS.

ON SCREENING OF CHILDREN FOR DEFECTS IN SIGHT AND HEARING, MISS BENNETT THOUGHT SUCH SCREENING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT A YOUNGER AGE THAN ENVISAGED BY THE GREEN PAPER.

/REPLYING .....

REPLYING TO THE POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, THANKED THE UNOFFICIALS AS WELL AS OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER.

HE ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE THESE VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION IN REACHING CONCLUSIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE COMING DECADE AND IN THE PREPARATION OF THE WHITE PAPER.

MR. LI EXPLAINED THAT AS ALL SUBMISSIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER WERE BEING EXAMINED, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO STATE WHETHER GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THESE PROPOSALS OR TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM THEIR ACCEPTANCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RATE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES, LIKE OTHER SERVICES, WOULD DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

+THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED A GREEN PAPER AND HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO A WHITE PAPER SHOWS THAT GOVERNMENT TAKES REHABILITATION SERIOUSLY,+ MR. LI EMPHASISED.

THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED WOULD EXPAND SUBSTANTIALLY BOTH QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS, HAVING BENEFITTED FROM A HIGH PRIORITY OF RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS.

MR. LI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTION BY THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO THE FIELD OF REHABILITATION.

IN MANY FIELDS, HE NOTED, IT WAS THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHICH WAS THE PIONEER IN THE PROVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

+SINCE CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF SERVICES IS EXPECTED FOR THE COMING DECADE, IT IS THE HOPE AND AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE EXISTING WORK OF BOTH PUBLIC AND VOLUNATRY SECTORS SHOULD BE IMPROVED SO THAT, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG CAN BE HELPED TO ATTAIN THEIR FULLEST PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL CAPABILITY.+

REFERRING TO EARLIER CRITICISMS BY DR. HARRY FANG AND DR. HENRY HU ON THE INADEQUACY IN THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS, MR. LI AGREED THAT IMPROVEMENT MUST BE MADE.

HE INDICATED THAT PLANNING WAS ONE OF THE NECESSARY MANAGEMENT TASKS BUT WITHOUT TIMELY INFORMATION IN THE RIGHT FORM, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN EFFECTIVELY.

+THE GREEN PAPER,+ HE WENT ON, +HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW IMPROVEMENT CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE DESIGN OF A MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH WILL NOT ONLY COLLECT THE DATA ESSENTIAL FOR UPDATING THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN BUT WILL ALSO ENABLE POLICY MAKERS TO PLAN MORE INTELLIGENTLY.+

/TURNING .....

TURNING TO THE SHORTFALLS OF SERVICES IDENTIFIED IN THE GREEN PAPER, MR. LI EXPLAINED THAT THE SHORTFALLS WERE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF FORESEEABLE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES AND HAVING REGARD TO THE EFFECT OF VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT.

SUCH CONSTRAINTS INCLUDE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE SITES, THE CAPACITY FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION LEAD TIMES AND LEAD TIMES FOR STAFF RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE UNOFFICIALS' SUGGESTIONS, THE SECRETARY SAID, +GOVERNMENT WILL RE-EXAMINE THE RATES OF DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES RECOMMENDED IN THE GREEN PAPER IN ORDER TO ASSESS WHETHER THE SHORTFALL OF SERVICES CAN BE MADE UP MORE QUICKLY.+

WINDING UP THE DEBATE, DR. HARRY FANG SAID THE UNOFFICIALS WERE PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND RE-EXAMINE THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES.

IN CLOSING, HE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS RARE THAT AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONCLUDING A DEBATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. ON A PUBLIC ISSUE OF SUCH MAJOR IMPORTANCE, HE SAID, +IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THE LAST WORD SHOULD COME FROM THE UNOFFICIAL SIDE+.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES REDUCED  
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THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE REDUCED FROM 4.2 PER CENT TO 3 PER CENT PER ANNUM, TAX FREE, AS FROM TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 17).

THE REDUCTION HAS BEEN AUTHORISED BY THE GOVERNOR AND NOTIFICATION WILL BE MADE IN TOMORROW'S GAZETTE. IT REFLECTS THE LOWER COMMERCIAL INTEREST RATES PREVAILING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE 25 CENTS PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID IN CASH.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 17, 1977.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 19, 1975 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 17, 1977, WHEN THE RATE WAS 4.2 PER CENT WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AT THAT RATE.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER 1973 AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19, 1975 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AT 5.7 PER CENT, BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEW INTEREST RATES :

\$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED FEBRUARY 28, 1977, APRIL 28, 1977 AND JUNE 28, 1977 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JANUARY 3, 1978, WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS :

ON \$1,000, FEBRUARY 28, 1977 TO DECEMBER 27, 1977, 10 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$2.50 PER MONTH .....	\$25.00
ON \$1,000, APRIL 28, 1977 TO DECEMBER 27, 1977, 8 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$2.50 PER MONTH .....	\$20.00
ON \$1,000, JUNE 28, 1977 TO DECEMBER 27, 1977, 6 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$2.50 PER MONTH .....	\$15.00
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	\$60.00
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FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL CHILD EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, HAS WRITTEN TO EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AND EMPLOYEES UNIONS IN HONG KONG TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN FIGHTING ILLEGAL CHILD EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES.

IN HIS LETTER, THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE CASUAL EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 14, IN IGNORANCE, THERE WERE DELIBERATE ATTEMPTS TO EVADE THE LAW.

HE SAID SOME FACTORIES INSTALLED EARLY-WARNING SYSTEMS OF VARYING DEGREES OF SOPHISTICATION TO NULLIFY OR DELAY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INSPECTION AND HE CALLED ON EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AND EMPLOYEES UNIONS TO MAKE CLEAR TO THEIR MEMBERS THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF THESE MALPRACTICES.

REFERRING TO RECENT ATTACKS BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS ON THE ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN HONG KONG, MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT THESE ATTACKS COULD CAUSE POTENTIAL HARM TO HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS WHICH IN TURN WOULD DAMAGE THE PROSPERITY AND LIVELIHOOD OF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

HE SAID: +I TRUST THAT YOUR ORGANISATION IS AS ANXIOUS AS I AM TO UPHOLD THE LAW AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL CHILD EMPLOYMENT - THAT IS - THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS BELOW 14 IN FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

+I TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS AT MY DISPOSAL TO REDUCE ILLEGAL CHILD EMPLOYMENT TO THE MINIMUM, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCEMENT.

+I APPRECIATE THAT THERE CAN BE PROBLEMS IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEGAL AGE OF YOUNG PERSONS APPLYING FOR WORK.

+THE JUVENILE IDENTITY CARD IS OF VALUE BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RELY COMPLETELY ON IT UNTIL COVERAGE IS 100 PER CENT.

+THIS IS A MASSIVE PROGRAMME AND AT BEST CANNOT BE FINISHED BEFORE THE END OF 1978.

+IN THE MEANTIME, THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THE VERIFICATION OF THE TRUE AGE OF A JUVENILE, BUT THIS SERVICE WILL HAVE TO BE RESERVED FOR CASES IN WHICH THE EMPLOYER HAS HIMSELF ATTEMPTED AND FAILED TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS.+

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 18 -

FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR TUEN MUN

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TUEN MUN WILL HAVE FOUR NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS COSTING \$23 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO KEEP PACE WITH THE RAPID POPULATION GROWTH OF THE NEW TOWN, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK CEREMONY OF THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN TUEN MUN, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE TOWN BY 1980.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WITH FOUR EXISTING SECONDARY SCHOOLS SERVING THE CURRENT POPULATION OF 50,000, THERE WERE PLACES NOW FOR MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF LOCAL CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 14.

SO THE COMPLETION OF THE MARDEN CARITAS SCHOOL WOULD MEAN THAT EVERY CHILD BETWEEN 12 AND 14 WOULD BE ASSURED OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE.

HE ADDED: +THIS IS EXACTLY IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY AND IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO MAINTAIN THIS MATCHING OF FACILITIES IN THE NEW TOWN WITH THE POPULATION GROWTH.

+PLANS AND FUNDING FOR WORK ON YET ANOTHER FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BEGIN IN 1978 AT A COST OF \$23 MILLION HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED.

+WHEN THESE SCHOOLS ARE COMPLETED IN 1980, THERE WILL BE 130,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN TUEN MUN, NEARLY THREE TIMES THE PRESENT POPULATION.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT WHILE IN GENERAL TERMS, SCHOOLS WHICH PLACED A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION WERE NO LONGER A SPECIFIC PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME, THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS SCHOOL WOULD BE WELCOME IN THE YOUNG NEW TOWN.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE TUEN MUN HAD GROWN SUFFICIENTLY TO PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, BUT WITH 10 FACTORIES COMPLETED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND ANOTHER SEVENTEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THERE WOULD BE NO SHORTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT.

MR. JOHN MARDEN, WHO GAVE THE WELCOMING ADDRESS AT THE CEREMONY, SAID THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD SET UP THE MARDEN FOUNDATION EARLY IN 1972 TO CONTRIBUTE MORE DIRECTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BALANCED EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

THE FOUNDATION WOULD BE SPONSORING THREE PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS TO BE MANAGED BY CARITAS -- THE ONE AT TUEN MUN, AND TWO OTHERS AT SHA TIN AND CHAI WAN.

/HE SAID .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 19 -

HE SAID THE FOUNDATION AND CARITAS PLANNED TO OPEN THE TUEN MUN SCHOOL WITH A FIRST BATCH OF 360 BOYS AND GIRLS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

HE DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS THE FRUIT OF FOUR-CORNERED PLANNING BY THE MARDEN FOUNDATION, THE PEOPLE OF TUEN MUN, CARITAS AND THE GOVERNMENT. +THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT TO MEET THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF TUEN MUN AND TO MATCH THEM WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITIES OF THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ROGER LOBO, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CARITAS-HONG KONG, TOLD GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY THAT THE SCHOOL PROJECT WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF CREATIVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS AND A VOLUNTARY AGENCY.

HE SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE MARDEN FOUNDATION-CARITAS SCHOOL AT SHA TIN WOULD START BY THE END OF THE YEAR WHILE PLANS WERE NOW BEING FINALISED FOR THE CHAI WAN SCHOOL.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPEECHES, THE COMMEMORATIVE STONE, THE SITE AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WERE BLESSED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF HONG KONG, THE MOST REV. JOHN B. WU.

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#### CONTROL ON MOVING OF PILE-DRIVERS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, SAID TODAY THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THERE HAD BEEN ONLY ONE COLLAPSE OF A PILE-DRIVER IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS REGULATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED TO SEE IF EFFECTIVE CONTROL COULD BE PROVIDED OVER THE MOVING OF PILE-DRIVERS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

HE WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON. WONG LAM WHO ASKED IF GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED PRESENT CONTROL OVER THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT EFFECTIVE.

MR. PRICE SAID THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT IN GENERAL TERMS THE CONSTRUCTION SITES SAFETY REGULATIONS PROVIDED EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER EQUIPMENT USED ON SITES. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 10 LAST YEAR THAT THESE PARTICULAR REGULATIONS WERE UNDER REVIEW.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +I MUST STRESS THAT LEGISLATION ALONE CANNOT PREVENT ACCIDENTS ARISING.+

+WHAT IS ALSO NEEDED IS GOOD SUPERVISION AND AN ACCEPTANCE ON THE PART OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT THAT ACCIDENT PREVENTION SHOULD BE A MAJOR PART OF THEIR POLICIES,+ MR. PRICE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 20 -

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE BEING REVISED  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISING THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDINANCE AND THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH, HE SAID THAT DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED IN RESPECT OF THE REVISIONS OF THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDINANCE AND THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE.

+REVISION OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX AND THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING THE SERVICES OF SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE WITH WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LEGISLATION AND WITH SETTING UP THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO BACK IT,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

WHEN THIS ADVICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED, HE SAID, WORK ON DRAFTING THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS COULD COMMENCE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE HON. S.L. CHEN, THE SECRETARY SAID SECTION 2 OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE +ALREADY PROVIDES THAT THERE SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE TREASURY STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AS SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE AND THAT COPIES SHALL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.+

MR. CHEN HAD ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A STANDARDS BUREAU WHERE STANDARDS OF ALL METRIC UNITS ARE KEPT SO THAT THE ACCURACY OF ALL METRIC UNITS CAN BE VERIFIED AND CERTIFIED.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THAT THE COMMISSIONER'S COPIES WERE INTENDED FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC FOR REFERENCE.

HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, AS A MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE THE COMMISSIONER'S COPIES WERE NOW HELD BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

REGARDING THE PLANNED REVISION OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, HE SAID: +AMONG THE MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THIS REVISION ARE THE QUESTIONS OF WHICH STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND HOW A VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION MACHINERY APPROPRIATE FOR PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED.+

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 21 -

PROTECTION FOR UTILITY SERVICES DURING MTR CONSTRUCTION ADEQUATE  
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD SAID TODAY THAT ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO PROTECT UTILITY SERVICES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SYSTEM.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. T.S. LO WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND ITS CONTRACTORS WITH REGARD TO AVOIDING DAMAGE TO PUBLIC UTILITY INSTALLATIONS.

MR. MCDONALD SAID A UTILITIES CO-ORDINATING GROUP HAD BEEN SET UP TO ORGANISE PRE-CONTRACT DIVERSIONS OF SERVICES WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

THE GROUP COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE UTILITY COMPANIES AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

+THE GROUP SUBSEQUENTLY PREPARED GENERAL SPECIFICATION CLAUSES FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORKS CONTRACTS WHICH REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENCE OF UTILITY SERVICES IN THEIR METHODS OF WORKING, LOCATE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS BY MEANS OF HAND-DUG TRIAL HOLES, PREPARE UTILITY PROTECTION PROGRAMMES AND SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL BY THE CORPORATION FULL DETAILS OF THEIR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORTING OR DIVERTING THE SERVICES,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO PROTECT UTILITY SERVICES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY SYSTEM WERE REASONABLE.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE THE CAREFUL PLANNING AND PRECAUTIONS TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT WITH THE CONCENTRATION, COMPLEXITY AND SPEED OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP THE RAILWAY SYSTEM IN AREAS WITH A VERY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF UNDERGROUND DUCTS, PIPES, CABLES AND DRAINS, SOME ERRORS WOULD OCCUR RESULTING IN DISRUPTION OF SERVICES.

+TO DATE ONLY THREE SUCH DISRUPTIONS, WHICH COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS BEING OF MORE THAN A MINOR NATURE, HAVE OCCURRED AND THIS I SUGGEST REFLECTS FAVOURABLY, ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE UTILITIES CO-ORDINATING GROUP,+ SAID MR. MCDONALD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 22 -

GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS BILL

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COMMITTING THE CARE OF THE MINOR TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE MAKING OF A SUPERVISION ORDER BECAUSE THE FORMER MEANS THAT THE PHYSICAL CONTROL OF THE MINOR AS WELL AS HIS UPBRINGING WILL BE VESTED IN THE HANDS OF THE DIRECTOR, THE HON. PETER C. WONG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS BILL 1977, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE THE WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING A PROVISION WHICH EMPOWERS COURTS TO COMMIT THE CARE OF MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 TO THE DIRECTOR.

+IT IS THEREFORE PERTINENT TO CONSIDER WHETHER ADEQUATE FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE DIRECTOR TO CARRY OUT THIS NEW RESPONSIBILITY,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+CHILDREN LIKELY TO BECOME COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE ARE THOSE WHO ARE NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED BY THEIR PARENTS OR WHOSE PARENTS CANNOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE HOME FOR THEM,+ MR. WONG SAID.

+THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY WAYWARD OR PROBLEM CHILDREN BUT RATHER VICTIMS OF BROKEN MARRIAGES AND HOME.

+WHAT THEY REQUIRE THEREFORE IS NOT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DESIGNED FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS BUT A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT RESEMBLING THAT OF AN ORDERLY FAMILY WHICH THESE UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN NEED FOR THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR MIND AND BODY.+

MR. WONG WARNED THAT WITHOUT ADEQUATE FACILITIES AT THE DIRECTOR'S DISPOSAL, IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE WHOLE SCHEME WOULD BECOME A FRUSTRATING EXERCISE TO BOTH THE JUDICIARY AND THE EXECUTIVE.

+IF THROUGH LACK OF PROPER FACILITIES, THE DIRECTOR HAS TO SEND A NORMAL CHILD TO INSTITUTIONS WHERE MOST OF THE OCCUPANTS ARE CHILDREN WITH PROBLEMS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THIS BILL AND CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE WELFARE OF THE MINOR MUST ALWAYS BE GIVEN THE FIRST AND PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION,+ HE POINTED OUT.

IN REPLY, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE CONSIDERED THAT ADEQUATE FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE TO CATER FOR CHILDREN COMMITTED TO HIS CARE.

HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REQUIRING RESIDENTIAL CARE WOULD BE VERY SMALL.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 23 -

IN ADDITION TO THE CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE, HE CONTINUED, THERE WERE ALTOGETHER NINE SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS OPERATING 14 RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY FOR 1,540.

+AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,180 CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE WHICH MEANS THAT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR SOME 360 SUCH CHILDREN,+ HE NOTED.

+THESE PROVISIONS DO NOT INCLUDE HOMES FOR DELINQUENT OR DISABLED CHILDREN WHO ARE SEPARATELY PROVIDED FOR IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

+THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISES ME THAT THERE ARE OTHER FACILITIES, SUCH AS FOSTER CARE AND SMALL GROUP HOMES WHICH ARE BEING DEVELOPED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS. THESE CAN ALSO BE USED TO PROVIDE SPECIAL CARE FOR SUCH CHILDREN.+

MR. THORNTON ADDED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD CERTAINLY KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION IF AND WHEN THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WAS IMPLEMENTED.

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#### DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY DRAFTING A BILL TO FACILITATE THE ISSUE OF A DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATE WHERE THE ORIGINAL IS LOST.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE HON. G.C. THORNTON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. Q.W. LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. LEE HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE EARLY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE THAT SECTION 14 OF THE COMPANIES (RECONSTRUCTION OF RECORDS) ORDINANCE SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AS PART OF THE GENERAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPANIES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ISSUE OF A DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATE WHERE THE ORIGINAL IS LOST.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 24 -

MOVES TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS  
IN CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY THAT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE PRESENT OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN THE CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL.

THESE MEASURES, HE SAID, INCLUDED THE RENOVATION OF THE OLD LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE 300 BEDS FOR PSYCHIATRIC CASES AND THE ADDITION OF 100 BEDS TO THE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT OF KOWLOON HOSPITAL.

DR. THONG ADDED THAT PLANS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE DORMITORY ACCOMMODATION FOR 90 CASES AT THE CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL ITSELF.

THE DIRECTOR WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. MR. CHEUNG HAD ASKED IF MORE PSYCHIATRIC BEDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN THE ACUTE HOSPITALS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE NEW PSYCHIATRIC WING OF PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL IS FULLY OPERATIONAL.

DR. THONG TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE THREE MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THE GENERAL WING OF PRINCESS MARGARET, WERE ALREADY FULLY UTILISED AND, THEREFORE, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO USE THE ACUTE BEDS FOR PSYCHIATRIC CASES.

IN REPLY TO TWO OTHER QUESTIONS FROM MR. CHEUNG, HE SAID THAT AT THE END OF 1976 A TOTAL OF 2,119 PATIENTS WERE UNDER TREATMENT AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL WHERE THE BED CAPACITY WAS 1,921.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS ADMITTED INTO THE HOSPITAL DURING 1976 WAS 3,854, AND THE NUMBER OF DISCHARGES, INCLUDING DEATHS, IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS 3,842.

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, DR. THONG SAID THAT 245 CASES HAD BEEN ADMITTED INTO THE SIU LAM HOSPITAL SINCE ITS OPENING IN 1972 AND THE NUMBER OF CASES DISCHARGED INCLUDING DEATHS WAS 46.

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/25 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 25 -

FOOTBRIDGE FOR CHAI WAN ROAD

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CHAI WAN ROAD NEAR THE SALESIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PROVIDE A SAFE CROSSING POINT FOR PEDESTRIANS.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE FOOTBRIDGE WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

HE WAS REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM DR. THE HON. HENRY HU WHO ASKED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC BLACKSPOT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL.

MR. MCDONALD SAID CRASH BARRIERS HAD ALREADY BEEN ERECTED ALONG THE PAVEMENTS BORDERING THE DOWNHILL LANE OF CHAI WAN ROAD.

+FOUR PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT ACROSS CHAI WAN ROAD AND TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS INSTALLED AT THE A KUNG NGAM ROAD JUNCTION,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE NEW FOOTBRIDGE, THE P.W.D. WAS ALSO PLANNING TO INCREASE THE SKID RESISTANCE OF THE ROAD SURFACE BY USING SPECIALLY DEVELOPED SURFACING MATERIALS, SAID MR. MCDONALD.

FURTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS SECTION OF ROADWAY, PARTICULARLY AT THE JUNCTION OF SHAUKEIWAN ROAD, WERE NOT POSSIBLE, HE SAID, DUE TO THE LONG AND STEEP GRADIENT OF CHAI WAN ROAD AND OTHER PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS IN THE AREA.

+IN THE LONG TERM, HOWEVER, TRAFFIC VOLUME ON THIS ROAD WILL BE REDUCED WHEN THE ISLAND EAST CORRIDOR HIGHWAY IS EXTENDED THROUGH TO CHAI WAN.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LI FOOK-WO ABOUT THE ROAD COLLAPSE WHICH OCCURRED ON JANUARY 9 IN TAI HANG ROAD, MR. MCDONALD SAID THE ROAD SURFACE HAD BEEN UNDERMINED AS A RESULT OF A SUB-SOIL WASHOUT CAUSED BY LEAKAGE FROM A 300 MM DIAMETER SEWER UNDER THE ROADWAY.

+REPAIR WORKS WERE PUT IN HAND IMMEDIATELY AND THE ROAD WAS REOPENED TO TRAFFIC THE FOLLOWING MORNING,+ HE SAID.

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/26 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 26 -

GOVERNMENT FORMS  
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CONDUCT A FORMAL SURVEY TO ASCERTAIN HOW MANY FORMS PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR COMPLETION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE BILINGUAL AND HOW MANY ARE IN ENGLISH ONLY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. JAMES WU IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID +I DO NOT THINK THERE ARE MANY FORMS THAT DO NOT HAVE CHINESE VERSIONS, SO I THINK THAT ANY SORT OF FORMAL SURVEY WOULD PROBABLY BE A WASTE OF TIME -- THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY FORMS.+

HOWEVER, MR. BRAY ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD HAVE A CHECK MADE.

HE ALSO ASKED MR. WU TO LET HIM KNOW OF ANY CASES WHERE CHINESE VERSIONS WERE NOT YET SUPPLIED.

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STUDY ON JUNK BAY AS A FUTURE URBAN AREA  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO SEE HOW AND WHEN JUNK BAY CAN BE DEVELOPED AS A NEW URBAN AREA.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. Q.W. LEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, SAID THE INVESTIGATION WOULD TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTANTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1974 TO INVESTIGATE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY AS AN INDUSTRIAL AREA HAD CONCLUDED THAT ABOUT 80 HECTARES OF DEVELOPMENT LAND COULD BE FORMED BY TERRACING THE HILLS AND FILLING IN THE BAY.

BUT THERE WOULD BE SEVERE CONSTRAINTS ON THE TYPE OF INDUSTRY PERMISSIBLE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO AVOID ANY AIR POLLUTION WHICH COULD GIVE RISE TO A DETERIORATION IN VISIBILITY AT THE AIRPORT.

MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED: +A FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS JUST ABOUT TO START WHICH WILL DETERMINE HOW JUNK BAY COULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING AND FOR SOME LIGHT NON-POLLUTING INDUSTRY.

+THIS FURTHER STUDY WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS.

+BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE HOW AND WHEN TO DEVELOP JUNK BAY, WHICH, BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO EAST KOWLOON AND KWUN TONG, IS AN OBVIOUS PLACE TO TURN FOR FUTURE URBAN EXPANSION.+

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/27 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 27 -

SHOP-STALLS FOR HAWKERS IN HOUSING ESTATES

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THE LONG-TERM AIM OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TO HAVE ALL TRADING ACTIVITIES IN ITS ESTATES CONDUCTED UNDER A PROPER TENANCY AGREEMENT IN PURPOSE-BUILT SHOP STALLS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ON WHETHER THE AUTHORITY HAS ANY PLANS TO LICENSE HAWKERS OPERATING WITHIN HOUSING ESTATES BOTH IN URBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID HAWKERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO BID FOR THE SHOP-STALLS WHEN THEY BECAME AVAILABLE.

+HOWEVER, THE LARGE NUMBER OF HAWKERS INVOLVED SUGGEST THAT THE AUTHORITY IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ENOUGH SHOP-STALLS IN NEW ESTATES FOR ALL HAWKERS TO BECOME COMMERCIAL TENANTS IN THIS WAY,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID 12,000 ODD HAWKERS OPERATED INSIDE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S URBAN ESTATES, AND 2,600 IN ITS ESTATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 1976/77

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION AMOUNTING TO \$131.9 MILLION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1976/77.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, INDICATED THAT OF THIS SUM, PUBLIC WORKS NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTED FOR \$100 MILLION OF WHICH \$57.8 MILLION WAS PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON EXISTING PROJECTS AND \$40.3 MILLION FOR 36 PROJECTS RECENTLY UPGRADED TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

OTHER ITEMS INCLUDE \$15.5 MILLION FOR THE UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND A NUMBER OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS TO ASSIST THEM TOWARDS A SALARIES REVISION FOR THEIR STAFF, \$2.6 MILLION FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE SUBVENTION FOR THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND \$7 MILLION FOR THE PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION IN THE CLEARANCE OF SHEUNG SHUI TANNERIES.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION WOULD NOT RESULT IN A NET INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR AS OFFSETTING SAVINGS HAD BEEN FOUND UNDER OTHER SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS UNDER HEAD 50 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SUBHEAD 100 ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY APPROVED ALL ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULE.

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/28 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 28 -

MORE PEOPLE GO TO CHINA FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR

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WITH THE LUNAR NEW YEAR JUST AROUND THE CORNER, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING BY TRAIN TO CHINA IS ON THE INCREASE EVERYDAY.

ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, MR. REGINALD GREGORY, A TOTAL OF 65,583 PEOPLE LEFT FOR CHINA BY TRAIN IN THE LAST 10 DAYS.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 11.4 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH FIGURE FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

ANOTHER 19,398 LEFT FOR CHINA TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN TAI PO, TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN AND LO WU WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD.

MR. GREGORY SAID THAT MORE PEOPLE NOW PATRONISED THIS SERVICE BUT THERE WAS AMPLE ROOM ON THE TRAIN FOR MORE PASSENGERS.

TO ADD A FESTIVE TOUCH TO THE STATION, LIGHT CHINESE AND LUNAR NEW YEAR MUSIC IS BEING BROADCAST ON THE CONCOURSE IN HUNGHOM STATION AND IN TRAINS THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR PERIOD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ONE-TON BRONZE BELL FROM THE OLD TSIM SHA TSUI RAILWAY STATION CLOCK TOWER, NOW DISPLAYED IN THE MAIN CONCOURSE OF THE STATION, HAS BEEN DECORATED WITH MANDARINES.

IN ADDITION, AN ATTRACTIVELY DECORATED BOARD WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY HAS ALSO BEEN PUT UP IN THE CENTRE OF THE MAIN CONCOURSE.

AT THE HUNGHOM STATION, REFRESHMENTS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE FROM 3.30 A.M. FOR EARLY MORNING COMMUTERS.

MR. GREGORY SAID THAT THE AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES, WHICH WERE PUT INTO SERVICE LAST WEEK, PROVED VERY POPULAR. SO FAR, OVER 1,700 TICKETS HAD BEEN SOLD.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN LOOKING AFTER THE VAST NUMBER OF PASSENGERS COMING THROUGH THE STATION DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS.

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/29 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 29 -

F.M.O. PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY  
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EIGHT FISHERMEN WHO BETWEEN THEM SAVED 56 LIVES AT SEA DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES FROM MRS. E.H. NICHOLS, WIFE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET THIS SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

MRS. NICHOLS WILL ALSO PRESENT PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES TO 47 FISHERMEN WHO HAVE MARKETED THE LARGEST VALUE OF FISH THROUGH THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION.

LONG SERVICE MEDALS WILL BE AWARDED TO 11 MEMBERS OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHO HAVE EACH COMPLETED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE ORGANISATION.

NAVIGATION CERTIFICATES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO NINE YOUNG FISHERMEN WHO HAVE COMPLETED A SIX-MONTH TRAINING IN NAVIGATION GIVEN BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

MR. NICHOLS WILL MAKE A SPEECH AND AFTER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, A LION DANCE WILL BE PERFORMED TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION.

TWO OF THE EIGHT FISHERMEN WHO SAVED LIVES AT SEA ARE MR. KWOK KWUN-FOR AND MR. CHENG WAI-HO. THEY RESCUED 27 PERSONS FROM A FREIGHTER WHICH RAN AGROUND 280 KILOMETRES NORTH-EAST OF HONG KONG.

THE OTHER SIX FISHERMEN ARE LAI FOOK, CHENG HOI-FAT, LEUNG KAM-SHUI, KWOK KAM-TAI, SO LOY-HING AND FUNG WAI-TAI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THE EVENT COVERED. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET AT FAT TSEUNG STREET, KOWLOON, AT NOON ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

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/30 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 30 -

RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR OF MARINE

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR. A. FLETCHER, WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE IN APRIL AFTER 25 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. M.J. ALEXANDER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, WHOSE PROMOTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

MR. FLETCHER, AGED 55, FIRST JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1952. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1962, PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN 1966, SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF SHIPS IN 1967, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN 1967 AND DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN 1972.

MR. ALEXANDER, 51, FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS A MARINE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1954. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR MARINE OFFICER IN JANUARY 1965 AND PRINCIPAL MARINE OFFICER IN MAY 1971. HE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN MARCH 1972.

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BILLS PASSED

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

THEY WERE THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (ABOLITION) BILL 1977= THE LION ROCK TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS BILL 1977= THE MAINTENANCE ORDERS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) BILL 1977= THE AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977= THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BILL 1977.

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/31 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1977

- 31 -

HEAVY TRAFFIC EXPECTED IN SHA TIN

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THE CHE KUNG FESTIVAL IN SHA TIN THIS YEAR FALLS ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 20) WHICH IS THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

VERY HEAVY TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED IN LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND TAIPO ROAD APPROACHING SHA TIN AND SHA TIN BY-PASS ROAD.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID THIS AREA ON THAT DAY UNLESS THEY REQUIRE TO GO THERE.

FOR THOSE WISHING TO WORSHIP AT THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE AT SHA TIN, LIMITED PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEK YUEN ROAD UP TO THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME SITE OFFICE AND THE CAR PARK BEHIND SHA TIN MARKET.

NO PARKING WILL BE PERMITTED ON PAVEMENTS AND VEHICLES FOUND ILLEGALLY PARKED WILL BE TOWED AWAY BY THE POLICE.

ADDITIONAL BUSES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY ON ROUTE NO. 70A BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD FERRY AND SHA TIN.

A TEMPORARY STAND FOR KOWLOON-BOUND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE LOCATED AT LEK YUEN ROAD NEAR LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

TRAFFIC POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CASTLE ROAD

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CASTLE ROAD BETWEEN CONDUIT ROAD AND ROBINSON ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 20) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PART OF THE NEW FLYOVER AT THAT LOCATION. THE CLOSURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT 12 WEEKS.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING DOWN FROM THE MID-LEVELS ARE ADVISED TO USE EITHER KOTEWALL ROAD OR GLENEALY AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.

HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT URGED MOTORISTS TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE AREA.

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