



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1986

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GOVERNMENT PRESSING AHEAD WITH ITS PROGRAMMES  
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THE ADDITIONAL DEMANDS MADE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S TIME AND ENERGIES ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION HAD NOT DEFLECTED THE GOVERNMENT FROM PRESSING AHEAD WITH ITS MANY PROGRAMMES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NOR HAD THE GOVERNMENT BEEN DEFLECTED FROM CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF ITS SERVICES, SIR EDWARD SAID IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS CLEAR AND SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES.

+FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING THAT HONG KONG REMAINS PROSPEROUS AND STABLE,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS CONTINUING TO FOSTER AN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ENTERPRISE CAN FLOURISH, THERE IS SUFFICIENT EMPLOYMENT AND HARD WORK REAPS REWARDS. IT MEANS VIGOROUS DEFENCE OF OUR TRADING INTERESTS OVERSEAS, AND PRUDENT, BUT FIRM SUPERVISION OF OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AT HOME.

+IT MEANS MAINTAINING LAW AND GOOD ORDER, NOT JUST ON THE STREETS BUT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE CONDUCT OF OUR AFFAIRS.+

POLITICAL STABILITY WAS ALSO REQUIRED, HE SAID.

+THERE HAS BEEN AND IS ROOM FOR HEALTHY DISSENT AND DEBATE. BUT THE DRAMATIC PROGRESS WHICH HONG KONG HAS MADE OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES WAS NOT BUILT ON CONFLICT AND TURBULENCE. IT WAS BUILT ON A CONSTANT SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

IT WAS ONLY A SOCIETY WHICH WAS BOTH PROSPEROUS AND STABLE WHICH COULD OFFER THE MEANS, CONTINUOUSLY, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THE MEANS TO ENSURE THAT DECENT HOUSING WAS AVAILABLE FOR ALL, THE MEANS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND WELFARE SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES.

+ONLY WITH PROSPERITY AND STABILITY CAN WE MAINTAIN A STRONG, CARING AND COHESIVE SOCIETY, CONFIDENT IN ITSELF AND ITS INSTITUTIONS- AND CONTINUE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS FAIR, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+ONLY THUS CAN WE PROVIDE THE RESOURCES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

/EARLIER IN .....

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EARLIER IN HIS ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT IN TWO WEEKS' TIME HONG KONG WOULD HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF WELCOMING HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, FOLLOWING THEIR HISTORIC VISIT TO CHINA.

+THEY CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE WELCOME WILL BE A VERY WARM ONE,+ HE SAID.

+DURING A BUSY STAY HER MAJESTY WILL MEET A WIDE RANGE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THIS CHAMBER. SHE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR HERSELF THE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN HONG KONG SINCE HER VISIT IN 1975.+

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1987 REVIEW: CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS  
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THE 1987 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL CALL FOR A CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE 1984 WHITE PAPER, AND OF THE RESPONSE OF THE COMMUNITY TO THEM, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID THE 1987 REVIEW WOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS OF THE COMING YEAR.

+IT WILL CONSIDER WHETHER FURTHER CHANGES ARE DESIRABLE AND IF SO, THE TIMESCALE FOR THEIR INTRODUCTION,+ HE SAID.

+THE GREEN PAPER, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR, WILL SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC ON THESE ISSUES, INCLUDING WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION AND THE METHOD OF SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THIS COUNCIL.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS A WIDE RANGE OF OPINION AND NO CLEAR CONSENSUS ON MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES. AMPLE TIME WOULD THEREFORE BE ALLOWED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

+ONLY THEN WILL COME THE TIME FOR FIRM DECISIONS,+ HE SAID.

+OUR SOCIETY IS NOT STATIC AND WE MUST BE ALIVE TO THE NEED TO ALLOW WIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT, IF THIS PROVES TO BE THE GENERAL ASPIRATION OF THE COMMUNITY.+

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE SUBSEQUENT WHITE PAPER WOULD BE READY BY THE END OF 1987, HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORY, SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED, AT DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE LEVEL.

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+EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST YEAR SUGGESTS THAT THIS STRUCTURE IS SERVING HONG KONG WELL,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD AT THIS POINT REFERRED TO THE BASIC LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND ITS VARIOUS SPECIALIST GROUPS.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR THEY HAD DISCUSSED MANY ISSUES WHICH WERE KEY TO THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 1997, AND TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

+THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF A WIDE SPECTRUM OF HONG KONG PEOPLE AND THERE HAS BEEN LIVELY DEBATE ELSEWHERE AND IN THE MEDIA,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO PROMULGATE THE BASIC LAW- BUT ALL CONCERNED WILL NEED TO KEEP THE DISCUSSIONS ON IT CONSTANTLY IN MIND.+

REITERATING THE REMARK HE MADE LAST YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID HE WAS SURE THAT BOTH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ALIVE, AT ALL TIMES, TO THE CONCERNS AND VIEWS OF THE OTHER, AS WELL AS TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+THIS IS THE BEST FORMULA FOR MAINTAINING CONFIDENCE AND ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT IN 1997,+ HE SAID.

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'UNOFFICIAL' TO BE DELETED FROM TITLE  
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A CHANGE OF TITLE FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WAS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IN FUTURE WE SHALL NOT, IN GENERAL, USE THE TITLE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH CAN BE MISLEADING TO THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ITS OPERATIONS,+ HE SAID.

+ALL ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME COUNCIL AND WE SHALL USE THE APPROPRIATE TITLE WHICH REFLECTS THAT FACT - THAT IS 'MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'.

+TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT, IN FUTURE, OMELCO: THE OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, SHOULD REPLACE UMELCO.+

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GOVERNOR SAYS DOLLAR LINK WILL BE MAINTAINED  
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THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CHANGE THE LINK BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND UNITED STATES DOLLARS WHICH HAD BENEFITTED THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, SIR EDWARD SAID HONG KONG DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD GROWN EIGHT PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

HE ADDED: +A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE REVIVAL OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAS BEEN THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN LINE WITH THE U.S. DOLLAR, AGAINST MOST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES DUE TO THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

+THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE PRICES OF OUR GOODS BECOMING MORE COMPETITIVE IN SOME OF OUR MAJOR MARKETS. DESPITE THIS RELATIVE DEPRECIATION, THE RATE OF INFLATION HAS REMAINED LOW AT ABOUT THREE PER CENT DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS. THIS IS DUE IN PART TO LOWER WORLD COMMODITY PRICES.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THE STABILITY OF THE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR IN RECENT MONTHS PROVIDED FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE BENEFIT OF THE FIXED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM TO HONG KONG.

+LET ME REPEAT AGAIN - THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CHANGE IT.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT EXPORT RECOVERY HAD HELPED MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND BOOST REAL WAGE LEVELS. UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINED STABLE AT 2.9 PER CENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT 1.7 PER CENT. HE SAID THE SIGNS INDICATED CONTINUING GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR LABOUR PARTICULARLY IN THE DISTRIBUTION TRADES AND IN FINANCIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS SECTORS.

LOOKING AHEAD THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PROSPECT WAS FOR CONTINUED EXPORT-LED GROWTH, LOW UNEMPLOYMENT AND MODERATE INFLATION. THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF 5.6 PER CENT WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR'S FIGURE.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT THE THREAT OF INCREASED PROTECTIONISM REMAINED AND WOULD HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO EXPORT AND WOULD UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE MORE LIBERAL WORLD TRADING ENVIRONMENT SO VITAL TO HONG KONG.

+HONG KONG'S EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE ARGUMENTS FOR PROTECTIONISM, WHEREVER THEY MAY BE PUT FORWARD, WILL CONTINUE,+ HE PLEDGED.

REVIEWING THE TRADE AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED DURING THE YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID THE APRIL AGREEMENT MAKING HONG KONG A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE ENSURED HONG KONG PRODUCTS WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS, ON MOST FAVOURED NATION TERMS, TO MARKETS WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR OVER FOUR-FIFTHS OF WORLD TRADE.

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MANY WAYS TO ASSIST INDUSTRY  
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VIGOROUS DEFENCE OF HONG KONG'S RIGHT TO EXPORT IS ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS ASSISTING INDUSTRY, BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT THE FINDINGS OF A SERIES OF RECENT STUDIES ON SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES INDICATED THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY WAS OFTEN A CATALYST FOR FURTHER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+ACCORDINGLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING THROUGH BODIES LIKE THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO STIMULATE RESEARCH AND TO INTRODUCE INDUSTRIES TO THE NEW TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION AND PRECISION TOOLING.

+THESE INITIATIVES NOT ONLY PROMOTE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, THEY ALSO HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH THROUGH INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

IN THIS RESPECT, SIR EDWARD SAID, GRANTS TOTALLING SOME \$550 MILLION WOULD BE MADE TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL THIS YEAR TO FUND THE TRAINING OF CRAFTSMEN, TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS.

THERE WERE NOW NEARLY 600 PLACES IN FIRST YEAR FIRST DEGREE COURSES IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUBJECTS AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

DEGREE COURSES WERE BEING INTRODUCED AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND COURSES AT THE THIRD UNIVERSITY WOULD HAVE A STRONG BIAS TOWARDS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND PROFESSIONAL SUBJECTS.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY HAD BEEN FOUNDED ON ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, SIR EDWARD SAID THE INDUSTRY STILL ACCOUNTED FOR A QUARTER OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND PROVIDED JOBS FOR 35 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

REFERRING TO THE ASSURANCE OF THE QUALITY OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID SOME ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THIS FIELD THIS YEAR.

+IN JULY, THE HONG KONG STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY OBTAINED FORMAL RECOGNITION FROM THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT ACCREDITATION SERVICE UNDER THE BRITISH CALIBRATION SERVICES.

+THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME HAS ALSO HELPED TO UPGRADE OUR COMMERCIAL TESTING LABORATORIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR INDUSTRY,+ SIR EDWARD ADDED.

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FIRM CONTROL ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE  
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO KEEP PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL AT A GROWTH RATE OF 3 PER CENT TO 4 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1986-87, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID THE END OF THE 1985-86 FINANCIAL YEAR SAW A WELCOME RETURN TO BUDGET SURPLUS AFTER THREE YEARS OF DEFICITS ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

THE HIGHER YIELDS FROM EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAX WERE BEING MAINTAINED AND, IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUED, THE SURPLUS IN 1986-87 MIGHT BE GREATER THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

NEVERTHELESS IT WAS INTENDED TO KEEP PUBLIC SPENDING FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT STRICT CONTROL IN THIS AREA HAD ENABLED HONG KONG TO AVOID MANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD BEDEVILLED OTHER ECONOMIES.

CONTROL OF THE GROWTH OF EXPENDITURE SHOULD RESULT IN THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR BEING KEPT AT ABOUT 16 PER CENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1986-87.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE MEDIUM RANGE FORECAST, REFERRED TO IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH THIS YEAR, ALSO GAVE GROUNDS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON THE HEALTH OF PUBLIC FINANCES OVER THE MEDIUM-TERM, 1987-88 TO 1990-91, FORECAST PERIOD.

+THERE WILL BE SOME ROOM FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES. THIS WILL NEED CAREFUL MANAGEMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT INEVITABLY NOT ALL THE SERVICES FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE DEVELOPED AT THE RATE THAT SOME MIGHT WISH. THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULT CHOICES TO BE MADE, AND HONEST DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON WHICH NEEDS WERE MOST IMPORTANT.

+TO ASSIST THE DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES AN IMPROVED METHOD OF LONGER-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING IS BEING DEVELOPED WHICH WILL ENABLE A CLEARER VIEW TO BE TAKEN OF RELATIVE PRIORITIES THAN HITHERTO,+ HE SAID.

+IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTS OF THE NEW SYSTEM IN TIME FOR THE COMING BUDGET EXERCISE.+

EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL WORKS HAD BEEN SLOWER THAN ORIGINALLY FORECAST, SIR EDWARD SAID.

HOWEVER, THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASE, TO \$4.8 BILLION, IN THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT FOR NEW WORKS TO START IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1986-87 SHOULD SOON BECOME APPARENT, AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT EXPENDITURE WOULD BEGIN TO PICK UP IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT FOR NEW WORKS TO START IN 1987-88 WOULD BE THE HIGHEST EVER, AT SOME \$6 BILLION.

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NEW BANKING LAW PROVIDING MORE TEETH  
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THE PASSING INTO LAW OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE IN MAY THIS YEAR HAS GREATLY STRENGTHENED THE ABILITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TO DETECT PROBLEMS OR IRREGULARITIES EARLIER THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BANKING SECTOR, HE SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS, HAD GONE THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD HAD TO INTERVENE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM, WHICH WAS VITAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE ECONOMY.

MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAD ARISEN IN THE BANKING SECTOR STEMMED FROM FRAUDULENT OR OTHER IMPROPER ACTIVITIES. SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE ACTS OF A FEW HAD PLACED IN JEOPARDY THE LIVELIHOOD OF MANY.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, HE ADDED, TO LEGISLATE FRAUD OUT OF EXISTENCE.

THE RESOURCES OF THE EXCHANGE FUND WERE USED IN SOME CASES, BUT THE MORE RECENT PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH THROUGH TIMELY SUPERVISORY ACTION, WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND PROVIDING TEMPORARY LIQUIDITY WHILE LONG TERM SOLUTIONS WERE BEING WORKED OUT.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND INTERNATIONALLY, SUPPORT THE MEASURES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN,+ SIR EDWARD STATED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HANG LUNG AND OVERSEAS TRUST BANKS WERE RECOVERING STEADILY UNDER GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

+WHEN THEY ARE ON A SOUND COMMERCIAL FOOTING THEY WILL BE SOLD TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AS WILL THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY INTEREST IN THE HONGKONG INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT AN IMPORTANT NEW PIECE OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME.

+A BILL, WHICH FOLLOWS ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM, WILL PROVIDE FOR A GREATER DEGREE OF DISCLOSURE OF THE TRUE OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC COMPANIES AND BRING OUR LAWS, IN THIS REGARD, IN LINE WITH OTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE SECURITIES COMMISSION WERE BEING CONSULTED ON WHETHER THE LAWS RELATING TO INSIDER DEALING OF SHARES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL REPORT IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

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'STEADY PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING JOINT DECLARATION'  
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A STEADY RECORD OF FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING CONFIDENCE IN THE AGREEMENT, AND SUCH A RECORD IS NOW BEING BUILT UP, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE THEN WENT ON TO OUTLINE THIS RECORD, IN MAKING HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON NATIONALITY AND PASSPORTS, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986 PROVIDED THAT PERSONS WHO WERE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS, BY VIRTUE OF A CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG, MIGHT APPLY FOR A BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT BEFORE JULY 1, 1997.

+THE NEW PASSPORT WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM JULY 1, 1987 AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY BEGUN FORMAL APPROACHES TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEW STATUS AND THE PASSPORT THAT GOES WITH IT,+ HE SAID.

+FOLLOWING STRONG REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED THAT THE NEW PASSPORT WILL STATE THAT ITS HOLDERS DO NOT REQUIRE AN ENTRY CERTIFICATE OR VISA TO VISIT THE UNITED KINGDOM.+

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS REACHED AGREEMENT THAT THE BN(O) PASSPORT WOULD INCLUDE AN ENDORSEMENT INDICATING THAT THE HOLDER HAD A RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG. THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO ITS INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT NEW TYPES OF IDENTITY CARD, FOR BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESIDENTS, WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM JULY 1, 1987, AND MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE USED UNTIL THEY WERE REPLACED BY CARDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER 1997.

+THE NEED FOR IDENTITY CARDS WHICH STATE A RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORESEEN WHEN THE PRESENT CARD WAS DESIGNED IN 1981,+ HE SAID.

+INDEED THERE WAS NO SUCH CONCEPT IN HONG KONG LAW AT THAT TIME. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE, IN ISSUING NEW CARDS, TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO HOLDERS.+

THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAD ALSO AGREED THAT CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY, ISSUED UP TO 1997, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VALID FOR 10 YEARS, AND THAT THEY WOULD ALSO BE ENDORSED TO SHOW THAT THE HOLDER HAD A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD WHICH STATED THAT HE HAD THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG.

/+THESE ARRANGEMENTS .....

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+THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL GIVE HONG KONG RESIDENTS CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO TRAVEL FREELY IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD, AND AFTER 1997.+

REFERRING TO INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, SIR EDWARD SAID THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAD ESTABLISHED A SUB-GROUP ON THIS. THERE WERE A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHOSE PROVISIONS OR ACTIVITIES WERE IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG, AND THE WORK WOULD, IN CONSEQUENCE, TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO COMPLETE.

+A GOOD START HAS BEEN MADE WITH BROAD AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.+

DEALING WITH CIVIL AVIATION, SIR EDWARD SAID WORK HAD BEGUN ON SEPARATING HONG KONG'S AIR SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS WHICH AT PRESENT GOVERNED THEM. A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THIS PROCESS HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

THE SEPARATE HONG KONG-NETHERLANDS AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT, SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 17, PAVED THE WAY FOR SIMILAR ACTION IN REGARD TO SOME 20 OTHER AGREEMENTS APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG.

ON THE HONG KONG REGISTER OF SHIPPING, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDED THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION WOULD BE AUTHORISED TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION.

+AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH SHIPOWNERS, SEAMEN'S UNIONS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, THE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE REGISTER HAVE BEEN AGREED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS. THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE NOW BEEN PUBLISHED. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE NEW REGISTER IN OPERATION IN THE EARLY 1990'S.+

REFERRING TO THE LAND COMMISSION, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IT HAD CONTINUED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS, REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHARING INCOME FROM LAND SALES, AND ON THE FORM AND CONTENT OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS FOR USE IN LAND TRANSACTIONS.

THE MAJORITY OF LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD EXPIRE ON JUNE 27, 1997, AND TO SEEK TO RENEW LEASES INDIVIDUALLY, WOULD, UNDER EXISTING STATUTORY PROCEDURES, BE A MONUMENTAL TASK.

+ACCORDINGLY, IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT THE EXTENSION OF THESE LEASES, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF ANNEX III OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, WOULD BEST BE ACHIEVED BY LEGISLATION. A BILL FOR THIS PURPOSE WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL IN THE COMING SESSION,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

/IN SHARING .....

IN SHARING INCOME FROM LAND SALES, TO DATE OVER \$1.4 BILLION HAD BEEN CREDITED TO THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNT. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE SAR GOVERNMENT LAND FUND WOULD GROW IN THE YEARS AHEAD, AND THAT A VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUM WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN 1997.

HE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE LAND COMMISSION HAD SET UP A COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDED EMINENT BANKERS AND MONETARY EXPERTS, TO OVERSEE INVESTMENT OF THE FUND, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF MONETARY STABILITY IN HONG KONG.

LOOKING AHEAD, SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG (LEGISLATIVE POWERS) ORDER IN COUNCIL, WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION ON AUGUST 26 THIS YEAR, GAVE THE HONG KONG LEGISLATURE POWER TO AMEND OR REPEAL UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WHICH APPLIED TO HONG KONG IN THE FIELDS OF MERCHANT SHIPPING, CIVIL AVIATION AND ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION. IT ALSO EMPOWERED THE HONG KONG LEGISLATURE TO MAKE LAWS HAVING EXTRA-TERRITORIAL EFFECT IN THOSE FIELDS.

+SPRINGING FROM THAT ORDER, THIS COUNCIL WILL BE INVITED TO CONSIDER MANY IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS,+ HE SAID.

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EXPANDED EDUCATION SYSTEM A PRIME OBJECTIVE  
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EXPANSION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES THE SYSTEM OFFERS REMAINS A PRIME GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A WELL-EDUCATED COMMUNITY, SUPPORTED BY HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS AND A SKILLED LABOUR FORCE, WAS ONE OF THE BEST GUARANTEES OF HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING, SIR EDWARD SAID.

SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT A PLANNING COMMITTEE ON SETTING UP A THIRD UNIVERSITY, WAS ALREADY AT WORK ON ITS COMPLEX TASK.

HE SAID: +WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW UNIVERSITY ADMITTING ITS FIRST STUDENTS IN THE MID-1990'S.

+WITH THE ADDITION OF THE THIRD UNIVERSITY, AND THE ADDITIONAL PLACES WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED AS A RESULT OF EXPANSION AT THE EXISTING FIVE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, 8 300 FIRST-YEAR FIRST DEGREE PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE MID-1990'S, COMPARED WITH 4 200 TODAY.+

/FROM THIS .....

FROM THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, BOTH THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE WOULD OFFER DEGREE PROGRAMMES, SIR EDWARD SAID. HONG KONG NOW HAD FIVE DEGREE AWARDING INSTITUTIONS, WITH 16 000 STUDENTS ON THEIR COURSES.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR VALIDATION OF NEW DEGREE COURSES, AND THE TIME HAD COME TO PREPARE FOR HONG KONG'S OWN VALIDATION SYSTEM.

+A PLANNING COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AWARDS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND INVITED TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SECOND REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, SIR EDWARD SAID THE REPORT CONTAINED FAR-REACHING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SIXTH FORM, PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, TEACHER PREPARATION, OPEN EDUCATION, AND FINANCING OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

+THE COMMISSION HAS PLACED HIGH PRIORITY ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A SIMPLE AND LOGICAL SYSTEM FOR ENTRY TO THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, WHILE EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, IN ITS OWN RIGHT, FOR THAT MAJORITY OF STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PROCEED TO HIGHER EDUCATION,+ HE SAID.

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE COMMISSION'S FIRST REPORT, SIR EDWARD SAID A SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME COMPRISING 31 NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOUR NEW PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY 1993, HAD BEEN APPROVED.

+THIS SHOULD PERMIT THE ABOLITION OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT BY 1991,+ HE NOTED.

REFERRING TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE RECENT OPENING OF THE SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND EQUIVALENT PLACES IN THE SEVEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, FROM 9 100 TO 13 400.

+AN EIGHTH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CHAI WAN, WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 1987, AND WILL PROVIDE A FURTHER 2 700 PLACES,+ HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT COMPUTER EDUCATION HAD CONTINUED TO EXPAND IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH 265 SCHOOLS NOW OFFERING COMPUTER STUDIES IN THE FORM 4 AND 5 CURRICULA.

PLANS WERE IN HAND TO EXTEND COMPUTER EDUCATION TO JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS, STARTING IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

IMPRESSIVE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
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THE GROWING AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE CARE AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE UNABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES HAS BEEN MATCHED BY AN IMPRESSIVE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL AND WELFARE SERVICES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+IN 1976, THERE WERE JUST UNDER 17 000 BEDS IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE OVER 22 000 AND THIS FIGURE IS PROJECTED TO RISE TO OVER 27 000 BY THE END OF 1990,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PRESSING ON WITH THE HOSPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME, HE SAID. WORK ON THE TUEN MUM AND THE EASTERN HOSPITALS WAS ON SCHEDULE AND THE SAME APPLIED TO THE EXTENSIONS TO THE QUEEN MARY, UNITED CHRISTIAN, YAN CHAI, AND POK OI HOSPITALS.

REFERRING TO THE REPORT BY OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS ON THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, PUBLISHED IN MARCH, SIR EDWARD SAID AN INTERNAL WORKING GROUP WAS NOW EXAMINING THE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THEIR FEASIBILITY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS.

+ON THE WHOLE, DISTRICT BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, PROVIDED THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REDUCE ITS COMMITMENT TO FINANCING MEDICAL SERVICES WHICH ARE KNOWN TO BE EXPENSIVE,+ HE SAID.

+CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF DISESTABLISHING STAFF WORKING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND WITH REGARD TO THE POSITION OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WITHIN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, IF IT WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPLIED SEPARATION OF HOSPITALS FROM OTHER HEALTH SERVICES.+

ON MEDICAL EDUCATION, SIR EDWARD SAID A WORKING PARTY ON POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING HAD BEEN FORMED EARLIER THIS MONTH, TO EXAMINE THE NEEDS, FORMAT AND STANDARDS FOR POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION. IT WOULD ALSO ADVISE ON WHETHER A BODY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ACCREDIT THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

THE WORKING PARTY HAD BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT WITHIN TWO YEARS, THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

TURNING TO MENTAL HEALTH, SIR EDWARD SAID MAJOR CHANGES TO THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE WOULD BE PROPOSED IN A BILL WHICH EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED THIS SESSION.

+THE BILL IS THE PRODUCT OF SOME FOUR YEARS OF CAREFUL STUDY AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION. THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WILL PROVIDE A SOUND LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT AND AFTERCARE OF THE MENTALLY ILL,+ HE SAID.

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WELFARE STAFF FACE NEW CHALLENGES  
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THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN PROBLEMS THROWN UP BY HONG KONG'S INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED AND COMPETITIVE SOCIETY OFFERS NEW CHALLENGES TO THE STAFF, BOTH VOLUNTARY AND OFFICIAL, WHO DEAL WITH THEM, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNEADAY).

+THEY DESERVE, AND MUST HAVE, OUR SUPPORT,+ HE SAID, IN NOTING THAT THE PAST YEAR HAD SEEN DEBATE, BOTH IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND OUTSIDE, ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

+STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE UMELCO WELFARE SERVICES PANEL IN ITS REPORT ON THE KWOK AH-NUI CASE. ADDITIONAL STAFF RESOURCES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED DURING THE COMING YEAR,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT A REVIEW OF THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE WAS UNDERWAY.

+DURING THE COMING YEAR, REVIEWS WILL BE COMPLETED OF THE SYSTEM OF SUBVENTING SERVICES PROVIDED BY NON-GOVERNMENT WELFARE AGENCIES AND OF RESIDENTIAL SREVICES FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT BE CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN HOMES,+ HE SAID.

THE VIEWS OF SUBVENTED WELFARE AGENCIES WOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.

SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT A USEFUL STUDY HAD RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED INTO THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE, WHICH WAS NOW AVAILABLE TO NEARLY ALL SCHOOLS.

+THE STUDY HAS ENDORSED THE VALUE OF THE SERVICE TO PUPILS WHO FACE EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND LEARNING PROBLEMS AND HAS SUGGESTED WAYS OF IMPROVING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CLASS TEACHERS, GUIDANCE TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS,+ HE ADDED.

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PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME REASSESSED

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN INTERNAL REASSESSMENT OF THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND AND WILL SHORTLY SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OTHER BODIES CONCERNED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+HONG KONG'S HARD-WORKING, RESILIENT LABOUR FORCE CONTINUES TO BE THE BACK-BONE OF OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS. IN RECENT YEARS ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH WORKERS MIGHT CONTRIBUTE, DURING THEIR WORKING LIFE, TO PROVISION FOR A STABLE INCOME IN THEIR RETIREMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCING A SCHEME WERE FAR-REACHING.

+DECISIONS ON SUCH MATTERS WILL AFFECT NOT ONLY THE WELFARE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE WORKFORCE, BUT ALSO, AS EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE SHOWS, THE GENERAL STATE OF OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

+DECISIONS CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF AFFORDING PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES MUST ALSO BE EXAMINED. THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL, OF COURSE, BE SOUGHT BEFORE ANY DECISION IS REACHED.+

ON THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME WHICH WAS INTRODUCED EIGHT MONTHS AGO, SIR EDWARD SAID IT HAD BEEN GENERALLY WELCOMED AS A WAY OF RECOGNISING LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE TO ONE EMPLOYER.

+CERTAIN PROVISIONS HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN CRITICISED: NAMELY THE EXCLUSION FROM COVERAGE OF WORKERS WHOSE EMPLOYMENT IS TERMINATED BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH AND THE LIMITING OF FULL BENEFITS TO OLDER EMPLOYEES,+ HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMPLETE A REVIEW OF THE SCHEME EARLY NEXT YEAR. IT REMAINS THE INTENTION THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD BE AS EQUITABLE AS POSSIBLE TO EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS ALIKE.+

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DRAFT NOISE CONTROL BILL TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

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A DRAFT NOISE CONTROL BILL, WHOSE POWERS WILL ENCOMPASS NOISE FROM DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES AS WELL AS PUBLIC PLACES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES, WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BILL'S PROVISIONS MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT MEASUREMENT OF THE IMPACT OF SOME TYPES OF NOISE NUISANCE WAS SUBJECTIVE.

/+THE LEGISLATION .....

+THE LEGISLATION MUST NEVERTHELESS BE SUFFICIENTLY PRECISE TO ENABLE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT. IT MUST BE CAPABLE OF BEING APPLIED IN A MANNER WHICH IS EQUITABLE AND REALISTIC IN THE LIGHT OF LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SINCE IT WILL AFFECT OUR INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENT.

+THESE ARE COMPLEX ISSUES AND SO THERE WILL BE CAREFUL PUBLIC CONSULTATION,+ HE SAID.

ON THE CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT NEW REGULATIONS WERE MADE UNDER THE WATER CONTROL ORDINANCE IN JUNE.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS BEING GIVEN TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN TOLO HARBOUR AND THE SHING MUN RIVER, AND TO SERIOUSLY POLLUTED NULLAHS AND STREAM COURSES.

+THE INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF ANIMAL WASTE INTO STREAMS IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF POLLUTION. THIS WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED BY A BAN ON LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE URBAN AREAS AND BY STRICT CONTROLS IN RURAL DISTRICTS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO ANOTHER SERIOUS PROBLEM OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY FACTORY EFFLUENT DISCHARGED DIRECTLY INTO THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT TO TACKLE IT MANY FACTORIES HAD BEEN SERVED NOTICE, UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, REQUIRING THEM TO DIRECT POLLUTING DISCHARGES INTO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS WERE ALSO BEING PREPARED TO CONTROL THE STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, TREATMENT AND FINAL DISPOSAL OF TOXIC AND OTHER DANGEROUS WATER MATERIALS.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE FIRST TWO +AIR QUALITY+ ZONES COVERING THE HARBOUR AREA AND TSUEN WAN-KWAI CHUNG WOULD BE DECLARED UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

+THESE ZONES WILL FORM THE BASIS OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG, AND THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL PROCEDURES.

+IN ALL THIS, THE NEEDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST THE ABILITY OF INDUSTRY TO COMPLY WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS, WHILE STILL REMAINING COMPETITIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

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DECISIONS ON BRB REPORT PROPOSALS BY YEAR'S END  
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THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT DECISIONS ON ALL THE MAJOR PROPOSALS IN THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD REPORT WOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AT WHICH TIME THE POST-1988 BROADCASTING POLICIES WOULD BE ANNOUNCED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE POLICIES WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL WITHIN THIS SESSION, HE SAID.

IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR THE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED A LENGTHY PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REPORT WHICH CONTAINS OVER 100 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD SHORTLY BE SOUGHT ON SUCH IMPORTANT ISSUES AS THE FUTURE OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, REGULATION OF THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY, STANDARDS OF ADVERTISING -- IN PARTICULAR WHETHER TOBACCO ADVERTISING ON TELEVISION SHOULD CONTINUE -- AND THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF BROADCASTING.

ONE RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN DEALT WITH ALREADY. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL GAVE APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, TO THE INTRODUCTION OF CABLE TELEVISION IN HONG KONG AND TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF CABLE TV WOULD BE INVITED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ON THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ALL VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE BILL ON THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES WAS INTRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SESSION.

HE SAID THAT THE BILL'S PROPOSALS HAD ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT.

THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE MATERIALS IS ALWAYS A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE AND OPINIONS ARE STRONGLY HELD ON ALL SIDES, HE SAID.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE WIDEST RANGE OF PUBLIC OPINION IS OBTAINED SO THAT THE WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE MAY BE RESPECTED.

SIR EDWARD SAID MUCH HAD BEEN HEARD FROM THE MEDIA AND THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS WOULD ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS, IF THEY HAD NOT ALREADY DONE SO, BECAUSE THE WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG WAS AT ISSUE.

THE DRAFT BILL, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMENT, PROPOSES A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSESSING WHETHER MATERIAL MAY OFFEND THE COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS OF PROPRIETY, AS WELL AS THE INTRODUCTION OF A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO DETERMINE WHAT MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ADULTS, BUT NOT TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

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HEAVY INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL WORKS TO CONTINUE  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO INVEST HEAVILY IN CAPITAL WORKS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE APPROVED PROVISION FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, EXCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION COSTS, BEING NEARLY \$5.4 BILLION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

POINTING OUT THAT OVER 55 PER CENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE WAS ON HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING PROJECTS, SIR EDWARD SAID MAJOR PROJECTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED THE HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION, A FUTURE STAGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, AND REALIGNMENT OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER.

+BUILDING PROJECTS INCLUDE PRELIMINARY WORK ON THE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, THE EXTENSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND A GOVERNMENT OFFICE BLOCK IN WAN CHAI,+ HE SAID.

+THERE IS ALSO SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS, AND IMPROVED FACILITIES TO HANDLE INCREASED WATER SUPPLIES FROM CHINA.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT OVER \$360 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS, WHILE NEARLY \$18 MILLION WAS PROVIDED FOR IMPROVING ACCESS, DRAINAGE, WATER SUPPLIES AND OTHER BASIC SERVICES IN SQUATTER AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER MAJOR AREA OF EXPENDITURE WAS THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES.

+OVER \$370 MILLION IS EARMARKED FOR SUCH PROJECTS, MANY OF THEM IN THE NEW TOWNS WHERE THERE IS A GROWING DEMAND FOR THEM,+ HE SAID.

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ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE YEAR IN PUBLIC HOUSING  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL EXCEED ITS ANNUAL TARGET FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR THIS YEAR WITH OVER 43 000 FLATS BEING ADDED TO THE PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS ANNUAL SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD SAID THAT AT THIS RATE, THE OUTSTANDING DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING SHOULD BE MET BY THE MID-1990'S.

+STEADY PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN IMPROVING THE STANDARDS OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING AND IN UPGRADING THE AUTHORITY'S OLDER PROPERTIES,+ HE ADDED.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SIR EDWARD SAID PRODUCTION WAS FORECAST TO REACH A RECORD 37 000 FLATS IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR, RISING TO 38 000 IN 1987.

/THESE FLATS, .....

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THESE FLATS, TOGETHER WITH OVER 10 000 FLATS WHICH WOULD BE PRODUCED UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME NEXT YEAR, WOULD HELP TO CATER FOR THE GROWING DEMAND FROM FAMILIES WISHING TO OWN HOMES, HE SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID IT WAS NOW TIMELY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ITS PRODUCTION PROGRAMMES AND TO FORMULATE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGIES FOR THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, WHICH COULD FORM A SOLID BASE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

+WHILE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING BY THE MID-1990'S, THE GROWING WISH AMONG THE POPULATION, TO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES, WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO SATISFY AT THE CURRENT RATE OF FLAT PRODUCTION BY THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

+THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER HOW PRIVATE SECTOR OUTPUT CAN BEST BE ENCOURAGED, AND HOW PUBLIC RESOURCES CAN BEST BE USED TO COMPLEMENT THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MEET THE OVERALL DEMAND FOR HOUSING.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THE RESULTS OF THESE STUDIES WOULD BE EXPECTED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

ON THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, HE SAID IN THE SHORTER TERM, THE PROGRAMME TO REDEVELOP THE OLDER HOUSING BLOCKS WOULD CONTINUE AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1990.

SIR EDWARD SAID UNDERSTANDABLE PUBLIC CONCERN HAD BEEN ECHOED IN THE COUNCIL OVER THE DISCOVERY THAT A NUMBER OF BLOCKS WERE OF SUB-STANDARD STRUCTURAL QUALITY.

+DEMOLITION OF THESE BLOCKS WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR. MEANWHILE, THEIR STRUCTURAL CONDITION IS BEING MONITORED CLOSELY.

+BUT IN RECTIFYING THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A PROGRAMME WHICH HAS HOUSED SOME 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE, OVER THE PAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY, AND PROVIDES HOMES FOR NEARLY HALF OUR POPULATION+. HE SAID.

ON PUBLIC HOUSING SUBSIDIES, SIR EDWARD SAID THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING SUBSIDY TO TENANTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING HAD CONCLUDED, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC COMMENTS EXPRESSED ON THE PROPOSALS IN LAST YEAR'S GREEN PAPER, THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT HOUSING SUBSIDIES SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO WERE REALLY IN NEED OF THEM.

+THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT TENANTS WHO HAVE OCCUPIED PUBLIC HOUSING FOR TEN YEARS, OR MORE, AND WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME HAS RISEN TO A LEVEL WHICH IS TWICE THE EQUIVALENT INCOME LIMIT FOR THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY DOUBLE RENT.

/+THE COMMITTEE .....

+THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION THAT MORE PROSPEROUS TENANTS SHOULD BE EVICTED.+

THE COMMITTEE SET UP TO REVIEW DOMESTIC RENT POLICY IN PUBLIC HOUSING HAD CONCLUDED THAT A MAXIMUM OF 15 PER CENT OF THE MEDIAN INCOME OF NEW TENANTS SHOULD BE USED AS A GUIDELINE IN DETERMINING RENTS FOR NEW ESTATES.

SIR EDWARD SAID BOTH REPORTS, PUBLISHED BY THE TWO COMMITTEES LAST MONTH, WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN NOVEMBER.

ON SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PUBLIC HOUSING TARGETS HAD ENABLED A START TO BE MADE ON A COMPREHENSIVE 10-YEAR PROGRAMME TO CLEAR AND REHOUSE FAMILIES LIVING IN URBAN SQUATTER AREAS AND A MAJOR CLEARANCE IN THE SHAU KEI WAN AREA WOULD BE CARRIED OUT SOON.

HE ADDED THAT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF MANY SQUATTER AREAS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN 1983. THESE INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF BETTER DRAINAGE, WATER SUPPLY, FOOTPATHS, STREET LIGHTING AND FIRE FIGHTING AND REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS.

ON NEW TOWNS, SIR EDWARD SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS CONTINUED WITH EXPENDITURE AT THE RATE OF AROUND \$3 BILLION A YEAR.

HE SAID WORK HAD STARTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW TOWNS AT JUNK BAY AND TIN SHUI WAI.

THE FIRST STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AT JUNK BAY WOULD ACCOMMODATE 75 000 PEOPLE IN PUBLIC HOUSING AND 48 000 PEOPLE IN PRIVATE HOUSING, WITH THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING INTAKE EXPECTED IN EARLY 1987.

WORK ON THE JUNK BAY TUNNEL, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE PRIMARY MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE NEW TOWN, WOULD START LATER THIS YEAR.

AT TIN SHUI WAI, SIR EDWARD SAID PREPARATORY WORK CONTINUED AND THE NEW TOWN WAS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS FIRST RESIDENTS IN THE EARLY 1990'S.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR COMMITTED \$130 MILLION ON PLANNING, INVESTIGATION, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS. TENDERS FOR WORK VALUED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE INVITED IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, TO SUPPORT THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OVER 145 000 PEOPLE.+

SIR EDWARD SAID HONG KONG HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING NEW TOWNS AND IN REDEVELOPING THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, BUT LESS SUCCESSFUL IN REDEVELOPING SOME OF THE OLDER AREAS WHOSE DILAPIDATED CONDITION WAS NO CREDIT TO THIS CITY.

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+THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A MEANS OF TACKLING THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

THE PROVISIONAL BOARD OF THE CORPORATION WAS FORMED IN SEPTEMBER UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS AND ITS FIRST JOB WAS TO RECRUIT A CHIEF EXECUTIVE. IT WAS HOPED THAT A SUITABLE PERSON WOULD BE APPOINTED IN EARLY 1987.

IN PARALLEL WITH THIS, SIR EDWARD SAID THE BOARD WOULD BE ADVISING ON THE DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR ESTABLISHING THE STATUTORY CORPORATION UNDER AN UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMAN.

+IT IS INTENDED TO BRING THE LEGISLATION BEFORE THIS COUNCIL WITHIN THE CURRENT SESSION,+ HE ADDED.

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#### TRANSPORT SYSTEM EXPANDING STEADILY

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THE STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE HAS CONTINUED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE REFERRED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE MASS TRANSIT ISLAND LINE IN MAY, AND SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AS AN EFFICIENT AND INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

+OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST YEAR INCLUDE THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING, THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM TO SERVE TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, AND THE COMPLETION OF THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

SIR EDWARD NOTED THAT WORK ON THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING HAD BEGUN IN AUGUST AND WOULD BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1990.

+THE NEW PROJECT, COMBINING A ROAD AND UNDERGROUND RAIL CROSSING, IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PROJECTS OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE FACT THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE FINANCED, BUILT AND OPERATED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS AN IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, SIR EDWARD SAID THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS PUBLIC DEMAND FOR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG AND THE URBAN AREA.

/DURING THE .....

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DURING THE YEAR BOTH THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAD BEGUN SEPARATE STUDIES ON POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS OF THEIR SYSTEMS TO MEET THIS DEMAND.

TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE ROAD SYSTEM LINKING THE URBAN AREA TO THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE LION ROCK TUNNEL, A STUDY WAS UNDERWAY OF THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF A NEW ROAD LINK TO SHA TIN VIA A TUNNEL UNDER TATE'S CAIRN, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO ACTIVITY IN THE PORT, SIR EDWARD SAID THIS HAD INCREASED EVERY YEAR. IN 1985 IT INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT OVER 1984.

FURTHER MAJOR RECLAMATION WAS THEREFORE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AT KWAI CHUNG CREEK, WHILE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WAS RECLAIMING 29 HECTARES OF SEABED TO PROVIDE KWAI CHUNG'S SIXTH CONTAINER TERMINAL. THIS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE DECADE.

+A RECENT STUDY OF LONGER TERM STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER PORT DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, HAS IDENTIFIED AS A KEY ISSUE THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL AND RELATED FACILITIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

THE STUDY RECOMMENDED FURTHER RECLAMATION TO THE WEST OF STONECUTTERS ISLAND AS THE BEST OPTION. THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS BEING STUDIED.

SIR EDWARD ALSO NOTED THAT AT THE AIRPORT A SECOND FREIGHT COMPLEX WAS BEING PLANNED.

DAYA BAY: SAFE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION ENSURED  
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IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER, THAT DEEP AND GENUINE CONCERN SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN HONG KONG ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE NUCLEAR PLANT AT DAYA BAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THE ISSUE OF CIVIL NUCLEAR POWER IS ONE ON WHICH THERE ARE DIFFERENT VIEWS, DEEPLY AND SINCERELY HELD. THIS HAS LED TO AN INTENSITY OF DEBATE FOR WHICH THERE CAN HAVE BEEN FEW PRECEDENTS IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS.

/NEVERTHELESS, HE .....

NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECT WAS THE RESULT OF SIX YEARS OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND NEGOTIATION. DURING THIS PERIOD IT WAS REGARDED, IN MOST QUARTERS, AS ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WHICH AUGURED WELL FOR THE FUTURE. IT WAS TAKEN AS A HELPFUL AND ENCOURAGING SIGN AT A TIME OF CONTINUING ANXIETY ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

EVEN THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER, HE ADDED, DID NOT CHANGE THE VIEW OF MANY GOVERNMENTS THAT NUCLEAR POWER, PROPERLY MANAGED, HAD AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN MEETING THE WORLD'S ENERGY NEEDS.

HOWEVER, THE DEEP CONCERNS FELT IN HONG KONG ABOUT DAYA BAY HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD EMPHASISED THAT THEY HAD TAKEN AND WOULD TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE PLANT.

+DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO LONDON THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND HAD STRESSED THE CONCERNS, EXPRESSED IN HONG KONG, TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.+

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE SAFETY STANDARDS AT DAYA BAY.

SIR EDWARD ADDED: +THERE WILL BE A FURTHER DEBATE SHORTLY IN THIS COUNCIL AND I DO NOT SEEK TO PRE-EMPT IT THIS AFTERNOON. I WOULD, HOWEVER, WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE WORK DONE BY MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND, IN PARTICULAR, BY THE DELEGATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN AND TO EUROPE, AND DURING THEIR SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO PEKING TO DISCUSS THEIR OBSERVATIONS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

+IN THE FACE OF THE DEBATE, THEIR TASK HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE.+

TURNING TO OTHER SOURCES OF POWER SIR EDWARD REPORTED THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GAS PRODUCTION PLANT IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SHOULD BE IN COMMERCIAL OPERATION BY THE END OF THE YEAR READY FOR THE PEAK WINTER DEMAND.

THIS WOULD ENABLE THE CHINA GAS COMPANY TO REDUCE PRODUCTION AT THE MA TAU KOK PLANT AND TO REDUCE ITS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE GAS SAFETY BILL WAS NEARLY READY AND WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION. THE BILL WAS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS ENGAGED IN 1981 AFTER A NUMBER OF DEATHS CAUSED BY OPEN-FLUE GAS HEATERS.

THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE CLEAR STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS IN RESPECT OF THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND WILL APPLY TO BOTH TOWN GAS AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS.

STRONG DEMAND FOR FIRMER ACTION AGAINST TRIADS  
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THERE IS A STRONG DEMAND IN THE COMMUNITY FOR FIRMER ACTION AGAINST TRIADS AND TO MEET THAT DEMAND THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRESS AHEAD WITH MEASURES WHICH HAVE RECEIVED WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT.

THIS ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE 1986-87 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT LAST YEAR HE HAD ASKED THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO GIVE HIGH-PRIORITY TO ANTI-TRIAD MEASURES. AS A RESULT A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON CHANGES IN THE LAW TO COUNTER TRIADS HAD BEEN PRODUCED IN APRIL.

+THIS DOCUMENT GENERATED GREAT INTEREST AND DISCUSSION AMONGST THE PUBLIC, AND WAS WELL RECEIVED BY DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES. THERE IS A STRONG DEMAND IN THE COMMUNITY FOR FIRMER AND MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST TRIADS,+ HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PRESS AHEAD WITH MEASURES TO PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION TO WITNESSES, AND TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE EVILS OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES. THESE RECEIVED WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT.+

SIR EDWARD SAID THERE WAS LESS OF A CONSENSUS ON PROPOSALS FOR POLICE SUPERVISION AND LIMITS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF TRIAD OFFENDERS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED WOULD BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT WHEN STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST TRIADS WERE BEING DEVISED.

REFERRING TO COMMERCIAL CRIME, SIR EDWARD ACKNOWLEDGED THE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE COST AND LENGTH OF COMPLEX TRIALS. HE SAID THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME, PUBLISHED IN JULY, RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITAL PROCEEDINGS IN SUCH CASES BE ABOLISHED, BUT THAT THE EXISTING JURY TRIALS SYSTEM BE MAINTAINED.

THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE SOUGHT ON THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

HE SAID THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION-RELATED COMMERCIAL CRIME HAD LED TO INCREASINGLY CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE POLICE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION. ONE THIRD OF THE ICAC'S INVESTIGATIVE STAFF HAD BEEN EMPLOYED ON SUCH CASES AND ADDITIONAL MANPOWER HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO MEET THESE HEAVY DEMANDS ON RESOURCES.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IN THE PAST YEAR MUCH THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF LOCAL OFFICERS AT COMMAND LEVELS IN THE POLICE FORCE.

+THIS OBJECTIVE MUST BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT REDUCING THE EFFICIENCY AND MORALE OF THE FORCE ON WHICH WE DEPEND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND THE DAY TO DAY BATTLE AGAINST CRIME.+

IT HAD BEEN AGREED, HE SAID, THAT PROMOTION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ON MERIT WHILE SPECIAL TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN TO LOCAL OFFICERS SUITABLE FOR PROMOTION.

IF NECESSARY MORE VACANCIES WOULD BE CREATED FOR LOCAL OFFICERS THROUGH THE CREATION OF NEW POSTS, BY NOT RENEWING CONTRACTS OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS OR BY EARLY RETIREMENT OF PENSIONABLE OFFICERS. ONLY AS A LAST RESORT WOULD DESERVING OVERSEAS OFFICERS BE PASSED OVER FOR PROMOTION AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING WORKED OUT FOR THEM.

ON THE QUESTION OF DRUGS, SIR EDWARD SAID THERE MUST BE NO LET UP IN HONG KONG'S FIGHT AGAINST THESE EVILS. THE MAIN TARGETS WERE RIGHTLY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE HOPE OF KEEPING THEM AWAY FROM DRUGS ALTOGETHER.

HE SAID: +IT IS HEARTENING TO NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PERSONS PROSECUTED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR DROPPED BY SOME 12 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. MOREOVER, THE NUMBER OF NEW REPORTED ADDICTS HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE- A TREND WHICH BEGAN IN 1984 AND HAS PERSISTED DESPITE THE LOW PRICE OF HEROIN.+

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT THIS PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE ONLY IF RELENTLESS PRESSURE WAS MAINTAINED ON TRAFFICKERS AND DEALERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT PROSECUTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES INCREASED BY NEARLY SEVEN PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR.

AS PART OF ITS FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN WORKING ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AIMED AT DEPRIVING TRAFFICKERS OF THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS. THIS WAS A DIFFICULT TASK AS IT INVOLVED ISSUES SUCH AS THE BURDEN OF PROOF AND THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE BANKING SYSTEM.

NEVERTHELESS, SIR EDWARD SAID HE HOPED THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE NEW SESSION.

TURNING TO THE WORK OF THE FIRE SERVICES, WHICH ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, SIR EDWARD SAID THESE WERE AMONG THE MOST EFFICIENT, WELL EQUIPPED AND WELL TRAINED IN THE WORLD.

IN RECENT MONTHS A CONSULTANT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD BEEN UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF STAFFING, EQUIPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SERVICE.

+IN A MEASURE TO TRY TO MITIGATE THE DELAYS CAUSED BY HEAVY TRAFFIC SEVEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED MOTORCYCLES, WHICH WILL CARRY EMERGENCY AID EQUIPMENT, HAVE BEEN ORDERED.

+IF THEY PROVE AN EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, MORE WILL BE PROVIDED IN DUE COURSE.+

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NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS  
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THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY TO ALLOW THOSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO SUCCEEDED IN GETTING INTO HONG KONG TO STAY HERE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED,+ HE STRESSED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS THERE HAD BEEN A GRADUAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER HONG KONG, FROM A DAILY AVERAGE OF 17, IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1983, TO 38 PER DAY IN THE SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS APPREHENDED IN HONG KONG HAD REMAINED STEADY, AT AN AVERAGE OF NINE A DAY.

HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN CONTROLLING THE BORDER AND COASTAL WATERS.

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT THIS YEAR HAD SEEN AN INCREASE IN ARRIVALS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

+AS A MATTER OF POLICY, HONG KONG WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACT AS A PLACE OF FIRST ASYLUM, IF THERE WAS NO LONGER AN INTERNATIONAL PRESUMPTION THAT THOSE STILL LEAVING VIETNAM ARE GENUINE REFUGEES, AND THAT RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO TAKE THEM,+ HE SAID.

+THIS YEAR, THE RATE OF RESETTLEMENT HAS IMPROVED, MAINLY DUE TO THE RESPONSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO A BRITISH INITIATIVE TO ENABLE MORE REFUGEES TO ENTER THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER FAMILY REUNION CRITERIA.+

+FOR OUR PART, GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE UP TO 250 REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

THOUGH THE REFUGEE POPULATION HAD FALLEN FROM 9 900 TO 8 200, SIR EDWARD SAID THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE WAS LESS BRIGHT.

+DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, SOME 4 200 REFUGEES WILL BE RESETTLED, BUT THIS LEVEL IS UNLIKELY TO BE MAINTAINED IN 1987,+ HE SAID.

+EVERY YEAR MORE AND MORE EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO RETAIN THE INTEREST OF THE RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES. A MORE DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE CONTINUING EXODUS FROM VIETNAM MUST BE FOUND.

+WE SHALL CONTINUE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, TO PRESS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR SUCH A SOLUTION,+ HE SAID.

/TURNING TO .....

TURNING TO IMMIGRATION SERVICES, SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONCERNED OF THE DELAYS EXPERIENCED BY TRAVELLERS AT SOME IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS.

HE SAID THAT THOSE HANDLING CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS HAD BEEN UNDER PARTICULAR PRESSURE IN RECENT YEARS.

IN ORDER TO SPEED UP CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS STRENGTHEN CONTROL CAPACITY, A PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE COMPUTER SYSTEMS AT ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS WOULD BEGIN IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

+IT WILL BEGIN WITH THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, AND EXTEND TO THE HUNG HOM, LO WU, MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK CONTROL POINTS BY THE END OF 1987,+ HE ADDED.

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RETENTION OF COMPETENT CIVIL SERVANTS ESSENTIAL  
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THE RETENTION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ABLE AND EXPERIENCED OFFICERS, UP TO AND BEYOND 1997, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO MAINTAINING CONTINUITY AND WILL PROVIDE EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS OFFICERS TO CONTINUE THEIR CAREERS IN THE SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE NEW PENSION SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS PROPOSED LAST YEAR, SIR EDWARD SAID WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD WITH STAFF SINCE ITS ANNOUNCEMENT.

HE SAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS IN SECTION IV OF ANNEX I TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE SAR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PENSIONS AFTER 1997.

+IN CONSEQUENCE, THE NEW PENSION SCHEME HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN EXPERT TALKS.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON THE SCHEME AND THAT STAFF WILL WELCOME THE NEW PROPOSALS,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+THE OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING THE NEW SCHEME INTO EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE,+ HE NOTED.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE DEMANDS ON THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WERE INCREASING.

/+NEVERTHELESS, OUR .....

+NEVERTHELESS, OUR EFFORTS TO STABILISE THE SIZE OF THE SERVICE HAVE CONTINUED, AND THE TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT HAS INCREASED BY ONLY 1.3 PER CENT SINCE LAST YEAR.

+THIS REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON THE LOYALTY AND DEDICATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS, AND THE SENSIBLE WAY IN WHICH THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE WORK PROCEDURES AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF STAFF RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

+THE VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID, +WHICH BEGAN THREE YEARS AGO, HAVE HELPED TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN MANY AREAS AND HAVE LED TO SAVINGS SO FAR OF OVER \$600 MILLION.+

+TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THIS PROGRAMME, VALUE FOR MONEY STEERING GROUPS ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL MAJOR DEPARTMENTS BY THE END OF THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE SAID.

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EXCO TO BE CONSULTED ON REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE SOUGHT IN DUE COURSE ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES, AND A FURTHER REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIR EDWARD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT LAST YEAR HE HAD MENTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PUBLISH THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, BUT THIS HAD TAKEN LONGER TO COMPLETE THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.

+TIME WAS NEEDED TO ALLOW THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO GAIN EXPERIENCE OF EXISTING CHANNELS OF REDRESS AND THEIR POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

THE DOCUMENT WAS ISSUED IN AUGUST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

REFERRING TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL DATA STORED IN COMPUTERS, SIR EDWARD SAID A WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN SET UP IN 1983 TO SEE WHETHER EXISTING SYSTEMS WERE ADEQUATE AND WHETHER LEGISLATION WAS REQUIRED.

THE WORKING GROUP HAD EXAMINED THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984 TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT THESE PRINCIPLES COULD BE MODIFIED TO SUIT THE HONG KONG SITUATION.

+THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE EXPECTED SOON,+ HE ADDED.

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BILINGUAL BILLS LATER THIS SESSION

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IT WAS HOPED THAT THE FIRST BILLS TO HAVE BEEN DRAFTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WOULD BE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS SESSION, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR EDWARD SAID THAT IT WAS INTENDED THAT AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSIONS OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL.

+THIS WILL TAKE TIME, BECAUSE THERE IS A NEED TO CONSULT THE LEGAL PROFESSION, AND OTHERS, ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED,+ HE SAID, +A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WAS ISSUED IN APRIL AND MANY HELPFUL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.+

A TOTAL OF 112 ITEMS OF LEGISLATION, OF WIDE PUBLIC INTEREST, HAD BEEN TRANSLATED AND WERE ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC. THIS WORK WOULD CONTINUE.

SIR EDWARD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE WIDER USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND TO ENCOURAGE BILINGUALISM IN ITS WORKINGS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE EARLY 1970'S PUBLIC NOTICES, OFFICIAL FORMS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

CORRESPONDENCE IN CHINESE FROM THE PUBLIC WAS ANSWERED IN CHINESE= PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, OR ITS SUB-COMMITTEES, WERE PREPARED IN BOTH LANGUAGES= AS WERE ALL PAPERS FOR MEETINGS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, DISTRICT BOARDS, AND FOR AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WAS ALSO PROVIDED AT MEETINGS WHENEVER REQUIRED, SIR EDWARD ADDED.

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WIDER DISCONTINUATION OF +UNOFFICIAL+  
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IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THAT FROM NOW ON THE TITLE +UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL+ IS TO BE DISCONTINUED.

COMMENTING ON THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE TITLE AS APPLIED TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WOULD ALSO BE DISCONTINUED.

THESE CHANGES HAD BEEN DECIDED ON BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE HONG KONG CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WERE CONFUSED BY THE TERM +UNOFFICIAL+.

MOREOVER WHEN USED IN PARALLEL WITH THE TERM +OFFICIAL+, IT COULD LEAD TO AN UNNECESSARY AND INVIDIOUS DISTINCTION BEING DRAWN BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF MEMBER.

AS ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS AND BOARDS AND COMMITTEES SERVED A COMMON CAUSE THEY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO IN FUTURE, BY A TITLE WHICH REFLECTS THAT FACT, THAT IS +MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL+, +MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL+, OR +MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF XXX+.

IT FOLLOWED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REPLACE THE TITLE OF +UMELCO+ OFFICE. IN FUTURE THIS WOULD BE KNOWN AS +OMELCO+ OR THE +OFFICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS+. THE SECRETARY GENERAL-UMELCO WOULD BECOME THE SECRETARY GENERAL-OMELCO. THIS CHANGE OF TITLE DID NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OLD UMELCO OFFICE WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD NOW BE KNOWN AS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, WHEN NECESSARY, WOULD BE REFERRED TO AS THE SENIOR OFFICIAL MEMBER OF BOTH COUNCILS.

THE SPOKESMAN DID NOT FORESEE ANY MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN ADAPTING TO THE CHANGE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE IT WOULD HAVE ONCE BEEN THE PRACTICE TO REFER TO A BOARD AS HAVING +X OFFICIALS AND Y UNOFFICIALS+, REFERENCE WOULD NOW BE MADE TO A BOARD HAVING +THREE MEMBERS INCLUDING X OFFICIALS+.

WHERE MORE PRECISION WAS REQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS, REFERENCE WOULD BE MADE TO MEMBERS +OTHER THAN OFFICIAL MEMBERS+ OR +APPOINTED AND ELECTED MEMBERS+.

HOWEVER, THE LATTER USAGE, WHICH ALSO IMPLIED A POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE DIVISION BETWEEN CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS WOULD BE USED EXTREMELY SPARINGLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DECISION MEANT THAT A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING ORDINANCES WOULD BE NECESSARY, BUT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND NORMAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS THE NEW TITLES WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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### BRIGHT FUTURE FOR TOYS INDUSTRY

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THERE IS A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HONG KONG'S TOYS INDUSTRY DESPITE INTENSE COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN COMPETITORS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 12TH HONG KONG TOY AND GIFT FAIR, MR HO SAID HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF TOYS, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN EXCESS OF \$10 BILLION.

+HONG KONG'S TOYS INDUSTRY IS NOW WELL DIVERSIFIED, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING TOYS OF ALL TYPES AND PRICE RANGES AND OF HIGH QUALITY.

+THERE ARE OVER 2 000 MANUFACTURERS, RANGING IN SIZE FROM THE LARGEST MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES TO CONCERNS WHICH EMPLOY LESS THAN A DOZEN WORKERS+.

MR HO SAID HE BELIEVED LOCAL TOYS MANUFACTURERS WOULD SPARE NO EFFORTS IN CONTINUING TO DIVERSIFY THEIR PRODUCTION, UPGRADE THEIR PRODUCT QUALITY AND EXPLORE NEW MARKETS.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR ITS ENDEAVOURS IN PROMOTING HONG KONG'S TOYS EXPORTS.

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### REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES AND THE PUBLIC HOUSING RENT POLICY REPORT AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SHAU KEI WAN HILLSIDE SQUATTER CLEARANCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS FORMED UNDER THE EASTERN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, WILL ALSO SUBMIT A PROGRESS REPORT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CLEARANCE FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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THE PROBLEM OF SEWAGE TREATMENT IN ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2:30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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DETAILS OF YUEN LONG SPORTS FESTIVAL  
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THE YUEN LONG SPORTS FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL SPORTS FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 25.

PRESIDING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MADAM LEUNG SING-TAK; ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALDAN KWOK; AND LEISURE MANAGER, MR LAM TIN-KEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE YUEN LONG SPORTS FESTIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD AT 11 AM TOMORROW AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAMBERS, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, YUEN LONG.

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CASH AID GIVEN TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT GRANTED \$10 300 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO THREE OF 10 PEOPLE INJURED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN TUEN MUN ON SEPTEMBER 29.

THE THREE WERE GRANTED PAYMENTS RANGING FROM \$2 396 TO \$4 122.

THE ACCIDENT, WHICH OCCURRED NEAR THE 19-MILESTONE ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, INVOLVED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND PRIVATE VAN. EIGHT WOMEN AND TWO MEN WERE INJURED.

/FOLLOWING THE .....

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FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT, STAFF OF THE TAVA SECTION VISITED THE INJURED PERSONS IN HOSPITAL OR CONTACTED THOSE DISCHARGED BY TELEPHONE TO OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

AT PRESENT, THE SECTION IS PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS FROM TWO VICTIMS. ONE VICTIM DID NOT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WHILE THE REMAINING FOUR WERE NOT QUALIFIED AS THEY HAD NOT BEEN IN HOSPITAL FOR THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF THREE DAYS.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL HELP TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS, REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS AT FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

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PARKING SITE IN KOWLOON TO LET  
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A FEE-PAYING PARKING AREA IN KOWLOON IS BEING OFFERED FOR RENT ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE 4 150-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF PAK TIN AND PAK WAN STREETS IS TO BE USED BY GOODS VEHICLES, BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS THREE YEARS INITIALLY, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS OCTOBER 24.

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KWAI CHUNG WATER CUT  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 PM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 11) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY WING LAP STREET, WING KEI ROAD, WING HAU STREET, WING KIN ROAD AND WING CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING CHUN SING FACTORY BUILDING AND KWAI FUK ROAD RESITE AREA.

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