



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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HEAD OF POLICE ADVISERS TEAM LEAVES
FOR UK AND WILL RETURN IN FOUR WEEKS

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MR. J.W.D. CRANE, HEAD OF THE THREE-MAN TEAM OF SPECIAL POLICE ADVISERS FROM BRITAIN, LEFT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM. HE WILL RETURN IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

MR. CRANE SAID THAT THE TEAM HAD MADE A VERY GOOD START TO THEIR ASSIGNMENT. THEY HAD VISITED DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON, THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IN MARINE DISTRICT, DIVISIONAL POLICE STATIONS, THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL AND AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

THEY HAD HELD FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AND HAD TALKED WITH MANY MEMBERS OF THE FORCE AT ALL LEVELS.

THEY HAD MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION AND THE TWO INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND INTEND TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AFTER ITS ELECTION.

THE TEAM HAD VISITED DEPARTMENTS OF THE I.C.A.C. FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF.

MR. CRANE STRESSED THAT THE ROLE OF THE TEAM IS TO ADVISE ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE FORCE AND ON THE PROCEDURES OF THE I.C.A.C.

+WE HAVE SPENT MOST OF OUR TIME SO FAR GETTING TO KNOW HOW THE TWO ORGANISATIONS OPERATE,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND AND IDENTIFY LINES OF ENQUIRY BEFORE WE CAN OFFER USEFUL ADVICE.+

THE TEAM HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP (CHAIRER BY SIR SIDNEY GORDON) AND THE I.C.A.C. COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (CHAIRER BY SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN). IT HAS HAD MEETINGS WITH THE PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS OF THE I.C.A.C.

+THESE DISCUSSIONS,+ MR. CRANE SAID, +WERE VERY USEFUL AND HAVE GIVEN US AN INSIGHT INTO PUBLIC ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS.+ HE ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO SEEK THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, SUCH AS DISTRICT FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES, AT A LATER STAGE.

DURING MR. CRANE'S ABSENCE, HIS COLLEAGUES, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ALFRED WALLEM AND CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ERIC HUMPHREY, WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK. IN PARTICULAR, THEY WILL CONSIDER STAFF WELFARE, RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE FORCE.

MR. CRANE SAID THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE OF A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT, BUT HE WOULD RETURN IN MID-MARCH WHEN HE HOPED THE TEAM, IN CONJUNCTION WITH POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE RESEARCH STAGE OF THIS MISSION AND BE PASSING TO THAT OF ACTION.

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PLB DESTINATIONS AND FARES DISPLAY LAW
TO BE ENFORCED FROM JULY
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY THAT THE NEW LAW REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF DESTINATIONS AND FARES BY PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WOULD BE ENFORCED FROM JULY THIS YEAR.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT NO PROSECUTIONS HAD BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST PUBLIC LIGHT BUS DRIVERS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE LAW. THE NEW LAW CAME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1 LAST YEAR.

EXPLAINING THE SITUATION, MR. HOBLEY SAID IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE NECESSARY STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS TO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WERE NOT GENERALLY BEING MADE BY JUNE 1977, SO THE COMPLIANCE AFTER AUGUST 1 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW WAS UNLIKELY.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE POLICE FORCE WAS FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF LARGE SCALE DEFIANCE OF THE LAW AND IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT PROSECUTION ON THE SCALE THAT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY WAS NOT FEASIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

AS A RESULT, MR. HOBLEY SAID, AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH HAD TO BE ADOPTED. IT WAS DECIDED THAT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WOULD NOT BE RE-LICENSED THENCEFORTH UNLESS THE NECESSARY ALTERATIONS TO PROVIDE DESTINATION INDICATORS HAD BEEN MADE.

+THIS COURSE HAS PRODUCED THE DESIRED RESULT AND BY JULY THIS YEAR ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL HAVE BEEN ALTERED AS NECESSARY OR WILL NO LONGER BE LICENSED,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID.

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STOCK EXCHANGE UNIFICATION

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THE WORKING PARTY ON UNIFICATION OF THE FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES HAS AGREED THAT THE MERGING WOULD TAKE PLACE BY JANUARY 1980.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HENRY HU ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROPOSED MERGING OF THE FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED ON THE GROUND, HE HOPED THAT SHORTLY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE MERGER WOULD BE SEEN.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO UNIFICATION OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES, INTRODUCED PREFERABLY BY THE EXCHANGES THEMSELVES.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE FOUR EXCHANGES AGREED TO SET UP THE WORKING PARTY ON UNIFICATION CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN MAY 1977 AND AT ITS FIRST MEETING AGREED THAT ITS AIM SHOULD BE TO DECIDE WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO BRING ABOUT THE UNIFICATION AND THE TIMETABLE THAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

+IN NOVEMBER THE WORKING PARTY AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE STOCK EXCHANGE ON ONE FLOOR BY JANUARY 1980,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

+IN ADDITION, THE WORKING PARTY HAS AGREED TO A MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION FOR A UNIFIED EXCHANGE, AND SUB-COMMITTEES ARE PREPARING THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, AND JOINT LISTING AND TRADING RULES,+ HE ADDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID PROPOSALS WERE BEING DISCUSSED WHEREBY THE KOWLOON STOCK EXCHANGE WOULD OCCUPY PART OF THE FAR EAST EXCHANGE AND THE KAM NGAN EXCHANGE WOULD OCCUPY PART OF THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE.

IF AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, THERE WOULD BE FOUR SEPARATE EXCHANGES OPERATING ON TWO FLOORS WITHIN THIS YEAR.

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YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM GAMBLING

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THE GOVERNMENT AGREES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM TAKING UP THE GAMBLING HABIT AND WELCOMES ANY INDEPENDENT AND PROPERLY CONSTITUTED SURVEYS ON THE EFFECTS OF OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES ON THEM.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+HOWEVER,+ MR. LI SAID, +I CANNOT COMMIT FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE AS WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER EACH APPLICATION ON ITS OWN MERITS BEFORE SEEKING ANY NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.+

ON THE QUESTION OF LIMITING THE TIME ALLOWED FOR HORSE-RACING PROGRAMMES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, MR. LI SAID IT DID NOT APPEAR NECESSARY AT PRESENT AS SUCH TIME AMOUNTED TO ONLY ABOUT 28 HOURS PER WEEK WHICH IS LESS THAN TWO PER CENT OF THE TOTAL BROADCASTING TIME.

MR. LI SAID IT MIGHT NOT BE PRACTICABLE TO ANNOUNCE SUCH PROGRAMMES AS UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AND QUESTIONED THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ADVANTAGES OF THE MOVE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING ATTRACTED TO THESE PROGRAMMES.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH ON THE SITUATION AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, WHERE NECESSARY,+ MR. LI SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT TEACHERS AS WELL AS PARENTS SHOULD EMPHASISE REGULARLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE THAT GAMBLING IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK OR OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION AND HE WOULD ASK THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER HOW THIS MESSAGE MAY BEST BE REINFORCED IN SCHOOLS.

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PRISON RULES EXPLAINED

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THERE ARE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO ABUSE OF POWER BY OFFICERS IN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE CHANNELS, FOR PRISONERS AS WELL AS PRISON STAFF, TO LODGE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. DAVIES SAID THE SAFEGUARDS ARE INCLUDED IN ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS.

UNDER THE PRISON RULES, HE SAID: +IT IS AN OFFENCE AGAINST DISCIPLINE FOR ANY PRISONS OFFICER DELIBERATELY TO ACT IN A MANNER CALCULATED TO PROVOKE A PRISONER, OR WITHOUT NECESSITY TO USE FORCE IN DEALING WITH PRISONERS, OR WHERE THE USE OF FORCE IS NECESSARY TO USE UNDUE FORCE.+

HE ADDED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THESE RULES WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICERS IN THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTION AND AT REGULAR INTERVALS AFTER THEIR POSTING.

EVERY PRISONER, ONCE ADMITTED TO A PRISON, WAS ALSO INFORMED OF THE AVENUES THROUGH WHICH HE MAY MAKE REQUESTS OR LODGE COMPLAINTS, MR. DAVIES SAID.

+PRISONERS CAN BRING THEIR GRIEVANCES TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION CONCERNED VERBALLY OR IN WRITING AT ANY TIME, TO SENIOR OFFICERS FROM HEADQUARTERS ON THEIR FREQUENT BUT IRREGULAR MONITORING VISITS, TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS IN PERSON AND TO VISITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE DURING THEIR FORTNIGHTLY VISITS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE ADDED THAT UNDER PRISON RULES, +THE DUTY IS IMPOSED ON VISITING JUSTICES TO HEAR AND INVESTIGATE ANY COMPLAINT MADE TO THEM AND TO ENSURE THAT ALL ABUSES IN CONNECTION WITH A PRISON WHICH COME TO THEIR NOTICE ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSIONER IMMEDIATELY.+

PRISONS SERVICE STAFF MAY LODGE COMPLAINTS OR TAKE UP THEIR GRIEVANCES EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITING AT INSTITUTIONAL OR PRISONS HEADQUARTERS LEVEL, MR. DAVIES SAID.

+INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF MAY ALSO AT ANY TIME ASK TO SEE A SUPERIOR OFFICER AND, IF NECESSARY, PURSUE A REQUEST TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS HIMSELF,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MISS DUNN CONCERNING THE CAUSES OF THE RECENT HUNGER STRIKE BY PRISONERS IN MA PO PING PRISON, MR. DAVIES SAID AN ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY A SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SHOWED NO CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE REASONS FOR THE INCIDENT.

/MR. DAVIES

MR. DAVIES SAID THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES DID NOT DISCLOSE THE REASONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS AT THE TIME NOR HAD THEY DONE SO SINCE.

+IT IS BELIEVED THE INCIDENT WAS PARTLY DUE TO A TIGHTENING IN DISCIPLINE IN RECENT WEEKS AND MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

+CHANGES IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES RELATED TO RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND A FEW RECIDIVISTS AGITATED AGAINST THIS. ULTIMATELY PRISONERS IN SEVEN OF THE 12 DORMITORIES REFUSED THEIR MEALS ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 23.+

MR. DAVIES SAID AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT INCIDENT, 23 PRISONERS HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO STANLEY PRISON. HE ALSO EMPHASISED THAT +THERE HAS BEEN AND WILL BE NO RELAXATION IN DISCIPLINE AT THE INSTITUTION.+

HE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO EFFECT BETTER CONTROL OF PRISONERS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SECURITY LOBBIES IN THE DORMITORIES.

+OTHER WORKS IN HAND INCLUDE THE DIVISION OF THE DORMITORIES INTO TWO SECTIONS AND THE DIVISION OF THE PRISON ITSELF INTO TWO SEPARATE CONTROL ZONES BY AN INTERNAL SECURITY FENCE. THESE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

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IMPROVED CONTROL OVER AD SIGNS UNDER STUDY
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THE LAW ALREADY PROVIDES SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER ALL TYPES OF ADVERTISING SIGNS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. S.L. CHEN, MR. JONES ADDED THAT HE WAS EXAMINING THE WAYS IN WHICH THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS OVER THESE SIGNS MIGHT BE IMPROVED.

AS IN THE CASE OF CROWN LAND BEING ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED BY THE ADVERTISING SIGNS, MR. JONES SAID THE PROPERTY FROM WHICH THEY PROJECT HAD BEEN RATED UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SUCH STRUCTURES AND THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THEIR EXISTENCE BY MAKING A CHARGE IN RESPECT OF THEM.

HE ALSO SAID THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER AND OF THE OCCUPIER MUST BE OBTAINED FOR HOARDINGS, NOTICE BOARDS, OR POSTERS TO BE PLACED UPON OR AGAINST PRIVATE PROPERTY AND USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVERTISING.

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WHERE THE PROPERTY BELONGS TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE PERMISSION OF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY MUST BE OBTAINED AND THE BUILDING AUTHORITY OR THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES HAS THE POWER TO REMOVE OR RENDER SAFE THOSE STRUCTURES WHICH THEY CONSIDER DANGEROUS AND WOULD CONSTITUTE A FIRE HAZARD, MR. JONES SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. JONES SAID IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO EXERCISE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE DESIGN AND ERECTION OF ALL ADVERTISING SIGNS AS IT WOULD REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN TECHNICAL MANPOWER THAT WOULD BE +OUT OF THE SCALE WITH THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM+.

HE GAVE EXAMPLES THAT THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU HAD REMOVED ONLY ONE SIGN IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS BECAUSE IT CONSTITUTED A FIRE HAZARD AND THE BUILDING AUTHORITY OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS HAD REMOVED ONLY 25 SIGNS BECAUSE THEY WERE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION OR THREATENED TO BECOME SO.

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MEASURES AGAINST OWNERS OF
DRUG SMUGGLING VESSELS BEING STUDIED

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IS STUDYING POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST OWNERS OF VESSELS ON WHICH DANGEROUS DRUGS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY SEIZED.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN.

MR. DAVIES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MATTER AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE ISSUE AT ITS MEETING IN JANUARY.

+ENQUIRIES ARE ALSO BEING MADE OF ADMINISTRATIONS ABROAD WITH A VIEW TO LEARNING WHAT SANCTIONS, IF ANY, EXIST TO MEET SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN THEIR COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT A TOTAL OF 893 SEARCHES ON VESSELS WERE CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR AND RANDOM SEARCHES WILL CONTINUE UNABATED.

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PLANS TO COPE WITH INCREASE IN TRAFFIC TO SHA TIN

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THE MAIN ROAD BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN IS BEING PROGRESSIVELY IMPROVED ALONG ITS ENTIRE LENGTH TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SHA TIN, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED FOR A VERY CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE RAILWAY AS THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED TRAVEL DEMAND BY ROADS ALONE ONCE SHA TIN NEW TOWN BUILDS UP TOWARDS ITS PLANNED POPULATION OF HALF A MILLION WITH ADDITIONAL POPULATION IN TAI PO AND FURTHER UP THE CORRIDOR.

MR. JONES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT WORK ON DOUBLE TRACKING THE RAILWAY WAS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND A CONSULTANCY WAS BEING COMMISSIONED TO PREPARE DESIGNS FOR ELECTRIFICATION.

MR. JONES SAID: +THIS WOULD INVOLVE ELECTRIC MULTIPLE UNIT TRAINS RUNNING APPROXIMATELY EVERY THREE MINUTES AT PEAK PERIODS BETWEEN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON AND WITH 12-1/2 MINUTE JOURNEY TIME.

+LATER ON THERE WOULD BE A NEW INTERCHANGE STATION WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AT KOWLOON TONG WHICH WOULD DISTRIBUTE PASSENGERS TO THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AND TSUEN WAN AND TO KWUN TONG.

+THE OBJECT WILL BE TO GET AS MANY TRAVELLERS AS POSSIBLE TO USE THIS NEW HIGH CAPACITY SYSTEM IN THE EIGHTIES,+ HE SAID.

ON IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON ROADS TO SHA TIN, MR. JONES SAID THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL WAS NOW OPEN AND, WHEN THE RENOVATION OF THE FIRST TUNNEL WAS COMPLETED IN THE AUTUMN, BOTH TUBES WOULD BE IN OPERATION.

CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ROAD TO THE NORTH OF THE TUNNEL SHOULD ALSO BE COMPLETED BY THEN, HE SAID.

ON THE KOWLOON SIDE OF THE TUNNEL, MR. JONES SAID WORK ON THE CORNWALL STREET/WATERLOO ROAD/JUNCTION ROAD GRADE-SEPARATED INTERSECTION WAS EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL THIS YEAR AND TO BE COMPLETED IN 1981.

HE ADDED: +THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL ALSO BE WIDENED TO FOUR LANES, HOPEFULLY BY 1981. THIS WILL LEAVE ONLY TWO TRAFFIC LIGHT JUNCTIONS ALONG WATERLOO ROAD WITH RIGHT-TURN TRAFFIC, AT LANCASTER ROAD AND DURHAM ROAD.

+TRAFFIC VOLUMES AT THESE JUNCTIONS ARE BEING MONITORED AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED WHEN NECESSARY. THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING GRADE-SEPARATED FACILITIES AT THESE JUNCTIONS IS ALSO BEING STUDIED, ALTHOUGH THEIR COST WOULD BE HIGH.+ HE ADDED.

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COLLECTION OF STUDENTS SUBSCRIPTIONS
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PRECISE PROPOSALS ON STUDENTS SUBSCRIPTIONS - OR TONG FAI - WERE STILL BEING FORMULATED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THESE PROPOSALS WOULD REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED IN THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 9, LAST YEAR, TO MEET IN THE JUNIOR SECONDARY SECTOR THE COST OF PROVIDING A REASONABLE LEVEL OF EDUCATION AT PRESENT BEING PAID FOR OUT OF SUBSCRIPTION OR TONG FAI ACCOUNT.

MR. TOPLEY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT WHO ASKED WHETHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES RUNNING AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE ALLOWED THIS SEPTEMBER TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM THEIR STUDENTS.

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WATER SUPPLY TO YUEN LING VILLAGE
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MOST OF THE WATER METERED CONNECTIONS IN YUEN LING VILLAGE, DIAMOND HILL, ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID BETWEEN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND JANUARY 31 THIS YEAR 4,234 APPLICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL METERED SUPPLY TO THIS VILLAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

MORE THAN HALF OF THESE APPLICATIONS, HE ADDED, HAD BEEN PROCESSED AND TO DATE 385 METERS HAD BEEN INSTALLED.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN AND THE HAPHAZARD LAYOUT OF BUILDINGS IN THE VILLAGE, MAIN LAYING AND METER INSTALLATION WAS DIFFICULT AND PROGRESS HAD BEEN SLOW.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ACTION WAS NOW IN HAND TO IMPROVE THE RATE OF INSTALLATION WORKS BY MAKING GREATER USE OF CONTRACT LABOUR.

+IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE METERED CONNECTIONS WILL BE COMPLETED,+ HE ADDED.

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GARDEN ROAD/MAGAZINE GAP ROAD
FLYOVER TO BE COMPLETED IN APRIL
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THE GARDEN ROAD/MAGAZINE GAP ROAD FLYOVER IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN APRIL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. T.S. LO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE COMPLETION DATE WAS ABOUT FIVE MONTHS BEHIND THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE DUE IN PART TO DELAYS CAUSED BY UNFORSEEN UTILITY DIVERSIONS.

HE SAID THAT GENERALLY THE CONTRACT PERIODS SPECIFIED IN TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLYOVERS WERE REASONABLE.

+THESE PERIODS ARE DETERMINED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE ON PERFORMANCE ON SIMILAR CONTRACTS AND AFTER CONSIDERING SUCH FACTORS AS THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE PROPOSED STRUCTURES AND THE PHYSICAL AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF THE GARDEN ROAD/MAGAZINE GAP ROAD FLYOVER, HE ADDED, THE CONTRACT PERIOD WAS SPECIFIED AS 15 MONTHS COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 WITH COMPLETION ON NOVEMBER 30, 1977.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT LIQUIDATED DAMAGES WERE STIPULATED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AT \$1,800 PER DAY. NO BONUS CLAUSE WAS INCLUDED.

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON COTTON TREE DRIVE WILL EASE SOON
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TRAFFIC ON COTTON TREE DRIVE WILL FLOW MORE FREELY WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLYOVER AT THE TOP OF GARDEN ROAD IS COMPLETED IN APRIL, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. T.S. LO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. JONES SAID IN THE LONGER TERM, THERE IS A PLAN TO WIDEN GARDEN ROAD ABOVE ITS JUNCTION WITH COTTON TREE DRIVE TO PROVIDE THREE UPHILL LANES.

HE SAID WORK ON THIS WAS EXPECTED TO START IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1979/80 AND TO BE COMPLETED IN 1980/81.

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PROJECT MANAGERS FOR MARKET TOWNS
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SEVERAL MARKET TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY HAVE THEIR OWN PROJECT MANAGER TO CO-ORDINATE DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THERE WAS ALREADY A PLANNING OFFICER ALLOCATED FOR EACH NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL PLANNING AND DAY-TO-DAY LIAISON WITH DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THE PLANNERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

+IN THE NEW TOWNS THE CO-ORDINATION OF PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY IS HANDLED BY THE PROJECT MANAGERS WHILE IN THE MARKET TOWNS AND RURAL TOWNSHIPS CONTROL IS, AT PRESENT, EXERCISED BY THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCDONALD SAID: +WHERE AN AREA IS IDENTIFIED IN WHICH PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY IS OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE AND URGENCY A RECOMMENDATION WILL BE MADE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SINGLE OFFICER TO CO-ORDINATE DEVELOPMENT.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, A PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THE CREATION OF A POST OF PROJECT MANAGER TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO, FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI AND SHEK WU HUI,+ HE ADDED.

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PRIMARY SCHOOLING SCHEME SUCCESSFUL
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT UNIVERSAL, FREE AND COMPULSORY PRIMARY SCHOOLING HAD PROVED GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL.

HE ALSO STATED THAT ONLY ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN BETWEEN SIX AND 11 YEARS OF AGE WERE ESTIMATED NOT TO BE AT SCHOOL AND MOST OF THEM LIVED AFLOAT.

MR. TOPLEY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. Q.W. LEE ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME INTRODUCED IN 1971 FOR UNIVERSAL, FREE AND COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION.

MR. TOPLEY ADDED SOME PARENTS STILL PREFERRED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

+NOT ALL CHILDREN ENTER THE PRIMARY COURSE AT AGE SIX, THERE ARE STILL SOME SIX AND SEVEN YEAR-OLDS IN KINDERGARTEN.

+THE PROPORTION OF PUPILS COMPLETING PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN INCREASING AND IS NOW ESTIMATED TO BE OF THE ORDER OF 95 PER CENT,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH
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TEACHERS WHO WISH TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH WOULD NOW HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO, MR. ARTHUR BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), SAID TODAY.

MR. BROWN WAS SPEAKING AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S FIRST IN-SERVICE REFRESHER COURSE ON +INTENSIVE ENGLISH FOR TEACHERS OF OTHER SUBJECTS.+

THE COURSE, A NEW VENTURE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IS BEING RUN IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

HE SAID: +THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN RUNNING REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH SINCE 1965 AT ITS OWN LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE. NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER TEACHERS TEACHING OTHER SUBJECTS.

+THIS IS MAINLY BECAUSE NEARLY EVERY TEACHER IN THE MAJORITY OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS A TEACHER OF ENGLISH, USING ENGLISH AND ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS IN TEACHING VARIOUS SUBJECTS -- BE THEY SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, OR SOCIAL SCIENCES.+

MR. BROWN SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT TEACHERS, AFTER ATTENDING THE COURSE, WOULD RETURN TO SCHOOLS MORE FLUENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND BE ABLE TO USE IT WITH GREATER FACILITY IN TEACHING THEIR SUBJECTS.

THE COURSE AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL WHICH STARTED LAST MONDAY, IS A 10-WEEK PILOT PROGRAMME WHERE 17 SECONDARY TEACHERS OF SOCIAL STUDIES DEVOTE THREE HOURS OF THEIR DAILY WORK PERIOD TO IMPROVING THEIR ENGLISH AND THEIR ENGLISH TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

IF THE SCHEME IS SUCCESSFUL, THE COURSE MAY BE EXTENDED TO TEACHERS OF OTHER SUBJECTS.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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PLANS TO OPEN COMMUNITY CENTRES ON WEEKENDS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE PLANS FOR FACILITIES IN COMMUNITY HALLS, ESTATE WELFARE BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES, INCLUDING THEIR LIBRARIES, STUDY ROOMS, PLAYGROUNDS AND COMMON ROOMS TO BE OPEN ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS FOR USE BY LOCAL RESIDENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. LEE SAID A START WOULD BE MADE IN COMMUNITY CENTRES ON MARCH 1, AND THE OPENING HOURS WOULD BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 10 P.M. FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY AND FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M. ON SUNDAY.

HE SAID: +PUBLIC HOLIDAYS NORMALLY FALL ON THE OCCASION OF SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS WHICH PEOPLE GENERALLY CELEBRATE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS= THUS THE CENTRES REMAIN CLOSED ON THOSE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

+HOWEVER, IF ANY NEED IS IDENTIFIED AND ADDITIONAL STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE, I SHALL CONSIDER OPENING COMMUNITY HALLS AND ESTATE WELFARE BUILDINGS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TOO,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF STAFF IN EACH COMMUNITY HALL AND ESTATE COMMUNITY BUILDING WAS RATHER SMALL AND EXTENDING THE SERVICES IN THESE CENTRES WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL WORKERS.

HE HOPED THAT APPROVAL FOR THE NECESSARY POSTS COULD BE OBTAINED IN APRIL OR MAY.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT THESE COMMUNITY CENTRES, ARE NOT OFFICIALLY OPEN ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, THE PREMISES ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES WHENEVER ADVANCE BOOKING IS MADE WITH THE MANAGEMENT.

+IN ADDITION, MY STAFF FROM THESE CENTRES ORGANISE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WHICH TAKE PLACE AWAY FROM THE PREMISES.

+THESE TAKE THE FORM OF PICNICS AND OUTINGS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS WHEN MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOL,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR HOMELESS OLD MEN IN TSUEN WAN

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FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO BUILD PARTITIONS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING BEING PROVIDED IN KWAI CHUNG BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR MORE THAN 100 OLD, SICK AND UNEMPLOYED MEN WHO ARE TO BE EVICTED FROM THEIR HOME IN TSUEN WAN BY THEIR LANDLORD.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, GAVE THIS ASSURANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN HE OUTLINED THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO CARE FOR THESE OLD MEN.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, HE SAID A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE SHOWED THAT MANY OF THE 112 OLD MEN WOULD BE LEFT HOMELESS BY THE EVICTION.

+THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING HAS THEREFORE AGREED TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE WHO WILL BE HOMELESS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING IN KWAI CHUNG= FUNDS WILL BE SEPARATELY PROVIDED FOR BUILDING THE NECESSARY PARTITIONS IN THIS TEMPORARY HOUSING,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, HAD SECURED AN AGREEMENT FROM THE LANDLORD AND THE PRINCIPAL TENANT TO DEFER REPOSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THIS GAVE TIME FOR OFFICERS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO COMPLETE A SURVEY OF THE OCCUPANTS.

HE SAID THE TEMPORARY HOUSING IN KWAI CHUNG WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL, AND THE LANDLORD HAD NOW AGREED TO ANOTHER DEFERMENT OF REPOSSESSION UNTIL THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

+THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE MEANWHILE IS ARRANGING FOR THE OLD AND THE HANDICAPPED TO RECEIVE TREATMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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MEANS TO SPEED UP PUBLIC SEARCHES IN LAND OFFICE
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL WAS EXAMINING THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF MICROFILMING OF RECORDS, WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN MORE EFFICIENT SEARCHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC IN THE LAND OFFICE.

HE SAID THE REGISTRAR GENERAL HAD DISCUSSED HIS IDEAS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG AND HOPED TO SUBMIT A FORMAL REPORT ON THE MATTER TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MR. JONES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE DELAYS TO PEOPLE MAKING SEARCHES IN THE LAND OFFICE.

MR. JONES SAID THE AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE A SEARCH IN THE LAND OFFICE, IF THE DOCUMENT WAS AVAILABLE, WAS BETWEEN FIVE AND 30 MINUTES DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE OF THE DOCUMENT AND THE TIME OF DAY IN WHICH THE SEARCH WAS MADE.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TEND TO CONCENTRATE THEIR SEARCHES BETWEEN THE PEAK HOURS OF 10 A.M. UNTIL NOON AND BETWEEN 2.30 P.M. AND 4 P.M. AND THIS CAN OCCASIONALLY CAUSE DELAYS IN MAKING RECORDS AVAILABLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JONES SAID, SOME DELAYS WERE ALSO CAUSED BECAUSE THE LAND OFFICE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN THREE PREMISES AND THE SEPARATION OF RECORDS SOMETIMES MEANT THAT A SEARCHER HAD TO MAKE TWO JOURNEYS.

+THIS IS CLEARLY UNSATISFACTORY AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO RELOCATE THE WHOLE OF THE LAND OFFICE AND CERTAIN OTHER PARTS OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IN ONE BUILDING,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST DUE TO THE RAPID INCREASE IN RECENT YEARS IN THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS LODGED FOR REGISTRATION, AND THIS HAD CAUSED DELAYS BOTH IN REGISTRATION AND IN SEARCHING.

+BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE POSITION HAS NOW CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED AND THAT MORE STAFF ARE IN PLACE,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

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ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE PROVIDED WITH A DAILY REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

AND ABOUT 90 VILLAGES, SOME SMALL, SOME DESERTED AND LOCATED IN AREAS DIFFICULT OF ACCESS ARE SERVICED AT A REDUCED FREQUENCY, RANGING FROM TWICE WEEKLY TO ONCE A MONTH, BY MOBILE CLEANSING GANGS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM MR. CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED THE PROBLEM OF REFUSE COLLECTION IN THESE AREAS WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE LITTER LEFT BEHIND BY PICNICKERS AND CAMPERS.

+BOTH THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES AND MYSELF REGARD THIS SITUATION AS UNSATISFACTORY,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

+PROPOSALS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT FOR A VERY SUBSTANTIAL REINFORCEMENT OF MOBILE CLEANSING GANGS AND VEHICLES FOR LITTER COLLECTION THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE SERVICE CAN THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE CONSIDERABLY IN ALL AREAS ONCE THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED ARE AVAILABLE AND DEPLOYED ON THE GROUND.+

IN REPLY TO AN EARLIER QUESTION FROM MR. YEUNG, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THERE WERE NOT YET ENOUGH PROPERLY BUILT REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN OR AROUND VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE ADDED: +THERE IS A BUILDING PROGRAMME, AND 255 HAVE BEEN BUILT SINCE 1973 MAINLY IN VILLAGES WITH VEHICULAR ACCESS.

+SOME OF THE OLDER REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS ARE INADEQUATE IN SIZE AND METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION.

+AN IMPROVED DESIGN IS BEING DEVELOPED AND WILL BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.+

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SELLING HK PRODUCTS
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THE FIRST ESSENTIAL STEP FOR A SUCCESSFUL +BUY HONG KONG+ CAMPAIGN MUST BE THAT MORE LOCAL MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL THEIR PRODUCTS HERE, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAD BEEN EXCELLENT EXAMPLES OF THIS BEING DONE BY SEVERAL MANUFACTURERS AND THE RANGE OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS AVAILABLE ON THE RETAIL MARKET HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY.

MR. JORDAN WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SET UP A PERMANENT HONG KONG PRODUCTS TRADE CENTRE WHERE OVERSEAS BUYERS COULD SEE ON DISPLAY THE WHOLE RANGE OF LOCAL PRODUCTS AND NEGOTIATE DEALS, AND WHERE THE LOCAL POPULATION AS WELL AS TOURISTS COULD PURCHASE SUCH PRODUCTS.

HE SAID: +I BELIEVE THAT ONLY THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY CAN NOW INDICATE WITH ANY DEGREE OF ACCURACY WHETHER THERE EXISTS AN UNFILLED DEMAND FOR A TRADE CENTRE AS A RETAIL OUTLET FOR PURELY LOCAL PRODUCTS AND, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRY, ADJACENT PERMANENT DISPLAY AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN A COMPREHENSIVE COMPLEX TO SERVICE OVERSEAS BUYERS.+

MR. JORDAN NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAD ALREADY MAINTAINED A PERMANENT PRODUCT DISPLAY CENTRE WHERE THE GOODS ON DISPLAY WERE CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR, AND THAT THE COUNCIL ALSO PROVIDED A SERVICE TO OVERSEAS BUYERS SEEKING CONTACT WITH LOCAL SUPPLIERS.

HE SAID COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES OF A SIMILAR NATURE AS THAT SUGGESTED BY MR. TIEN HAD IN THE PAST BEEN CONSIDERED AND LAUNCHED IN HONG KONG, THOUGH ON A SMALLER SCALE, WITH VARYING DEGREE OF SUCCESS.

+I THINK THAT BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT COULD CONSIDER THE SUPPORT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE TO A VENTURE OF THE TYPE PROPOSED, THERE HAVE TO BE SOME VERY CLEAR INDICATION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE MAIN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, THAT A SUFFICIENT DEMAND FOR SUCH FACILITIES EXISTS TO MAKE THE CONCEPT VIABLE,+ HE ADDED.

BILL TO PROVIDE NEW CONTROLS OVER OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS
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THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE FOR NEW CONTROLS RELATING TO OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS, RECEIVED ITS SECOND READING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, IF ENACTED, WOULD ALSO GIVE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SUPERVISORY POWERS OVER THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH INSTALLATIONS SO AS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR OIL SPILL.

HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE CLAUSES RE-DEFINED +BUILDING+ IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS AND CLEARLY SETS DOWN THE MEANING OF SUCH INSTALLATIONS.

ANOTHER CLAUSE, MR. MCDONALD ADDED, ENABLED REGULATIONS TO BE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO CONTROL THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND LICENSING OF OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS AND ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO SUCH INSTALLATIONS.

A THIRD CLAUSE AMENDED A SECTION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, PERMITTING MAXIMUM PENALTIES OF A FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THESE REGULATIONS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR SECOND QUARTER
OF 1977-78 FINANCIAL YEAR
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE OF \$452 MILLION FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30 OF LAST YEAR.

MOVING THE MOTION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1977-78, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THAT ABOUT \$88.5 MILLION WAS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF MORE RAPID PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF EXISTING PROJECTS AND THE UPGRADING OF 15 PROJECTS TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

ANOTHER \$335 MILLION WAS FOR AN EQUITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THIS WAS MATCHED BY AN EQUIVALENT PAYMENT INTO GENERAL REVENUE AS PREMIUM FOR THE GRANT OF LAND IN KOWLOON BAY FOR A DEPOT, MR. HADDON-CAVE ADDED.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT OFF-SETTING SAVINGS OF \$101 MILLION HAVE BEEN FOUND UNDER OTHER SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY THE FREEZING OF FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS UNDER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SUBHEAD.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

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

THEY WERE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1976-77) BILL 1978, THE RESERVED COMMODITIES BILL 1977, THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (MARKETING)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS) BILL 1978 AND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

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PARTY FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES
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STAFF OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE ENTERTAINED AT A PARTY TO BE HELD IN THE SPORTS FIELD OF KOWLOON HOSPITAL ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

THIS WILL BE THE SEVENTH ANNUAL PARTY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF SOCIETY. PROGRAMMES FOR THE DAY WILL INCLUDE A LION DANCE, FOLK DANCE, GAMES, A LUCKY DRAW AND ARMOUR CARS DISPLAY.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, WILL ATTEND AND ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PARTY WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE LAWN BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE WEST WING OF KOWLOON HOSPITAL, ARGYLE STREET, BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 5 P.M. ON SUNDAY.

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