



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1973

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HELP REDUCE EXCESSIVE NOISE PUBLIC URGED
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE TODAY URGED TO HELP REDUCE EXCESSIVE NOISE IN HONG KONG BY BEING MORE CONSIDERATE AND TO SUGGEST PRACTICAL WAYS OF ABATING NOISE POLLUTION.

THE CALL CAME FROM UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN DURING AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE IN COUNCIL TODAY, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SUPPORTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON.

BOTH SPEAKERS FELT THAT A LITTLE CONCERN AND CONSIDERATION BY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS COULD GO A LONG WAY IN ALLEVIATING NOISE POLLUTION. +THE MOST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION, IN FACT, RESTS WITH THE PUBLIC THEMSELVES,+ SAID MR. CHEONG-LEEN.

AS A START, MR. ROBSON SAID, +MOTORISTS AND MOTOR CYCLISTS CAN ENSURE THAT THEIR VEHICLES ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND ARE NOT MAKING MORE NOISE THAN THE MANUFACTURER INTENDED= RECORD SHOP PROPRIETORS CAN PLAY THEIR LOUDSPEAKERS AT A MODERATE LEVEL AND STILL ADVERTISE THEIR WARES SATISFACTORILY, AND OWNERS OF PREMISES WITH LARGE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS CAN ENSURE THAT THESE UNITS ARE INSTALLED SO AS NOT TO DISTURB UNDULY NEARBY RESIDENTS.+

MR. ROBSON ALSO CALLED FOR SUPPORT FROM THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION NOISE COULD BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED BY USING SOUND SUPPRESSED EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS NOW READILY AVAILABLE AND GENERALLY NOT EXPENSIVE.

HOWEVER, BOTH MR. ROBSON AND MR. CHEONG-LEEN AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO EASY SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF NOISE POLLUTION.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NOT MUCH LEGISLATION TO CONTROL EXCESSIVE NOISE AND THE PRESENT LAW WAS FRAGMENTED AND NOT EASY TO ENFORCE. ENQUIRIES HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT LEGISLATION OVERSEAS AND IN MANY PLACES SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS EITHER ONLY PARTIALLY ENFORCED OR NOT AT ALL.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN EXPLAINED THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM), OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, HAD CATEGORISED THE SOURCES OF NOISE AS FOLLOWS: TRAFFIC, AIRCRAFT, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, INDUSTRIAL SOURCES, RECREATIONAL AND ADVERTISING SOURCES, AND AIR-CONDITIONERS.

THERE APPEARED TO BE LITTLE HONG KONG COULD DO UNILATERALLY TO ABATE AIRCRAFT NOISE TO ANY SPECTACULAR DEGREE, HE SAID, BUT AIRLINES WERE MAKING INCREASING USE OF THE QUIETER AIRCRAFT BEING MANUFACTURED AND THE BENEFIT OF THE STRICT NOISE STANDARDS IN THE U.S.A. SHOULD MAKE ITSELF FELT IN HONG KONG.

/AS TO TRAFFIC

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AS TO TRAFFIC NOISE, EPCOM HAD RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FOR ENGAGING MORE VEHICLE INSPECTORS AND TO SET UP A VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE SO THAT MORE VEHICLES COULD BE CALLED IN AND, IF NECESSARY, THEIR OWNERS REQUIRED TO REMEDY ANY DEFECTS.

IN THE CASE OF CONSTRUCTION NOISE, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESENT BAN ON PILE DRIVING BETWEEN 8 PM AND 6 AM AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT -- INCLUDING PNEUMATIC DRILLS -- AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

EXISTING LEGISLATION ON RECREATIONAL AND ADVERTISING NOISE, HE WENT ON, WAS SKETCHY BUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM RECORD SHOPS EPCOM HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE MAXIMUM FINE BE INCREASED FROM \$50 TO \$2,000.

AS TO AIR-CONDITIONING NOISE, MR. CHEONG-LEEN REVEALED THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR AIR-CONDITIONERS TO MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE.

HE NOTED THAT WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WERE ALREADY PROTECTED FROM EXCESSIVE INDUSTRIAL NOISE BY LABOUR REGULATIONS, AND SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS ALWAYS READY TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF EXCESSIVE FACTORY NOISE FROM OUTSIDE PEOPLE AFFECTED.

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OVER 44,000 CHINESE IMMIGRANTS ENTERED H.K.
DURING THE PAST 17 MONTHS
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A TOTAL OF 44,804 CHINESE IMMIGRANTS ENTERED HONG KONG FROM CHINA LEGALLY BETWEEN JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR AND MAY 31 THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. L.M. DAVIES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

MR. DAVIES SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY HOW MANY OF THEM WERE STILL LIVING HERE AS NO RECORDS WERE KEPT OF THE SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENT OF THESE IMMIGRANTS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, DURING THE SAME PERIOD ABOUT 25,000 PERSONS EMIGRATED LEGALLY FROM HONG KONG.

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EXTORTION VICTIMS URGED TO REPORT TO POLICE

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TODAY GAVE A FIRM ASSURANCE TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE FULLY ALL REPORTS OF BLACKMAIL AND CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION WHETHER BY TRIADS OR INDIVIDUALS.

AT THE SAME TIME HE CALLED ON MORE VICTIMS TO REPORT BLACKMAIL ATTEMPTS ON THEM SO THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.

MR. DAVIES TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE POLICE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE AGAINST CRIMINAL ELEMENTS TRYING TO EXTORT MONEY OR TERRORISE PEOPLE FOR SO-CALLED SERVICES, AND MUCH OF THE POLICE SUCCESSES AGAINST SUCH ELEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS STEMMED FROM GREATER PUBLIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND THE VICTIMS AND WITNESSES.

INCREASED POLICE ACTION WAS CLEARLY INDICATED IN STATISTICS WHICH SHOWED A FOURFOLD INCREASE IN DETECTED CASES AND PROSECUTIONS OF CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION AND A THREEFOLD INCREASE IN DETECTED CASES AND DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS OF BLACKMAIL BETWEEN 1973 AND 1974.

OF THE 773 BLACKMAIL CASES REPORTED TO THE POLICE UP TO MAY 29 THIS YEAR, HE SAID, 561 HAD BEEN DETECTED RESULTING IN 249 PERSONS PROSECUTED. THIS COMPARED WITH 1,612 CASES REPORTED IN 1974 OF WHICH 1,318 WERE DETECTED WITH 468 PERSONS PROSECUTED. THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1973 WERE 515 REPORTED, 401 DETECTED AND 246 PROSECUTED.

CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION CASES REPORTED UP TO MAY 29 THIS YEAR NUMBERED 197 OF WHICH 120 WERE DETECTED RESULTING IN 103 PROSECUTIONS. LAST YEAR'S FIGURES WERE 239 REPORTED CASES OF WHICH 159 WERE DETECTED AND 142 PERSONS PROSECUTED. IN 1973 THERE WERE 53 REPORTED, 40 DETECTED AND 36 PROSECUTIONS.

+HOWEVER,+ MR. DAVIES SAID, +THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE TO FURTHER COUNTER THIS TYPE OF CRIME.+

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WAS AWARE OF THE RELUCTANCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BECOME INVOLVED +BUT IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE SUCCESSES SO FAR ACHIEVED WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD AND REPORT INCIDENTS OF BLACKMAIL AND EXTORTION AND GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT IF NECESSARY.+

/IN REPLY TO

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IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WU, MR. DAVIES SAID POLICE HAD ALSO INCREASED THEIR COVERAGE OF TENEMENT BUILDINGS TO PREVENT TRIADS AND OTHERS FROM VICTIMISING TENANTS WISHING TO CARRY OUT ALTERATIONS AND DECORATIONS.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AS A MATTER OF NORMAL PRACTICE INFORMS ITS INCOMING TENANTS OF THE FIXED PRICES FOR CERTAIN STANDARD ALTERATIONS ETC. AND OF THE NAME OF THE SELECTED CONTRACTORS SO THAT INDIVIDUAL TENANTS HAVE THIS INFORMATION.+

+THEY ARE ALSO ADVISED TO REPORT IF CONTRACTORS TRY TO CHARGE HIGHER PRICES FOR STANDARD WORK,+ HE SAID.

MR. DAVIES ADDED: +IN THE LONG RUN, THE CONTINUING POLICE PRESSURE, THE WORK OF THE ICAC TOGETHER WITH A GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DESIRE TO RESIST THE ACTIVITIES OF TRIADS AND STRONG-ARM GROUPS SHOULD INCREASE THE EFFECT OF THE IMPACT ON THIS LONGSTANDING PROBLEM.+

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TAXI SERVICE FOR NEW TERRITORIES PLANNED * * * * *

THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY SOON HAVE ITS OWN TAXI SERVICE.

THIS WAS INDICATED TODAY IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH.

DETAILS OF A SCHEME WERE NOW BEING WORKED OUT, HE SAID, AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NECESSARY LEGAL CHANGES TO PERMIT THE ISSUE OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR SUCH A SCHEME ON MAY 1 AND HAD ADVISED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED.

HE RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOR SOME TIME CONSIDERED THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR THOSE RURAL AREAS WHICH PRESENT TAXIS DO NOT NOW PENETRATE.

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PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL TO ADMIT PATIENTS IN OCTOBER
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THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WILL PROBABLY ADMIT ITS FIRST PATIENTS IN OCTOBER WHEN 162 BEDS IN THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE WARDS WILL BE OPENED.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DR. CHOA SAID THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE OPENED IN TWO STAGES. THE OPENING OF THE 162 INFECTIOUS DISEASE BEDS, HE SAID, WOULD BE FOLLOWED A MONTH LATER BY THE OPENING OF THE GERIATRIC WARDS WITH A TOTAL OF 74 BEDS WITH ANOTHER 148 TO BE OPENED AT A LATER DATE.

+ANOTHER MONTH LATER ONE CLINICAL UNIT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIALTIES: MEDICINE, SURGERY, PAEDIATRICS, OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY AND ORHTOPAEDICS WILL BE ESTABLISHED,+ HE SAID.

+THE CASUALTY DEPARTMENT WILL THEN BE OPENED AFTER THESE CLINICAL UNITS ARE IN OPERATION.+

DR. CHOA ENVISAGED THAT A TOTAL OF 996 BEDS INCLUDING 38 FIRST CLASS AND SECOND CLASS BEDS WOULD BECOME OPERATIONAL AT THE END OF THIS FIRST STAGE.

+IN THE SECOND AND FINAL STAGE, ANOTHER CLINICAL UNIT EACH OF THE SPECIALTIES MENTIONED EXCEPT OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY WILL BE OPENED,+ HE SAID.

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PROVISION OF CLINICS IN HOUSING ESTATES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE OFFERING VACANT PREMISES IN HOUSING ESTATES SUITABLE FOR USE AS CLINICS TO THE LOW COST CLINICS ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED DOCTORS RATHER THAN FOLLOW A PARTICULAR RATIO FOR PROVIDING CLINICAL FACILITIES IN ESTATE AREAS.

DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED PRACTICABLE TO ADOPT A RATIO OF CLINICS TO POPULATION AS A MEASURE FOR PLANNING CLINICAL FACILITIES.

+WITH THE EXPANSION OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER CLINIC SERVICES, IT WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL TO JUDGE THE ADEQUACY OF THE PROVISION OF CLINIC FACILITIES IN RELATION TO THE NEEDS OF A WIDER AREA THAN JUST A HOUSING ESTATE, + HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

DR. CHOA SAID THE RATIO OF ONE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO 6,000 RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS RECOMMENDED IN 1966 BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICS.

IT WAS RECOGNISED AT THAT TIME, HE SAID, THAT THIS WAS AN ARBITRARY RATIO SINCE THERE WERE NO REAL GUIDELINES ON WHICH TO BASE REQUIREMENTS.

SINCE THEN, HE ADDED, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PROVISION OF CLINIC FACILITIES BY THE GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, EXEMPTED CLINICS AND PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS, NECESSITATING A CHANGE IN APPROACH.

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TOUGHER LAWS TO DEAL WITH SEX OFFENDERS

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STRICTER LEGISLATION TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH SEX CRIMES IS TO BE INTRODUCED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT DRAFTING OF A BILL WAS WELL ADVANCED AND IT WAS HOPED TO INTRODUCE IT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE EARLY PART OF ITS NEXT SESSION.

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CUT IN AUXIE STRENGTH MADE UP BY LARGER POLICE FORCE

THE GRADUAL SCALING DOWN OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT LAW ENFORCEMENT AS THE REGULAR POLICE FORCE IS FAST EXPANDING, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. DAVIES SAID IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE INTENTION TO REDUCE THE AUXILIARY FORCE TO SOME EXTENT AS THE STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR POLICE FORCE INCREASES.

DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, HE SAID, THE STRENGTH OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE WOULD BE STABILISED AT 5,000, AND THERE WAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL PROVISION TO PERMIT A DAILY TURN OUT OF 1,300 AUXILIARIES ON EIGHT-HOUR SHIFTS COMPARED WITH A DAILY AVERAGE OF 1,500 IN 1974/75. HOWEVER, THERE WERE LIKELY TO BE MORE THAN 1,300 AUXILIARIES PERFORMING DUTY ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY SINCE MANY OF THEM WERE AVAILABLE FOR ONLY FOUR TO SIX HOURS DUTY PER DAY.

THE REDUCTION, HE ADDED, HAD BEEN COUPLED WITH A TIGHTER ORGANISATION OF TURN OUT AND HAS NOT RESULTED IN ANY MARKED REDUCTION IN AUXILIARY PRESENCE IN THE STREETS.

THE REDUCTION IN TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE AUXILIARIES WOULD BE EFFECTED BY NOT REPLACING THOSE WHO RESIGN, RETIRE OR ARE DISMISSED.

MR. DAVIES NOTED THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR FORCE AS AT JUNE 1 LAST YEAR WAS 14,574 -- 9.4 PER CENT BELOW ESTABLISHMENT -- COMPARED WITH 12,502 IN 1973 WHEN THE FORCE WAS 22 PER CENT BELOW STRENGTH.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

TWO BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL WHICH GIVES THE GOVERNMENT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN FIXING TAX-FREE INTEREST RATES, AND THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL WHICH SIMPLIFIES THE PROCEDURE OF BRINGING AN IMPERSONATOR OF A CIVIL SERVANT TO COURT.

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REMINT OF ROYAL VISIT GOLD COIN NOT POSSIBLE
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MINTING MORE GOLD COINS COMMEMORATING THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO HONG KONG LAST MONTH.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADVERTISED WORLDWIDE THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE LIMITED TO 20,000 IT WOULD BE A CLEAR BREACH OF FAITH TO RESTRIKE THE COIN IN ORDER TO SATISFY DISAPPOINTED APPLICANTS, HE EXPLAINED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A WAY OPEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SATISFY THOSE APPLICANTS WHO WOULD NOT BE RECEIVING A COIN BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DEMAND.

SAID MR. HADDON-CAVE: +THERE IS NO WAY OPEN TO THIS GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS WORD ON THE NUMBER OF COINS THAT WOULD BE STRUCK AND, AT THE SAME TIME, SATISFY THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED.+

HE SAID THAT 18,000 HONG KONG RESIDENTS HAD APPLIED FOR A TOTAL OF 29,993 ROYAL VISIT COINS AND IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT NO APPLICANT WOULD RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE.

A TOTAL OF 10,530 COINS HAD OR WOULD BE ISSUED, HE SAID, +AND IT FOLLOWS THAT ROUGHLY 52 PER CENT OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO APPLIED WILL NOT RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION TO LIMIT THE ISSUE TO 20,000 WAS TAKEN ON THE ADVICE OF THE ROYAL MINT WHICH HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE OF SELLING LIMITED ISSUE COINS WORLDWIDE.

THE DECISION ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT APPLICANTS EXPECTED DELIVERY OF THE COINS ABOUT THE TIME OF THE ROYAL VISIT AND THE NUMBER OF COINS WAS LIMITED TO THAT WHICH COULD BE MINTED UP TO THAT DATE.

IN REPLY TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY TRY TO BRING BACK SOME OF THE COINS ALLOCATED FOR SALES OUTSIDE HONG KONG IF THERE SHOULD BE SURPLUS OF SUPPLY OVER DEMAND IN THE OTHER MARKETS.

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HAWKER PERMITTED AREAS : INTERESTS OF
THOSE AFFECTED NOT FORGOTTEN

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL HAVE NOT LOST SIGHT OF THE INTERESTS OF OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY THE EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME ON ON-STREET HAWKER PERMITTED AREAS, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUERY FROM THE HON. LO TAK-SHING, MR. ROBSON SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE CONSTANTLY UNDER EXAMINATION +AND IF IT IS FOUND POSSIBLE TO FURTHER REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME UPON OCCUPIERS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES, THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DONE.+

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT SOME SHOPKEEPERS IN THE PERMITTED AREAS WELCOMED THE SCHEME AS IT ATTRACTED MORE CUSTOMERS TO THEIR SHOPS.

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT BEFORE THE SCHEME WAS APPROVED, THE MOST CAREFUL AND SEARCHING CONSIDERATION WERE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES WHICH MIGHT ARISE.

+IT WAS FULLY APPRECIATED THAT THE PRESENT EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME WOULD CREATE SOME DIFFICULTY FOR OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES, BUT IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED THE EXPERIMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT.+

THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT EVERY ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CHOOSE AREAS WHERE ON-STREET HAWKING WAS ALREADY A WAY OF LIFE AND WHERE THE STREETS WERE NOT NEEDED FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

TO MINIMISE THE EFFECT OF CONCENTRATING HAWKERS INTO THE PERMITTED AREAS, SPECIFIC TRADING HOURS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED, AND THE EQUIPMENT OF ITINERANT HAWKERS, WHO FORM THE GREATEST NUMBER SO FAR, HAS TO BE CLEARED FROM THE STREETS SO THAT THESE CAN BE CLEANSED DAILY.

MR. ROBSON STRESSED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULTIES, THE SCHEME WAS BASICALLY OPERATING AS PLANNED.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 20 HAWKER PERMITTED AREAS, ALL IN KOWLOON. THEY WERE CHOSEN FOR THE INITIAL EXPERIMENTAL STAGE OF THE SCHEME AS A ROUGHLY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HAWKER AREAS FOUND IN THE URBAN SETTING OF KOWLOON.

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PART OF ARGYLE STREET FLYOVER TO OPEN NEXT WEEK
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THE EASTBOUND LANE OF THE ARGYLE STREET FLYOVER WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN A WEEK'S TIME AND THE WHOLE FLYOVER WILL BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY SEPTEMBER, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

WORK WAS ALSO PROGRESSING ON THE WATERLOO ROAD FLYOVER, HE SAID, AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC IN AUGUST AND TO SOUTHBOUND THROUGH TRAFFIC BY OCTOBER. THE ENTIRE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE INTERMEDIATE RAMPS, SHOULD BE FULLY COMMISSIONED BY DECEMBER, HE ADDED.

MR. MCDONALD, WHO WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS, NOTED THAT THESE TWO PROJECTS HAD BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR QUITE LONG PERIODS DUE TO THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE WORKS WERE CARRIED OUT. BUT THE SPEED OF OPERATIONS UNDER SUCH ADVERSE CONDITIONS HAD BEEN GOOD, HE SAID.

+TRAFFIC VOLUMES USING THESE INTERSECTIONS, HE EXPLAINED, WERE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE URBAN AREAS AND WHILE MAINTAINING THE HIGH TRAFFIC FLOWS, IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO DIVERT AND RELOCATE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES WHICH PASS THROUGH THE AREA AND CONSTRUCT EXTENSIVE FOUNDATIONS TO CARRY THE FLYOVER STRUCTURES.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MRS. SYMONS ABOUT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN THE AREA FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, MR. MCDONALD SAID THE WORKS ON THE RESURFACING OF ARGYLE STREET AND ITS JUNCTION WITH WATERLOO ROAD AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WERE NEARING COMPLETION AND THE MARKING OUT OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN THEIR FINAL POSITIONS WAS NOW IN HAND.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VERY LARGE FLYOVER COMPLEX, CAUSING A CHANGE IN THE CONFIGURATION OF THE GROUND LEVEL LAYOUT, HAD REQUIRED THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT THE INTERSECTION TO BE MOVED FREQUENTLY TO PHASE IN WITH THE WORKS PROGRAMME.

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GOVERNMENT WON'T INTERFERE WITH
AIRLINES' LUXURY LOUNGES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO STOP AIRLINES FROM LIMITING THEIR RENTED FIRST CLASS LOUNGES AT THE AIRPORT TO PASSENGERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL CLUBS SPONSORED BY AIRLINES.

THIS PRACTICE WAS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE AIRLINES' OPERATING PERMITS ISSUED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. P.G. WILLIAMS.

MR. ROBSON SAID EVERY AIRLINE OPERATING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS THROUGH HONG KONG DID SO AS A DESIGNATED CARRIER UNDER A BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE RELEVANT FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

THESE AGREEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND TO RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (I.A.T.A.).

AIRLINES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF I.A.T.A., HE SAID, MUST COMPLY WITH ITS RESOLUTIONS GOVERNING COMMERCIAL PRACTICES AND A GOVERNMENT MAY DIRECT THAT NON-I.A.T.A. AIRLINES WILL ALSO CONFORM TO ITS RESOLUTIONS WITH REGARD TO OPERATIONS TO OR FROM THAT GOVERNMENT'S COUNTRY.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THESE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS NOR IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND THE I.A.T.A. RESOLUTIONS TO PRECLUDE AN AIRLINE FROM OPERATING HOSPITALITY LOUNGES.

+THERE IS ALSO NOTHING TO PRECLUDE AIRLINES OPERATING 'INTERNATIONAL CLUBS' WHICH ENTITLE THEIR MEMBERS TO USE THE AIRLINES' HOSPITALITY LOUNGES = MEMBERS BEING EITHER LONG-STANDING OR COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT CUSTOMERS OF THE AIRLINE CONCERNED,+ HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON ADDED THAT HOSPITALITY LOUNGES WERE NOT ALWAYS PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND IN MANY CASES THEY WERE ALSO OPEN TO ANY PASSENGER TO WHO THE AIRLINE WISHED TO ACCORD FAVOURABLE TREATMENT.

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NEW PARKING SYSTEM FOR CITY HALL AUDIENCES?
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER INTRODUCING A SPECIAL PARKING SYSTEM AT THE CITY HALL CARPARK TO ALLOW PREPAID PARKING FOR PERIODS LINKED TO THE LENGTH OF PERFORMANCES AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE AND CONCERT HALL.

+THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF CHARGING AND TICKETING SYSTEMS AT GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT,+ THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG.

+ONCE THIS REVIEW IS COMPLETE,+ MR. ROBSON ADDED,+ I SHALL BE SEEKING THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THIS AND OTHER PROPOSALS FOR CAR PARK CHARGES BEFORE REFERRING THEM TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.+

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U.K. IN TOUCH WITH U.N. OVER REFUGEES
IN HONG KONG
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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DENYS ROBERTS, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG WHO HAD WANTED TO KNOW WHAT APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE TO THE U.N. FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND FINAL RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES.

+WE WILL SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WHERE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DO SO IN THE LIGHT OF HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES,+ MR. ROBERTS SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1975

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FOUR BUILDINGS CONDEMNED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED THREE BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ONE IN KOWLOON TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

THE BUILDINGS ARE NOS. 53, 55 AND 57 JERVOIS STREET ON THE ISLAND AND NO. 142 LAICHIKOK ROAD, KOWLOON -- ALL OF WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SOME TIME DUE TO THEIR DETERIORATING CONDITION.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THIS MORNING THAT PRONOUNCED FRACTURES HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY AT THE JUNCTION OF THE PARTY WALL BETWEEN NOS. 55 AND 57 JERVOIS STREET. HE ADDED THAT NO. 57 WAS SUBJECT TO SETTLEMENT AND THE MOVEMENT IN THE BUILDINGS WAS CONTINUING AND COULD GIVE RISE TO A SUDDEN COLLAPSE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE NO. 53.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE DECAYED TIMBERS THROUGHOUT NOS. 53 AND 55 AND NONE OF THESE BUILDINGS DERIVED SUPPORT FROM ANY OTHER BUILDING.

AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER OF THE TOP FLOOR OF NO. 55 HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED DUE TO THE DECAYED ROOF TIMBERS. NOTICES TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS OF THESE THREE FOUR-STOREY BUILDINGS WERE POSTED TODAY. THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE MADE IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON JUNE 18.

IN KOWLOON, AN APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FOR THE FOUR-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING AT NO. 142 LAICHIKOK ROAD WILL BE MADE IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON JULY 2.

THE WEAKNESS OF THE BEARING OF THE FRONT MAIN WALL BEAMS OF THIS BUILDING WERE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID, AND THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF OUTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE FREESTANDING KITCHEN BLOCK AT THE REAR.

THIS, COUPLED WITH SIGNS OF PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION OF THE EXTERNAL LOADBEARING BRICKWORK AND REINFORCED CONCRETE GENERALLY, GAVE RISE TO A RISK OF COLLAPSE.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1975

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WEEKLY STATISTICS ON VIRAL HEPATITIS
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WEEKLY STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY SHOW THAT THE NUMBER OF HEPATITIS CASES CONTINUES TO DROP FRACTIONALLY.

A TOTAL OF 80 CASES WAS NOTIFIED TO THE DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK, COMPARED WITH 81 THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND 82 THE WEEK BEFORE.

ONE DEATH FROM THE DISEASE WAS RECORDED DURING THE WEEK. THERE WERE THREE DEATHS IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

AS REGARDS AGE DISTRIBUTION, THE HIGHEST NUMBER WAS STILL RECORDED IN THE 20-24 AGE GROUP, WITH 18 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY THE 10-14 AGE GROUP, WITH 16 PER CENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE, WHICH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS TO MEET THE MEDIA
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NOTE TO EDITORS: A +MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 P.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR. DAVID WHITELEGGE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE MEETING COVERED. TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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