



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980

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PARTICIPATION IN OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW NOT IN HK'S INTEREST
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST TO ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW IN THE LIGHT OF THE VIEW TAKEN BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAS CLOSEST RELATIONS.

STATING THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR JACK SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE VIEW OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ASSERTED THAT PARTICIPATION IN OLYMPIC GAMES IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE WHILE SOVIET TROOPS REMAINED IN AFGHANISTAN.

+I MUST THEREFORE URGE ALL CONCERNED TO CONSIDER VERY SERIOUSLY THE ADVISABILITY OF NOT ATTENDING THE GAMES IN MOSCOW, AND TO REACH NO HASTY DECISIONS,+ SIR JACK SAID.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBED TO THE HIGH OLYMPIC IDEAL AND TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE GAMES SHOULD BE DIVORCED FROM POLITICS, IT WOULD HAVE BECOME CLEAR THAT THIS YEAR PARTICIPATION IN THE GAMES WOULD HAVE VERY DEFINITE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

+THIS IS A FACT THAT HONG KONG CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT, AND HONG KONG AS A COMMUNITY IS UNIQUELY DEPENDENT ON ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

SIR JACK POINTED OUT THAT THE EVENTUAL DECISION WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT LAY WITH MEMBERS OF THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION (ASF) AND THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (OC) OF HONG KONG.

+HOWEVER,+ SIR JACK SAID, +THIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.+

SIR JACK ADDED THAT THIS POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS BASED ON POLITICAL PRINCIPLES.

+EVEN IF ASF AND OC HAVE OTHER FUNDS AT THEIR DISPOSAL WHICH WOULD ENABLE PARTICIPATION, I HOPE A DECISION ON WHETHER TO GO OR NOT WILL NEVERTHELESS BE ON THE BASIS OF WHERE HONG KONG'S OVERALL INTERESTS LIE,+ SIR JACK SAID.

WHILE APPRECIATING THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASF AND OC MIGHT HAVE ENTERED INTO FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, SIR JACK SAID: +IF THE ASF AND OC DECIDE NOT TO GO, AND THESE EXPENSES ARE RENDERED NUGATORY, IT WILL BE BECAUSE HONG KONG'S OVERALL INTERESTS HAVE BEEN PLACED ABOVE ATHLETIC AND SPORTING INTERESTS. +IN THIS CASE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE READY TO CONSIDER REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT.+

SIR JACK SAID THAT IF INTERNATIONAL GAMES NOT AT MOSCOW WERE ARRANGED AND ASF AND OC DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THEM, THEN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING SUPPORT IN THE NORMAL WAY IF IT WAS ASKED TO DO SO.

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APPOINTMENT OF URBAN COUNCILLORS
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD RE-APPOINTED FOUR SERVING MEMBERS AND APPOINTED TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 1980.

THE RE-APPOINTMENTS ARE MR KIM Y.S. CHAM, MR LAWRENCE H.L. FUNG, MRS GARCE HO AND THE HON F.K. HU.

THE TWO NEW MEMBERS ARE MRS SELINA CHOW AND DR PHILIP C.K. KWOK.

MRS SELINA CHOW IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN. SHE IS A FILM PRODUCER AND WAS FORMERLY GENERAL MANAGER OF CTV AND PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR TVB. SHE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND ALSO SERVES ON THE PANEL OF LAY ASSESSORS.

DR PHILIP C.K. KWOK IS MARRIED WITH FOUR CHILDREN. HE HOLDS VARIOUS DIRECTORSHIPS IN THE WING ON GROUP OF COMPANIES. HE IS DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE WING ON LIFE (HOLDINGS) LTD AND DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE WING ON COMPANY LTD. HE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE STATISTICS ADVISORY BOARD, THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ALSO SERVES ON THE PANEL OF LAY ASSESSORS.

TWO CURRENT MEMBERS, MR PETER P.F. CHAN AND MR J. MACKENZIE, WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR 12 YEARS AND NINE YEARS RESPECTIVELY, WILL BE RETIRING FROM MEMBERSHIP ON MARCH 31, 1980.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FOR FEBRUARY WAS \$5 919 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$4 131 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$1 788 MILLION ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$7 124 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR FEBRUARY WAS \$1 205 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1979, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$1 697 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS- \$485 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS- \$2 182 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT IN TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$1 522 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT IN IMPORTS.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AGAIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT READING TOO MUCH INTO ONE MONTH'S STATISTICS.

/+JUST AS

+JUST AS IMPORTS IN JANUARY HAD RISEN DRAMATICALLY AS A RESULT OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, SO IN FEBRUARY IT WAS EXPORTS THAT HAD BEEN AFFECTED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE LARGE INCREASE OF 70 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1979 WAS TO SOME EXTENT A RESULT OF SEASONAL FACTORS,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT EVERY YEAR THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EXPORTS BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FOLLOWED BY A LULL AFTER THE HOLIDAY.

+AS IN 1979, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FELL AT THE END OF JANUARY AND IN 1980 IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY, A FAIRLY DRAMATIC GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1980 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1979 WAS TO BE EXPECTED,+ HE SAID.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S STATISTICS INTO CONTEXT, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 45 PER CENT HIGHER THAN FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1979. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS 38 PER CENT HIGHER.

COMPARING STATISTICS OVER A LONGER PERIOD -- THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY THIS YEAR WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1979 -- THE INCREASES BY VALUE WERE 39 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 50 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, 42 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND 37 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

+THUS THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES CONFIRM THAT TOTAL EXPORTS ARE STILL GROWING FASTER THAN IMPORTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF EXPORTS, WAS 15 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 19 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1979,+ HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:

LATEST THREE MONTHS	DECEMBER 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980	DECEMBER 1978 TO FEBRUARY 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	14 717	10 600	+ 4 118	+ 38.8
RE-EXPORTS	5 724	3 865	+ 1 859	+ 48.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	20 442	14 465	+ 5 977	+ 41.3
IMPORTS	23 569	17 889	+ 5 681	+ 31.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 3 127	- 3 424	+ 297	

/SAME MONTH

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	FEBRUARY 1980	FEBRUARY 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4 131 (69.8%)	2 434 (65.1%)	+ 1 697	+ 69.7
RE-EXPORTS	1 788	1 303	+ 485	+ 37.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	5 919	3 737	+ 2 182	+ 58.4
IMPORTS	7 124	5 602	+ 1 522	+ 27.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 205	- 1 865	+ 660	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	FEBRUARY 1980	JANUARY 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4 131 (69.8%)	4 997 (70.9%)	- 866	- 17.3
RE-EXPORTS	1 788	2 047	- 259	- 12.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	5 919	7 044	- 1 125	- 16.0
IMPORTS	7 124	8 132	- 1 009	- 12.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 205	- 1 088	- 117	
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN.-FEB. 1980	JAN.-FEB. 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	9 128 (70.4%)	6 286 (70.4%)	+ 2 842	+ 45.2
RE-EXPORTS	3 835	2 639	+ 1 196	+ 45.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	12 963	8 925	+ 4 038	+ 45.2
IMPORTS	15 256	11 048	+ 4 208	+ 38.1
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 293	- 2 123	- 170	
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	MARCH 1979 TO FEB. 1980	MARCH 1978 TO FEB. 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	58 754	42 151	+16 603	+ 39.4
RE-EXPORTS	21 218	14 176	+ 7 042	+ 49.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	79 972	56 328	+23 645	+ 42.0
IMPORTS	90 045	65 906	+24 139	+ 36.6
TRADE BALANCE	-10 073	- 9 578	- 495	

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR FEBRUARY
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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR FEBRUARY 1980 WERE 158 AND 157 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, CPI (A) INCREASED BY EIGHT POINTS AND CPI (B) BY SEVEN POINTS.

THE CPI (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI (B) FROM THOSE SPENDING \$1 500 AND \$2 999 A MONTH, AS DETERMINED AT THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY IN 1973/74.

THE CHANGES FOR FEBRUARY 1980 IN RESPECT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE TWO INDICES, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1979, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COMPONENT	C.P.I.(A)			C.P.I.(B)		
	FEB 80	JAN 80	FEB 79	FEB 80	JAN 80	FEB 79
FOODSTUFFS	152	142	125	154	145	127
HOUSING	148	148	137	148	148	136
FUEL AND LIGHT	259	239	141	244	226	140
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	181	168	155	174	163	150
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	118	117	106	116	115	105
DURABLE GOODS	131	131	121	128	127	118
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	165	164	139	164	162	137
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	191	167	145	191	173	151
SERVICES	165	158	142	168	162	144
ALL ITEMS	158	150	131	157	150	131

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 10 POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY NINE POINTS IN CPI (B). PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT WERE THE INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, FRESH-WATER FISH, LIVE POULTRY, PORK, SALT-WATER FISH AND FRESH FRUITS. THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP. MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 20 POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY 18 POINTS IN CPI (B), REFLECTING THE IMPACT OF THE INCREASES IN PRICES OF KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS SINCE JANUARY AS WELL AS HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY.

HIGHER PRICES FOR CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO INCREASED THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO BY 13 POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY 11 POINTS IN CPI (B).

THE ONE POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN BOTH CPI (A) AND CPI (B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND MEN'S UNDER-CLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND OPTICAL GOODS.

FOLLOWING HIGHER PRICES FOR FRESH FLOWERS, FOR FILMS AND PHOTO PROCESSING, THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI (A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN CPI (B).

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 24 POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY 18 POINTS IN CPI (B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER FARES FOR BUSES AND FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY SEVEN POINTS IN CPI (A) AND BY SIX POINTS IN CPI (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT, AND TRADITIONAL INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SIZE OF THE INCREASE WAS PARTLY BECAUSE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OCCURRED IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY AND SO AFFECTED THE PRICES RECORDED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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UNIFIED CONTROL OF LAND MATTERS SUGGESTED * * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ASKED TO CONSIDER BRINGING UNDER ONE ROOF ALL MAJOR ISSUES RELATING TO LAND, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION, POLICY, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND ALLOCATION.

+THIS IS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY, IF LAND SALES ARE TO REMAIN A KEY FACTOR IN OUR BUDGETARY POLICY,+ SAID THE HON LI FOOK-WO AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR LI SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING SYSTEM THERE WAS AN EXCESSIVELY LONG LEAD TIME BEFORE UNFORMED LAND COULD BE PREPARED FOR THE MARKET. +THIS IS DUE TO FRAGMENTATION OF AUTHORITY, RESULTING IN NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS AND LENGTHY EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS WHENEVER AN ISSUE IS RAISED,+ HE SAID.

/MR LI

MR LI CONTINUED: +LAND AND ITS PROPER UTILISATION IS AT PRESENT SUBJECT TO A MULTIPLICITY OF CONTROL WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION. THIS MUST INEVITABLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE RATE AT WHICH LAND CAN BE PRODUCED, AND THUS ON ITS AVAILABILITY FOR THE MANY ESSENTIAL PURPOSES FOR WHICH THERE IS SUCH A HEAVY AND COMPETING DEMAND.

+WITH THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT MACHINERY THERE CAN BE ONLY MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SPEED OF LAND PRODUCTION.

+I WOULD THEREFORE URGE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE EARLY INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF UNIFIED CONTROL, WHICH COULD EITHER BE IN THE FORM OF A SEPARATE BRANCH OR DEPARTMENT,+ MR LI SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE INFLATION NOW SUFFERED BY HONG KONG WAS TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT IMPORTED, IT IS CLEAR FROM THE NEED TO IMPOSE EXTENSIVE RENT CONTROL THAT THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR AND SUPPLY OF PROPERTY AND LAND HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION SUSTAINED BY HONG KONG IN 1978 AND 1979.

+IT IS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT ANY INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES OF THIS ORDER WILL MORE SEVERELY AFFECT THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUPS, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ACCOMMODATION. WITH THE PRESENT STATE OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, FEW ARE FINANCIALLY ABLE TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN HOMES UNLESS THEY ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE AMOUNT OF LAND WHICH WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN 1980-81 AND IN THE FOLLOWING THREE YEARS FORECAST PERIOD, MR LI SAID: +THESE FIGURES ARE UP-TO-DATE FORECASTS, BUT WILL THE LAND MADE AVAILABLE BE ABLE TO MEET WITH LEGITIMATE DEMAND IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS?

+IF NOT, ARE WE LIKELY TO SEE A CONTINUING ESCALATION IN THE PRICE OF LAND AND ALL THAT IT PORTENDS FOR THIS COMMUNITY,+ MR LI ASKED.

ON THE FOUR CONCESSIONS IN PERSONAL TAXATION, MR LI SAID THEY WERE +TIMELY AND APPRECIATED BY MANY BREADWINNERS+.

MR LI POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASES IN PERSONAL ALLOWANCES, CHILD ALLOWANCES AND DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCES WERE NOT UNGENEROUS IN MONEY TERMS, BUT THEY WOULD BARELY MATCH THE EROSION IN PURCHASING POWER IN REAL TERMS.

+HOWEVER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE COST OF THESE TAX CONCESSIONS TO THE REVENUE IS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL, WE AGREE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL THOUGH NOT WITHOUT SOME RELUCTANCE,+ MR LI SAID.

+WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY REQUEST THAT THE ALLOWANCES AND ASSESSMENT PROVISIONS SHOULD BE REVISED PERIODICALLY IN THE LIGHT OF REVENUE RETURNS,+ HE ADDED.

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LAND ADMINISTRATION NEEDS RESTRUCTURING

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OVER ITS LAND ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

THE CALL CAME FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN WHO SAID THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION +SEEM RIDICULOUS AND INVOLVE A GREAT DEAL OF DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND UNNECESSARY WASTE OF TIME AND MANPOWER+.

REFERRING TO A STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN RESPONSE TO HER CALL FOR A SINGLE LANDS DEPARTMENT LAST APRIL, SHE SAID THE OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW HAD YET TO BE DISCLOSED.

WHILE AGREEING THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S FORECAST OF LAND PRODUCTION AND SALES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WAS A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT, MISS DUNN ATTRIBUTED THE FAILURE TO PRODUCE AND SELL MORE LAND IN THE PAST TO THE UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

AT VARIOUS TIMES AND STAGES, SHE CONTINUED, THE INVOLVEMENT OF A BEWILDERING MULTIPLICITY OF DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES, BRANCHES, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES IS REQUIRED.

+ONE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS SPLITTING UP OF RESPONSIBILITIES IS THAT THERE IS NO CENTRAL RECORD KEEPING,+ MISS DUNN POINTED OUT.

+FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE NO UNIFORM CONCEPTS. TIME AND AGAIN, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE OR BRANCH OR COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEE REFERS TO GROSS AREAS WHILE ANOTHER TO NET.

+THERE IS NOT EVEN, I SUSPECT, AN AGREED DEFINITION OF WHAT IS MEANT BY 'LAND PRODUCTION' AND THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME SEEMS TO CHANGE DAILY, BUT I SHALL NOT EMBARRASS ANYONE BY ASKING WHY WE ONLY SOLD 95 ACRES OF LAND IN 1979-80 INSTEAD OF THE ESTIMATED 134 ACRES.+

ON THE SUBJECT OF TRANSPORT, MISS DUNN SAID: +PRIVATE CARS ARE INEFFICIENT ROAD USERS, AND IT MAY BE THEIR UNNECESSARY USAGE SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO WELL TO ACCEPT THAT THE NUMBERS OF PRIVATE CARS WILL INCREASE.

+SO, INSTEAD OF DEVISING WAYS AND MEANS TO FRUSTRATE THIS NATURAL ASPIRATION, IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE NETWORK OF ROADS TO CATER TO THIS FACT OF LIFE.+

AS REGARDS PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SHE STATED: +IF THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE CARS ON THE ROADS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN, THE GOVERNMENT IS LARGELY TO BLAME BECAUSE CAR USAGE, AND EVEN CAR OWNERSHIP, REFLECTS THE INADEQUACY OF OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND I AM REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE BUS SERVICES.

/+THERE IS

+THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THE SERVICES OF THE TWO PUBLIC BUS COMPANIES TO DETERIORATE TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAVE- AND I CANNOT ACCEPT THE OFT-QUOTED REASON THAT THE BUSES ARE PREVENTED FROM OFFERING AN EFFICIENT SERVICE BECAUSE THE ROADS ARE CLOGGED UP BY PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS.

+PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS MAY BE THE CAUSE OF ROAD CONGESTION AT TIMES, BUT PEOPLE HAVE TO MOVE ABOUT FOR MANY REASONS, INCLUDING GETTING TO WORK- AND MEANWHILE, BUSES LIE IDLE BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF DRIVERS AND WHOLLY INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS.+

NOTING THAT THE PUBLIC ARE TOLD TO PAY MORE IF THE BUS COMPANIES ARE TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THEIR FRANCHISES, MISS DUNN ASKED: +WHAT ASSURANCE IS THERE THAT THE BUS COMPANIES WILL IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES AFTER THE RECENT FARE INCREASES?+

ON THE BUDGET ITSELF, MISS DUNN CHALLENGED THE STATEMENT THAT THE EMPHASIS OF BUDGETARY POLICY IN 1980-81 WAS TO HOLD THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE OF RESOURCES AT ITS 1979-80 LEVEL.

+BUT THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT THE 1980-81 BUDGET DOES NOT DO, FOR THE RELATIVE SHARE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WILL INCREASE FURTHER: FROM NEARLY 19 PER CENT IN 1979-80 TO NEARLY 20 PER CENT IN 1980-81 AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE OF THE OUTPUT OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WILL INCREASE AGAIN TO 49 PER CENT (ITS 1978 SHARE).+

MISS DUNN FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES WOULD ACTUALLY SLOW DOWN FROM 11.6 PER CENT IN 1979 TO 10 PER CENT IN 1980 AND THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE IN PRICES GENERALLY FROM 13.3 PER CENT TO 11 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD.

SHE SAID SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS ALLOWING THE GROWTH RATE OF EXPENDITURE ON BOTH CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT AND GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO ACCELERATE IN 1980-81 - BOTH OF THESE RATES OF GROWTH ARE WELL IN EXCESS OF HIS FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY.

+IN SHORT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGETARY STRATEGY FOR 1980-81 IS PUTTING AT RISK HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1979-80, INASMUCH AS THE EFFECT MUST SURELY BE INFLATIONARY, PARTICULARLY IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WHICH IS ALREADY OPERATING TO THE LIMIT OF ITS CAPACITY AS EVIDENCED BY THE CONTINUING RAPID INCREASES IN COSTS.

+IN OTHER WORDS, MY CONCLUSION IS THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS BUDGET ARE NOT, AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY CLAIMED IN HIS SPEECH, 'JUST ABOUT TOLERABLE' FOR EITHER THE FUTURE GROWTH AND BALANCE OF OUR ECONOMY OR FOR OUR PUBLIC FINANCES,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR THE COURSE OF THE ECONOMY CLOSELY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND BE READY TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION, IF NECESSARY.

THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF GROWING PROTECTIONISM, WILL ALSO NEED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND COST EFFICIENT THAN EVER BEFORE, SHE WARNED.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO REVIEW PERSONAL TAXATION ANNUALLY
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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON LEUNG TAT-SHING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL TAXATION ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

WHILE COMPLIMENTING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR HIS +TIMELY MOVE+ TO ALLEVIATE THE BURDEN OF THE LOWER TAXABLE INCOME GROUP, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LEVELS OF THE PROPOSED TAXATION IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL, CHILD AND DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCES ARE RATHER ON THE LOW SIDE.

+THEY MAY BE BARELY ACCEPTABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT I DOUBT THEY WILL REMAIN SO FOR LONG DUE TO THE CONTINUED RAVAGES OF INFLATION.

+I SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION AT FREQUENT INTERVALS, SAY ANNUALLY, IN ORDER TO RETAIN A PROPER PERSPECTIVE, BASED ON THE PREVAILING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.+

ON THE DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCE SCHEME, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOWER THE AGE CRITERION FROM 60 TO 55, WHICH IS THE NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE IN HONG KONG.

+DUE TO THE AGE LIMIT OF 60 OR ABOVE, THE SCHEME HAS FAILED TO REACH MANY WHO WOULD AND SHOULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM ITS CONCESSION.

+FOR MANY VALID REASONS, A TAX-PAYER MAY HAVE TO SUPPORT HIS PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE AGE OF 60 YEARS,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

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NEW AIRPORT ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIABLE
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A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT SHOULD BE BUILT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SAID DR THE HON HENRY HU.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON THAT APART FROM BEING JUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, A NEW AIRPORT WOULD IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN KOWLOON, RELEASE LARGE AREAS OF LAND AND ENHANCE INVESTMENT CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

+AS FAR AS FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE CONCERNED, IT APPEARS THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE PROBLEM IN MEETING ITS COMMITMENT IN IMPORTANT CAPITAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS A NEW AIRPORT, ANOTHER FIXED HARBOUR CROSSING AND MORE PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS,+ HE SAID.

DR HU NOTED THAT THE NEED FOR MORE LAND, ROADS AND HOUSING UNITS HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES HONG KONG WOULD SOON BE CONFRONTED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD BE ITS ECONOMICALLY MANAGEABLE POPULATION.

+THE ANSWER IN TURN DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH LAND CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

+IF THE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF LANTAU MATERIALISES, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, THEN OUR ECONOMICALLY MANAGEABLE POPULATION WOULD PROBABLY BE BETWEEN SIX TO EIGHT MILLION.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT AN EARLY DECISION BE MADE TO FULLY DEVELOP LANTAU SO AS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE OF WHICH IS LAND, TO COPE WITH OUR LIKELY POPULATION GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

DR HU REITERATED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE TERTIARY INDUSTRY AND RE-EXPORT SECTOR TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

THESE TWO SECTORS ARE NEEDED +TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC BASE AND TO GIVE US A BETTER BALANCE AGAINST GLOBAL ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TERTIARY INDUSTRY DURING THE THREE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1977 TO 1979 HAD INCREASED BY 24.5 PER CENT. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE TRENDS MAY INCREASE EVEN MORE RAPIDLY IN THE 1980S AND CALLED FOR A MORE DETAILED STUDY TO FURTHER EXPAND THESE SECTORS.

ON THE PATTERN OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY HAD BECOME SO LARGE THAT IT RISKED BECOMING +A MACHINE WITHOUT A SOUL+.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO IMPROVE THE SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC SPENDING, TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED POLICIES AND TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS AT THE RIGHT TIME BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.+

BUT HE CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SPENDING ENOUGH ON THE +LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY+ - CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT PROPERLY LOOKED AFTER BY THEIR PARENTS, THE STREET SLEEPERS, THE AGED AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE BOAT DWELLERS.

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO CREATE POSTS IN CIVIL SERVICE EFFECTIVE NEXT MONTH

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THE PRESENT PROCEDURE TO CREATE NEW POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE CHANGED WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONTH, THE HON T.S. LO REVEALED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, AUTHORITY WILL BE DELEGATED TO THE HEAD OF A DEPARTMENT TO REALLOCATE EXISTING FUNCTIONS AND TO CREATE NEW POSTS, OTHER THAN THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL, WITHIN A PREDETERMINED FINANCIAL CEILING WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE BRANCH, ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, MR LO SAID: +GOING HAND IN HAND WITH THIS WILL BE THAT EACH DEPARTMENT HEAD WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STREAMLINE THE STAFF STRUCTURE OF HIS DEPARTMENT SO AS TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY.+

HE NOTED THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES:

- * DEPARTMENT HEADS WILL HAVE GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND FREEDOM TO SHAPE THEIR OWN DEPARTMENTS.
- * NEW POSTS CAN BE CREATED WITHIN A DEPARTMENT WITH MUCH LESS DELAY THAN HITHERTO POSSIBLE.
- * IT WILL STIMULATE EACH DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE ALL FUNCTIONS AT PRESENT UNDERTAKEN BY IT AND TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY ARE ALL NECESSARY, AND ARE GETTING THE RIGHT PRIORITY.
- * ARISING FROM THE EXAMINATION, A DEPARTMENT CAN DECIDE WHAT REDEPLOYMENTS MIGHT SENSIBLY BE MADE.
- * TO FREE THE FINANCE BRANCH TO A LARGE EXTENT TO CONDUCT REVIEWS IN DEPTH OF THE OVERALL POSITION OF EACH DEPARTMENT. THEY MAY BE STRENGTHENED BY INVOLVING THE STAFF OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OR ORGANISATION AND METHOD SECTION AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS, AND
- * TO FREE THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE TO A LARGE EXTENT TO CONDUCT MEANINGFUL REVIEWS IN DEPTH OF THE STAFF NEEDS OF EACH DEPARTMENT, HOPEFULLY, ONCE IN ABOUT EVERY THREE YEARS.

ALTHOUGH SOME TEETHING TROUBLES MAY ARISE FROM THE NEW SYSTEM, MR LO SAID: +I TRUST THAT GIVEN GOODWILL ON THE PART OF EVERYONE CONCERNED IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE A WORKABLE SYSTEM AND A VAST IMPROVEMENT ON THE PRESENT PROCEDURE.+

EARLIER, MR LO EXPLAINED THAT REQUESTS FROM DEPARTMENTS WERE AT PRESENT PUT TO THE FINANCE BRANCH FOR EXAMINATION BEFORE THEY WERE SUBMITTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER SCRUTINY AND THEN FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THERE ARE WEAKNESSES IN THIS PROCEDURE WHICH HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.

THEY ARE:

- * IT TAKES AWAY THE INCENTIVES FOR A DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE WHETHER A FUNCTION FOUND NECESSARY 10 YEARS AGO IS STILL NEEDED TODAY AND TO FULLY UTILISE THE TIME OF A HOLDER OF A POST, THUS RESULTING IN A NUMBER OF POSTS BECOMING REDUNDANT.
- * THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OR THE FINANCE BRANCH, INUNDATED WITH SUBMISSIONS FOR POSTS, FINDS IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO EXAMINE THE OVERALL MANNING POSITION OF A DEPARTMENT, AND
- * GIVEN THE LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES OF THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE VAST NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS, A BOTTLE NECK IS OBVIOUSLY BUILDING UP AND THE TIME GAP BETWEEN DEPARTMENTAL SUBMISSION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL IS LENGTHENING, THEREBY RESULTING IN INADEQUATE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO ACT ON REHABILITATION PLAN
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DR THE HON HARRY FANG TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DELAY IN PROVIDING FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT A NUMBER OF SERVICES IDENTIFIED IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN.

AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HE SAID ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WAS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR DISABLED JOB SEEKERS IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

+SEVEN MONTHS AFTER A DRAFT ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE PAPER HAD BEEN AGREED BY THE POLICY BRANCH AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED, WE ARE STILL NO FURTHER FORWARD.+

ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PHYSIOTHERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY POSTS APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME FATE, HE ADDED.

HE WISHED TO KNOW WHEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD BE REQUESTED TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN EMPLOYING DISABLED GRADUATES FROM THE TWO UNIVERSITIES +IF WE ARE TO REAP THE FULL BENEFITS OF THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS, TIME AND MONEY THAT WE ARE DEVOTING TO THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.+

ON SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, DR FANG SAID THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HAD PROPOSED TO UPGRADE A NUMBER OF SUCH HOSPITALS TO ACUTE GENERAL HOSPITAL STATUS.

IF THIS AIM - TO SHARE THE LOAD OF THE OVERSTRETCHED GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS - IS TO BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID, ADEQUATE FUNDS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ENABLE THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR STAFF STANDARDS AND FACILITIES.

DR FANG THEN CALLED FOR EXPANSION OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, POINTING OUT THAT AT LEAST 1 000 HOSPITAL BEDS ARE OCCUPIED BY +CHRONICALLY OLD PATIENTS+.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THESE PATIENTS ARE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE SENILE MENTALLY AND/OR PHYSICALLY AND CAN BE QUITE ADEQUATELY LOOKED AFTER IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES WITH SOME NURSING SUPERVISION.

+SURELY IT IS BOTH SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND TO BUILD MORE CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THESE ELDERLY PATIENTS, THUS RELEASING OUR MUCH NEEDED HOSPITAL BEDS FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE MEDICAL OR SURGICAL TREATMENT.+

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, RATHER THAN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUNNING OF THESE HOMES, EITHER AS A DIRECT SERVICE OR AS A SUBVENTED SERVICE.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AND MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO EXPAND SUCH FACILITIES.

TURNING TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE CLASS REVIEW, DR FANG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR THEIR +SENSIBLE AND WELL-DISCIPLINED+ ATTITUDE IN THIS MATTER.

HE SAID : +I SHOULD LIKE AN ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT IS ITS INTENTION TO TREAT VOLUNTARY AGENCY STAFF EQUALLY AND EQUITABLY WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS- AND THAT ANY SALARY ADJUSTMENTS THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE PRESENT REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WILL APPLY RETROACTIVELY FROM APRIL 1979.+

DR FANG ALSO PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SCHEME TO STUDENTS IN FORM IV TO FORM VII WHO ARE NOT AT PRESENT COVERED BY ANY SPECIFIC HEALTH CARE SCHEME.

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DEPENDENCE ON CAPITAL REVENUE SHOULD BE REDUCED
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THE GOVERNMENT MUST REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON LARGE CAPITAL REVENUE BECAUSE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO RAISE IN FUTURE, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE, HE SAID THE ESTIMATED CAPITAL REVENUE FOR 1980/81 WOULD FINANCE AS MUCH AS 90 PER CENT OF THE ESTIMATED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

+WE WERE TOLD THAT THE BULK OF THIS STAGGERING SUM IS TO BE REALISED FROM LAND SALES WHICH MEANS THAT ALMOST ALL WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+WILL THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE THE ABILITY TO FINANCE SUCH PURCHASES WITHOUT SERIOUSLY AFFECTING ITS ABILITY TO FINANCE INVESTMENTS IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS CAPITAL PLANT AND MACHINERY FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR?

+ALSO IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS WILL THE PROJECTED LAND SALES BRING IN THE ANTICIPATED REVENUE?

+WOULD IT THEREFORE BE ADVISABLE TO CONTINUE RELYING HEAVILY ON INCOME FROM LAND SALES TO SUSTAIN A HEAVY CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN FUTURE YEARS?+ HE ASKED.

MR CHEN ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE GROWING PROPORTION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BOTH IN ABSOLUTE TERMS AS WELL AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED PROVISION OF \$7 326 MILLION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 1980/81 REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1979/80 OR ALMOST 80 PER CENT ABOVE THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

ACCORDING TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH, MR CHEN SAID, THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S SHARE OF THE OUTPUT OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN 1980 IS ALSO ESTIMATED TO INCREASE TO 49 PER CENT ONCE AGAIN.

+ALTHOUGH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS REASSURED US, ALBEIT GUARDEDLY, THAT THIS CAN BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT SERIOUSLY RISKING CROWDING OUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND/OR DIVERTING LABOUR AWAY FROM MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT, I AM NOT ALTOGETHER HAPPY.

+I FIND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THAT SUCH A LARGE VOLUME OF GOVERNMENT CAPITAL WORKS WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON PRICES OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR AND ULTIMATELY ON GENERAL PRICES IN THE REST OF THE ECONOMY.+

MR CHEN THEN SUGGESTED TO IMPROVE THE RECURRENT REVENUE STRUCTURE BY INCREASING THE YIELD OF INDIRECT TAXES.

HE SAID THERE WERE MANY AVENUES TO ACHIEVE THIS, ONE OF WHICH IS DUTIABLE COMMODITIES SUCH AS LIQUOR, TOBACCO AND PERFUME.

+THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST, AS FAR AS LIQUOR IS CONCERNED, THAT A POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS HAS BEEN REACHED AND THIS IS CLEARLY REFLECTED BY THE RAPID INCREASE IN YEARLY CONSUMPTIONS WHICH CONTINUES TO RISE FROM \$296 MILLION IN 1975 TO A HEIGHT OF \$672 MILLION IN 1979,+ MR CHEN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE WISE FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM INDIRECT TAXATION TO BE KEPT AT A MORE REASONABLE LEVEL IN RELATION TO DIRECT TAXATION WHICH IS INCOME SENSITIVE.

FURTHERMORE, AN INCREASE IN INDIRECT TAXATION MAY HELP DISCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR CONSUMPTION WHICH IS PERHAPS WHAT HONG KONG NEEDS TO KEEP INFLATION DOWN TO A MORE ACCEPTABLE LEVEL, HE ADDED.

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HELP REQUIRED FOR THREE GROUPS OF PEOPLE

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THE HON ROGER LOBO TODAY SPOKE OUT FOR THREE CLASSES OF PEOPLE — THE ELDERLY IN HOSPITALS, THE YOUNG WORKFORCE AND POTENTIAL HOME BUYERS — AND ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES.

+THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MERIT ATTENTION,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PUBLIC POLICY MUST BE MONITORED CONSTANTLY TO ENSURE THAT IT IS MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, OR IS AT LEAST PROCEEDING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

+WE ARE REALISTIC AND PATIENT SO WE DO NOT EXPECT TO SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS AT ONCE, BUT WE NEED TO KNOW THAT OUR TARGETS FOR THE BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND EDUCATION ARE ATTAINABLE AND APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

AMONG HIS THREE CONCERNS, MR LOBO SAID HOME OWNERSHIP +IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE AREAS IN WHICH PUBLIC POLICY MUST MEET THE REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY+.

+WE MUST NOT SLIP ANY FURTHER INTO A SITUATION WHERE THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEY HAD EARNED THE RIGHT TO THE SECURITY OF THEIR OWN HOMES NOW SEE THAT MODEST EXPECTATION RECEDING DAY BY DAY,+ HE WARNED.

+THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE MOST FOR HONG KONG AND YET HAVE ASKED FOR THE LEAST IN RETURN.

+THEY HAVE WORKED AND SAVED FOR THE FUTURE AND NOW, SANDWICHED BETWEEN HIGH PRICES AND HIGH INTEREST RATES, THEIR PROSPECTS OF HOME OWNERSHIP ARE MORE REMOTE THAN EVER.

+IF OUR POLICIES ON LAND AND HOUSING ARE PENALISING THIS DESERVING AND SIGNIFICANT GROUP, THEN THEY MUST BE RE-EXAMINED AND IF LACK OF IMAGINATION, DILIGENCE AND LAND ARE NOT THE PROBLEM, LET US FIND OUT WHAT IS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT URGENTLY.+ HE SAID.

MR LOBO UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR CARE TO THE ELDERLY +WHO WOULD RATHER STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET OR RELY ON THEIR FAMILIES THAN STAYING IN HOSPITALS+.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 5 000 ELDERLY PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, OF WHOM ABOUT 20 PER CENT REQUIRED ONLY MINIMAL NURSING CARE.

HE NOTED THAT THEIR CONFINEMENT TO HOSPITAL MAY WORK AGAINST FULL RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION.

MORE ACCOMMODATION WHERE OLD PEOPLE CAN LIVE WITH DIGNITY, WITH APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL CARE AND CONTACT WITH THEIR RELATIVES SHOULD BE PROVIDED, HE SAID.

THIS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED, HE ADDED, BY THE EXTENSION OF THE VISITING NURSING SYSTEM TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE AT WORK TO RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR PARENTS.

MR LOBO THEN TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE WORKFORCE, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH WAS EMPHASISED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT WELL OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WORKING IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN 1978 HAD NO SECONDARY EDUCATION AT ALL.

+THEIR BEST CHANCE TO REGAIN LOST GROUND MUST BE THROUGH PART-TIME STUDY IN AN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME WHEN THE PROPOSALS OF THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION ARE IMPLEMENTED.

+I BELIEVE WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER, AND THE RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WORKING IN THIS FIELD.

+SPECIFICALLY, I MUST POINT OUT THAT, IF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION IS TO INVOLVE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, CURRENT POLICIES CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF PREMISES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES SHOULD BE REVIEWED.+

MR LOBO ALSO VOICED HIS CONCERN OVER THE EVER INCREASING SQUATTER POPULATION, RESULTING FROM THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE ARE NO MORE SITES AVAILABLE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING AND THE LONG LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR THE EXISTING SITES IS CAUSING CONCERN TO MANY.

HK NEEDS PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBITION CENTRE

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A PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBITION CENTRE IS AT PRESENT +SADLY LACKING+ IN HONG KONG, THE HON FRANCIS TIEN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TO BACK UP HIS VIEW THAT SUCH A PROJECT IS ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIABLE, MR TIEN POINTED OUT THAT THE REPORT BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION RECOMMENDED +THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOSE NO TIME IN SEEKING FURTHER ADVICE ON HOW SUCH A FACILITY SHOULD BE CREATED+.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A WORKING PARTY BE SET UP, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE CREATION OF A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO ENSURE ITS PROGRESSION, SIMILAR TO SUCH STATUTORY CORPORATIONS AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATION AUTHORITY.

HE ALSO OUTLINED THE SEQUENCE IN WHICH THE PROJECT COULD BE ACHIEVED. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD NOT BE CREATED WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN RESPECT OF BOTH PLANNING AND RESOURCES, MR TIEN SAID: +I DO NOT THINK THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OR MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE.

+I FEEL THAT SUCH AN EXHIBITION CENTRE SHOULD BE CREATED AS A PUBLIC CORPORATION BY STATUTE, SOMEWHAT ALONG THE LINES OF THE MTRC ORDINANCE.

+IN ADDITION TO SETTING OUT THE OBJECTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CORPORATION, AND MAKING SURE THAT THE COMPOSITION OF ITS MANAGEMENT BODY WOULD ENABLE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION, WE WOULD NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE CORPORATION IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO MANAGE THE PROJECT ALONG COMMERCIAL LINES.+

AS FOR A SUITABLE SITE, MR TIEN PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD GRANT LAND BY WAY OF PRIVATE TREATY AT FULL MARKET VALUE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CORPORATION'S EQUITY, THUS ENABLING THE GOVERNMENT TO BE THE SOLE OWNER OF THE CORPORATION.

BECAUSE THE EQUITY IS EXCHANGED AGAINST THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF THE SITE, MR TIEN CONTINUED, THE QUESTION OF SUBSIDY WOULD NOT ARISE.

HAVING OBTAINED THE LAND, THE CORPORATION COULD THEN NEGOTIATE WITH REAL ESTATE, CONSTRUCTION, BANKING AND OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS FOR THE BUILDING OF THE CENTRE, HE ADDED.

MR TIEN ENVISAGED THAT THE CORPORATION WOULD MAKE A LOSS INITIALLY BUT HE POINTED OUT THIS WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE RECOVERED WHEN IT PICKS UP A GREATER VOLUME OF BUSINESS.

+TO COVER THIS CONTINGENCY, IT MUST BE OPEN TO GOVERNMENT TO LEND MONIES TO THE CORPORATION AT WHATEVER TERMS THIS COUNCIL MAY DEEM FIT.

/+AS LONG

+AS LONG AS SUFFICIENT STATUTORY SAFEGUARDS ARE BUILT INTO THE CORPORATION'S STATUTE, AND AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE RUNNING THE CORPORATION DO SO CONSCIOUSLY ALONG BUSINESS LINES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE A RATHER RELAXED VIEW ABOUT THE CENTRE'S OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

+IN SHORT, THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING ASKED TO DO NO MORE THAN OPEN THE DOOR, TURN THE KEY, OR PRIME THE PUMP, TO LET THIS VENTURE WORK.+

MR TIEN BELIEVED THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE THE RIGHT OR WRONG OF THIS PROJECT WOULD BE TO ALLOW IT TO PROCEED.

QUOTING SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, MR TIEN PLEDGED: +GIVE US THE TOOLS AND WE WILL FINISH THE JOB.+

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR SITE FORMATION WORK IN SHA TIN
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) LET A \$9.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR SITE FORMATION WORK WHICH WILL PRODUCE ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR K.T. KUO, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF KIN SHING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THE LAND FORMED WOULD ENABLE ACCOMMODATION TO BE PROVIDED FOR ABOUT 21 000 PEOPLE.

THE AREA IS NEXT TO THE VILLAGE OF SHA TIN TAU, NEAR THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AT SAN TIN WAI.

HE SAID THAT THE CONTRACT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORM DRAINS, SEWERS AND A MAIN DRAINAGE CULVERT.

WORK FOR THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF PWD'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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POSTER AN EFFECTIVE MEAN TO
PUT ACROSS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MESSAGE
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AN ATTRACTIVE, INFORMATIVE AND WELL-DESIGNED SAFETY POSTER IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PUT ACROSS THE MESSAGE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

MR JOHN LOO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NGO KEE CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD., SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHILE PRESENTING PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL INDUSTRIAL SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE PRESENTATION TOOK PLACE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE IN CANTON ROAD.

MR LOO POINTED OUT THAT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG, IN PARTICULAR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WERE STILL A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM DESPITE ALL THE PUBLICITY AND OTHER EFFORTS CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

THE COMPETITION WAS AIMED NOT ONLY AT AROUSING THE INTEREST OF THE PARTICIPANTS BUT ALSO THE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AT WORK AMONG THOSE EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRY.

MR LOO SAID SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS SHOULD BE CULTIVATED IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION, AND HE WAS VERY HAPPY THAT SO MANY STUDENTS HAD SHOWN A KEEN INTEREST IN THE COMPETITION.

+YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMPETITION HAS NOT ONLY SHOWN YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS IN ART AND GRAPHIC DESIGN IN PUBLICISING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, BUT HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED YOUR CARE AND INTEREST IN ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN INDUSTRY,+ HE TOLD THE PRIZE-WINNERS.

THE COMPETITION HELD LATE LAST YEAR ATTRACTED MORE THAN 340 ENTRIES FROM 39 SCHOOLS.

THE FIRST PRIZE OF \$500 WENT TO LAM KING-FAI OF S.K.H. LAM WOO MEMORIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL. THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES OF \$400 AND \$300 WERE WON BY KWAN KIN-PUI OF KEI HEEP SECONDARY SCHOOL AND CHENG YUK-LUN OF JOCKEY CLUB GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL RESPECTIVELY.

TEN ENTRIES WERE AWARDED CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$100 EACH. IN ADDITION, ALL PRIZE-WINNERS WERE ALSO PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980

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FACT FINDING VISIT TO UK

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TWO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, INVOLVED IN THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, ARE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON A TWO-WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT.

THEY ARE MR D.M. HOWES, GENERAL MANAGER OF KCR, AND MR LEUNG MIN-SUN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

MR HOWES AND MR LEUNG WILL VISIT BIRMINGHAM TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF WORK ON THE ROLLING STOCKS WHICH HONG KONG HAS ORDERED FROM METRO-CAMMELL LTD.

THEY WILL ALSO VISIT A FACTORY IN ISLE OF WIGHT TO INSPECT THE AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT FOR THE ROLLING STOCKS.

WHILE IN UK THEY WILL HOLD TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSMARK, THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED CONSULTING ENGINEERS- AND METRO-CAMMELL LTD, SUPPLIERS OF ROLLING STOCKS.

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PRESENTATION OF COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS

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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR T.G. GARNER, WILL PRESENT COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO 16 PRISON OFFICERS DURING A CEREMONIAL PARADE ON FRIDAY (MARCH 28) AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

ON PARADE WILL BE 120 PRISON OFFICERS COMMANDED BY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, MR PI WING-LEE. THE BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS OF TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WILL PROVIDE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.

THE MARCHING TEAM FROM THE WOMEN TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI LAM WILL ALSO PERFORM AT THE CEREMONY.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESENTATION OF COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS AT 5 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 28) AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 3.45 PM SHARP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PASSING-OUT PARADE OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

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A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 69 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND, SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 28 (FRIDAY).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR F.K. HU WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AT THE PARADE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 69 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT SPORTS GROUND, HAPPY VALLEY AT 9.30 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 28).

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FLOWER SHOW TO OPEN AT FANLING

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE TAI PO SIX DISTRICTS' 4TH FLOWER SHOW AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY (MARCH 28).

THE SHOW WILL BE HELD AT FANLING PLAYGROUND, IN FRONT OF THE RAILWAY STATION.

MORE THAN 1 000 ENTRIES, INCLUDING PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FROM PROMINENT HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS, WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

MR AKERS-JONES WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNING ENTRIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE EVENT. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE (AM 3214) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 11 AM SHARP TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO FANLING.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980

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CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION IN YUEN LONG
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YUEN LONG IS THE VENUE FOR A MAJOR CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION STARTING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL, STARTING AT 3 PM.

MR NATHAN MA NING-HEI, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITIONS, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE EXHIBITION TO YUEN LONG, SAID MORE THAN 30 000 LOCAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

+THE EXHIBITION FEATURES A TOTAL OF 220 EXHIBITS BY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM THE NEW TOWNS OF YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN.

+THE THEME OF THE EXHIBITION IS 'THEIR JOYFUL MOMENTS',+ MR MA SAID.

THE MATERIALS AND IMPLEMENTS USED FOR THE EXHIBITS INCLUDE WATER-COLOUR, PASTELS, PENCILS AND FELT PENS AND FORMATS INCLUDE PLATING, BLEACHING, PRINTING, RUBBING AND COLLAGE.

MR MA SAID 160 OF THE EXHIBITS WERE SELECTED FROM MORE THAN 2 000 ENTRIES BY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR THE 1979 HONG KONG CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY HIS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE REMAINING 60 EXHIBITS WERE SKETCHES BY YOUNG ARTISTS WHO WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A SKETCHING ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME AT THE OCEAN PARK LAST NOVEMBER.

THE 220 EXHIBITS WERE FIRST ON DISPLAY AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART IN THE HONG KONG CITY HALL IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

+THE EXHIBITION WAS ORGANISED WITH THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR INNER FEELINGS AND RECORD THEIR MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WHILE THEIR VISION IS FRESH AND THEIR RESPONSE TO MATERIAL IS DIRECT AND SPONTANEOUS,+ MR MA SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980

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STUDY ROOMS FOR STUDENTS
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MORE THAN 7 500 STUDY ROOM PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID ABOUT 200 STUDY ROOMS WILL BE OPENED FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND JUNE 30, EXCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS DONATED \$213 000 TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 80 CLASSROOMS IN 33 SCHOOLS EXCLUSIVELY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THESE ROOMS WILL BE OPEN FOR THREE HOURS IN THE EVENING FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM.

AT THE SAME TIME, FUNDS ARE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE 108 STUDY ROOMS IN 45 GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THE OPENING HOURS WILL BE FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM.

THE STUDY ROOMS OPERATED UNDER THIS SCHEME WILL MAINLY BE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, BUT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS MAY ALSO USE THESE ROOMS IF THEY WISH.

SUPERVISORS WILL BE PRESENT IN THESE STUDY ROOMS TO ENSURE THAT ALL ATTENDANTS HAVE A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT TO STUDY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK.

NO PRIVATE TUITION WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE SUPERVISORS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980

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HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ITS PORT COMMUNICATION CENTRE AND PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, AND TSUEN WAN WILL REMAIN OPEN AS USUAL ON MONDAY (MARCH 31) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

ON MONDAY THE VICTORIA SMALL CRAFT LICENSING SECTION WILL OPERATE FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM AND THE MACAU FERRY WHARF UNIT FROM 7.30 AM TO 1.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ALL OTHER OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED ON THAT DAY.

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WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN LEI YUE MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 10 HOURS FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 28) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE AT KO FAI ROAD, SHUNG TAK WAI, TUNG YUEN STREET, SHUNG SHUN STREET, SZE SHAN STREET, CHO YUEN STREET, LEI YUE MUN VILLAGE, SHUNG WO PATH, YAN YUE WAI, AND CHA KWO LING ROAD BETWEEN KO FAI ROAD AND SHUNG SHUN STREET.

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