



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

PREScription FOR THE FUTURE	1
CALL FOR RESTRUCTURING OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	2
NEED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES	4
MORE CONTROLS URGED IN +BOUGHT+ SCHOOL PLACES	5
ABOLITION OF HK DOLLAR INTEREST TAX URGED	8
PUBLIC URGED +TO PUT ASIDE DOUBTS+	9
SEVERANCE PAY AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS	10
DUTY LAWYER SCHEME	12
CALL FOR MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	15
PLEA FOR AID TO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY	17
POSITIVE THINKING ON FUTURE OF HK URGED	19
LEGCO DEBATE	20
DUKE VISITS COLISEUM SITE	21
ANOTHER BUSY DAY FOR DUKE AND DUCHESS	22
LAST CHANGE TO REGISTER FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS	24
SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA IN WONG TAI SIN	25
YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW	26
SHORT TERM TENANCY INVITED FOR KWAI CHUNG SITE	26
CROWN LAND SOLD BY AUCTION	27
CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS BEING INTRODUCED	27
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON	28

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 1 -

PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENT REDEDICATION TO THE PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND TO THE ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH HAVE GIVEN US OUR FUNDAMENTAL PROSPERITY IS THE +BEST PRESCRIPTION+ TO THE CURRENT CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON ROGER LOBO SAID TODAY.

OPENING THE DEBATE ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR LOBO SAID THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE WORTH MUCH AT ALL IF IT WERE NOT A PLACE WHICH HAS GIVEN A GREAT MANY PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO ENJOY ESSENTIAL HUMAN VALUES IN A STABLE BUT STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT.

THIS, HE STRESSED, IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN AND IS WELL WORTH PRESERVING.

MR LOBO POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION PUTS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY ON ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION - BE THEY TYCOONS, PUBLIC SERVANTS, LEGISLATORS, ACADEMICS OR THE MEDIA.

+THIS IS NO TIME TO PUT OUR HEADS IN THE SAND BUT NEITHER IS IT A TIME TO OVER-DRAMATISE, TO SENSATIONALISE OR TO SPECULATE IDLY,+ HE WARNED.

+IT IS A TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AND TO STRIVE TO DO IT BETTER. WE MUST CARRY THE COMMUNITY WITH US AND THE INFORMATION GAP MUST NOT RE-OPEN.

+THIS ADMINISTRATION CARES FOR PEOPLE; IT IS THE BEDROCK ON WHICH HONG KONG'S FORTUNES ARE FOUNDED; AND IT IS THE CUSTODIAN OF OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

+WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO MAKE THIS CLEAR, AND I AM NOT CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO DO SO AND TO INVEST IN ITS OWN IMAGE.+

REFERRING TO THE PLANS AND POLICIES ON SOCIAL PROGRAMME AREAS, MR LOBO SAID THEY UNDERLINE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND RESTATE THE ENDEAVOURS WHICH WILL BE MADE TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, CRITICS AND OTHER FINGER POINTERS USUALLY FAIL TO APPRECIATE THE BASIC QUALITY THAT MAKES HONG KONG A MAGIC PLACE, NAMELY +CONTINUITY+, HE SAID +CONTINUITY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE RULE OF LAW AND A WILLINGNESS TO UPDATE WITHIN SENSIBLE LIMITS TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT ALWAYS WITHIN THE RULE OF LAW+.

IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S APPRECIATION FOR THE COUNCIL WORK DONE BEHIND THE SCENES BY THE UNOFFICIALS, MR LOBO SAID VERY LITTLE OF SUCH WORK IS ANY MORE SECRETIVE THAN ORDINARY BUSINESS SENSE WOULD DICTATE.

/IN FACT

IN FACT, HE POINTED OUT, THE UNOFFICIALS MEET THE PUBLIC AND RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS IN THE UMELCO OFFICE, AND POLICIES DISCUSSED IN THEIR PRELIMINARY STAGES BEHIND THE SCENES HAVE NO SIGNIFICANCE NOR EFFECT UNTIL THEY ARE OPENLY PRESENTED.

+A GREAT DEAL OF PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS WOULD NOT BE HELPED IN ANY WAY BY TRANSFERRING IT INTO PUBLIC SESSION SIMPLY TO ACHIEVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNOFFICIALS, AND I SUSPECT THAT EVEN LONGER PUBLIC DEBATES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OR CONFIDENCE IN THE MACHINERY OF POLICY MAKING.+

HE THEREFORE WELCOMED THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVES TO INTRODUCE MEASURES TO INCREASE PUBLIC INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE OF THE UNOFFICIALS, MR LOBO REMARKED THAT WITH THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL IN RECENT YEARS, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAVE IN PRACTICE SPOKEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SPEAK, FOR ALL CLASSES AND ALL INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF SETTING UP A WORKING PARTY ON THE PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL WOULD GIVE THE UNOFFICIALS +GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ORDERLY ADVANCEMENT OF OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS+.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CALL FOR RESTRUCTURING OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

* * * * *

DR THE HON HARRY FANG CALLED FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE UPPER ECHELON OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION +WHICH HAS REMAINED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED IN THE PAST DECADE+.

SPECIFICALLY, HE RECOMMENDED THE CREATION OF A SECRETARY FOR HEALTH POST, TO BE FILLED BY A MEDICALLY QUALIFIED PERSON, TO OVERSEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

HOWEVER, HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT HIS SUGGESTION DOES NOT IMPLY ANY CRITICISM OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO AT PRESENT PERFORM THIS ROLE.

+BUT THE POINT I WISH TO MAKE IS THAT WE HAVE OUTGROWN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND THERE IS A PRESSING NEED TO OUR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE IS TODAY THE ONLY MAJOR PROGRAMME AREA WHICH DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN POLICY CHIEF.

/+JUDGING FROM

+JUDGING FROM THE GROWING DEMAND ON THE HEALTH SERVICES AND THE SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT FORESHADOWED IN THE MEDICAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 80S, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CREATION OF A SECRETARY FOR HEALTH IS WELL JUSTIFIED.+

DR FANG NOTED THAT THE MODEST INCREASES TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S ESTABLISHMENT HAVE BARELY COPEDED WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY PRESSURES OF MORE HOSPITALS, MORE CLINICS AND MORE SPECIALTIES.

THIS PREOCCUPATION INEVITABLY MEANS THAT A GREAT DEAL OF LONG TERM PLANNING AND POLICY FORMULATION MUST BE LEFT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IS CHARGED WITH THESE IMPORTANT TASKS BUT HE AND HIS STAFF ARE GENERALIST ADMINISTRATORS, HE REMARKED.

+I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THEIR SKILLS AND INGENUITY, BUT THESE QUALITIES CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR A LACK OF PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND WIDE MEDICAL PERSPECTIVES.

+I BELIEVE THESE TO BE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES, IF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80S AND THE 90S.

+SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED TO SET THE RIGHT PRIORITIES IN OUR HEALTH PROGRAMME, RATIONALISE THE MANY COMPETING DEMANDS AND PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE BLUE PRINT FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.+

WHILE APPRECIATING THAT MOST OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 1974 WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, DR FANG SAID HE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT THIS PROCESS OF UPDATING IS NOT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CHARTING OUR FUTURE COURSE.

HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT ONCE THE DECISION TO SET UP A BRANCH AND TO APPOINT A SECRETARY HAS BEEN TAKEN, A REVIEW SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT TO LOOK AFRESH AT OUR HEALTH SERVICES AND TO PLAN FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

+THERE IS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ON WHICH THEY MAY DRAW.

+A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW WILL ENABLE US TO TAKE STOCK OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS, TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE AND TO DERIVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE LIMITED RESOURCES WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL,+ SAID DR FANG.

NEED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES

HONG KONG LACKS A SUFFICIENTLY WIDE RANGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES NEEDED TO COMPETE IN THE HIGHLY TECHNOLOGICALLY-ORIENTATED MARKETS OF THE FUTURE, DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BUT HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT HONG KONG IS NOT SHORT OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL OR OF MANAGERIAL TALENT.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT EFFORTS TO ASSIST HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY TO DIVERSIFY INTO NEW AND MORE REWARDING FIELDS, DR TIEN NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED THREE INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES IN TOKYO, LONDON AND STUTTGART WITHIN A COMPARATIVELY SHORT SPACE OF TIME.

AND A FOURTH ONE, IN SAN FRANCISCO, IS DUE TO OPEN AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

+THEREFORE THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, WITH THE PRIMARY AIM OF ATTRACTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES INTO HONG KONG, IS SOMETHING TO WHICH I FEEL SURE THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF HONG KONG WILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT,+ HE ADDED.

DR TIEN SAID HE WAS ALSO GLAD TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT TAKING STEPS TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE SORT OF FACILITIES WHICH LOCAL INDUSTRIES NEED, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT.

HE CALLED ON THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH ALL SPEED IN ESTABLISHING THE STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY WHICH, HE POINTED OUT, WILL BE A POPULAR AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

DR TIEN ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE EXISTING POLICY ON INDUSTRY, DESIGNED WITH MINIMUM INTERFERENCE ON THE ONE HAND AND PROVISION FOR APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND IMPETUS FOR HONG KONG TO ENTER INTO A NEW ERA OF ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE OTHER, WILL CONTINUE.

HE FELT THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON TEXTILES AND GARMENTS AS THE MAINSTAY OF ITS MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

+BUT WITH THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY INVESTORS, AND COMPLEMENTED BY THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, I AM SURE THE PROGRAMME OF DIVERSIFICATION WILL ADVANCE WITH SPEED AND DETERMINATION,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 5 -

MORE CONTROLS URGED IN +BOUGHT+ SCHOOL PLACES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMPOSE STRICTER CONTROLS ON PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH +BOUGHT+ PLACES IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THEIR QUALITY, THE REV THE HON JOYCE M. BENNETT SUGGESTED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, SHE SAID, PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE STAFFING RATIO AND REMEDIAL TEACHING REQUIREMENTS IN THESE SCHOOLS BE BROUGHT UP TO THE SAME STANDARD AS FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

+IF THESE SCHOOLS ARE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL CONTROLS AND SUPERVISION, THEY SHOULD NO LONGER BE SENT ANY STUDENTS UNDER THE BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME.

+WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL SCHOOLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAVE COMPARABLE STAFFING-RATIOS AND FACILITIES, SO THAT NO FAMILY CAN COMPLAIN THAT THEY ARE UNFAIRLY TREATED IN THE LOTTERY PROVISION FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT SAID SHE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A STUDY OF HOW TO IMPROVE +BOUGHT+ PLACES IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS SHE HAS BECOME +INCREASINGLY ALARMED+ AT THE CONTINUED RELIANCE ON SUCH PLACES, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS SUCH AS KWUN TONG WHERE THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PLACES.

AS A RESULT OF THE SYSTEM, SHE POINTED OUT, STUDENTS OF LOW ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT COMING FROM DEPRIVED AND SOCIALLY INADEQUATE BACKGROUNDS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER INTO HALF-DAY SCHOOLS WHERE THE DISCIPLINE IS LAX AND TEACHING STANDARDS NOT OF THE HIGHEST.

STUDENTS OF BI-SESSIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KWUN TONG ARE SEEN WANDERING THE STREETS AT ALMOST ANY TIME OF THE DAY, THUS BECOME READY PREYS TO GANGS AND TRIADS WHO ARE TRYING TO RECRUIT THEM.

MOREOVER, MISS BENNETT POINTED OUT, THE STUDENTS WHO ARE LEAST ABLE TO DO INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC WORK AND MOST ATTRACTED TO THE LEAST WORTHY LEISURE ACTIVITIES ARE AT PRESENT HERDED TOGETHER IN OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS.

+WHEREAS GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE 40 STUDENTS IN FORM I AND FORM IV, THESE PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE SENT 45 STUDENTS TO EACH OF THEIR CLASSES.

+THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE SCHOOLS NEED THE MAXIMUM OF 45 IN EACH CLASS IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF RECEIVING STUDENTS FROM THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF FORM I AND FORM IV STUDENTS.+

/BUT THE

BUT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE HESITATED TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS IN THESE SCHOOLS AS THEY FEAR THEIR MANAGERS WILL OBJECT TO THE LOWERING OF THEIR INCOME FROM FEES, SHE ADDED.

QUOTING STATISTICS, MISS BENNETT SAID 24.71 PER CENT, OR 22 000 OUT OF THE 89 000 NEW FORM 1 STUDENTS WERE ALLOCATED TO 64 SUCH SCHOOLS WITH BOUGHT PLACES IN SEPTEMBER 1982.

SHE EMPHASISED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PARENTS OF THESE STUDENTS HAVE NO CHOICE IN PLACING THEIR CHILDREN IN OTHER SCHOOLS BECAUSE THEY CAN NEITHER AFFORD TO SEND THEM OVERSEAS NOR TO THE GOVERNMENT AND FULLY-AIDED SCHOOLS WHERE THERE ARE FEW VACANCIES.

+I CONSIDER THIS ASPECT OF OUR SECONDARY EDUCATION TO BE SERIOUSLY IN NEED OF REMEDY, ESPECIALLY AS THE CHILDREN IN CERTAIN AREAS HAVE A MUCH HIGHER CHANCE OF GOING TO THESE SCHOOLS WHICH ARE LESS WELL PROVIDED.

+STUDY THE NUMBERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AVAILABLE TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOU WILL FIND THAT IN MANY PARTS OF KOWLOON, THE GREATER TSUEN WAN AREA AND THE YUEN LONG AREA, THERE IS A FAR GREATER CHANCE OF THE CHILD BEING ALLOCATED TO ONE OF THESE INFERIOR SCHOOLS,+ SHE SAID.

AS FOR THE TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO, MISS BENNETT SAID THAT IN THE SCHOOLS RUN BY ONE OF THE PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, THE RATIO IS 1:35= IN SCHOOLS OF ANOTHER ORGANISATION, IT IS 1:42; BUT IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS IT IS JUST 1:25.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS ALLOCATED ON THE BASIS OF THE STANDARD COST OF EDUCATION PER CHILD PER ANNUM IN 1982-83 AMOUNTED TO \$7 510 PER CHILD IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, \$5 914 IN AIDED SCHOOLS, AND \$1 872 IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH BOUGHT PLACES.

+I QUESTION WHETHER THIS MONEY IS BEING WISELY SPENT,+ SHE SAID.

+THE CHILDREN IN THOSE SCHOOLS ARE NOT BENEFITING FROM OUR EDUCATION REFORMS.

+HOW CAN THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCE ITS POLICY RELATING TO IMPROVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND OTHER MATTERS IN THESE SCHOOLS?+

IF THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTINUE TO USE THESE SCHOOLS, MISS BENNETT WENT ON, MORE MONEY SHOULD BE PUT INTO THEM IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THEIR QUALITY.

AND IF MORE MONEY IS GIVEN TO THEM IN SUBSIDY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE MORE DEMANDS ON THEM AND KEEP STRICTER CONTROL.

+WE MIGHT CONSIDER DRAWING UP A PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME FOR THESE SCHOOLS ON A PAR WITH THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL FOR THE UTILITIES,+ SHE SAID.

TURNING TO CHANGES IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION, MISS BENNETT CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING ALL THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL CLASSES IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS ENTIRELY UNDER THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

AS A MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE R.D.C.C., SHE RECENTLY LEARNT THAT POLICIES FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL CLASSES WERE NOT FORMULATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION BUT BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.

AND SHE WAS HORRIFIED TO LEARN THAT GOVERNMENT STILL DOES NOT CONSIDER HANDICAPPED CHILDREN DESERVE EDUCATION SIMILAR IN CONTENT AND DEPTH TO OTHER CHILDREN.

MISS BENNETT DEPLORED THAT EDUCATION POLICY DEALING WITH SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL CLASSES IS CLASSIFIED AS A +SERVICE+ AND THUS, PUT UNDER THE REHABILITATION SECTION OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH.

SHE CITED TWO EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE THE INEFFICIENCY RESULTING FROM THIS SEPARATION OF POLICIES REGARDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SLOWNESS IN THE BUILDING OF A SPECIAL SCHOOL.

+HOW EASY IT IS FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE TWO BRANCHES ARE INVOLVED,+ SHE SAID.

+LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE EXPERTISE OF THE EDUCATIONALISTS IS NECESSARY FOR THE PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF SPECIAL CLASSES AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

+THEN WE SHALL NOT HAVE ILL-CONCEIVED SCHEMES AND BADLY-PRESENTED PAPERS BASED ON UNSOUND EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PREMISES.+

MISS BENNETT FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT ALL THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BE PLACED UNDER THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SHE NOTED THAT A SMALL GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS FORMED TO STUDY THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD MET WITH THE HONG KONG ADVISER ON THESE INSTITUTIONS.

THE UNOFFICIALS, SHE POINTED OUT, WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT YOUNGSTERS ON REMAND AND PROBATION SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THOSE IN THE INSTITUTIONS UNDER CARE AND PROTECTION ORDER.

+WERE THEY SO SEPARATED, I BELIEVE WE COULD USE THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE OF OUR NEWLY-APPOINTED EXPERT IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO DRAW UP PROGRAMMES FOR THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO AT AN EARLY AGE ARE ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF BECOMING FUTURE CRIMINALS AND RECIDIVISTS.

+THIS WILL LEAVE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUNG PEOPLE FOUND TO BE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION,+ MISS BENNETT SAID.

ABOLITION OF HK DOLLAR INTEREST TAX URGED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY URGED TO ABOLISH THE INTEREST TAX ON THE DEPOSIT OF HONG KONG DOLLARS TO BOOST THE VALUE OF LOCAL CURRENCY.

DR THE HON HENRY HU SAID THIS WOULD ALSO INDIRECTLY LEND SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

HE NOTED THAT DUE IN PART TO THE WORLD-WIDE RECESSION, THE GROWTH OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR COULD NOT MATCH THAT OF THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTOR WHICH HAD NEARLY DOUBLED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS TO BECOME A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT AS THE WORLD GRADUALLY EMERGED FROM RECESSION, HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS WOULD BE THE FIRST TO BENEFIT BECAUSE OF THEIR SKILL AND ADAPTABILITY.

+HOWEVER,+ DR HU POINTED OUT, +BOTH THE TERTIARY SERVICES, INCLUDING THE RE-EXPORT TRADE, AND THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES NEED A STABLE CURRENCY.

+A STABLE CURRENCY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A STABLE SHARE MARKET.+

ON THE SUBJECT OF HOUSING, DR HU SAID IT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A KIND OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID MANY OF THE POORER PEOPLE HAD TO WAIT FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE TO GET A PUBLIC HOUSING UNIT BECAUSE OF THE LONG WAITING LIST AND +COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING+ ALLOCATION PROCEDURE.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE BETTER-OFF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WITH FAVOURABLE TERMS TO OWN A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLAT.

+I KNOW MANY ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN ADVANCED BOTH FOR AND AGAINST A MEANS TEST FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BUT I BELIEVE THAT WITH THE AID OF MODERN TECHNIQUES AND IN PARTICULAR THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERS AND DATA PROCESSORS THE VIABILITY OF SUCH TESTING COULD BE READILY RE-EXAMINED,+ HE SAID.

+THERE IS NO HARM IN RE-EXAMINING AN ISSUE AT ANY TIME.+

DR HU ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RE-EXAMINE ITS DECISION ON THE SALARY SCALE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

HE SAID THE LACK OF SOCIAL WORKERS GREATLY HAMPERED THE CARRYING OUT OF MANY SOCIAL SERVICES SCHEME AND PROJECTS.

+THE LOWERING OF THE STARTING SALARY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IS A FURTHER BLOW TO THE TRAINING AND RETAINING OF MUCH-NEEDED SOCIAL WORKERS IN HONG KONG,+ DR HU SAID.

- 9 -

PUBLIC URGED +TO PUT ASIDE DOUBTS+
* * * * *

THE HON LYDIA DUNN CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO REMAIN A DESIRABLE, REWARDING AND CHALLENGING PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK IN.

+THAT IS TO SAY, WE MUST PUT ASIDE OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS ABOUT THE FUTURE AND CONCENTRATE ALL OUR ENERGIES ON 'THE COMMON ENTERPRISE',[†] SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THIS WHOLE COMMUNITY IS ENGAGED IN, AND COMMITTED TO, THE SAME COMMON ENTERPRISE WHICH IS +TO SEE THIS CITY OF OURS SAFELY THROUGH THIS PRESENT PHASE IN ITS HISTORY+.

AS WE HAVE ENTERED THE 1980'S, THERE IS GROWING CONCERN ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

THIS COULD HAVE A REALLY DAMAGING IMPACT ON THE FABRIC OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE, IF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING ARE PROTRACTED, SHE WARNED.

+THE PASSAGE OF TIME WILL GENERATE FEARS AND UNCERTAINTIES HERE AND FRUSTRATIONS AND ACRIMONY ELSEWHERE, WHICH WILL NOT HELP IN THE SEARCH FOR A SATISFACTORY AND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

+I AM NOT ADVOCATING HASTE, BUT MEASURED PROGRESS.

+HONG KONG PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT THE ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED ARE COMPLEX AND THEY CAN BE RELIED UPON TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF THE TALKS WHICH HAVE JUST BEGUN IN PEKING CALMLY, PROVIDED THEY FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THEIR INTERESTS AND WISHES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND THAT BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS WISH TO SEEK AGREEMENT AND TO AVOID DISPUTE.+

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE WELCOMED THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS WHICH SPELLED OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND ITS CONTINUITY TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROGRAMMES VIGOROUSLY.

THERE MAY BE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE INDIFFERENT ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THERE MAY BE SOME FAINT HEARTS AND SOME CYNICS.

BUT MISS DUNN BELIEVED THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG - BE THEY IN THE PUBLIC OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IN INDUSTRY OR COMMERCE, OF SUBSTANTIAL OR MODEST MEANS, LONG TIME RESIDENTS OR FAIRLY RECENT ARRIVALS, CHINESE OR NON-CHINESE, OLD OR YOUNG, AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE AND HAVE THEIR BEING HERE - COLLECTIVELY INVOKE A SENSE OF PURPOSE IN TROUBLED TIMES.

+HOW ELSE CAN HONG KONG'S TRACK RECORD OF SURVIVAL, COUPLED WITH PROSPERITY AND STABILITY AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, BE EXPLAINED?+ SHE ASKED.

MISS DUNN

MISS DUNN ALSO NOTED THAT DURING THE PAST 40 YEARS, HONG KONG HAS EXPERIENCED OCCUPATION BY AN INVADER AND DESTITUTION, THE BACKWASH OF REGIONAL TURBULENCE, SURGES IN THE SIZE OF POPULATION, NATURAL DISASTERS AND A WORLD TRADING AND MONETARY SYSTEM WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO A SMALL AND EXPOSED ECONOMY SUCH AS HONG KONG'S.

+INDEED, AT NO TIME IN THE LIVING MEMORY OF 80 PER CENT OF OUR POPULATION HAS HONG KONG ENJOYED A TRANQUIL ECONOMIC SETTING OR A CERTAINTY ABOUT ITS POLITICAL FUTURE.

+YET, AS A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL JOURNALIST PUT IT RECENTLY WHEN DISCUSSING OUR PREDILECTION FOR RECURRING CRISIS: 'REALISM AND PRAGMATISM HAVE ALWAYS PREVAILED IN THE END'.

+I BELIEVE THEY WILL LIKewise ENSURE THAT WE DO SO AGAIN,+ SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEVERANCE PAY AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS
* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S DELAY IN IMPROVING THE LEGISLATION ON SEVERANCE PAY AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS CAME UNDER ATTACK BY THE REV HON PATRICK MCGOVERN TODAY.

ALTHOUGH HE WELCOMED THE DECISION TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF SEVERANCE PAY, FR MCGOVERN NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS THAT A WORKING GROUP COULD, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, BECOME A CAUSE OF DELAY.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN TOO LONG A DELAY IN FINDING REMEDIES FOR THE DEFECTS IN THE PRESENT LEGISLATION AND IN IMPROVING ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

THE LAST AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATION, HE SAID, WAS MADE IN 1977 AND IT WOULD SOON BE 1983.

SIX YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO WAIT FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE EVERY YEAR, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY ARE UNEMPLOYED AND THEREFORE IN THE GREATEST NEED, HE ADDED.

/+ I THEREFORE

+I THEREFORE ISSUE A PLEA THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD WORK AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

+IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO THIS BECAUSE SINCE SEVERANCE PAY WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974 MANY REPRESENTATIONS WERE MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LEGISLATION.+

FR MCGOVERN WAS ALSO DISTURBED TO SEE THE UNDESIRABLE DISPARITY IN THE TREATMENT OF BLUE COLLAR WORKERS GETTING 10 PAID HOLIDAYS AND WHITE COLLAR WORKERS, EITHER BY LAW OR BY CUSTOM, GETTING 17 PAID PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

AND IT HAS TAKEN FROM 1976 TO 1982, AGAIN SIX YEARS, TO NARROW THE GAP BY ONE MEASLY DAY.

HE CONTENDED THAT AT THAT PACE, IT WOULD BE THE YEAR 2019 BEFORE EQUALITY IS REACHED, ADDING THAT IF HE WERE TO LIVE TO SEE THE DAY HE WOULD BE IN HIS 99TH YEAR.

AS FACTORIES AND OTHER BUSINESSES ARE WORKING SHORTER HOURS IN THE PRESENT RECESSION, FR MCGOVERN SUGGESTED THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO EASE THE BURDEN ON WORKERS BY CHANGING SOME OF THAT IDLE TIME TO HOLIDAY TIME.

+TO ADD SAY TWO DAYS A YEAR FOR EACH OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS, OR THREE DAYS A YEAR FOR EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WOULD I SUGGEST BE A MORE REASONABLE SPEED AT WHICH TO CLOSE THE SIX-DAY GAP THAN THE PRESENT PACE OF ONE DAY IN SIX YEARS,+ HE SAID.

+AND PLEASE, LET NO ONE HAVE THE TEMERITY TO SUGGEST CLOSING THE GAP BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM 17.

+AFTER ALL IT IS 11 YEARS SINCE WE CONSCIOUSLY SET OUT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.+

ANOTHER AREA OF DELAY WHICH FR MCGOVERN EXPRESSED CONCERN IS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS.

HE NOTED THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IS DOING A GOOD JOB AND DESERVES OUR SUPPORT.

HE THEREFORE CALLED FOR THE EARLY INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION TO CONTROL HIRE PURCHASE WHICH, HE BELIEVED, WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BE NECESSARY WHEN THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN 1977.

AT THE SAME TIME, FR MCGOVERN ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO LOOK INTO THE LEGISLATION ON THE CONTROL OF TRAVEL AGENTS AND THE URGENTLY-NEEDED LEGISLATION ON PRODUCT SAFETY.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 12 -

DUTY LAWYER SCHEME

* * *

A PLEA TO EXTEND THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME TO THE FANLING AND KWUN TONG MAGISTRACIES WAS MADE BY THE HON PETER C. WONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE FACT THAT THOSE CHARGED WITH SCHEDULED OFFENCES AT THESE TWO MAGISTRACIES ARE NOT PROVIDED WITH FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS +REPUGNANT TO OUR SOCIAL CONSCIENCE+.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME, INTRODUCED IN 1979 FOR THOSE WHO CAN ILL AFFORD TO PAY LEGAL FEES, NOW COVERS NINE SCHEDULED OFFENCES IN SIX OF THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES, NAMELY CAUSEWAY BAY, WESTERN, SAN PO KONG, NORTH KOWLOON, SOUTH KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACIES.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 6 913 DEFENDANTS WERE ACCORDED LEGAL REPRESENTATION WITH AN ACQUITTAL RATE OF 71 PER CENT IN NOT GUILTY PLEA CASES. THESE COMPARED WITH 3 036 DEFENDANTS GIVEN LEGAL REPRESENTATION WITH AN ACQUITTAL RATE OF 54 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1979, HE SAID.

THE AVERAGE COST PER DEFENDANT IN 1979 WAS \$440 WHILE THAT FOR 1982 IS \$407.

ALTOGETHER 180 BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS ARE NOW UNDERTAKING THE TASK OF OFFERING REPRESENTATION IN THE SIX MAGISTRACIES, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 80 OVER THE 1979 FIGURE.

IN ADDITION, MR WONG WENT ON, OVER 20 VOLUNTARY LAWYERS PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ADVICE AT SIX EVENING CENTRES LOCATED IN THE VARIOUS CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

ABOUT 100 APPLICANTS BENEFIT WEEKLY FROM THEIR EXPERT ADVICE ON A WIDE RANGE OF LEGAL PROBLEMS.

+I AM ASSURED BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCHEMES THAT SUFFICIENT MANPOWER IS AVAILABLE AND SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING FORTHCOMING IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE A TERRITORY-WIDE DUTY LAWYER SCHEME BY 1983.+ SAID MR WONG.

+WITH A MODEST INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE, GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES IN ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES IN THE TERRITORY.+

ON THE SUBJECT OF LANDLORD AND TENANT, MR WONG OPINED THAT IN THE PROVISION OF SECURITY OF TENURE TO TENANTS OF PREMISES NOT SUBJECT TO RENT CONTROL, +THE PENDULUM HAS SWUNG TOO FAR TO THE SIDE OF THE TENANTS+.

/HE URGED

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ACTIVELY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNRESOLVED:

- * SET SOME TIME LIMIT ON THE PERIOD FOR WHICH A TENANCY CAN BE RENEWED UNDER THE NEW PART IV OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE;
- * INTRODUCE SOME PROVISION IN THE NEW PART IV TO ENABLE PROPERTY OWNERS, PARTICULARLY SMALL INVESTORS, TO DISPOSE OF THEIR PROPERTY WITH VACANT POSSESSION;
- * REVIEW THE POSITION OF THE CORPORATE LANDLORD WHO REQUIRES THE PREMISES FOR THE OCCUPATION OF ITS OWN EMPLOYEES;
- * IMPOSE SPECIFIC TIME LIMITS FOR DETERMINATION OF RENT AND
- * PROVIDE SOME FORM OF APPEAL AGAINST DECISIONS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL GENERALLY.

TURNING TO HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, MR WONG SAID IT IS AN AREA WHERE HIGH PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ITS IMPROVEMENT.

QUOTING STATISTICS, HE SAID THERE WERE 487 000 PEOPLE AGED 60 OR OVER IN 1981 AND THE NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO REACH 634 000 BY 1987. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE 375 PLACES AVAILABLE AT THE CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR WHILE THE NUMBER ON THE WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION SHOWED A SHORT-FALL OF 704 PLACES.

+IN THE FACE OF CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS, MANY OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE,+ HE SAID.

+THERE IS THEREFORE A STRONG CASE TO REVISE UPWARDS TO A MORE REALISTIC LEVEL THE STANDARD OF FOUR PLACES PER 1 000 OLD PEOPLE IN RESPECT OF CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES.+

/MR WONG

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 14 -

MR WONG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER ISSUING OLD PEOPLE OVER 60 OR 65 WITH A SENIOR CITIZEN CARD WHICH ENTITLES THEM TO CONCESSIONARY RATES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTS, AND ADMISSION TO CULTURAL OR RECREATIONAL EVENTS.

ON MEDICAL SERVICES, MR WONG CALLED FOR THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF A HOSPITAL SERVING THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF PRECIOUS LIFE, HE WARNED.

+IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSTANTLY REVIEW THE PRIORITIES OF VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS,+ HE ADDED.

AS FOR SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, MR WONG SAID HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE REVIEW ON THE PROVISION OF SUCH SERVICES WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO ITS FINDINGS.

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +APART FROM EXPANDING MEDICAL AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SUCH PATIENTS, GOVERNMENT SHOULD URGENTLY CONSIDER THE MANPOWER NEEDS IN THIS AREA AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY VOCATIONAL AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR STAFFS AT ALL LEVELS.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE WHETHER THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH.

ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, MR WONG SAID HE AGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR THAT +WE SHALL BE PRUDENT IN OUR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FOR WE MUST NOT LIVE BEYOND OUR MEANS+.

IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG, HE POINTED OUT, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PURSUE A POLICY OF DEFICIT FINANCING.

+HOW THE VARIOUS PRIORITIES SHOULD BE SET IS A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

+BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT UNDER YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ABLE ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE IN THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY,+ MR WONG SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/15

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 15 -

CALL FOR MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

* * * * *

THE NEED FOR GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY HONG KONG CITIZENRY, AND INVOLVEMENT BY A WIDER SPECTRUM OF THAT CITIZENRY, MUST NOW BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND GIVEN MOMENTUM, DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+WE HAVE TODAY A MUCH BETTER EDUCATED SOCIETY THAN WE HAD EVEN TEN YEARS AGO, A SOCIETY WHICH DESERVES TO BE INVOLVED MORE CLOSELY IN ITS OWN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATION OF ITS WISHES AND NEEDS AS A COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

IN A SPEECH AT THE POLICY DEBATE HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED TO EXPAND THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AT VARIOUS LEVELS, DR HUANG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INCREASING RESPONSIVENESS TO PUBLIC NEED AND PUBLIC OPINION IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN MATCHED BY AN INCREASING PUBLIC INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THIS INTEREST IS INVIGORATING AND VITAL TO OUR FUTURE WELL-BEING.

IT REFLECTS THE LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS OF AN INCREASINGLY WELL-EDUCATED COMMUNITY NOT ONLY TO VOICE ITS OPINIONS AND ITS NEEDS, HE SAID, BUT TO PARTICIPATE AND TO SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT.

HE NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSION LATELY ABOUT THE TYPE OF ADMINISTRATION BEST SUITED TO HONG KONG'S NEEDS IN THE FUTURE.

+THE SAFEST WAY OF ENSURING A WORKABLE AND EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK IS TO TAKE STEPS NOW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TYPE OF ADMINISTRATION WHICH WE KNOW WE WILL NEED AND TO NURTURE ITS HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, SO THAT IT WILL TAKE ROOT AND BE RESPECTED,+ HE SAID.

THE RECENT CREATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAS PROVIDED AN IMMENSE IMPETUS IN THIS DIRECTION, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO RE-EXAMINE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER.

+I HOPE THAT IN THIS EXERCISE WE SHALL EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND INDEED TRANSFORM IT,+ HE ADDED.

+WE SHOULD ENSURE REAL CONSULTATION AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF OUR SYSTEM AND IN EACH OF THE AREAS OF OUR ACTIVITIES SO AS TO ENGENDER THE FEELING OF A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT.+

TURNING TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR HUANG CONSIDERED THAT CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE +DISPROPORTIONATELY+ REPRESENTED IN THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP DESPITE THE SLIGHT BROADENING OF THE SPECTRUM FROM WHICH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DRAWN OVER THE PAST YEARS.

AND IN CERTAIN MATTERS, HE SAID, THIS CAN HAVE THE EFFECT OF MISREPRESENTATION OF THE WISHES AND THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

/NOTING THE

NOTING THE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE OF THE ELECTORATE IN BOTH NUMBERS AND ENTHUSIASM TO THE RECENTLY CREATED DISTRICT BOARDS, HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD BE LINKED IN AN INDIRECT BUT LOGICAL WAY WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

+IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE OPPORTUNITY NOW EXISTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS NOW BIPARTITE, WITH OFFICIAL MEMBERS AND APPOINTED NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS, TO BECOME TRIPARTITE, AND IN PART INDIRECTLY ELECTED.

+IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED INTENTION FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS TO BE OPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ELECTED MEMBERS.

+IF THESE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE TO HAVE THEIR ELECTED CHAIRMEN JOIN THE RANKS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO FORM A THIRD TYPE OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG WOULD HAVE A MUCH MORE DIRECT CHANNEL THAN HAS HITHERTO BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE EXPRESSION IN THE HIGHER COUNCILS OF HONG KONG OF GRASS-ROOT OPINION.

+THIS WILL, AS WELL, INVIGORATE THE DISTRICT BOARDS THEMSELVES IN PROVIDING THEM WITH A DIRECT LINK TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS,+ HE SAID.

DR HUANG ALSO CALLED FOR A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AT ALL THE INTERMEDIATE LEVELS.

HE FELT THE WORK OF THE EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEES IS ALL TOO OFTEN EMPTY OF MEANING AND APPARENTLY ISOLATED FROM THE DECISIONS THAT ARE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE.

CONSEQUENTLY, IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THE INITIAL ENTHUSIASM OF MEMBERS OFTEN TURNS TO SCEPTICISM.

+WE SHOULD PERHAPS EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING THESE COMMITTEES SOMETHING MORE THAN ADVISORY.

+AT THE LEAST WE SHOULD BE GIVEN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN APPOINTED COMMITTEES AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 17 -

PLEA FOR AID TO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DIVERGE FROM ITS TRADITIONAL NON-INTERVENTION POLICY AND ADOPT A MORE ACTIVE AND POSITIVE STANCE TO ASSIST THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID TODAY.

+I HASTEN TO SAY THAT I AM NEITHER SEEKING DIRECT INTERVENTION NOR MARKET FORCES INTERFERENCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT,+ MR WONG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE RESUMED POLICY DEBATE.

+I APPEAL FOR SOME FORM OF ACTION OR GESTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT AS CATALYST TO ASSIST INDUSTRIES TO OVERCOME THE TRIBULATIONS, TO RECUPERATE AND TO REVITALISE.+

ALTHOUGH IT IS COMMENDABLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE TRAINING OF SKILLED MANPOWER, AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH GROWTH AND STABILITY IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES COULD BE ACHIEVED, MR WONG THOUGHT THAT THE EFFECTS OF THESE MEASURES COULD NOT BE FELT IMMEDIATELY NOR SHORTLY ENOUGH.

+THE GRAVITY OF OUR PRESENT PREDICAMENT CLEARLY CALLS FOR ALTERNATIVE MEASURES URGENTLY,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY FACTORIES ARE NOW STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL, WHICH NOT ONLY AFFECTS THE SO-CALLED +SUNSET INDUSTRIES+ BUT ALSO THE VANGUARD INDUSTRIES.

GRANTED THAT SOME ESTABLISHMENTS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH TECHNOLOGY AND THUS MAY BE RENDERED ECONOMICALLY NOT VIABLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE, AND GRANTED THAT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF RESTRUCTURING MAY BE DESIRABLE TOWARDS OUR CONSOLIDATION EFFORT, MR WONG SAID +WE CANNOT DISOWN THESE MARGINAL INDUSTRIALISTS AND INDUSTRIES THAT ARE NOW FACING DIFFICULTIES.+

+THEY WOULD SURVIVE IN LESS VOLATILE SITUATIONS.

+MOREOVER, THEY REPRESENT WISDOM, SKILL, AND PRACTICALITY, AND IT WOULD BE CLEARLY WRONG TO APATHETICALLY STREAMLINE THEM OUT OF EXISTENCE.

+INSTEAD, WE SHOULD BE EMBARKING ON SHORT TERM INITIATIVES URGENTLY TO CONSOLIDATE OUR EXISTING MANUFACTURING BASE AND TO BRACE OURSELVES FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES.+

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT A TALK OF UTOPIA, BUT A CAREFUL AND REALISTIC CONSIDERATION.

/AND HE

AND HE THOUGHT THAT IF WE PURSUED IN THIS DIRECTION, +WE WOULD NOT BE ABANDONING OUR POLICY OF FREE ECONOMY AND NON-INTERVENTIONISM+.

+WE WOULD SIMPLY BE REACTING TO THE URGENT NEEDS OF OUR INDUSTRIES LIKE A RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTABLE GOVERNMENT WOULD, FOLLOWING THE WISE EXAMPLES OF OTHERS, SO MANY OF WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL BEFORE, AND FOR WHICH REASON I SHALL NOT REPEAT THEM HERE,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PUBLIC FINANCES, MR WONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO ADOPT A PIECE-MEAL APPROACH IN HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE WAS REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

+AN EFFICIENT ROAD NETWORK IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NEW TOWNS IN THE AREA.

+TO REDUCE THE SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT OR TO DELAY OUR PROGRAMME OF ROAD WORKS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF NEARLY ONE MILLION PEOPLE.

+THE SHEER NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED WOULD JUSTIFY THESE PROGRAMMES TO BE AWARDED HIGH PRIORITY,+ HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE PUBLIC SERVICE, MR WONG SAID HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUE COST OF SERVICES BY A COMPUTER-BASED FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM TO ASSIST MANAGEMENT DECISION IS THE ANSWER TO ASSESS WHETHER PUBLIC FUNDS HAVE BEEN SPENT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

NOR DID HE BELIEVE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUE COST COULD BE A VALID MEASURING INSTRUMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTIVITY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE WAS THEREFORE GLAD TO LEARN THAT FURTHER EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE BY IMPROVED STAFF MANAGEMENT.

- - - - O - - - -

POSITIVE THINKING ON FUTURE OF HK URGED
* * * *

THERE OUGHT TO BE A GREAT FUTURE FOR HONG KONG AND PEOPLE HERE SHOULD THEREFORE START THINKING POSITIVELY AND CAST THEIR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG IN A MATERIAL AND REALISTIC WAY, THE HON JOHN SWAINE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SWAINE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE CONFIDENCE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY BY THE MASSIVE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE HERE, AS SET OUT IN THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

+THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL GET THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE: MAKE SURE IT IS ONE OF CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE RECENT TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, MR SWAINE SAID THE IMMEDIATE OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOMED WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM, HAVING REGARD TO THE JOINT STATEMENT DECLARING THE COMMON AIM OF THE TWO SIDES.

+INSTEAD, THERE HAS BEEN A PERVASIVE SENSE OF GLOOM, WITH THE STOCK MARKET RUNNING ITS ERRATIC AND DOWNWARD COURSE.

+THIS IS OF COURSE MOST UNFORTUNATE AND I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT, HAD THERE BEEN LESS SENSATIONAL AND MORE RESPONSIBLE REPORTING, PUBLIC REACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE POSITIVE.+

MR SWAINE SAID THE DANGER IS THAT PEOPLE HERE WILL WORRY THEMSELVES INTO A CRISIS.

HE ADDED THAT IT IS THE ESSENCE OF THE TALKS NOW UNDER WAY THAT CONFIDENTIALITY SHOULD BE PRESERVED, BUT THAT SHOULD NOT INHIBIT AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE BASIC ASSUMPTIONS WITH WHICH SHE BEGAN THE TALKS.

+IT IS EASY TO SPEAK OF MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN REAL TERMS IN ORDER THAT THE COMMON AIM OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BE MAINTAINED?+ HE ASKED.

+FIRST AND FOREMOST IN MY VIEW,+ HE WENT ON, +IS THE CONTINUATION OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION. AS A CONCOMITANT, THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW AS WE KNOW IT MUST CONTINUE.+

MR SWAINE SAID CHANGE MUST COME BY EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, NOT THROUGH HAVING IT THRUST UPON US.

+NO DOUBT IN THE COURSE OF TIME CHANGES WILL COME ABOUT, BUT OUR BASIC INSTITUTIONS MUST REMAIN. WITHOUT THESE, I FEAR THAT THE COMMON AIM WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF ATTAINMENT.+

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 20 -

ON HONG KONG PASSPORTS, A SUBJECT WHICH HE SAID HAS BEEN MUCH MISUNDERSTOOD, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND IN THE U.K., MR SWAINE SAID THE BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT OF 1981 DOES NOT CHANGE THE NATIONAL STATUS OF HONG KONG PASSPORT HOLDERS IN THAT THEY OWE ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN AND ARE ENTITLED AS A MATTER OF RECIPROCITY TO HER PROTECTION WHEN ABROAD.

+THIS IS WHERE THE PASSPORT COMES INTO ITS OWN. IT TELLS THE WORLD THAT THE TRAVELLER ENJOYS THE PROTECTION OF THE CROWN. HENCE IT IS RIGHT, LOGICALLY AND CLEARLY RIGHT, THAT THE PASSPORT SHOULD PROCLAIM THE NATIONAL STATUS OF THE HOLDER, NAMELY BRITISH.+

+THESE VIEWS HAVE BEEN URGED UPON THE U.K. GOVERNMENT AND WE HAVE HAD THE ASSURANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN IN HONG KONG THAT SHE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION.

+THE TIME IS PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE FOR SUCH REVIEW, AND I THINK HONG KONG WOULD BE DEEPLY AND UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED IF THE U.K. GOVERNMENT WERE NOT TO AGREE WITH US,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS :

LEGCO DEBATE
* * *

THE HON T.S. LO AND THE HON ALEX WU ALSO SPOKE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THEIR SPEECHES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION LATER TODAY FROM THE GIS PRESS BOXES ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 21 -

DUKE VISITS COLISEUM SITE

* * * *

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT THIS MORNING VISITED THE HONG KONG COLISEUM NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY TERMINUS AT HUNG HOM.

THE DUKE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SCALE OF THE STADIUM WHICH WILL BE ASIA'S LARGEST WHEN COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, MR D.W.T. MOK; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN; THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR B.D. WILSON AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S CAPITAL WORKS SELECT COMMITTEE, MR LAWRENCE FUNG.

AFTER VIEWING AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS, MODELS AND DRAWINGS OF THE STADIUM AND A SHORT FILM SHOWING THE LOWERING OF THE STADIUM ROOF, THE DUKE TOURED THE 12 000-SEAT STADIUM.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY MR MOK ASSISTED BY THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT, MR JOSEPH LEI; MR Y.Y. LAM, CHIEF STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, ON DESIGN AND STRUCTURAL MATTERS. ALSO PRESENT WAS MR S.D. CHIU OF TECHNIC CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD., MAIN CONTRACTOR.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE UNUSUAL STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF THE STADIUM, AND THE FACILITIES IT WILL PROVIDE.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE STADIUM IS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS COMPLEX. BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRAINT OF THE NUMEROUS RAILWAY TRACKS THAT RAN BENEATH THE PODIUM FROM WHICH LEVEL THE STADIUM WAS BUILT, ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUPPORTS CAN BE PROVIDED BETWEEN THE RAILWAY TRACKS.

AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRAINT, THE STADIUM TAKES ON A BOLD FORM OF AN INVERTED PYRAMID SPRINGING OUT FROM THE FEW SUPPORTS CARRIED DOWN THROUGH THE RAILWAY TRACKS LEVEL TO CAISSON FOUNDATIONS BELOW.

BEFORE ENDING HIS 50-MINUTE VISIT, THE DUKE MET MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AT A RECEPTION.

LATER IN THE MORNING, THE DUKE MET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, MR MICHAEL SANDBERG, AND ITS OTHER EXECUTIVES IN THE HILTON HOTEL'S BALLROOM WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE BANK'S NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN CENTRAL.

THE ARCHITECT, MR NORMAN FOSTER, EXPLAINED THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE BUILDING WHICH WILL BE 183 METRES HIGH WITH THREE STRUCTURAL BAYS OF 28, 35 AND 41 STOREYS EACH.

/THE BUILDING,

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 22 -

THE BUILDING, WHICH WILL HAVE MORE THAN 71 500 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE OFFICE AND BANKING SPACE, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR OCCUPATION BY MID-1985.

IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THAT ONE OF THE UNUSUAL TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE THE MAJOR USE OF COMPONENTS ASSEMBLED OFF-SITE.

AFTER THE BRIEFING, THE DUKE VISITED THE BANK'S HEADQUARTERS SITE TO SEE WORK IN PROGRESS.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

ANOTHER BUSY DAY FOR DUKE AND DUCHESS
* * * *

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT WILL HAVE ANOTHER BUSY DAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IN THE MORNING, THE DUCHESS WILL BE VISITING THE MARINERS' CLUB, ACCOMPANIED BY LADY YOUDE. AFTERWARDS, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN WAN CHAI.

THE ACADEMY, WHICH WILL OCCUPY A 23 000 SQUARE-METRE SITE ALONG THE WAN CHAI WATERFRONT, WILL BE THE FIRST CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN HONG KONG FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS WILL THEN ATTEND A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT WHICH THE DUKE WILL SPEAK.

LATER IN THE DAY, THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES WILL VISIT OCEAN PARK WHERE THEY WILL VIEW THE FACILITIES AND WATCH HIGH DIVING AND DOLPHIN SHOWS.

IN THE EVENING, THE DUKE AND DUCHESS WILL DINE WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AT SWIRE HOUSE.

- - - - -

/NOTE TO EDITORS:

NOTE TO EDITORS :

PRESS FACILITIES

VISIT TO MARINERS' CLUB

ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THIS FUNCTION ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE MARINERS' CLUB IN MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 9.50 AM SHARP. GIS OFFICERS WILL ESCORT THEM TO THE PRESS POSITIONS.

HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

THERE WILL BE A PRESS POSITION FOR ACCREDITED PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN NEAR TO THE FOUNDATION STONE TO BE LAID BY THE DUCHESS. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THIS EVENT ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAY TO THE SITE IN FENWICK PIER STREET. THEY SHOULD ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 10.45 AM.

VISIT TO OCEAN PARK

PRESS TRANSPORT FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE CGO CARPARK FOR OCEAN PARK AT 2.15 PM SHARP.

DINNER WITH UMELCO

THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY OUTSIDE SWIRE HOUSE IN PEDDER STREET TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF SWIRE HOUSE AT 7.40 PM.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 24 -

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

* * * * *

RESIDENTS IN THE URBAN AREAS WILL HAVE THEIR LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR'S URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE ELECTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS NEXT MARCH WHEN THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF ALL SERVING ELECTED MEMBERS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE.

+THOSE WHO WISH TO VOTE OR STAND AS A CANDIDATE AT THE ELECTIONS, BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR BECAUSE, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY WERE ABSENT FROM HONG KONG, MAY NOW MAKE A LATE APPLICATION,+ SAID THE REGISTRATION OFFICER, MR C.W. WONG.

HE SAID THAT FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29) TO DECEMBER 6, ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS CAN CALL AT THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM AND LODGE IT IN PERSON WITH THE REGISTRATION OFFICER. THIS WILL NOT TAKE MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES.

DURING THIS PERIOD, A COMPLETE PROVISIONAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS IN TEN URBAN AND EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:-

- (A) REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE,
18TH FLOOR, NEW MERCURY HOUSE,
22 FENWICK STREET,
HONG KONG.
- (B) CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS,
5TH FLOOR, HK HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING,
101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD,
KOWLOON.
- (C) OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HK AND KOWLOON), CNTA,
9TH FLOOR, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING,
141 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL,
HONG KONG.

PARTS OF THE REGISTER WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.

MR WONG SAID ONE REASON FOR PUBLICISING THE REGISTER WAS TO ENABLE ANY OBJECTIONS TO BE RAISED AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE NOT ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED OR WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED IN THE CONSTITUENCY WHERE THEY LIVE.

OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON A SPECIFIED FORM OBTAINABLE FROM THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE AND LODGED IN PERSON WITH THE REGISTRATION OFFICER. THE OBJECTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE REVISING OFFICER.

/MR WONG

- 25 -

MR WONG ALSO ADVISED ELECTORS WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES TO WRITE TO HIS OFFICE, QUOTING THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS, THEIR FULL NAMES AND THEIR NEW ADDRESSES.

ALTERNATIVELY, THEY CAN COMPLETE A SPECIAL FORM FOR THIS PURPOSE, WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OR ANY POST OFFICE.

+THOSE WHO CAN REPORT THEIR CHANGE OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY DECEMBER 31 WILL BE ABLE TO SWITCH THE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH THEY VOTE TO THE ONE IN WHICH THEY NOW LIVE,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA IN WONG TAI SIN

* * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S \$500 000 +SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA+, FIRST SHOWN IN THE HUNG HOM POLYTECHNIC EARLIER THIS YEAR, WAS BEING RE-STAGED IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS TO BRING THE MESSAGE ABOUT SAFETY TO WORKERS, AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG, SAID IN WONG TAI SIN THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR YIU WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE WONG TAI SIN SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE LOK SIN TONG WONG CHUNG MING SECONDARY SCHOOL.

SPONSORED BY THE SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, THE 12-MINUTE SOUND-ON-SLIDE SHOW, AND AN EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY DISPLAY PANELS, WILL CLOSE ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 2.

MR YIU URGED RESIDENTS AND WORKERS IN WONG TAI SIN TO VISIT THE SHOW, AND APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES TO SEE THE SHOW.

HE SAID THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PROMOTE SAFETY AT WORK AND NOTED THAT IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WERE BEGINNING TO BE MORE AWARE OF SAFETY PROBLEMS IN RECENT YEARS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEE, MR STEPHEN LEUNG SAID THAT THE SHOW HAD GREAT MEANING TO WONG TAI SIN WHERE THERE WERE ABOUT 3 600 INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING ABOUT 90 000 WORKERS.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SHOW WOULD INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT SAFETY AT WORK AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR, WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS, AND HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF WONG TAI SIN.

MR KU SZE-CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE KOWLOON LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LATER PERFORMED THE +SWITCHING-ON+ CEREMONY TO OPEN THE SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 26 -

YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW

* * * *

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

AT THE MEETING, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, MR PETER WILLIAMS, WILL TALK ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK OF THE ICAC. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A PAPER ON WATER SUPPLY IN YUEN LONG AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR GRAHAM LOW, WILL TALK ABOUT ROADS AND DRAINS AT TONG YAN SAN TSUEN.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HA TSUEN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR TANG CHE-CHEUNG, WILL RAISE THE MATTER OF BUS SHELTERS TO BE BUILT ALONG NEW ROADS OR HIGHWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE. A 14-SEATER GOVERNMENT VAN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8 AM FOR YUEN LONG.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

SHORT TERM TENANCY INVITED FOR KWAI CHUNG SITE

* * * * *

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND IN KWAI CHUNG.

THE SITE, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 15 480 SQUARE METRES IN KWAI HEI STREET, IS TO BE USED FOR PARKING LICENSED CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS ONLY.

THE TENANCY WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR INITIALLY AND THEREAFTER QUARTERLY.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN AT THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING, 1ST - 4TH FLOORS, 455-457 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 27 -

CROWN LAND SOLD BY AUCTION
* * * *

TWO PIECES OF CROWN LAND WERE SOLD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AT AN AUCTION HELD IN THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TODAY.

THE FIRST LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 3 120 SQUARE METRES IN KOWLOON BAY, IS FOR INDUSTRY AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO SILEXINE LIMITED FOR \$8 MILLION OR \$2 564.1 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE SECOND SITE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN MEASURES ABOUT 871 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO TIMMS INVESTMENT LIMITED FOR \$1.6 MILLION OR \$1 836.97 PER SQUARE METRE.

ANOTHER GODOWN SITE IN YUEN LONG AND A FLAT IN PORTLAND STREET, KOWLOON WERE WITHDRAWN AT THE AUCTION BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIDDERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS BEING INTRODUCED
* * *

FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29), CLEARWAY RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM ON HING FONG ROAD BETWEEN TAI WO HAU ROAD AND KWAI FOO ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG.

THE SAME RESTRICTION WILL APPLY TO WING FONG ROAD BETWEEN SHING FONG STREET AND HING FONG ROAD.

FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29) JUBILEE STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND ANOTHER SECTION OF THE STREET NEAR DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY.

FROM 10 AM THE SAME DAY, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE FEI TSUI ROAD NEAR WAN TSUI ROAD IN CHAI WAN BUT THE SECTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PLB CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.

HOWEVER, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING CHEUNG LEE STREET BETWEEN KUT SHING STREET AND THE ACCESS ROAD TO LEE CHUNG STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982

- 28 -

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON
* * * *

EARL STREET IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY NORTHBOUND FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 28) FOR ROAD WORK.

AT THE SAME TIME, SAI YEE STREET IN MONG KOK BETWEEN PLAYING FIELD ROAD AND BOUNDARY STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFNIC FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FOR THE LAYING OF WATERMAINS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ALONG SAI YEE STREET HEADING FOR BOUNDARY STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PLAYING FIELD ROAD AND TUNG CHOI STREET.

KMB BUSES ON ROUTES 2C AND 104 TRAVELLING NORTHWARDS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, TUNG CHOI STREET AND BOUNDARY STREET.

FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29), PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE GROUND LEVEL ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -