



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1975

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MOVES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS

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A NUMBER OF STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS IN MOVES TO GET THE SCHEME OFF THE GROUND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL HAS NAMED SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ARE TAKING PLACE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE.

THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS RELATED TO THE GRANT OF THE LICENCE PROPOSED IN THE REPORT. IT WILL BE ASSISTED IN THIS BY SUB-COMMITTEES INCLUDING A CREDENTIALS SUB-COMMITTEE, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THESE BODIES WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL HAS INVITED PROFESSOR ARTHUR YAU, HEAD OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXAMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE, PROFESSOR CECIL LEWIS, DIRECTOR OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXTERNSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE, AND MR. JOHN SWAINE, Q.C., TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE. MR. IAN YOUNG HAS BEEN APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE.

STAFFING PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND IT IS HOPED THAT APPLICATIONS WILL SOON BE INVITED FOR THE POST OF ADMINISTRATOR (LICENTIATE).

THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL CARRY OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GENERAL RUNNING OF THE LICENTIATE ARRANGEMENTS AND WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CREDENTIALS SUB-COMMITTEE.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED AT THE END OF AUGUST IS NOW ON SALE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$10 A COPY.

THE REPORT PROPOSES THAT UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS WHO WISH TO BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE A THREE-PART EXAMINATION AND SERVE A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS EXTERNSHIP DURING WHICH THEY WOULD RECEIVE REFRESHER TRAINING AND THEIR CLINICAL EXPERTISE WOULD BE ASSESSED.

THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE EXAMINATION AND SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE THE EXTERNSHIP WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME LICENTIATES OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND, AS SUCH, TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG SUBJECT TO THE SAME CONDITIONS AS REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

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THE REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT NO CANDIDATES SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM THE EXAMINATION. THE WORKING PARTY CONSIDERED THE POSITION OF UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS NOW WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICE, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND IN REGISTERED CLINICS, AND CONCLUDED THAT WHILST SUCH EXPERIENCE WOULD BE RELEVANT AND USEFUL TO THOSE TAKING THE EXAMINATION IT SHOULD NOT EXEMPT THEM FROM THE NEED TO DO SO.

THE PROPOSED EXAMINATION, THE REPORT SAID, SHOULD BE SO DESIGNED THAT IT SHOULD PRESENT NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR ADEQUATELY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES INCLUDING THOSE FOR WHOM TEXTBOOK STUDY MIGHT NO LONGER BE EASY. AS THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS MUST BE PARAMOUNT, THE WORKING PARTY CONSIDERED THAT ANY PERSON WHO COULD NOT OR DID NOT SUCCESSFULLY TAKE THE PROPOSED EXAMINATION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED THE LICENTIATE.

AS REGARDS EXTERNSHIP, HOWEVER, THE REPORT NOTED THAT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL WOULD HAVE DISCRETION TO EXEMPT ANY CANDIDATE WHO HAS BEEN SERVING IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FROM ALL OR PART OF THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF EXTERNSHIP AFTER CONSIDERING THE POSTS THE INDIVIDUAL HAD FILLED AND HIS OVERALL PROVEN COMPETENCY.

MORE GENERALLY THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL HAVE AUTHORITY TO REDUCE THE PERIOD PRESCRIBED FOR EXTERNSHIP IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

THE REPORT FURTHER INDICATES THAT THOSE UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS PRESENTLY PRACTISING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OR IN THE CLINICS SHOULD NOT BE PREVENTED FROM CONTINUING WITH THEIR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT, EVEN IF THEY SHOULD ATTEMPT THE EXAMINATION AND FAIL.

IT IS HOPED TO HOLD THE FIRST EXAMINATION IN 1976 AND THE PREPARATORY WORK, INCLUDING THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION, IS BEING CARRIED OUT WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED.

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LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR CONTROL OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES
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PROPOSED LEGISLATION AIMED AT PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF DEPOSITORS BY CONTROLLING THE OPERATIONS OF +DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES+ IS TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

THE LEGISLATION, WHICH FOLLOWS CLOSELY ALONG THE LINES ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF CHANNELLING SMALL DEPOSITS INTO LICENSED BANKS.

UNDER THE BILL PUBLISHED TODAY, A BUSINESS INVOLVING THE TAKING OF DEPOSITS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED ON BY A COMPANY REGISTERED WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

LICENSED BANKS AND OTHERS WHICH ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC ORDINANCES, AND THOSE TAKING DEPOSITS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE INCIDENTAL TO THEIR MAIN ACTIVITIES, WILL BE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

ONE OF THE MAIN CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WILL BE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COMPANY'S ISSUED CAPITAL MUST BE AT LEAST \$5 MILLION, OF WHICH AT LEAST \$2.5 MILLION HAS BEEN PAID UP. BUSINESS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE WHEN THE LEGISLATION COMES INTO FORCE WILL BE ALLOWED TWO YEARS TO MEET THIS PROVISION.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR A PERSON WHO CARRIES ON THE BUSINESS OF TAKING DEPOSITS WITHOUT REGISTRATION IS A FINE OF \$500,000 AND FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

THE PROVISION THAT SEEKS TO PROTECT SMALL DEPOSITORS STIPULATES THAT REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CANNOT ACCEPT DEPOSITS SMALLER THAN \$50,000. THUS THE ONLY PLACE FOR SUCH SMALL DEPOSITS WILL NORMALLY BE A LICENSED BANK.

THERE IS ALSO AN +ANTI-AVOIDANCE+ PROVISION WHICH PREVENTS A NUMBER OF SMALL DEPOSITS BEING POOLED TOGETHER TO FORM THE MINIMUM DEPOSIT FIGURE.

LARGER DEPOSITORS WITH A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE THEIR OWN RISK, AND THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL HELP IN THIS BY REQUIRING THE COMPANIES TO MAKE RECENT ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

UNDER THE BILL, A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FEE OF \$10,000 ON FIRST REGISTRATION. THIS FEE WILL ALSO BE CHARGED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE SETTING UP OF A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE BILL. THIS FUNCTION WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE BANKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

TWO OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL SEEK TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO SOLICIT DEPOSITS BY FRAUDULENT OR RECKLESS MISREPRESENTATION, AND TO IMPOSE A LIABILITY FOR COMPENSATION FOR FINANCIAL LOSS SUFFERED IN THIS WAY OR THROUGH NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR A PERSON WHO INDUCES ANOTHER TO DEPOSIT MONEY, OR ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO DO SO, BY FRAUDULENT OR RECKLESS MISREPRESENTATION IS A FINE OF \$1,000,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS.

ANOTHER BILL PUBLISHED TODAY, THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, SEEKS TO MAKE A NUMBER OF RATHER SPECIALISED AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

ONE OF THE PROVISIONS IN THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BILL IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE BANKING AMENDMENT BILL : THIS PROPOSES THAT A BANK'S LENDING TO ANY ONE CUSTOMER NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 25 PER CENT OF THE BANK'S CAPITAL AND RESERVES, PROVIDED THE EXCESS IS COVERED BY A FORM OF GUARANTEE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

ANOTHER CLAUSE PROPOSES TO REMOVE THE AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION AS A LIQUID ASSET OF TREASURY BILLS AND CERTAIN SECURITIES ISSUED OR GUARANTEED BY OVERSEAS GOVERNMENTS, OTHER THAN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. SUCH TREASURY BILLS AND SECURITIES WILL BE TREATED AS LIQUID ASSETS IF THEY ARE SPECIFIED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

AMONG OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL IS ONE TO ENABLE A BANK TO MAINTAIN LIQUID ASSETS AT A FIGURE MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO ITS CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING DEPOSIT LIABILITIES- AND ANOTHER WHICH PROVIDES FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN VARYING THE SPECIFIED LIQUIDITY RATIO IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO USE TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS URGED EMPLOYERS TO MAKE FULL USE OF FACILITIES FOR TRAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TECHNOLOGY THAT HONG KONG NEEDS TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE.

SIR MURRAY MADE THE CALL IN AN ADDRESS READ ON HIS BEHALF BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WHICH BEGAN COURSES LAST MONTH WITH AN ENROLMENT OF OVER 1,000 FIRST-YEAR CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN STUDENTS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY AS HE IS STILL RECUPERATING FROM A BROKEN LEG.

IN HIS SPEECH, SIR MURRAY EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PART-TIME DAY RELEASE SCHEMES WHICH PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF CONCURRENT AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. THIS SYSTEM HAS BEEN ADOPTED AS THE MOST ECONOMIC AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF MEETING HONG KONG'S FUTURE MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS.

THE GOVERNOR EARNESTLY HOPED +THAT EMPLOYERS WILL SHARE WITH THE GOVERNMENT THIS DUAL RESPONSIBILITY BY OFFERING TRAINING TO YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN NOT ONLY IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES BUT ALSO IN THE IMPORTANT COMMERCE AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.+

HE NOTED THAT FIRM LINKS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING. +SUCH LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION ARE VITAL FOR THE RIGHT USE OF RESOURCES INCLUDING SCARCE AND EXPERT MANPOWER AND COSTLY EQUIPMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE OPENING OF KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE PROGRESS OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, AND NOTED THAT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WERE NOW FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO EXPAND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH SITES FOR ADDITIONAL INSTITUTES ALREADY EARMARKED IN SHATIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN.

HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT TECHNICAL EDUCATION WAS EXPENSIVE AND, ALTHOUGH SUCH EXPENDITURE WAS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY, LARGE EXPENDITURE IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AT THE PRESENT TIME COULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

+THE PRIORITY NOW GIVEN TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAN ONLY BE JUSTIFIED IF THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE FACILITIES ARE MEETING SOCIAL NEEDS AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE,+ HE STRESSED.

/THE GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBILITY IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION WHICH, HE SAID, SHOULD BE BROAD ENOUGH TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES.

+ANY FORM OF EDUCATION MUST ALWAYS DO SOMETHING TO MAKE LIFE MORE ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING IN ADDITION TO BEING A PREPARATION FOR A CAREER.

+IF TECHNICAL EDUCATION WHETHER IN SCHOOL OR INSTITUTE IS TO BE ACCEPTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRADITIONAL STREAM IT MUST BE BROAD ENOUGH TO ALLOW STUDENTS FLEXIBILITY, AND TO ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES, AND BE PROUD OF THEMSELVES AND OF THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HAS FIVE TEACHING DEPARTMENTS - CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, PRINTING, AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

IN ADDITION TO CLASSROOMS AND LECTURE THEATRES, THE ACCOMMODATION IN THE \$16-MILLION BUILDING INCLUDES EXTENSIVE AND WELL-EQUIPPED WORKSHOPS AND LABORATORIES, DRAWING OFFICES, A LIBRARY, STUDENT COMMON ROOMS AND OFFICES, CANTEEN FACILITIES AND A LARGE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL.

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE INSTITUTE WILL OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COURSES AND CATER FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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BASIS FOR CALCULATING PROPERTY TAX REVISED
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VALUES OF PREMISES FOR PROPERTY TAX PURPOSES WILL IN FUTURE BE ASSESSED SEPARATELY FROM RATEABLE VALUES IF PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS PASSED INTO LAW.

THE PROPOSAL, CONTAINED UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 6) BILL 1975, WAS FIRST PUT FORTH BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS 1975 BUDGET SPEECH.

THE NEW CALCULATION BASIS WILL ENABLE VALUES FOR PROPERTY TAX TO BE ASSESSED IN LINE WITH CURRENT MARKET RENTAL VALUES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT STATUTORY RENT RESTRICTIONS.

IN ADDITION, IF TAX IS CHARGED FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ASSESSABLE VALUE WILL BE BASED ON THE RENTS RULING AT THAT DATE.

IT ALSO REFLECTS THE FACT THAT WHILE RATES ARE BASICALLY A TAX ON OCCUPIERS OF PREMISES FOR THE PAYMENT OF LOCAL SERVICES, PROPERTY TAX IS INTENDED TO BE A TAX ON INCOME DERIVED FROM OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY.

IN FUTURE, SINCE THE NEW CALCULATIONS WILL ALREADY HAVE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF RENT RESTRICTIONS, THE PRESENT CONCESSIONARY RATE OF ONLY ONE-HALF THE STANDARD PROPERTY TAX RATE CHARGED ON PRE-WAR PREMISES WILL BE SUPERSEDED.

TO ALLOW FOR EXPENSES ON REPAIRS AND OUTGOINGS HOWEVER, THE EXISTING ALLOWANCE OF 20 PER CENT WILL CONTINUE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROPOSED NEW METHOD OF ASSESSMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE AS FROM THE YEAR 1976-77.

ALSO PROPOSED IN THE NEW BILL FOR MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN ORDINANCE IS THE INCLUSION OF DONATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS AN +APPROVED CHARITABLE DONATION+, TO RANK AS A DEDUCTION FOR TAX PURPOSES.

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TWO SUBWAYS PLANNED ACROSS NATHAN ROAD

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TWO PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS ARE PLANNED ACROSS BUSY NATHAN ROAD FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS AND TO SPEED UP TRAFFIC FLOW.

ONE WILL BE AT SAIGON STREET AND WILL REPLACE AN EXISTING PEDESTRIAN LEVEL CROSSING WHICH IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST IN YAU MA TEI.

THE OTHER WILL BE BUILT AT BUTE STREET IN MONG KOK TO REPLACE A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONTROLLED BY TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS.

THE ENTRANCES TO THE SUBWAY AT YAU MA TEI WILL BE AT THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF SAIGON STREET.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTERN SUBWAY ENTRANCE, THE SECTION OF SAIGON STREET BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND PARKES STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SPACE FOR WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE SECTION OF SAIGON STREET ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF NATHAN ROAD, HOWEVER, WHICH IS WIDER THAN THE WESTERN SECTION, WILL BE KEPT OPEN TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

PART OF THE CARRIAGEWAY ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF BUTE STREET IN FRONT OF MASCOT HOUSE AND KINGLAND APARTMENT WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STEPS AND ENTRANCES TO THE SUBWAY, BUT A SUFFICIENT WIDTH OF CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE LEFT TO ENABLE VEHICLES TO PASS THROUGH IN ONE DIRECTION.

THE EXTENT OF WORK INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE TWO SUBWAYS ARE SHOWN ON PLANS WHICH CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE KOWLOON OFFICE OF THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, THE ENQUIRY BRANCH OF THE CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND AT THE YAU MA TEI OR MONGKOK CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

ANYONE WHO HAS OBJECTION TO THE UNDERTAKING SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 24, 1975. THOSE WHO HAVE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION MUST SEND THEM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR TO REACH HIM BEFORE DECEMBER 24, 1975.

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HONG KONG COMMISSIONER PLAYS HOST TO GOLD AWARD HOLDERS
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BRITISH HOLDERS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD WERE GUESTS AT A LUNCH GIVEN BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR. S.T. KIDD, AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) ON THE EVE OF THEIR THREE-WEEK EXPEDITION TO HONG KONG.

THE FIVE BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WERE JOINED BY FIVE GOLD AWARD HOLDERS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WHO ARE EN ROUTE TO HONG KONG. THE EXPEDITION WILL UNITE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM 21 COMMONWEALTH TERRITORIES WITH GOLD AWARD WINNERS FROM HONG KONG.

MR. KIDD, HOSTING A LUNCH FOR THE BRITISH CONTINGENT, SAID HE HOPED THE HOSPITALITY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S LONDON OFFICE WOULD BE A PORTENT OF THE WARM WELCOME AWAITING THEM IN HONG KONG.

+HONG KONG IS A WONDERFUL PLACE AND FULL OF VITALITY,+ MR. KIDD TOLD THEM. +YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.+

THE BRITISH GOLD AWARD HOLDERS ARE: MISS CAROL CARTWRIGHT, HEAD OF THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT A NOTTINGHAM COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL= MISS MAUREEN STEWART, A SERGEANT IN THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE= MR. RAY ADAMS, A JIG AND TOOL DESIGNER= MR. BRIAN GOODHAND, A TRAINEE DISPENSING OPTICIAN= AND MR. ANTHONY CLAVELL, AN ACCOUNTANCY ARTICLED CLERK.

OTHER GOLD AWARD HOLDERS PRESENT WERE MR. VICTOR CHANDLER, FROM THE BAHAMAS, MR. DERRON SMITH, FROM JAMAICA, MR. JOHN HURST, FROM LESOTHO, MISS PAULA GODDARD, FROM ST. LUCIA, AND MR. SERGE URANIE, FROM MAURITIUS.

REPRESENTING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME WERE SIR ALEX ABEL SMITH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUSTEES, MR. GUY BASSETT SMITH, TRUSTEE, MRS. PHYLLIS GORDON-SPENCER, SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND COMMANDER DAVID COBB RN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR (UK).

SIR ALEX ABEL SMITH SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WOULD WISH TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS THANKS TO MR. KIDD FOR GIVING THE PARTY SUCH A SPLENDID SEND OFF.

EARLIER, MR. GUY SMITH SAID: +HONG KONG IS THE MOST THRILLING PLACE IN THE WORLD..+

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MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON PENSION INCREASES CLARIFIED
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ILLEGALLY PAYING PENSION INCREASES.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON A NEWSPAPER REPORT THIS MORNING WHICH SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN MAKING ILLEGAL PAYMENTS OF PENSION INCREASES OVER THE PAST 29 YEARS.

MR. SCOTT SAID THE REPORT APPEARED TO STEM FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) BILL WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY AND WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT PENSIONS INCREASES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AND, HE ADDED, EACH YEAR THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, WHICH INCLUDE PROVISION FOR PENSIONS, ARE DEBATED AND SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+SO THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL.+

THE BILL PUBLISHED TODAY MERELY SEEKS TO INCORPORATE THE EXISTING INCREASES IN AN ORDINANCE. FUTURE INCREASES IN PENSIONS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE BY MEANS OF A RESOLUTION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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REFRESHER COURSE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
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A THREE-MONTH REFRESHER COURSE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS BEGINS THIS SATURDAY (OCTOBER 25) AT THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

ORGANISED BY THE MOBILE SERVICE TEAM, A SELF-PROGRAMMING GROUP OF THE CENTRE, THE COURSE WILL BE HELD EVERY SATURDAY BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 6 P.M.

IT WILL BE IN THREE PARTS. THE FIRST PART WILL DEAL WITH THEORY, INCLUDING THE CONCEPT OF VOLUNTARY WORK= PRE-REQUISITES OF A VOLUNTEER= COMMUNICATIONS AND CO-OPERATION= GROUP PROCESS AND SMALL GROUP MEETING= QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP= PSYCHOLOGY OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, THE AGED AND DISABLED AND PROGRAMME PLANNING.

PART TWO OF THE COURSE WILL CONCENTRATE ON SKILLS, INCLUDING SCREEN PRINTING= CAMPING, GAMES AND SINGING= HANDICRAFTS= FOLK DANCING= EXPEDITIONS AND CYCLING= ROWING AND CANOEING.

THE FINAL PART WILL TOUCH ON PRACTICE, INCLUDING GUIDANCE PROJECTS, SERVICE FOR THE AGED AND SERVICE FOR THE DISABLED.

THE COURSE IS OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 20 WHO ARE OF AT LEAST FORM THREE LEVEL AND WHO HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSES OR ARE EXPERIENCED IN VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES**DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN
SUPPLEMENT**

Friday, October 24, 1975

Speech by the Governor at the opening
ceremony of Kwun Tong Technical Institute

The recent history of technical education in Hong Kong shows several notable landmarks; the setting up of the Morrison Hill Technical Institute in 1969 and the establishment of the Polytechnic in 1972 were too such. However we must go back to 1965 for an event which was to have a far-reaching effect on the development of technical education. I refer to the formation of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee which pioneered much of the work that is now the responsibility of the Hong Kong Training Council.

The Industrial Training Advisory Committee commenced its programme of manpower surveys as early as 1966. These surveys revealed a serious lack of technical education facilities for craftsmen and technicians. This led to the recommendation that Government should establish four more technical institutes. Two new technical institutes, this one and the other at Kwai Chung, have been built in parallel and both commenced classes last month. Foundation work for the third institute at Cheung Sha Wan is in progress and planning for the fourth institute at San Po Kong is in hand. The opening of this institute, the first of the four new institutes, is another significant milestone in the progress of technical education in Hong Kong.

It is appropriate that this institute should be located in Kwun Tong, which for some years has been a centre of considerable industrial activity, and I am confident that both students and industrialists will take full advantage of the courses offered.

/Technical

Technical institutes are now firmly established as an essential part of Government's plan to expand post-secondary education and sites for additional institutes have been ear marked in Shatin, Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan.

The Principal has described the courses offered by the institute and the various patterns of student attendance which are available. I particularly wish to stress the importance of part-time day release schemes. This system of concurrent education and on-the-job training has been adopted as the most economic and effective means of meeting our future manpower requirements. It is my earnest hope that employers will share with Government this dual responsibility by offering training to young men and women not only in the manufacturing industries but also in the important commerce and service industries.

Technical education is expensive and the building programme for the institutes and the Polytechnic implies a very substantial commitment both in capital and in recurrent expenditure.

The ratio of cost to benefit for technical education is not easily measured but few would dispute that such expenditure is essential in order to promote economic growth and stability. Nevertheless, at the present time, large increases in public expenditure cannot be undertaken lightly. This technical institute cost around \$25 million to build and equip. At full development the annual recurrent costs will be of the order of \$7 million. The priority now given to technical education can only be justified if there is clear evidence that the facilities are meeting social needs as well as the requirements of industry and commerce.

Firm links have been established between industry and commerce and the various government bodies responsible for education and industrial training. Such liaison and cooperation are vital for the right use of

/resources

resources including scarce and expert manpower and costly equipment. The work of the Hong Kong Training Council will prove most valuable in helping to identify needs and establish priorities.

Recent years have seen significant improvements in the quality and range of our products and I feel confident that the Hong Kong Training Council will also give a lead to the community by strongly encouraging employers to make full use of the fine facilities for training young people in the new technology that Hong Kong needs to maintain our competitive edge. Technological advance will create the best opportunities for those countries who have the capacity and determination to take full advantage of them. Our manufacturers have a well deserved reputation for resourcefulness and flexibility but need new techniques demanding a high degree of expertise in design, management and production. Our commerce also needs reinforcing by well trained young people able to exploit the modern techniques of management. The technical institutes are being established so that commerce and industry is assured of an adequate supply of skilled and adaptable craftsmen, technicians, office staff and supervisors.

I have referred to the needs of industry and commerce but we must also remember that the student is more than a small cog in the industrial machinery. He is an individual. Any form of education must always do something to make life more enjoyable and rewarding in addition to being a preparation for a career. If technical education whether in school or institute is to be accepted as an alternative to the traditional stream it must be broad enough to allow students flexibility, and to enable them to develop their own capabilities, and be proud of themselves and of their place in society.

I congratulate all those concerned with the planning, construction and equipping of this fine building. The Education Department, the Public Works Department, the Contractors and many others have had to work closely together in order to meet a tight schedule.

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This is only the beginning. The principal and staff are now given the task of creating a technical institute which will be a living part of both industry and community in Kwun Tong. I wish you every success in this great work.

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