



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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HIGHER ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE FOR HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO STUDY PROPOSAL

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE A MORE THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF A PROPOSAL OF RAISING HONG KONG'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VOLTAGE FROM 200 TO 220 VOLTS TO ASSESS THE DESIRABILITY, OR OTHERWISE, OF MAKING THE CHANGE.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN RESPONSE TO THE HON. JAMES WU WHO PROPOSED TO EFFECT THE CHANGE, IN TWO STAGES, FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

MR. JONES SAID IT WAS NOT KNOWN AT PRESENT HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN USE, BOTH IN HOUSEHOLDS AND INDUSTRY, MIGHT NEED ADJUSTMENT OR REPLACEMENT TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROPOSED HIGHER VOLTAGE OR HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST TO MAKE THE CHANGES.

+CERTAINLY, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO CONSIDER ANY CHANGE WITHOUT FULL PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY, OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS AND THE POWER COMPANIES.

+EVEN THEN ADEQUATE NOTICE WOULD NEED TO BE GIVEN BEFORE ANY CHANGE IS INTRODUCED AND A SUPPORTING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WOULD BE REQUIRED,+ HE SAID.

WHILE STRESSING THAT IT WOULD NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN GREATER DEPTH BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISION, MR. JONES PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL.

HE SAID IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO ADOPT WIDELY-USED, AND INTERNATIONALLY APPROVED, STANDARDS WHERE POSSIBLE.

NEVERTHELESS, HE FELT THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE PRUDENT TO EXERCISE A DEGREE OF CAUTION BEFORE CONSIDERING A CHANGE OF THIS SORT WHICH COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT REPERCUSSIONS FOR ALL CONSUMERS OF ELECTRICITY.

HE ADDED THAT THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A CHANGEOVER FROM THE EXISTING VOLTAGES MIGHT NOT BE AS SIMPLE AS MR. WU APPEARED TO THINK.

+FOR INSTANCE, ALTHOUGH A 220 VOLT MOTOR USED ON THE CORRECT VOLTAGE WILL CERTAINLY GIVE GREATER POWER THAN WHEN RUN ON 200 VOLTS, EQUALLY A 200 VOLT MOTOR WOULD ALSO GENERATE MORE POWER, BUT COULD OVERHEAT AND MIGHT BURN OUT IN THE PROCESS.

+LIKewise, SUCH EQUIPMENT AS STARTERS, SWITCH BOARDS AND LIFT CONTROL GEAR ARE VERY VOLTAGE SENSITIVE AND ANY CHANGE IN THESE CASES MAY REQUIRE EXPENSIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO, OR REPLACEMENT OF, EQUIPMENT.

/+CERTAIN

+CERTAIN OTHER EQUIPMENT, ALSO MIGHT REQUIRE STEP UP TRANSFORMERS TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY ON THE NEW STANDARD AND I BELIEVE THAT ANY UPRATING OF THE SUPPLY VOLTAGE TO TELEPHONE EXCHANGES COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EQUIPMENT USED AND BE COSTLY TO RECTIFY,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR. WU SAID THAT BY RAISING THE VOLTAGE FROM 200 TO 220 VOLTS WOULD SAVE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VOLTAGE TO CONSUMERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, HE DESCRIBED THE EXISTING VOLTAGES OF 200 VOLTS SINGLE-PHASE AND THE CORRESPONDING 346 VOLTS 3-PHASE, AT 50 HERTZ OR 50 CYCLE/SECOND FREQUENCY (200/1/50 AND 346/3/50) AS +NON-STANDARD AND ODD VOLTAGES+.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE CONSUMERS, THE POWER COMPANIES AND THE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND OR SUPPLIERS WOULD ALL BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY IN OPERATING EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS IN ECONOMIC TERMS IF THE SUPPLY VOLTAGES WERE RAISED TO THE WIDELY USED STANDARD OF 220 VOLTS SINGLE PHASE AND THE CORRESPONDING 380 VOLTS 3-PHASE, BUT REMAINING AT 50 HERTZ OR CYCLES/SECOND AS AT PRESENT.

TO THIS END, MR. WU FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE AFTER SOUNDING OUT PUBLIC OPINION AS THROUGH THIS DEBATE, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CHANGE BE MADE SOONEST POSSIBLE, SAY BY JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, HE SAID THE VOLTAGE COULD BE RAISED TO 210/1/50 AND 365/3/50 TO OBSERVE IF THERE WOULD BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS OVERLOOKED, AND THEREAFTER TO THE FULL BUT MAXIMUM 220/1/50 AND 380/3/50 AFTER THIS PERIOD.

+THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED, +MIGHT ALSO WANT TO SET UP A STEERING COMMITTEE TO FULLY INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE AND TO PREPARE FOR SAME AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

+I SHALL BE GLAD IF THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE DUE NOTICE OF MY PRESENT PROPOSAL AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE PROCEEDING INTO AN ERA OF METRICATION AND STANDARDISATION WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

IN SUPPORT OF HIS PROPOSAL, MR. WU LISTED THE MOST COMMONLY USED STANDARD ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VOLTAGES IN THE WORLD, AND HE REGARDED THE SUPPLY VOLTAGE AND FREQUENCY COMBINATION IN HONG KONG AS NON-STANDARD AND QUITE UNUSUAL.

+CONSEQUENTLY, THE APPLIANCES AND APPARATUS WE IMPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR OUR SPECIAL VOLTAGE IF WE WANT THE BEST PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY EXPECTED. THIS MEANS EXTRA COST AND DELAY.+

MR. WU CITED EXAMPLES OF THE EFFECTS OF EQUIPMENTS RATED AT A HIGHER STANDARD VOLTAGE WHEN USED IN HONG KONG'S SYSTEM.

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+IN THE CASE OF A RESISTANCE LOAD SUCH AS AN INCANDESCENT FILAMENT LAMP, YOU GET A MUCH REDUCED ILLUMINATION, AND A 75-WATT LAMP MIGHT BE REQUIRED WHERE A 60-WATT BULB OF PROPER VOLTAGE WOULD SUFFICE, AND FOR RICE COOKERS AND WATER-HEATERS LONGER PERIODS OF OPERATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REACH THE INTENDED TEMPERATURE.+

FROM THE POWER COMPANIES' POINT OF VIEW, MR. WU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CHANGE OF VOLTAGE COULD BE VERY EASILY EFFECTED WITH LITTLE COST, WHEREAS THEREAFTER THEIR MOST OBVIOUS GAIN WOULD BE A TEN PER CENT INCREASE IN POWER DISTRIBUTION CAPACITY AT NEXT TO NO ADDITIONAL COSTS. THEY SHOULD THEREFORE WELCOME THE CHANGE.

AS FOR MANUFACTURERS AND OR SUPPLIERS, HE SAID THE CHANGE TO A STANDARD VOLTAGE SYSTEM WOULD BE VERY WELCOME IN THAT IT WOULD HELP TO CUT DOWN ON INVENTORY RESULTING IN SAVINGS AND LOWER COSTS WHICH WOULD MOST LIKELY BE PASSED BACK TO THE CONSUMERS THROUGH COMPETITION.

MR. WU FURTHER OUTLINED FOUR REASONS TO JUSTIFY THAT THE SYSTEM HE PROPOSED +IS MOST LOGICAL+.

THE INSULATION OF THE PRESENT POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AS WELL AS THE APPLIANCES USED BY CONSUMERS WOULD EASILY TAKE THIS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE OR INCREASED VOLTAGE.

THE PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING APPLIANCES OF 200/1/50 AND 346/3/50 WOULD GENERALLY IMPROVE WITHOUT DETRIMENTS TO LIFE EXPECTANCY, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF 200V LAMP BULBS AND PERHAPS SOME ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION APPLIANCES WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED WITH SEPARATE VOLTAGE REGULATION AND TRANSFORMERS.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +FOR THAT VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF IMPORTED APPLIANCES RATED 220/1/50 AND 380/3/50, THERE CAN ONLY BE A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY.+

MR. WU CONTINUED : +SINCE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES WILL OFTEN ALLOW A PLUS OR MINUS TEN PER CENT VARIATION IN SUPPLY VOLTAGE, THE U.K. PRODUCED 240/1/50 AND 415/3/50 EQUIPMENT COULD BE BETTER TOLERATED. SO WOULD U.S. MADE EQUIPMENT OF 230/1/60 AND 440/3/60 RATING, EXCEPT FOR A 17 PER CENT REDUCTION IN SPEED AND PERFORMANCE DUE TO CYCLE CHANGE IN THE CASE OF ROTARY MACHINES.

MR. WU SAID : +THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMITTEE (IEC) HAS RECOMMENDED THAT 230/400V BE USED AS THE FUTURE STANDARD VOLTAGE FOR LOW VOLTAGE (OR CONSUMER) DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS.

+WHILST THIS MAY TAKE TIME TO REALISE, WE WOULD BE IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS AND MUCH BETTER POSITION TO SWITCH FURTHER TO THESE HIGHER VOLTAGES ONCE WE RAISED FULLY TO 220/380V, FOR REASONS JUST EXPLAINED.+

MR. WU WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FOREGOING JUST ABOUT SUMMED UP THE EFFECTS AND ADVANTAGES OF A CHANGE.

/HE POINTED

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HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD CONDUCTED A PRIVATE AND LIMITED CONSULTATION AMONG INTEREST PARTIES ON HIS PROPOSAL, +AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE ENTHUSIASTIC AND ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE CHANGE.

+THESE INCLUDE REPLIES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE TWO ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES, THE MAJOR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, THE TRAMWAYS, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND THE LARGER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS.

+THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LTD. IS ABOUT THE ONLY ONE THAT SUGGESTED RESERVATION AND CAUTION BEFORE A CHANGE IS MADE,+ MR. WU SAID.

IN SUPPORTING MR. WU'S PROPOSAL THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS SAID THE EXISTING VOLTAGE IN HONG KONG +IS HARDLY TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.+

+HOWEVER,+ HE CAUTIONED, +WE MUST BE SURE THAT INDUSTRY IS NOT DISRUPTED WHERE SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE EASILY ADAPTED TO THE CHANGE AND RESERVATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY, MUST BE HEARD AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.+

HE SAID MR. WU MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC IN HOPING FOR A CHANGE BY JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, BUT HE ADDED : +IT IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO DIRECT OUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND RAISE OUR SUPPLY VOLTAGE TO THAT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

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IMPLEMENTATION OF TELEPHONE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS
GOOD PROGRESS MADE
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THE SITUATION OF THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED AND NO RENTAL INCREASE WILL BE SANCTIONED UNTIL PROVEN NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE FIRM, INCLUDING ITS NECESSARY EXPANSION.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY IN A STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY.

HE ALSO GAVE A DEFINITE ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN TELEPHONE RENTALS THIS YEAR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY HAD TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THAT A FURTHER INCREASE IN RENTAL CHARGES OF AROUND 15 PER CENT MIGHT BE REQUIRED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

+THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE BUT, AS THINGS STAND AT THE MOMENT, NO FIRM ASSESSMENT CAN BE GIVEN AS TO THE TIMING OR THE SIZE OF ANY FUTURE INCREASE IN RENTALS.+

REPORTING ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION, MR. JONES SAID A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAD BEEN DONE, BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEPHONE COMPANY.

ON LEGISLATION, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN TWO STAGES.

THE FIRST WOULD GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO CERTAIN MORE PRESSING MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, INCLUDING THE REDUCTION OF INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL CHARGES, THE ABOLITION OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS, A PROVISION TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT UP TO TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF THE COMPANY, AND A FURTHER PROVISION TO LAY DOWN THAT CHARGES NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

+AN AMENDING BILL HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAFTED TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THESE PROPOSALS AND IT WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL.+

/IN THIS

IN THIS CONNECTION, MR. JONES ADDED THAT THE COMPANY HAD INTRODUCED THE LOWER INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL CHARGES LAST NOVEMBER, AND IT HAD RECENTLY REFUNDED THOSE SUBSCRIBERS WHO HAD ALREADY PAID THE HIGHER CHARGES.

THE SECOND AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION, HE CONTINUED, WOULD PROVIDE THE COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF THE PRESENT TELEPHONE ORDINANCE BY A MORE UP-TO-DATE ONE.

+THIS WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO A PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME AND PROVIDE FOR BOTH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL MONITORING OF THE COMPANY'S SERVICES. WORK IS NOW PROCEEDING ON DRAWING UP DETAILED DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TELEPHONE SERVICES BILL AND ITS PREPARATION WILL PROCEED WITH ALL DUE SPEED.+

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY ON THE DETAILS OF THE SCHEME OF CONTROL HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ALL POINTS.

THE SCHEME, AS AGREED, COMPRISED ALL THE OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION AS WELL AS MOST OF THE DETAILED PROPOSALS ON THE EXACT FIGURES TO BE USED. AND ONLY THREE MODIFICATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE COMMISSION'S BLUEPRINT, HE SAID.

MR. JONES ADDED THAT THE SCHEME WAS BEING BROUGHT INTO OPERATION WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1976 BY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY.

REFERRING TO THE MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE COMPANY'S SERVICES, HE SAID STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE MACHINERY AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES WITHIN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT, AND ONE FULL TIME ACCOUNTANT HAD NOW BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BRANCH.

+FOLLOWING THESE CHANGES, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH IS NOW REGULARLY CHECKING THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY.

+THE FORECASTS OF DEMAND FOR TELEPHONES HAVE ALSO BECOME THE SUBJECT OF REGULAR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, WHICH IS ALSO UTILISING THE SERVICES OF ITS PROFESSIONAL ECONOMISTS FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO STRENGTHEN THE STAFF OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION OF THE POST OFFICE TO CARRY OUT TECHNICAL MONITORING OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS, MR. JONES SAID THIS WAS NOW IN HAND AND THE NECESSARY POSTS WERE BEING CREATED WITHIN THE POST OFFICE.

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TURNING TO THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY, HE RECALLED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD LAID CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON THE ROLE OF SHAREHOLDERS IN PROVIDING MORE CAPITAL TO REDUCE THE COMPANY'S HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON BORROWINGS.

AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMPANY ANNOUNCED IN MARCH THAT IT INTENDED TO RAISE \$158 MILLION THROUGH A RIGHTS ISSUE. +THIS ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN MADE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL THE NEW SHARES HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP.

+THE PROCEEDS OF THE ISSUE WILL ENABLE THE COMPANY TO REDEEM AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF BORROWINGS AND THUS TO STRENGTHEN ITS FINANCIAL POSITION.+

APART FROM THIS, HE SAID THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION HAD IMPROVED OVER THE PAST YEAR, PARTLY DUE TO A HIGHER DEMAND FOR NEW TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS WITH RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMY.

HE SAID THE CURRENT FORECAST FOR 1976 ANTICIPATED THAT THE PERCENTAGE RETURN ON SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS, AS INCREASED BY THE RIGHTS ISSUE, WOULD REMAIN ROUGHLY CONSTANT AT ABOUT 14.3 PER CENT.

+THE RATIO OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS TO BORROWINGS WILL, ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT, BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, BORROWINGS WILL HAVE FALLEN TO APPROXIMATELY \$350 MILLION, LEAVING A RATIO OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS TO BORROWINGS OF APPROXIMATELY 70:30, OR ROUGHLY IN LINE WITH THE RATIO RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY,+ HE SAID.

FINALLY, MR. JONES SAID THE TELEPHONE COMPANY ITSELF HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION PERTAINING TO ITS OWN AFFAIRS.

THIS INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THE CREATION OF THREE NEW SENIOR POSTS AT ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER LEVEL TO COVER, RESPECTIVELY, FINANCE, ENGINEERING POLICY AND DIRECTION, AND ADMINISTRATION.

+AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS,+ MR. JONES ADDED, +I BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAVE CO-OPERATED MORE FRUITFULLY THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A PAPER SETTING OUT THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE SCHEME OF CONTROL OF THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY ARE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN G.I.S. PRESS BOXES.

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GUARANTEE FOR MTR TO ISSUE BONDS
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A RESOLUTION AUTHORISING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO GRANT A GUARANTEE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO BORROW MONEY LOCALLY BY ISSUING HONG KONG DOLLAR BONDS OF UP TO \$400 MILLION.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY AT WHAT PRICE AND AT WHAT RATE OF INTEREST THE BONDS WOULD BE OFFERED.

+A DECISION ON THESE MATTERS HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AND, INDEED, CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ISSUE. THE TERMS OF THE ISSUE WILL, OF COURSE, NEED TO BE CLOSELY RELATED TO MARKET CONDITIONS AT THE TIME IT IS ANNOUNCED.+

REFERRING TO THE GUARANTEE, HE EMPHASISED THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE A GUARANTEE OF THE REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND NOT OF PREMIUM OR OUTSTANDING INTEREST.

+BY PREMIUM, I REFER TO A REDEMPTION PRICE ABOVE PAR WHICH WOULD BE PAYABLE BY THE CORPORATION IF IT EXERCISES THE OPTION TO REDEEM THE BONDS BEFORE THE DUE DATE. THIS WOULD CLEARLY BE INAPPLICABLE IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE GUARANTEE WOULD OPERATE.+

TOUCHING ON THE AMOUNT TO BE GUARANTEED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO A MAXIMUM OF HK\$400 MILLION AND SUCH ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS AS MIGHT BECOME PAYABLE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ISSUE.

MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE BONDS WOULD BE ISSUED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, SHOULD ANY WITHHOLDING TAX ON PRINCIPAL BE LEVIED, THEN THE CORPORATION WOULD PAY TO THE BONDHOLDERS SUCH ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS AS WOULD RESULT IN THE RECEIPT BY THE BONDHOLDERS OF THE SUMS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVABLE BY THEM HAD NO WITHHOLDING TAX ON PRINCIPAL BEEN LEVIED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THIS WAS A STANDARD PROVISION IN INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES AND, AS IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT A WITHHOLDING TAX ON PRINCIPAL WOULD EVER BE INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG, ALL THIS WOULD BE LARGELY ACADEMIC IN THE LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROCEEDS OF THE PROPOSED BOND ISSUE WOULD BE USED TO HELP PAY FOR CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM ON THE MTR WHICH HAD EITHER ALREADY BEEN LET, OR WOULD BE LET LATER THIS YEAR.

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+THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE TOTAL OF THESE CONTRACTS, WHEN LET, WILL BE WITHIN THE ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST. THIS BOND ISSUE HAS BEEN PROPOSED AS A MEANS OF RAISING LONGER TERM FINANCE ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS WHICH WILL BE UTILISED IN PLACE OF CERTAIN SHORTER TERM STANDBY FACILITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED AND IS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT BY THE CORPORATION TO LENGTHEN THE MATURITY OF ITS DEBT.

+IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS SIMPLY AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF FINDING FUNDS TO HELP PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG-AUSTRALIA TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENT
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE HOPES TO BE INFORMED SOON AS TO WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO ABOUT THE HONG KONG-AUSTRALIA TEXTILE EXPORT RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IF AUSTRALIA WISHED TO CONTINUE ANY OF THE RESTRAINTS FOR A FURTHER PERIOD, HER GOVERNMENT MAY SEEK CONSULTATIONS WITH HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES -- THE ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED.

MR. JORDAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION PUT BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE ADDED: +OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESENT POSITION IS THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL CONSIDERING A REPORT ISSUED IN APRIL THIS YEAR BY THE AUSTRALIAN TEXTILES AUTHORITY. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THIS REPORT CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A BEARING ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL SEEK TO EXTEND OR MODIFY THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WITH HONG KONG= OR ALLOW IT TO LAPSE.+

MR. JORDAN CONTINUED: +HONOURABLE MEMBERS MAY BE AWARE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED ITS INTENTION TO USE THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES WHERE IT IS FEASIBLE TO DO SO.

+IN SOME CASES, HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA HAS NOT USED THE ARRANGEMENT TO SEEK RESTRAINT ON EXPORTS FROM PARTICULAR SOURCES BUT HAS RESORTED TO A TARIFF-QUOTA METHOD TO LIMIT IMPORTS GENERALLY.+

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LOCALLY CONSTRUCTED GOODS LIFTS
NEW REGULATIONS FOR SAFE OPERATION APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED NEW REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFE OPERATION OF LOCALLY CONSTRUCTED GOODS LIFTS IN FACTORIES.

MOVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GOODS LIFTS) REGULATIONS, 1976, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, SAID LOCALLY BUILT LIFTS HAD CAUSED A NUMBER OF SERIOUS AND MOSTLY FATAL ACCIDENTS IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.

PAST EXPERIENCE, HE SAID, SHOWED THAT MOST OWNERS OF SUCH LIFTS WERE RELUCTANT TO MODIFY THEM TO BRING THEM WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF +SERVICE LIFT+, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF SIZE AND HEIGHT EVEN THOUGH THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED IN 1964 TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CONSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT GOODS LIFTS SHOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE CONTROLLED THROUGH REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, SAID MR. HENDERSON.

TO FACILITATE THIS STEP, THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED LAST MONTH TO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXEMPT CERTAIN GOODS LIFTS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL NOT APPLY TO THOSE GOODS LIFTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND INSTALLED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE BUILDING (LIFTS) REGULATIONS.

ALSO NOT SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THESE NEW REGULATIONS ARE:

* LIFTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN GENERALLY EXEMPTED FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE= AND

* THOSE, THOUGH INTENDED MAINLY FOR CARRYING GOODS, THAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE LIFTS FOR CARRYING PASSENGERS BECAUSE THEY ARE OPERATED BY A PERSON INSIDE.

OWNERS OF GOODS LIFTS WHICH COME UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPOINT COMPETENT EXAMINERS TO CARRY OUT REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF THE LIFTS.

OTHER IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

* THE PROPER ENCLOSURE OF LIFT WELLS=

* THE INSTALLATION OF INTERLOCKING DEVICES TO PREVENT A LIFT FROM MOVING WHEN ITS DOOR IS NOT PROPERLY CLOSED, AND A DOOR FROM OPENING WHEN THE LIFT IS NOT AT REST AT THE LANDING IN FRONT OF THE DOOR= AND

* THE PROHIBITION OF A GOODS LIFT BEING USED TO CARRY PASSENGERS.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THESE REGULATIONS WILL COME INTO FORCE ON A DATE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR LATER TO ALLOW TIME FOR OWNERS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN PROPOSED TO AMEND ONE PARTICULAR REGULATION WHICH REQUIRES THESE GOODS LIFTS TO BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY A COMPETENT PERSON AT LEAST ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS.

POINTING OUT THAT EVEN PASSENGER LIFTS AND POTENTIALLY MORE DANGEROUS MACHINE LIKE STEAM BOILERS WOULD NOT NEED SUCH HIGH FREQUENCY OF EXAMINATION, HE FELT THAT PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS FOR GOODS LIFTS SHOULD ONLY BE NECESSARY ONCE IN EVERY 18 MONTHS.

IN REPLY, MR. HENDERSON SAID HE TOOK THE POINTS MADE BY DR. CHUNG IN RELATION TO OTHER EXAMINATIONS, AND HE WOULD ACCEPT THAT THE EXAMINATION PERIOD SHOULD PARALLEL BUT NOT EXCEED THAT FOR PASSENGER LIFTS.

HE SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE TO AMEND THIS PERIOD FROM SIX TO 12 MONTHS.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THESE REGULATIONS WOULD DEPEND ON GOODS LIFTS' OWNERS SCRUPULOUSLY CARRYING OUT THEIR GENERAL DUTY OF PROPER MAINTENANCE UNDER REGULATION 4(B).

+IF ON EXPERIENCE OF THE WORKING OF THE REGULATIONS IT IS FOUND THAT THIS IS NOT BEING CARRIED OUT I MIGHT HAVE TO SEEK TO REINSTATE A SHORTER EXAMINATION PERIOD, AT SOME LATER DATE,+ HE WARNED.

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GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON NEON SIGNS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION AND BETTER ARRANGEMENTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GREATER CONTROL OF BOTH THE SAFETY AND AMENITY ASPECTS OF NEON SIGNS.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT POLICY AND FUTURE PLANS ON NEON SIGNS.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE CONTROL OF ALL ADVERTISING SIGNS WAS EXERCISED THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE AND IN THE URBAN AREAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE ORDINANCE WAS THE URBAN COUNCIL.

MR ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT SKY SIGNS, OCCULTING SIGNS AND WATER-BORNE ADVERTISEMENTS COULD BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED BUT +LITTLE CONTROL HAS BEEN EXERCISED OVER OTHER ADVERTISING SIGNS.+

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE ORDINANCE DEALT MAINLY WITH THE AESTHETIC EFFECTS WHICH WERE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH AND DID NOT MAKE ADEQUATE PROVISIONS FOR AVOIDING THE ERECTION OF DANGEROUS SIGNS, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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BRITAIN'S ANTI-DUMPING ACTION JUSTIFIED

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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPLAINED WHAT DUMPING, UNDER THE RULES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFF AND TRADE, MEANS AND WHY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ANTI-DUMPING ACTION AGAINST HONG KONG IN RESPECT OF A RAINCOAT MADE HERE WHICH WAS BEING EXPORTED TO BRITAIN.

MR. JORDAN GAVE THE EXPLANATION IN A REPLY TO DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

LAST WEEK, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD IMPOSE AN ANTI-DUMPING DUTY OF 1.50 POUNDS-STERLING ON A HONG KONG-MADE RUBBERISED RAINCOAT IMPORTED INTO BRITAIN ON THE GROUND THAT IT WAS BELOW +FAIR MARKET PRICE+.

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT UNDER GATT RULES DUMPING MEANS EXPORTING AT A PRICE LESS THAN THE COMPARABLE PRICE FOR A SIMILAR PRODUCT SOLD IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET- OR WHERE THE PRODUCT IS NOT SOLD IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET, AS OFTEN HAPPENS IN THE CASE OF HONG KONG, DUMPING IS DEFINED AS SELLING BELOW WHAT IS REGARDED AS THE +FAIR MARKET PRICE+, WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE DIRECT COST OF PRODUCTION, OVERHEADS AND PROFITS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS GENERALLY TRUE THAT HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS COULD NOT AFFORD TO DUMP, BUT IT WAS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO DO SO WITH A PART OF THEIR PRODUCTION.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, A MANUFACTURER SOLD A NEW PRODUCT AT COST PRICE PLUS A SMALL PROFIT AND CHARGED ALL THE OVERHEADS OF HIS FACTORY TO HIS ESTABLISHED PRODUCTS THEN TECHNICALLY HE WAS DUMPING, WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE GATT DEFINATION AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION, MR. JORDAN SAID.

IN THE PRESENT CASE, HE ADDED, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED, AFTER CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS IN HONG KONG IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THAT THE HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS OF RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES OF RUBBERISED RAINCOATS FOR WOMEN WERE SELLING BELOW +FAIR MARKET PRICES+ AS DEFINED AND THAT THIS JUSTIFIED ANTI-DUMPING ACTION.

CONSEQUENTLY, AN ADDITIONAL DUTY OF 1.50 POUNDS-STERLING WAS IMPOSED ON THIS RAINCOAT.

MR. JORDAN CONTINUED : +HOWEVER, THERE IS A LET-OUT IN THE FORM OF A REFUND OF THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY SHOULD THE PRICE OF THE RAINCOATS, TOGETHER WITH THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY, EXCEED HK\$46 IN THE CASE OF A SINGLE TEXTURE RAINCOAT OR HK\$60 IN THE CASE OF A DOUBLE TEXTURE ONE.

/MR. JORDAN

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MR. JORDAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN 1975 HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS OF THIS ITEM WERE WORTH ABOUT SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WHILE THE TOTAL TEXTILE AND CLOTHING EXPORTS TO BRITAIN WERE WORTH TWO BILLION DOLLARS.

HE ADDED: +THE AVERAGE F.O.B. PRICE OF THESE RAINCOATS WAS \$32.60 IN 1975. THE LANDED PRICE IN BRITAIN IS PROBABLY MORE THAN TWENTY PER CENT HIGHER WHEN C.I.F. CHARGES AND THE NORMAL CUSTOM DUTY ARE ADDED. IN VIEW ALSO OF THE FURTHER DEPRECIATION OF STERLING SINCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS LAUNCHED IT SEEMS TO ME LIKELY THAT THE QUANTITY, IF ANY, THAT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS REFUND WILL BE VERY SMALL.

+UNDER THE RULES OF THE GATT, AN ANTI-DUMPING DUTY MAY REMAIN IN FORCE ONLY AS LONG AS IT IS NECESSARY TO COUNTERACT THE DUMPING. THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS THEREFORE TAKEN STEPS TO MONITOR OUR EXPORTS OF THESE RAINCOATS TO BRITAIN, AND WE SHALL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE IN LONDON AS SOON AS WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT DUMPING IS NO LONGER OCCURRING.+

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LEFT LANE FOR SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF A STANDING CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY, A CAMPAIGN DIRECTED TOWARDS GETTING DRIVERS OF SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES TO TRAVEL ON THE CORRECT LANE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING THE HON. JAMES WU WHO ASKED WHETHER A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COULD BE MOUNTED TO REQUIRE HEAVY AND SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES TO OCCUPY THE LEFT LANE OF THE ROAD.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE POLICE WOULD GIVE THE CAMPAIGN FULL SUPPORT BECAUSE TOO FEW OF SUCH DRIVERS WERE DOING THIS ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD DO SO.

+BUT WHILE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE PUBLICITY ABOUT USING THE CORRECT TRAFFIC LANE IN THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, I AM ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO CLEAR LINK BETWEEN THIS INSTANCE OF BAD DRIVING AND ROAD ACCIDENTS.

+THE STANDING CONFERENCE MAY THEREFORE FEEL THAT IT CANNOT, IN ALL CONSCIENCE, RECOMMEND DEVOTING THE FUNDS WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR AN ENTIRE CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICITY AGAINST THIS PARTICULAR PRACTICE AND MAY EVEN TAKE THE VIEW THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF ROAD SAFETY, DRIVING IN THE LEFT LANE EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING CAN ONLY PLAY A SMALL PART IN THE SEPTEMBER ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN,+ HE SAID.

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SHA TIN NEW TOWN BOOKLET

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE COLOUR BOOKLET TO EXPLAIN HOW THE RURAL TOWNSHIP OF SHA TIN IS TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A BUSTLING MODERN COMMUNITY.

AND MORE SUCH PUBLICATIONS ARE PLANNED ON VARIOUS MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. P.G. WILLIAMS, WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER FURTHER PUBLICATIONS OF THE SAME HIGH STANDARD AS THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN BOOKLET WOULD BE PRODUCED.

HE SAID A SIMILAR COMPREHENSIVE FULL-COLOUR BOOKLET ON TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, ALSO PREPARED BY THE P.W.D.'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS' TIME, AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES WERE NOW FINALISING THE DESIGN WORK FOR A THIRD BOOKLET COVERING TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

+IN SO FAR AS RESOURCES WILL ALLOW,+ HE ADDED, +IT IS MY INTENTION TO PRODUCE UP-TO-DATE PUBLICATIONS COVERING OTHER AREAS OF ENDEAVOUR BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH MY DEPARTMENT, SUCH AS VERY LARGE WATER SCHEMES, MAJOR ROAD COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TERRITORIES MARKET TOWNS AND SUITABLE MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS.+

MR. WILLIAMS WENT ON TO SAY THAT +SUCH EFFECTIVE ILLUSTRATIONS OF VAST PUBLIC PROJECTS COULD ONLY REDOUND TO HONG KONG'S CREDIT+, AND ASKED ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE BOOKLET.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE BOOKLET WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPERS, CONSULAR AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVES, INDUSTRIALISTS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN THE NEW TOWN, AND TO OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES OVERSEAS THROUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OFFICES AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

+IT WILL ALSO BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED TO BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MEDIA,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR J.R. WHITAKER, SAID TODAY THE BOOKLET WOULD GO ON SALE FROM MONDAY (MAY 31) AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, AND THROUGH ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

+COPIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE SHA TIN AREA TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THEIR NEW TOWN,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN THE INTEREST OF TIME SAVING, THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN BOOKLET HAD INITIALLY BEEN PREPARED IN ENGLISH ONLY, BUT CONSIDERATION WAS NOW BEING GIVEN TO PRODUCING CHINESE LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE THREE BOOKLETS AS WELL.

MR. WHITAKER SAID THE BOOKLET — WHICH WAS VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED BY COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND DIAGRAMS — CONDENSED MORE THAN A DECADE OF PLANNING AND PRELIMINARY WORK INTO ABOUT 40 PAGES OF TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS, OUTLINING THE VARIOUS BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS WHICH WOULD TRANSFORM THE PREVIOUS RURAL TOWNSHIP INTO A VIGOROUS, SELF-CONTAINED CITY BY 1985.

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT — A CONSTITUENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT — WAS CREATED IN 1973 SPECIFICALLY TO PLAN AND PROGRAMME THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES NEW TOWNS, A TASK WHICH IS MAINLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE P.W.D. IT WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE N.T.A., WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPLETED NEW TOWNS, AND THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY.

AS OUTLINED IN THE BOOKLET, SHA TIN NEW TOWN WILL BE DEVELOPED IN A SERIES OF BALANCED STAGES, PROVIDING HOMES, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SOME 500,000 PEOPLE IN AN ATTRACTIVE AND COMPLETE LIVING ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL INCORPORATE ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

MR. WHITAKER SAID THE NEW SHA TIN NEW TOWN BOOKLET REPRESENTED THE MOST COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT YET MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON THE \$4,100 MILLION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

+IT HAS BEEN COMPILED WITH BOTH THE TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL READER IN MIND,+ HE SAID,+SO AS TO GIVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE ENTIRE SCHEME.

+EVERY MAJOR ASPECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS COVERED — THE BACKGROUND LEADING TO THE CHALLENGE OF BUILDING THE NEW TOWN, THE SETTING OF THE NEW TOWN, THE TOWN PLAN ITSELF, THE VARIOUS SERVICES AND FACILITIES WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED, AND HOW THE PLANS ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT.

+THE COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS SHOULD SERVE AS A QUICK AND EASY REFERENCE AS TO THE VARIOUS LAND USES AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. WHITAKER SAID THAT IN AN UNDERTAKING OF SUCH MAGNITUDE AS THE SHA TIN PROJECT, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PEOPLE WERE KEPT AWARE OF, AND FULLY UNDERSTOOD, WHAT WAS BEING PLANNED FOR THEM. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PLANS FOR SHA TIN WOULD BE MUCH BETTER APPRECIATED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOKLET.

MANY PEOPLE, HE SAID, HAD ALREADY LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PROJECT FROM THE EXHIBITION ON THE NEW TOWN HELD BY HIS DEPARTMENT AT THE LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN LAST MARCH, WHEN MORE THAN 70,000 PEOPLE FLOCKED TO SEE THE MODELS AND PLANS ON DISPLAY.

+THE EXHIBITION CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE WIDE INTEREST IN THE NEW TOWN, AND WE HOPE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE BOOKLET WILL ANSWER MANY MORE QUESTIONS, AND UNDERLINE THE EXHAUSTIVE AND CAREFUL PLANNING THAT HAVE GONE INTO THE BUILDING OF THE NEW TOWN,+ HE SAID.

AMBULANCE COMMAND RECEIVES RECORD NUMBER OF CALLS
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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS BROKEN THROUGH THE 500 CALLS PER DAY BARRIER AFTER COMING CLOSE TO THAT FIGURE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

DURING THE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDED AT 7 A.M. TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE COMMAND RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 516 CALLS, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 21 CALLS PER HOUR.

OF THE TOTAL, 425 WERE EMERGENCY, AND 91 NON-EMERGENCY. THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS CARRIED TOTALLED 692.

HONG KONG DIVISION ANSWERED 171 CALLS, KOWLOON DIVISION 240 CALLS AND NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION 105 CALLS.

THE PREVIOUS HIGHEST NUMBER OF CALLS WAS 471 ACHIEVED ON MARCH 6 THIS YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW RECORD, A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT FULLY EXPECTED THE UPWARD TREND TO CONTINUE AND, FOR THIS REASON THE NUMBER OF AMBULANCES AND DEPOTS WAS BEING INCREASED.

+THERE ARE PLANS TO BUILD MORE AMBULANCE DEPOTS OR STATIONS IN STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG,+ HE SAID. +THE FIRST OF THESE WILL BE A STATION AT HING WAH HOUSING ESTATE IN CHAI WAN AND IT IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED LATER THIS YEAR.+

AT PRESENT, THE AMBULANCE COMMAND HAS A FLEET OF 99 AMBULANCES. THESE VEHICLES ARE FITTED WITH AN IMPROVED TYPE OF STRETCHER GEAR TOGETHER WITH OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO SUIT LOCAL REQUIREMENTS.

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BILLS PASSED
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FOUR BILLS, INCLUDING THE THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, PASSED THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE OTHER BILLS PASSED WERE THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976.

SIX OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING. THEY WERE THE THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976, THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE BOOKS REGISTRATION BILL 1976 AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO ROBSON
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AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, WHO WILL RETIRE SHORTLY AFTER SEVEN YEARS MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL AND 30 YEARS OF +HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO HONG KONG+.

SIR MURRAY SAID MR. ROBSON WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS WORK AS A PLANNER FOR THE NEW TOWNS AND FOR HIS VIGOROUS INITIATION OF STUDIES AND PROCEDURES TO PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION.

MR. ROBSON, HE ADDED, HAD BEEN PERSONALLY AND INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH MANY OF THE LANDMARKS OF MODERN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE RAILWAY TERMINUS, THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE KAI TAK RUNWAY.

+IN THIS COUNCIL, WE WILL REMEMBER HIM AS AN EXCELLENT COLLEAGUE THE LENGTH OF WHOSE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WAS ONLY EQUALLED BY THE GOOD HUMOUR AND PREVITY OF HIS ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARIES. FEW HAVE BEEN LIKED MORE OR SERVED HONG KONG BETTER.+

THE GOVERNOR WISHED MR. ROBSON AND HIS WIFE A VERY HAPPY AND LONG RETIREMENT.

DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBSON ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, SAID HE WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR THE IMPACT HE HAD MADE ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WITHIN HIS SPHERE, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE SPHERE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

+WE ADMIRE HIS SCENSE OF BALANCE IN RECOGNISING, ON THE ONE HAND, THE NEED TO TAKE MUCH MORE POSITIVE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT WHILST ON THE OTHER HAND TAKING ALSO A PRACTICAL VIEW OF THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY OUR OWN ECONOMIC VIABILITY.+

HE WOULD ALSO BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS UNFAILING COURTESY TO UMELCO AND FOR HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR DURING QUESTION TIME IN THE COUNCIL, SAID DR. CHUNG WHO WISHED MR. ROBSON AND HIS WIFE EVERY GOOD FORTUNE IN THE FUTURE.

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CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE EARLIEST DATE BY WHICH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET COULD BE COMPLETED WOULD BE 1981.

HE SAID THE REASON WAS THAT RECLAMATION OF THE SITE, WHICH IT WAS HOPED COULD START NEXT YEAR, WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING WOULD ALSO TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU, MR. ROBSON SAID: +THE POULTRY AND VEGETABLE MARKETS ARE ACCOMMODATED TEMPORARILY AT CHEUNG SHA WAN AND THE FRESH WATER FISH MARKET WILL SHORTLY BE MOVED TO A TEMPORARY SITE IN SHAM SHUI PO MILITARY CAMP.+

THESE MARKETS, HE ADDED, COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM THESE SITES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A DECISION WAS TAKEN TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR ROAD.

+THEY WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE MOVED INTO THE NEW CHEUNG SHA WAN MARKET BEFORE ROAD CONSTRUCTION COULD COMMENCE AS THE TEMPORARY MARKET SITES WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THAT WORK,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

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VRC TO REMAIN AS PRISON INSTITUTION
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THE VICTORIA RECEPTION CENTRE IS LIKELY TO BE RETAINED AS +A PRISON INSTITUTION OF SOME TYPE FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COME+ AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW LAI CHI KOK RECEPTION CENTRE, EXPECTED TO BE IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE FUTURE USE OF THE VRC WAS BEING CONSIDERED AND NO FINAL DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE HIGH OCCUPATION RATES OF MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, HE SAID IT SEEMED MOST LIKELY THAT THE VRC WOULD REMAIN A PRISON INSTITUTION FOR SOME TIME.

MR. DAVIES ALSO CONFIRMED THAT DUE TO OVERCROWDING IN THE VRC SOME PRISONERS ON REMAND HAD, IN RECENT MONTHS, BEEN SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR ON A BASIS OF THREE, AND OCCASIONALLY FOUR MEN IN A CELL OF ABOUT EIGHT FEET BY FIVE FEET.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS POLICY UNDER REVIEW
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THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING HIS PUBLICATIONS POLICY TO SEE IF THERE IS SCOPE TO INCREASE SALES FURTHER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, THE HON. DENIS BRAY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. BRAY SAID THAT IN 1974, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES SET UP A SMALL TEAM TO PLAN AND CO-ORDINATE THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

+SINCE ITS FORMATION SALES HAVE RISEN FROM \$2.1 MILLION IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973/74 TO \$4.1 MILLION IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1975/76.+ HE SAID. +LOCAL SALES ACCOUNT FOR VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS INCOME WITH SALES OVERSEAS ACCOUNTING TO A RELATIVELY MODEST \$90,000 IN 1975/76.+

HOWEVER, MR. BRAY ADDED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT +WE SHALL SEE A FURTHER DOUBLING OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, BUT THE OPENING, IN AUGUST, OF A LARGER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING IS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SLIGHTLY INCREASED SALES EXPECTED THIS YEAR.+

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IMPROVEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT AIRPORT
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TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN FRONT OF BOTH THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE HALLS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT WILL BE IMPROVED WHEN THE TERMINAL BUILDING EXTENSION PROGRAMME IS COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE AIRPORT.

HE SAID THAT THE PROJECT WOULD, ON COMPLETION, PROVIDE AN EXTRA 450 FEET OF KERB SPACE AT DEPARTURES LEVEL AND AN EXTRA 350 FEET AT THE ARRIVALS LEVEL.

+IT WILL ALSO PERMIT THE ADOPTION OF AN IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ROBSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A NEW ACCESS ROUTE TO THE DEPARTURE HALL WOULD BE PROVIDED BY A FLYOVER ACROSS PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

+THIS FLYOVER IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN DECEMBER 1978 AND WILL RESULT IN A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT EASING OF THE AIRPORT TRAFFIC PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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TICKET ISSUING SYSTEM AT CAR PARKS MODIFIED

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAS TEMPORARILY MODIFIED THE TICKET ISSUING SYSTEM AT GOVERNMENT PUBLIC CAR PARKS TO FURTHER REDUCE THE WAITING TIME AND CONGESTION AT THE CAR PARK ENTRANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

UNDER THE MODIFIED SYSTEM, THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD NEED TO BE WRITTEN DOWN ONCE ONLY ON THE PARKING TICKET.

HE SAID THIS HAD SPED UP THE PROCESS +BUT, OF COURSE, ONLY AT THE RISK OF EVASION OF PARKING FEES - WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED PENDING A REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES.+

MR. ROBSON WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO ON DELAYS AND CONGESTION AT PUBLIC CAR PARK ENTRANCES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SYSTEM WHICH ORIGINALLY REQUIRED THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER TO BE WRITTEN DOWN ON TWO PARTS OF THE PARKING TICKET WAS INTRODUCED ON THE ADVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO PREVENT MALPRACTICES AND AVOIDANCE OF FEES.

THE SYSTEM WAS SUCCESSFUL BUT HAD ALSO RESULTED IN DELAYS AT THE CAR PARK ENTRANCE.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT LATER TRIED TO REDUCE THE INCONVENIENCE BY OPENING A SECOND ENTRANCE LANE AND BY HAVING SOMEONE TO WRITE DOWN, IN ADVANCE, THE REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THE CARS WAITING TO ENTER THE CAR PARK WHEN THERE WAS A BUILD-UP, HE SAID. +BUT, HE IS HAMPERED BY A SHORTAGE OF SUPERVISORY STAFF.+

AND AFTER CONSULTING THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AGAIN, THE TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED.

MR. ROBSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE LAW REQUIRED THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER TO BE RECORDED ON THE PARKING TICKET.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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LEGO MEETING TODAY

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE HON. ROGER LOBO WILL ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE DELAY AND CONSEQUENT CONGESTION CAUSED BY THE PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING TICKETS TO CARS ENTERING CERTAIN PUBLIC CAR PARKS, AND WHAT REMEDIAL MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN.

THE HON. JAMES WU WILL ASK WHETHER A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN CAN BE MOUNTED TO REQUIRE HEAVY AND SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES TO TRAVEL ON THE LEFT LANE OF THE ROAD.

THE HON. F.W. LI WILL ASK IF STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN FRONT OF BOTH THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE HALLS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT.

OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERN THE SIZE OF THE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKET FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, SITUATION REGARDING THE BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA AND THE USE OF MINIBUSES TO TRANSPORT GERIATRIC CASES TO AND FROM PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

AT THE END OF THE QUESTION SESSION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. DEREK JONES, WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED.

MR. WU WILL RAISE THE MATTER ON +ELECTRICITY SUPPLY VOLTAGE TO CONSUMERS DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE TWO MOTIONS -- ONE FOR THE GRANTING OF A GUARANTEE IN RESPECT OF THE REPAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF BONDS ISSUED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE OTHER FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GOODS LIFTS) REGULATIONS 1976.

SIX BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING. THEY ARE THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976, THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE BOOKS REGISTRATION BILL 1976 AND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THREE BILLS -- THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

FIFTY-SEVEN LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN DECORATED BY THE QUEEN WILL RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT A CEREMONY IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE INSIGNIA TO BE PRESENTED INCLUDE ONE CMG, ONE OBE(M), SIX OBE'S, ONE OBE(H), ONE ISO, ONE MBE(M), THREE MBE'S, SEVEN BADGES OF HONOUR, 12 BEM'S, ONE QPM, TWO ISM'S AND 21 CPM'S.

MOST OF THE RECIPIENTS HAVE BEEN DECORATED IN THE NEW YEAR HONOURS.

SPECIAL PARKING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR GUESTS ATTENDING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

ALL CARS CARRYING GUESTS MAY ENTER BY THE MAIN GATE OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE. AFTER GUESTS HAVE ALIGHTED VEHICLES BEARING G.H. LABELS MAY PARK IN THE FORECOURT OR TENNIS COURTS AS DIRECTED BY THE POLICE, OR, IF CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN, RETURN AT 6.50 P.M.

VEHICLES BEARING BLUE LABELS MUST EXIT BY THE EAST GATE AND THEN PARK AT UPPER ALBERT ROAD, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, THE SLIP ROAD TO THE SOUTH OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE BUILDING AND THE METERED CAR PARK BETWEEN KENNEDY ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD.

ALL VEHICLES PARKED INSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE SHOULD LEAVE BY THE EAST GATE. OTHER GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO WALK TO THEIR CARS AFTER THE CEREMONY.

PARKING FACILITIES IN METERED SPACES IN UPPER AND LOWER ALBERT ROADS AND THE METERED CAR PARK BETWEEN KENNEDY ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 3 P.M. TO 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 27, TO ALLOW VEHICLE PARKING FOR INVITED GUESTS TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ONLY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY SHOULD MEET GIS OFFICERS IN THE GUARD ROOM OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NOT LATER THAN 5.30 P.M. NEWSPAPERS NOT RECEIVING PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS IN THE ORDINARY MANNER WITH YUEN CHUN STUDIO AT 95, TEMPLE STREET, KOWLOON, TELEPHONE: 3-854864.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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INTER-INSTITUTION SINGING COMPETITION
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BOYS AND GIRLS OF EIGHT PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THREE RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WILL TAKE PART IN AN INTER-INSTITUTION SINGING COMPETITION THIS FRIDAY (MAY 28).

THE THREE WELFARE INSTITUTIONS ARE THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE, THE SHING TAK BOYS' CENTRE AND THE CHAK YAN CENTRE. THE OTHERS ARE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, KWUN TONG HOSTEL AND MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME.

THE COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME IN KAU WA KENG, LAI CHI KOK AT 2 P.M. MRS. ELSIE MA NG TING-KWUN, AN INSPECTOR OF MUSIC OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL ACT AS THE ADJUDICATOR.

MISS ANNIE CHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOCIAL WORK), WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FUNCTION WHICH WILL ALSO BE ATTENDED BY JUDGES, MAGISTRATES AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE FIELD OF JUVENILE WELFARE.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SINGING COMPETITION IS TO BRING HOME TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN GROUP ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS AND THE FEELING OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RECOGNITION.

THE COMPETITION IS ONE OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE INTER-INSTITUTION ACTIVITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE PLANS AND ORGANISES VARIOUS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CULTURAL COMPETITIONS AND ATHLETIC EVENTS EACH YEAR FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER CARE IN THE INSTITUTIONS.

THE AIM OF THESE ACTIVITIES IS TO BRING THEM TOGETHER TO ENHANCE THEIR MENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE EVENT COVERED. THE COMPETITION WILL BEGIN AT 2 P.M. ON FRIDAY (MAY 28) AT THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME IN KAU WA KENG, LAI CHI KOK.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976.

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CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE WILL SEPARATELY HOLD THEIR FIRST CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE YEAR 1976/77 TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

EACH CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME CAMPAIGN AND THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN. CHAIRED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT, EACH COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, LOCAL CIVIL LEADERS, CHAIRMEN OF AREA COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT SECTORS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF KWUN TONG C.D.O. AT KWUN TONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, TUNG YAN STREET. CHAIRED BY MR. PATRICK YIU, THE MEETING WILL MAINLY DISCUSS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WORK AND FURTHERANCE OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AND THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME CAMPAIGN FOR THE YEAR. THE HON. JAMES WU, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE HON. ADVISOR OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE MEETING OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT 4.00 P.M. AT THE STAFF RECREATION ROOM OF HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ON 9TH FLOOR, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, CENTRAL. AT THE MEETING, THE MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS WORKING PLANS FOR THE YEAR, PARTICULARLY THE 1976 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND THE COMING DISTRICT CLEAN UP OPERATION WESTERN DISTRICT. THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. NICHOLAS NG, WILL ALSO PRESENT LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

NOTES TO EDITORS : YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MAY 28) TO ENABLE WATERWORKS STAFF TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY FOOK YUM STREET, OIL STREET, ELECTRIC ROAD FROM BOAT STREET TO JAVA ROAD, JAVA ROAD TO NORTH POINT ROAD AND NORTH SIDE OF KING'S ROAD FROM BOAT STREET TO TONG SHUI ROAD.

IN SHEUNG SHUI, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, SAN FUNG AVENUE, AND LUNG SUM ROAD, INCLUDING SHEK WU HUI.

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