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BRITISH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY'S DECISION
ON HK-LONDON ROUTE NOT FAIR
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THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG, TODAY HIT OUT AT THE DECISION OF THE BRITISH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY FOR NOT GRANTING LANDING RIGHTS ON THE HONG KONG-LONDON AIR ROUTE TO CATHAY PACIFIC.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID: +ONE RATHER SUSPECTS THE DECISION WAS POLITICAL.

+OUR WHOLLY DEPENDENT STATUS FAILED TO PROTECT US IN THE EEC TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS- HERE IT WILL WORK TO OUR POSITIVE DISADVANTAGE, UNLESS THE MINISTER RECTIFIES THE ERRORS. IT IS WITHIN HIS POWER.+

MR CHEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE BUDGET PROVIDED $549 MILLION THIS YEAR FOR DOUBLE TRACKING AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY. THE WHOLE PROJECT WILL COST $2 BILLION, OF WHICH A VERY LARGE PART WILL BE SPENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH WHOM HONG KONG HAS PLACED THE ORDER OF THE ROLLING STOCK.

THE ROLLING STOCK FOR THE MTR WAS ALSO SUPPLIED BY THE UK.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG COULD HAVE PLACED THE ORDERS ELSEWHERE BUT DID NOT DO SO +BECAUSE WE BELIEVED IN FOSTERING RECIPROCITY IN TRADE BETWEEN THE UK AND HONG KONG+.

+IT HAS COME THEREFORE AS A SURPRISE TO ME THAT IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING LANDING RIGHTS ON THE HONG KONG-LONDON AIR ROUTE THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY IN LONDON SHOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT RECIPROCITY: RECIPROCITY BOTH AS REGARDS TWO-WAY TRADE, AND RECIPROCITY IN THE SPECIFIC MATTER OF LANDING RIGHTS,+ HE SAID.

+BRITISH AIRWAYS HELD THE MONOPOLY FOR 30 YEARS. INSTEAD OF RECIPROCATING BY GRANTING A LICENCE TO CATHAY PACIFIC, EITHER WITH THE ADDITION OF BRITISH CALEDONIAN OR TO ITS EXCLUSION, THEY HAVE ADDED A SECOND BRITISH CARRIER TO THE ROUTE.

+THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY DO NOT BEAR EXAMINATION FOR ONE MINUTE.

+WE WOULD NOT BE BETTER SERVED BY AN AIRLINE THAT PROPOSES TO USE THE SMALLER DC-10 RATHER THAN THE BOEING 747.+

THE CAA HAS COMPLETELY IGNORED THE PATTERN OF TRAFFIC, WITH PEAKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WEEK-END AND DIPS IN MID-WEEK, HE ADDED.

MR CHEUNG SAID AS CATHAY WAS ENCOURAGED TO BUY UK EQUIPMENT, THEY HAVE SPECIFIED THAT THEIR 747S SHOULD BE POWERED BY ROLLS ROYCE ENGINES.

+I AM INFORMED THEY HAVE INVESTED 70 MILLION POUND STERLING IN ROLLS ROYCE ENGINES TO THAT END, AND PLAN TO INVEST 10 MILLION POUND STERLING A YEAR ON OTHER UK EQUIPMENT. THIS WAS IN FURTHERANCE OF RECIPROCITY,+ HE SAID.

/+THE DECISION .....

+THE DECISION OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY CASTS SOME DOUBT ON WHETHER BRITAIN SINCERELY PRACTISES WHAT IT PREACHES.

+I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT WISER COUNSEL NOW PREVAIL, LEST SENTIMENT WITHERS,+ MR CHEUNG ADDED.

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - HK'S TOP PRIORITY
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HONG KONG'S TOP PRIORITY IS TO PRODUCE AS MANY HOUSES AS POSSIBLE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, SAID THE HON CHARLES YEUNG.

TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET, MR YEUNG SUGGESTED THAT MORE PRIVATE AND CROWN LAND BE FORMED AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

AS THE FIRST STEP HE SAID RESOURCES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO PROVIDE MORE AND BETTER ROADS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES URGENTLY.

HE NOTED THE 10-YEAR PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS EXPECTED TO FALL SHORT BY A BIG MARGIN.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW THAT MORE THAN HALF A MILLION HOUSEHOLDS ARE STILL IN URGENT NEED OF PROPER OR IMPROVED HOUSING, OF WHICH 130 000 FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN SQUATTER HUTS WITHOUT PROPER SANITATION AND ROAD ACCESS.

HE CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR CONCENTRATING EXCESSIVELY ON INDUSTRIAL DEMAND FOR SPACE AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT BUT FAILED TO DEVISE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO MEET THE GENERAL HOUSING NEED.

ON COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR YEUNG SAID IT SHOULD BE IMPROVED AND EXPANDED AS A MATTER OF TOP PRIORITY SINCE MORE THAN HALF OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL POPULATION WILL BE HOUSED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITHIN THIS DECADE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SPEND ENOUGH ON ROAD PROJECTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE BACKED UP HIS REMARKS WITH THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

* NOTHING TOWARDS THE MAJOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE ROAD SERVICE ON LANTAO ISLAND, EXCEPT THE PROPOSED ROAD TO SERVE NORTH LANTAO WHICH IS INCIDENTAL TO, AND DEPENDENT ON, THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT=

* NO MOTORABLE ROAD AT ALL ON LAMMA ISLAND AND CHEUNG CHAU=

* IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD NETWORKS IN SAI KUNG AND THE NEW TERRITORIES MAINLAND HAVE BEEN VERY SLOW AND, TIME AND AGAIN, POSTPONED, AND

/* THE CIRCULAR ..

* THE CIRCULAR ROAD FROM AU TAU TO FANLING VIA MAI PO HAS BEEN IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS AND THE DATE FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION IS STILL UNCERTAIN.

MR YEUNG SAID IT IS THEREFORE JUSTIFIED AND NECESSARY TO RE-ADJUST THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

+EVEN IF OUR EXISTING POLICY SHOULD PREVENT US FROM REALISING EXTRA REVENUE TO FINANCE THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AND THE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES, THE ESTIMATED SURPLUS AND IF IT NEED BE THE ACCUMULATED RESERVES SHOULD BE EMPLOYED DIRECTLY TO FUND THESE PROJECTS.

+ALTERNATIVELY, THEY MAY BE FINANCED INDIRECTLY BY RAISING OUTSIDE LOANS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE POSSIBLE INFLATIONARY EFFECT THAT SUCH A MOVE IS LIKELY TO HAVE ON HONG KONG - FOR THIS IS THE PRICE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR DECENT HOUSING AND RAPID TRANSIT FOR ALL,+ HE ADDED.

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POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION UNDER SCRUTINY

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THE HON F.K. HU CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WAY IT HANDLES ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

POINTING OUT THAT THE PRESENT POLICY HAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED THE UNLAWFUL EXODUS, MR HU SAID THE PUBLIC IS RATHER DISAPPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF EFFECTIVE ACTION.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS, AS MANY AS 500 PEOPLE STILL MANAGE TO FILTER INTO THE URBAN AREAS DAILY.

SHOULD IMMIGRATION CONTINUE AT ITS PRESENT HIGH RATE, HE ADDED, THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE DETRIMENT OF HONG KONG'S LONG ESTABLISHED RESIDENTS.

+THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE INFLUX IS TO REPATRIATE ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE URBAN AREAS.

+NO IDENTITY CARD SHOULD BE ISSUED AND THEY WOULD BE SENT BACK IF FOUND ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG.+

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE ENACTED TO PREVENT EMPLOYERS FROM ENGAGING AND LANDLORDS OR PRINCIPAL TENANTS FROM LETTING THEIR PREMISES TO ANY PERSON NOT IN POSSESSION OF AN IDENTITY CARD.

TURNING TO PUBLIC HOUSING, MR HU SAID THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION RATE OF 35 000 UNITS IS TOO LOW AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED WHEN THE PRESENT STRAIN ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING INDUSTRY IS OVERCOME.

/BUT HE .....

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE COST OF PUBLIC HOUSING PRODUCTION WILL BE INCREASINGLY MET FROM GENERAL REVENUE, THE BURDEN WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED IF ADDITIONAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION IS REQUIRED.

+I SUGGESTED THAT PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SHOULD BE ASSESSED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT RESERVE IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS, WITHOUT RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON GENERAL REVENUE.

+RENT SHOULD BE SET AT A LEVEL WITHIN THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF MOST TENANTS, SAY 20 PER CENT OF THEIR INCOME.

+AT THE SAME TIME, A NEW RENT SUBSIDY SCHEME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST THOSE WHO COULD NOT AFFORD THE RENT,+ HE SAID.

TERMING THE GROWING CIVIL SERVICE +A CONTRIBUTING CAUSE FOR INFLATION+, MR HU SAID HE WAS WORRIED WHETHER THE EXPANSION WAS JUSTIFIED.

ANY INCREASE IN PAY IN REAL TERMS WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY IS INFLATIONARY, HE EXPLAINED.

+ARE WE ACTUALLY CREATING POSTS TO COPE WITH ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD OR ARE WE CREATING MORE POSTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPERVISION WITHOUT ANY REAL INCREASE IN WORKLOAD?+ HE ASKED.

HE PROPOSED THAT EACH DEPARTMENT SHOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMPLIFYING WORKING PROCEDURES AND STUDY WHETHER THEY COULD CONTRACT OUT ANY WORK PRESENTLY UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ORDER TO REDUCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

ON RECREATION, MR HU NOTED THAT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE A SPECIAL SURVEY OF LEISURE PURSUITS IN NOVEMBER 1981 AS THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR INFORMATION FOR THE PLANNING OF RECREATIONAL SERVICES.

+THIS ACTION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND I DO HOPE THAT A LONG-TERM PLAN ON THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CAN BE DECIDED UPON BEFORE LONG,+ HE SAID.

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SEPARATE TAX ALLOWANCES FOR WORKING MARRIED WOMEN ADVOCATED

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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON WONG LAM TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED FOR THE GRANTING OF SEPARATE TAX ALLOWANCES FOR WORKING MARRIED WOMEN.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID MANY YOUNG WOMEN, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE WELL EDUCATED, LEFT THEIR JOBS ONCE THEY GOT MARRIED.

/HE FELT .....

HE FELT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REJOIN THE WORKFORCE AS THE LABOUR FORCE OF HONG KONG MUST HAVE HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR MUST EMPLOY HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

ONE OF THE BEST FORMS OF ENCOURAGEMENT HE SAID WAS BY GRANTING TAX ALLOWANCES FOR THOSE WORKING MARRIED WOMEN, THUS INSPIRING THEM TO REJOIN THE WORKFORCE.

+THE GRANTING OF SUCH AN ALLOWANCE MAY ALSO GO A LONG WAY TO RESOLVING THE CONTROVERSY OF WHETHER A MARRIED COUPLE SHOULD BE ASSESSED SEPARATELY AND ALSO ON PERSONAL ALLOWANCE.+

MR WONG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE +ALARMINGLY HIGH+ NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HAVE NOT ONLY GENERATED A DEMAND FOR LARGE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THEY ALSO CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER, HE SAID.

THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THEY HAVE RELATIVELY LOW PRODUCTIVITY AND THEREFORE CANNOT CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVISE ITS CURRENT POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND OVERSTAYERS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SUCH PEOPLE.

+IT SHOULD ALSO APPROPRIATE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES SO AS TO STOP POTENTIAL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

+HOWEVER, MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE CHINESE AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE GREAT ANXIETIES OF THE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG ARISING FROM THE LARGE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECT IT MIGHT BRING TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG BELIEVED THAT THROUGH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND CO-OPERATION AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA, BRITAIN AND HONG KONG, A MORE SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND.

ON THE SUBJECT OF INFLATION, MR WONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO DISCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE TO CONSUME AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SAVE.

HE PROPOSED TWO WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS:

* TO GRANT SMALL SAVERS, SAY NOT EXCEEDING $100 000, SOME FORM OF CONCESSION, FOR EXAMPLE, EXEMPTION FROM INTEREST TAX.

* FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE INTEREST EARNINGS DO NOT EXCEED $15 000 A YEAR FROM FIXED DEPOSITS, TO REPORT THIS TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SO THAT THEY COULD BE ALLOWED TO TREAT THE INTEREST TAX ALREADY DEDUCTED BY THE BANKS AS PART OF THEIR PAID-UP TAX.

/TURNING TO .....

TURNING TO PERSONAL TAXATION, MR WONG SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO REQUEST THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED INCREASE.

WHILE CONCEDING THE INCREASE IS INCOMMENSURATE WITH THE RATE OF INFLATION OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS, HE POINTED OUT THAT AS THE TOP PLATFORM OF TAX WAS LOWERED FROM 30 PER CENT TO 25 PER CENT LAST YEAR, THE PRESENT INCREASE IN PERSONAL ALLOWANCE IS ACTUALLY HIGHER THAN THE APPARENT 50 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH SIX YEARS AGO.

+HOWEVER, I THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVISE THE ALLOWANCE CORRESPONDINGLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION EVERY YEAR INSTEAD OF REVIEWING AND REVISING IT ONCE EVERY FEW YEARS.+

MR WONG ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE CHILD ALLOWANCE ON THE FIRST TWO CHILDREN BUT NOT FOR THE THIRD CHILD AND THE CHILDREN THEREAFTER BECAUSE +SUCH A MOVE MAY UNINTENTIONALLY ENCOURAGE THE BIRTH RATE+.

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TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON TEXTILES WITH USA DELEGATION

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A UNITED STATES DELEGATION, HEADED BY MR DONALD MCCONVILLE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TEXTILES, STATE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE IN HONG KONG NEXT TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY (APRIL 1 - 2) FOR TALKS.

MR PETER TSAO, DIRECTOR OF TRADE OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DELEGATION WAS HERE TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL MATTERS ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE US/HK TEXTILE AGREEMENT.

MR MCCONVILLE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER USA AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE COMMERCE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MR JUSTIN YUE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO HELP SET UP INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COMMITTEES

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP SET UP JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEES IN FACTORIES AND BUILDING SITES AS A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PREVENT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, SAID DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEES' MAIN FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY LEGISLATION, TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE AND TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT ANY DEFICIENCIES IN THE EXISTING REGULATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

/ALARMED BY .....

ALARMED BY THE APPARENT DISREGARD FOR SAFETY AS EVIDENCED IN THE RISING NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, HE POINTED OUT THAT NEARLY TWICE AS MANY WORKERS WERE KILLED IN HONG KONG THAN IN SINGAPORE, AND SIX TIMES AS MANY AS IN BRITAIN.

IN TERMS OF FINANCIAL LOSSES, $24 MILLION WAS PAID OUT AS WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1978 WHILE ANOTHER $120 MILLION AS INDIRECT COSTS.

THE JOINT COMMITTEES, HE CONTINUED, SHOULD THEREFORE COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES - BOTH ARE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO GENERATE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE SHOP FLOOR.

+ONLY WHEN SELF-DISCIPLINE IS ATTAINED CAN WE CONFIDENTLY EXPECT A STEADY DECLINE IN THE RATE OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.+

ON ITS PART, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOUR ARE PROPERLY OBSERVING THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+I WOULD URGE THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO BRING THE STAFFING IN THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION AND THE PROSECUTIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION UP TO THE REQUIRED LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT INSPECTORS TO INSPECT FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES REGULARLY,+ HE SAID.

IT SHOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE TO TRANSMIT SAFETY MEASURES TO INDUSTRIALISTS AND WORKERS THROUGH PUBLICITY.

TURNING TO IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA HE SAID IT WOULD TAKE BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SOMETIME TO ADJUST TO HONG KONG'S PACE AND WAY OF LIFE, AND WHEN DISORIENTATED AND FRUSTRATED, THEY MAY FALL PREY TO TRIAD SOCIETIES OR POLITICAL EXTREMISTS.

TO ASSIST THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE MAIN STREAM OF LOCAL COMMUNITY, DR HO SUGGESTED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO HELP THE IMMIGRANTS TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC SELF-EFFICIENCY AND SOCIAL EDUCATION.

AS HONG KONG'S THRIVING ECONOMY ABOUNDS WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES, HE SAID THE NEW ARRIVALS SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH VOCATIONAL, LANGUAGE AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.

+A CO-ORDINATED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR IS NECESSARY TO MATCH JOB SEEKERS WITH VACANT POSTS.+

HE PROPOSED SOCIAL EDUCATION COULD BEST BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE VOLUNTARY SECTORS, SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS PART OF THE ADULT EDUCATION SCHEME.

+FUNDS FROM GENERAL REVENUE ARE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, POLICY GUIDELINES AND DIRECTION ON INTEGRATION MUST COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

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/8 .....

TOURISM MAKES SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

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THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING TODAY DESCRIBED THE QUANTIFICATION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF HONG KONG'S OVERALL INVISIBLE TRADE AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HE SAID: +NO DOUBT IN FUTURE YEARS WAYS WILL BE FOUND OF REFINING AND INCREASING THE PRECISION OF THE ACTUAL FIGURES.

+HOWEVER, THAT OUR OVERALL TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN ALMOST IN BALANCE IN 1979 DOES INDEED HELP TO SET OUR LARGEST EVER VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT, IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, IN A LESS WORRISOME LIGHT, AND ALSO TO EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOME OF OUR GROWING SERVICE INDUSTRIES,+ HE SAID.

IN THE LATTER CONTEXT, HE BELIEVED THE RESULTS OF A RECENT STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF INWARD TOURISM, ONE OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES, TO BE HIGHLY RELEVANT.

QUOTING FIGURES IN THE SURVEY WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND CARRIED OUT BY THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, HE SAID THE ADDED VALUE FOR TOURISM IN 1978 AVERAGED 45 PER CENT AS AGAINST 36 PER CENT AND 32 PER CENT FOR TWO LEADING MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THE ADDED VALUE PER EMPLOYEE WAS SOME $57 000 IN TOURISM'S CASE AS AGAINST $21 000 AND $29 000 FOR THE OTHER TWO.

+THESE FIGURES WOULD TEND TO CONTRADICT THE FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED VIEW, REFERRED TO IN A RECENT EDITION OF THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW THAT, OWING TO ITS HIGH IMPORT CONTENT - A CHARACTERISTIC, INCIDENTALLY, OF VIRTUALLY ALL HONG KONG INDUSTRY - THE NET CONTRIBUTION OF INWARD TOURISM IS NOT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

+WHEN APPLIED TO THE TOTAL OF OVER $6 BILLION THAT VISITORS SPENT IN HONG KONG IN 1979, ADDED VALUE OF 45 PER CENT PRODUCES A VERY WORTHWHILE RESULT INDEED.

+THIS OF COURSE ASSUMES THAT THE 1978 ADDED VALUE PERCENTAGE WAS AT LEAST MAINTAINED IN 1979.

+THERE ARE, IN FACT, SOME GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT IT ACTUALLY INCREASED ALTHOUGH THE FIGURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPILED,+ HE SAID.

MR NEWBIGGING STRESSED THAT HIS PURPOSE OF HIGHLIGHTING THIS ISSUE WAS NOT TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE CERTAIN TO REMAIN THE BACKBONE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BUT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE SECTORS SINCE THEIR RELATIVE GROWTH CONSTITUTE +A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE DIVERSIFICATION PROCESS+.

ON THE SUBJECT OF LAND AND HOUSING, MR NEWBIGGING CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND CONSISTENT STATISTICS TO FACILITATE ANALYSIS ON THIS VITAL ISSUE.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S FORECASTS ON LAND PRODUCTION, LAND SALES, AND PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING, HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO COMPARE THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE IN RECENT YEARS AND THE LATEST FORECASTS FOR FUTURE YEARS IN THESE THREE AREAS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, SOME DATA WAS GIVEN FOR FINANCIAL YEARS, OTHERS FOR CALENDAR YEARS= SOMETIMES THE LAND SOLD WAS USED TO MEAN LAND SALES, AT OTHERS TOTAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.

MR NEWBIGGING QUOTED TWO EXAMPLES :

* IN THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO THE 1979 BUDGET, THE FIGURE FOR 1978 LAND SALES WAS GIVEN AS 52 000 SQUARE METRES= IN 1980'S ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, 1978 LAND SALES HAD BECOME 181 000 SQUARE METRES= AND

* IN THE 1979 BUDGET SPEECH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT 249 ACRES OF LAND HAD BEEN SOLD BUT, 77 PARAGRAPHS LATER, THAT LAND SALES WERE ONLY 58 ACRES, BOTH WITH REFERENCE TO THE 1978/79 FINANCIAL YEAR.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID, HIS ANALYSIS WOULD ONLY SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING VERY TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS :

* ON LAND PRODUCTION, THE FORECAST FOR 1980/81 IS LOWER THAN ACTUALLY ACHIEVED IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S FORECASTS FOR ENSUING YEARS OF SOME 1 100 ACRES PER ANNUM ARE IN LINE WITH RECENT AND IMMEDIATELY PROSPECTIVE EXPERIENCE.

* ON LAND SALES, THE FORECASTS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS ARE ON AVERAGE SOME 40 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1979/80 - ITSELF A RECORD - AND, GIVEN THE WELL-KNOWN PROBLEMS OF TURNING SUCH PLANS INTO REALITY, SHOULD BE REGARDED WITH SOME CAUTION= AND

* ON PUBLIC HOUSING, ACTUAL PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED BY NO LESS THAN 3.4 TIMES SINCE 1976/77 AND IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN WITHIN SIX PER CENT OF THE 35 000 UNITS TARGET IN THE YEAR NOW ENDING.

TURNING TO TRANSPORT, MR NEWBIGGING BELIEVED THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR PROJECT - THOUGH IMPORTANT - SHOULD NOT +DEFLECT US FROM AN EARLY DECISION ON A RAIL SYSTEM COVERING THE NORTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND+.

HE SAID: +MY RECOMMENDATION ON THIS IS QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SIMPLE - EVEN THOUGH IT MAY RUN CONTRARY TO THE INTEREST I DECLARE AS CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG TRAMWAYS LTD : WE SHOULD BORE A HOLE FOR AN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY FROM KENNEDY TOWN TO SHAU KI WAN, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER.+

THE MTR HAS PROVEN ITS ABILITY TO DELIVER A FUNCTIONING SYSTEM ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET, HE NOTED.

+A SUBTERRANEAN SYSTEM HAS THE TWIN ADVANTAGES OF CAUSING LESS DISTURBANCE TO THE COMMUNITY AND CONSUMING LESS OF HONG KONG'S SCARCEST RESOURCE, LAND.

/+FURTHER DELAY .....

+FURTHER DELAY WILL ADD TO THE COST, LOSE THE ADVANTAGE OF A PROVEN EXISTING DEVELOPMENT TEAM, AND DEFER THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE THAT THE SYSTEM WILL BRING,+ MR NEWBIGGING ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE BUDGET ITSELF, MR NEWBIGGING SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HARD TO FAULT, IT IS ONE WHICH RUNS THE RISK OF STIMULATING FURTHER DOMESTIC INFLATION - HONG KONG'S EVER-THREATENING PUBLIC ENEMY NO 1 - IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTED VARIETY.

HE SAID HE WOULD AGREE WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THAT +THIS DANGER IS ONE THAT WE MUST ACCEPT - BUT WITHIN DISCIPLINED LIMITS - IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES+.

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MEDICAL FACILITIES IN PUBLIC SECTOR NEED UPGRADING

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS ASKED TODAY BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT TO UPGRADE THE MEDICAL PROVISION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AS IT DID TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE THIS AFTERNOON, MISS BENNETT SAID IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD THE SCHOOLS' SITUATION WAS NOW MUCH HEALTHIER SINCE THERE WERE NOW TO BE NO SECOND-CLASS AIDED SCHOOLS. +STAFF AND STUDENTS WILL BOTH BENEFIT FROM THIS= OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE WILL REAP THE REWARDS OF THIS NEW APPROACH.+

HOWEVER SHE SAID OUR PRESENT HOSPITALS LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED= OUR MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE AS YET INADEQUATE AND SHE RECOGNISED THAT THERE WERE VERY GOOD PLANS FOR IMPROVING THEM.

MISS BENNETT SAID ONE VITAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WAS IN STAFF RECRUITMENT.

WHILE AIDED SCHOOLS CAN EASILY FIND SUITABLE TEACHERS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO OFFER PENSIONS, HOUSING, MEDICAL BENEFITS OR EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCES, THE HOSPITALS CANNOT FIND ENOUGH DOCTORS, ANAESTHETISTS, NURSE TUTORS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND MANY OTHERS IN THE PARA-MEDICAL FIELD, SHE SAID. NEITHER ARE THERE ENOUGH TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS, SHE ADDED.

SHE LEARNED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE WHOLE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS PROBATION SERVICE, FAMILY SERVICE UNITS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS.

SHE ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFICULTY FACED BY SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH LOSE STAFF TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES WHICH CAN PROVIDE MORE HOUSING OR OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS, OR TO INSTITUTIONS IN MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED AREAS OR WITH LIGHTER PATIENT LOAD.

/MISS BENNETT .....

MISS BENNETT IN PARTICULAR STRESSED THAT SUBVENTED HOSPITALS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME STAFF RATIOS AS GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS FOR THE SAME TYPE OF CLINICAL UNITS.

+WHEN IMPROVEMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS THEY SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED TO SUBVENTED HOSPITALS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR,+ SHE SAID.

AT PRESENT, SHE EXPLAINED, WHEN THEY APPLY FOR PARITY OF TREATMENT THEY MAY OR MAY NOT RECEIVE IT.

SHE HOPED THEREFORE THAT IF THE CURRENT REQUEST BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR SUPERVISORY STAFF AT CHIEF NURSING OFFICER AND SENIOR NURSING OFFICER RANKS IN THE NURSING EDUCATION UNIT IS ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SIMILAR STAFF SHOULD BE GRANTED IN SUBVENTED SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT ALL SCHOOLS OF NURSING ARE SERIOUSLY UNDERSTAFFED. THE GOVERNMENT STAFFING RATIO IS ONE NURSE TUTOR TO EVERY 40 NURSES IN TRAINING. IN BRITAIN, IT IS ONE TO 25.

SHE WARNED THAT THE QUICKEST WAY TO DOWNGRADE THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO THINK THAT THEY NEED NOT HAVE THE SAME STAFFING SINCE THEY ARE REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND IF THEY CANNOT COPE THEY CAN SEND THEIR PATIENTS TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

+HOW WILL THEY ATTRACT GOOD DOCTORS IF THEY ARE TO BE CONFINED TO THE ROLE OF PROVIDING CONVALESCENT AND NON-SPECIALIST BEDS. NATURALLY NOT EVERY HOSPITAL CAN PROVIDE ALL VARIETIES OF SPECIALIST TREATMENT. BUT IN EVERY DISTRICT WE NEED TO HAVE REGIONAL CENTRES FOR CERTAIN SPECIALITIES BASED ON THE ACUTE GENERAL HOSPITAL WHICH WILL BE RUN EITHER BY GOVERNMENT OR BY A VOLUNTARY BODY,+ SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE FINANCE BRANCH WOULD EXAMINE THESE BASIC ISSUES AND UPGRADE MEDICAL PROVISION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, JUST AS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD BEEN IMPROVED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF SIMILAR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL AIDED SCHOOLS THROUGH A UNIFIED CODE OF AID.

SHE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RELIANCE ON VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN SUPPLEMENTING SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, BECAUSE IT PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY AND INDIVIDUALITY AND ALLOWS FULL PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SERVICES TO A VAST NUMBER OF PHILANTHROPIC BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS. SHE FELT THERE SHOULD BE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE SUGGESTIONS SHE MADE ON THE HOSPITAL SCENE COULD BE APPLIED TO ALL OF OUR SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

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/12 .....

GET MORE VALUE OUT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
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THE NEED TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WAS STRESSED BY THE HON ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT +EVEN IN OUR PRESENTLY BUOYANT FINANCIAL SITUATION, WE MUST WATCH OUR DOLLARS AND CENTS+.

AS REGARDS EFFICIENCY, HE SAID HE ANTICIPATED SOME TANGIBLE RETURN ON THE HEAVY INCREASE - NEARLY 48 PER CENT - IN EXPENDITURE ON CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING AND FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES, DATA PROCESSING AND VISITING ADVISORS.

MR WU PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, AS A STEP TOWARDS IMPROVED EFFICIENCY, TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CREATION OF CERTAIN POSTS.

+THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS ASSURED US THAT THIS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A MORE RAPID GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

+THAT GROWTH MIGHT BE FURTHER INHIBITED BY A STRICT EXAMINATION OF CIVIL SERVICE POSTS WHOSE FUNCTIONS HAVE CHANGED, DWINDLED OR EVEN ATROPHIED WITH PASSING YEARS.

+MORE FREEDOM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT TO DEPLOY STAFF TO NEW DUTIES COULD USEFULLY GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE POWER TO CREATE OR NOT TO CREATE NEW POSTS,+ HE SAID.

TO OBTAIN VALUE FOR OUR MONEY, MR WU CONTINUED, +WE MUST WATCH THE QUALITY OF WHAT WE BUY OVER THE WHOLE RANGE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND MOST OF ALL IN EDUCATION.+

+I HAVE REPEATEDLY DWELT ON THE WORD 'QUALITY'. I BELIEVE THAT AS WE ARE ENTERING A NEW DECADE, WITH RISING STANDARDS OF LIVING AND EXPECTATIONS, IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US TO MEASURE AND PROGRESS BY QUANTITY ALONE.

+PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DOES NOT CONFLICT IN ANY WAY WITH IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EXISTING SERVICES OR EVEN INTRODUCING NEW SERVICES WHICH IN THEMSELVES CONTRIBUTE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE.+

MR WU DREW ATTENTION TO +MAJOR SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS+ IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET.

THE PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, HE SAID, WAS UP BUT THE DIFFERENCE WAS ENTIRELY ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE COST OF THE HOUSING PROGRAMME.

EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, SOCIAL WELFARE FOR NEXT YEAR ALL REPRESENT A SMALLER PROPORTION OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE THAN PREVIOUSLY.

+THESE FIGURES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFLICT WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ASSURANCE THAT ALL PROGRAMMES ARE BEING SATISFACTORILY IMPLEMENTED.

/+WHILE THEY .....

+WHILE THEY REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN REAL EXPENDITURE, THE SHIFTS OF EMPHASIS SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED,+ HE STRESSED.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC PROGRAMMES, SAID MR WU, WERE DETERMINED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY THE PROPOSALS MADE BY RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS AND THE FATE OF THESE EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS LAID IN THE HANDS OF THE FINANCE BRANCH AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

HE CONSIDERED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S YARDSTICK, THE MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SERVICES AND THEIR EXPANSION TO MEET DEMAND AT PRESENT STANDARDS, A THOROUGHLY REASONABLE CONCEPT SO LONG AS ITS APPLICATION IS NOT ALLOWED TO STIFLE INITIATIVE OR TO DENY IMPROVED QUALITY.

HOWEVER HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE UNHEALTHY FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE BEING DEVELOPED WITHIN OUR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS BUT WHICH HAD TO BE POSTPONED FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.

MR WU ALSO TOUCHED ON HIS +HOBBY-HORSE+ - THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A SUB-HEAD FOR THE PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATES.

+IF THE CREATION OF THIS SUB-HEAD IS JUSTIFIED BY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY NOW BEING SPENT IN THIS DIRECTION THEN IT IS EQUALLY JUSTIFIABLE THAT WE SHOULD LOOK AT THE RATHER RAGGED SITUATION REGARDING THE PROMOTION OF THE ARTS.+

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE NEW RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SHOULD WORK TOWARDS GREATER COORDINATION OF EFFORT AND DIRECTION.

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PLEA FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LESS OBVIOUS SOCIAL SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED TIME AND AGAIN THAT ITS POLICY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE, INCLUDING SOCIAL SERVICES, IS BEING PURSUED WITH VIGOUR AND DETERMINATION, BUT PUBLIC FRUSTRATION IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF MINOR INADVERTENCIES, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID TODAY.

+LET US NOT FORGET THAT WHILE SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENTS SUCH AS THE MTR AND OUR MASSIVE HOUSING PROGRAMME ARE LAUDABLE, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE LESS TANGIBLE SOCIAL SERVICES, ANY DEFICIENCY OF WHICH MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY BE APPARENT.

+IT IS PERHAPS IN THIS AREA THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INCREASE ITS VIGILANCE,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG MADE THE REMARKS WHILE SPEAKING ON HIS TWO PREVIOUS PROPOSALS WHICH, HE CONTENDED, +THE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO ADDRESS EXPEDITIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY+.

/HIS PROPOSALS.....

HIS PROPOSALS CONCERNED THE EARLY EXPANSION OF THE LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND AIR-CONDITIONING OF AMBULANCES.

ON THE FIRST PROPOSAL, MR WONG RECALLED HIS PLEA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER FOR $6 MILLION TO RUN EIGHT LEGAL ADVICE BUREAUS AND OFFER LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES IN HONG KONG, IN ORDER TO MEET THE EXPANSION ENVISAGED.

HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF EXPANSION WOULD BE REVIEWED AT THE END OF 1979.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE HAD TO CONFESS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN HE NOTED THAT IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT ESTIMATES ONLY $3.6 MILLION WAS PROPOSED FOR THIS SERVICE.

THE PROVISION WAS TO COVER THE COST OF RUNNING FIVE ADVICE BUREAUS AND OFFERING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AT FOUR MAGISTRACIES - AN INCREASE OF TWO MORE ADVICE BUREAUS AND ONE MORE MAGISTRACY WITHIN THE SCHEME AS COMPARED WITH THIS YEAR'S TOTAL.

AS FOR LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE APPROVED ESTIMATE PLUS SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS AMOUNTED TO $3.2 MILLION, ONLY $2.5 MILLION WAS ACTUALLY INCURRED, REPRESENTING A NET SAVING OF $700 000.

+THIS SAVING PLUS THE PROPOSED $3.6 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT TO $4.3 MILLION.

+ONLY $1.6 MILLION IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO MAKE UP THE SUM OF $6 MILLION WHICH, EVEN AT 1980 PRICES, WOULD PERMIT THE LAW SOCIETY TO RUN EIGHT LEGAL ADVICE BUREAUS AND OFFER FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES IN HONG KONG TO ALL PEOPLE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SCHEDULED OFFENCES,+ MR WONG SAID.

AS FAR AS FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS CONCERNED, +THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS THAT UNLESS ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES ARE COVERED BY THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COUNTER ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION AND UNFAIR TREATMENT BY THOSE WHO ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE CHARGED IN A MAGISTRACY WHERE FREE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.

+WE HAVE THE RESOURCES TO OFFER FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN ALL THE EIGHT MAGISTRACIES AND I CAN SEE NO LOGICAL REASONS WHY THIS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FORTHWITH.

+THE URGENT NEED FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED AND I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO REVISE THE ESTIMATE TO $6 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF AIR-CONDITIONING OF AMBULANCES, MR WONG DREW ATTENTION TO THE PROVISION OF $9.75 MILLION IN THE ESTIMATES FOR THE PURCHASE OF 50 NEW AMBULANCES AND ANOTHER $60 000 FOR TWO AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR AMBULANCES FOR TRIAL PURPOSES.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANTICIPATED POSSIBLE TECHNICAL COMPLICATIONS IN INSTALLING AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS IN EXISTING VEHICLES, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY TO EMBARK ON A PROJECT THAT MAY PROVE TO BE COMPLICATED IF NOT UNSATISFACTORY.

/HE SUGGESTED: .....

HE SUGGESTED:

* EITHER TO PLACE ORDERS FOR ALL 50 AMBULANCES WITH FACTORY-BUILT AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS, OR

* PLACE ORDERS FOR TWO NEW AMBULANCES WITH FACTORY-BUILT AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR TRIAL PURPOSES AND THE REST WITH FACTORY PROVISIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT A LATER DATE.

THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT IF PROVED SATISFACTORY, AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS CAN BE INSTALLED IN THE REST OF THE NEW FLEET WITHOUT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES OR COMPLICATIONS, HE SAID.

MR WONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE MATTER RE-EXAMINED URGENTLY.

+WE ARE DEALING WITH THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE SICK AND THE WOUNDED, DECISION MAKERS SHOULD NOT BE DICTATED MERELY BY COLD LOGIC,+ HE SAID.

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HOUSEHOLD SURVEY SHOULD HELP SHAPE TAXATION POLICY
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THE HON ANDREW SO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONDUCT A +FAMILY BUDGET SURVEY+ THROUGH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES TO HELP DETERMINE TAX ALLOWANCES AND OTHER SIMILAR POLICIES.

+SUCCESS OF SUCH A SURVEY DEPENDS ON PUBLICITY, EDUCATION AND THE ASSISTANCE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC, UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

+RESPONDENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE AIM IS TO ALLEVIATE THEIR FINANCIAL BURDEN.+

IT IS ALSO A WAY OF GATHERING PUBLIC OPINION AND ASCERTAINING PUBLIC FEELINGS, HE ADDED.

ON PROPOSED INCREASE IN PERSONAL ALLOWANCE, MR SO SAID ALTHOUGH THE SCOPE OF THE ADJUSTMENTS IN PERSONAL ALLOWANCES WAS TOO SMALL TO MAKE UP FOR CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES, +TAXATION IN HONG KONG IS LOW IN GENERAL AND THIS, COUPLED WITH THE ADJUSTMENTS IN QUESTION, MAKES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS ACCEPTABLE.+

BUT HE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL TAXATION EVERY NOW AND THEN.

AS REGARDS CHILD ALLOWANCE, MR SO DISMISSED THE IDEA OF LIMITING SUCH ALLOWANCES AS A DEVICE TO IMPOSE BIRTH CONTROL, THAT IS BY PROVIDING NO ALLOWANCES FOR THE THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN.

/WHILE AGREEING .....

WHILE AGREEING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FAMILY PLANNING, HE MAINTAINED THAT THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION RATHER THAN BY +DISINCENTIVE+ OR OTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES.

+ALL MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE AND DECIDE ON THEIR OWN FAMILY PLANNING WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR ANYBODY,+ HE SAID.

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LAND POLICY MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION
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THERE IS A PRESSING NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ITS INDUSTRIAL LAND POLICY AND TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO THE BASIC CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL LAND ALLOCATION.

THIS WAS ADVOCATED BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN AT TODAY'S RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

AS HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IS EXPORT-ORIENTED, EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO DIVERSIFY BOTH ITS PRODUCTS AND MARKETS. +THE GOVERNMENT MUST THEREFORE BE VERY CAREFUL WITH ITS INDUSTRIAL LAND POLICY TO ENSURE THAT IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, THE MAJORITY OF NEW INDUSTRIAL LOTS ARE ALLOCATED TO USERS THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION.

+INDUSTRIALISTS - THE GENUINE USERS OF INDUSTRIAL LAND AND THE DIRECT CONTRIBUTORS TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CONSTANTLY FALL PREY TO LAND SPECULATORS AND THOSE DEVELOPERS WHO ARE MOTIVATED ONLY BY PROFIT.

+THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO SMALL MANUFACTURERS WHO ARE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT DRIVEN OUT OF THE MARKET BY THE UNREALISTICALLY HIGH PRICES QUOTED AT PUBLIC LAND AUCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE REITERATED HIS EARLIER PLEA FOR THE SETTING UP OF A +FACTORY OWNERSHIP SCHEME+ WHEREBY SMALL MANUFACTURERS CAN FORM COOPERATIVES TO BID INDUSTRIAL LAND AT FAIR MARKET VALUE DIRECT FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE ITS PRESENT THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR THAT CAUSED +GRAVE CONCERN+ TO MR WONG WAS THE DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED +NOT JUST BECAUSE PRODUCTIVITY IS LOST BUT MUCH MORE IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE MANY WORKERS' LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST.+

THERE WERE 45 991 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1979 AS COMPARED WITH 39 242 IN 1978 AND 37 073 IN 1977. THE NUMBER OF FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ALSO INCREASED FROM 136 IN 1977 AND 141 IN 1978 TO 163 IN 1979. AS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, ABOUT 7 500 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 120 A DAY.

+I FEEL THAT THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FROM ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED - THE GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES,+ MR WONG STRESSED.

HE PROPOSED THAT AS IMMEDIATE STEPS:

* WORKERS SHOULD BE TAUGHT HOW TO AVOID ACCIDENTS BEFORE THEY ARE TAUGHT HOW TO HANDLE THEIR JOBS,

* THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LAUNCH VIGOROUS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS BY ORGANISING MORE SEMINARS AND PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SAFETY WEEKS AND EXHIBITIONS, AT A LOCAL LEVEL IN TSUEN WAN, ABERDEEN, CHAI WAN, KWUN TONG AND TSING YI.

THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION, MR WONG ADDED, MUST LIE IN EDUCATION.

+SINCE AN INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF OUR LABOUR FORCE ARE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS, MAYBE WE SHOULD INTRODUCE INTO OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM SOME BASIC CONCEPTS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

+THIS CONCEPT MUST BE STRESSED IN COURSES PROVIDED BY THE POLYTECHNIC AND OTHER PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS.+

POINTING TO THE HIGH RATE OF GROWTH IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, MR WONG HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPROVE ITS INTERNAL FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT MONITORING SYSTEM SO AS TO MAXIMISE OUTPUT FROM THE EXPENDITURE.

HE QUOTED STATISTICS TO SHOW THAT 41 PER CENT OF EXPENDITURE IS USED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS, MANY OF WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL AND BADLY NEEDED, SUCH AS THE EAST ISLAND CORRIDOR PROJECT AND PROJECTS ON SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

BUT HE REMINDED GOVERNMENT PLANNERS THAT IN PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES, THEY SHOULD AIM AT REASONABLE QUALITY AND MODERATE STANDARDS AT THE MOST ECONOMICAL COSTS.

+GOVERNMENT MUST REMEMBER THAT THERE IS STILL A LONG LIST OF SOCIAL COMMITMENTS THAT MUST BE MET, SO PUBLIC FUNDS MUST BE USED VERY CAREFULLY AND SELECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

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CALL FOR CENTRALISED TRAINING SCHEME
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A CENTRALISED TRAINING SCHEME SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE TRAINED MANPOWER -- ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON ALLEN LEE WHO SAID THE DEMAND FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS IS EVIDENCED IN THE FINDINGS OF THE MANPOWER SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL.

+AS FAR BACK AS MARCH 1978, THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL HAD PROPOSED TO GOVERNMENT THE URGENT INTRODUCTION OF A CENTRALISED TRAINING SCHEME AND WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR IT TO MATERIALISE.

+RECENTLY THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION EMPHASISED AGAIN THAT SUCH A SCHEME IS ESSENTIAL.+

NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON ITS ABILITY TO MANUFACTURE, MR LEE SAID PRESSURE FROM THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES TO RESTRICT TRADE WOULD CONTINUE.

TO COMBAT THIS TREND, HE SAID, +WE ARE IN URGENT NEED TO BROADEN OUR PRODUCTS AND EXPAND OUR MARKETS+.

MOREOVER, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS PLASTICS AND ELECTRONICS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO TRADE RESTRICTIONS IN THE FUTURE.

+FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY AND OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, I URGE THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO PROCRASTINATE ANY LONGER AND GIVE THE TRAINING COUNCIL THE GREEN LIGHT TO IMPLEMENT ITS RECOMMMENDATION,+ HE SAID.

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MR LEE SAID HE WAS ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PLANNED PLACES FOR THE 1979-80 ACADEMIC YEAR WAS NOT FILLED DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING TEACHING STAFF.

THIS MEANS, HE CONTINUED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEPRIVED 1 100 FULL-TIME AND 2 900 PART-TIME STUDENTS OF THE CHANCE TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFYING OUR INDUSTRY AND THE TREMENDOUS SHORTAGE OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL, HE ASKED WHETHER THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WOULD GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE PLANNED PLACE OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME DAY COURSES IN 1980-81 WOULD BE MET.

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HEALTH CARE EXHIBITION OPENS

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A CHILD NEEDS TO BE HEALTHY IN ORDER TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS POTENTIALS AND TO LIVE A FULL ADULT LIFE.

THIS WAS STATED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR ROGER LOBO, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HEALTHY NEW GENERATION EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT CITY HALL THIS MORNING.

HE STRESSED THAT THE EARLY YEARS OF CHILDHOOD WERE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE AS THE BASIS OF HEALTH, AND THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD HEALTH CAME FROM GOOD HEALTH HABITS WHICH WERE LAID DOWN IN THE FAMILY AND IN SCHOOLS THROUGH HEALTH EDUCATION.

MR LOBO SAID PROVISION OF SERVICES WAS ALSO IMPORTANT IN IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN. HOWEVER, HE SAID PROVISION OF EVEN THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED HEALTH FACILITIES WOULD NOT HELP IF PEOPLE DID NOT MAKE THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HEALTH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRENATAL CARE, EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF PRENATAL COMPLICATIONS AND OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAFE DELIVERY OF A NORMAL HEALTHY CHILD.

+IN FACT, THIS AS I UNDERSTAND, IS ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.+

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, POINTED OUT THAT THE HEALTH STATUS OF HONG KONG CHILDREN IS AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC DROP OF THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE FROM 73.6 PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS TO 11.8, HE SAID.

AMONG THE FACTORS LEADING TO THIS REMARKABLE RESULT IS THE OUTCOME OF YEARS OF HARD WORK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EASILY ACCESSIBLE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND OBSTETRIC AND PAEDIATRIC MEDICAL CARE, SAID DR THONG.

HE SAID MANY NEW PROGRAMMES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HEALTH PROMOTION HAVE BEEN REALISED IN RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY PROGRAMMES SUCH AS RESTRUCTURING OF THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE WITH FAMILY PLANNING INTEGRATED, THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT. +ALL THESE SERVICES AIM AT IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD,+ HE SAID.

+THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS EXHIBITION IS, THEREFORE, TO IMPROVE THE PARENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE KIND OF SELF-CARE AND BABY-REARING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE WHICH WOULD ENSURE A HEALTHY CHILD,+ DR THONG ADDED.

DURING THE CEREMONY, MRS LOBO PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF THE CHILDREN SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION.

/VISITORS TO .....

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION MAY OBTAIN A FREE BOOKLET ON HEALTH HINTS AND SEEK FAMILY PLANNING ADVICE AND THEIR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE MAY ALSO UNDERGO SCREENING TEST.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TILL SUNDAY (MARCH 30) FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM DAILY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO LAUNCH SALVATION ARMY'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE +SALVATION ARMY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS LAUNCHING CEREMONY+ ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29) AT 11 AM IN THE MAIN CONCOURSE OF THE OCEAN TERMINAL.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SNT TO OPEN CLUBHOUSE FOR SCOUTS
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF A $460 000 CLUBHOUSE FOR THE BOY SCOUT ASSOCIATION YUEN LONG (EAST) AT AU TAU ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29).

MR AKERS-JONES WILL MAKE A SHORT SPEECH AND UNVEIL A PLAQUE. MR P.G. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WHICH HAS DONATED $200 000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE CLUBHOUSE, WILL PERFORM THE +DOOR OPENING+ CEREMONY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE EVENT. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE (AM 3214) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 9.45 AM SHARP.

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IRD'S KOWLOON SUB-OFFICE TO OPERATE IN NEW PREMISES

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THE KOWLOON SUB-OFFICE OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE FROM ITS NEW OFFICE IN PARK-IN COMMERICAL CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK NEXT TUESDAY (APRIL 1).

THE MOVE FROM THE EXISTING OFFICE IN THE 'OLD' HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING IN NATHAN ROAD WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND.

FROM NEXT TUESDAY, THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES IN THE SUB-OFFICE WILL BE 3-841158.

THE SUB-OFFICE COLLECTS TAXES ASSESSED UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE EXCEPT PROPERTY TAX. IT ALSO COLLECTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX AND ISSUES TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

IN ADDITION IT SERVES AS A BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND STAMP DUTY SUB-OFFICE, AND AS A BASE FOR TAX INSPECTORS.

THE SUB-OFFICE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM DURING WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO HOLD OPEN DAY

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VISITORS TO THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OPEN DAY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE STUDENTS AT WORK IN WORKSHOPS AND LABORATORIES.

THE INSTITUTE WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 12.30 PM, AND FROM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM TOMORROW.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE 3 800 STUDENTS ATTENDING VARIOUS FULL-TIME, PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE AND EVENING COURSES RUN BY THE FIVE TEACHING DEPARTMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

SHORT COURSES ARE ALSO IN SESSION TO UP-DATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL OF CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS IN INDUSTRY.

THE FIVE TEACHING DEPARTMENTS ARE CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, PRINTING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

COURSES OPERATED AT BOTH TECHNICIAN AND CRAFT LEVELS ARE DEVELOPED AND CONSTANTLY REVIEWED TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ABOUT 130 FULL-TIME AND 137 PART-TIME TEACHING AND GENERAL STAFF ARE EMPLOYED BY THE INSTITUTE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPEN DAY OF KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TOMORROW (MARCH 28). THE INSTITUTE IS LOCATED AT 25 HIU MING STREET, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON.

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER
OPENS CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION
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YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED YUEN LONG RESIDENTS TO FURTHER EXPAND AND SUPPORT CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

MR FUNG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION, ENTITLED +THEIR JOYFUL MOMENTS+, IN THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

HE PRAISED STUDENTS FROM 20 LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK SELECTED FOR DISPLAY.

A TOTAL OF 160 EXHIBITS WERE CHOSEN FROM MORE THAN 2 000 ENTRIES BY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FOR THE 1979 HONG KONG CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED LAST YEAR BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITIONS.

A FURTHER 60 EXHIBITS WERE SKETCHES BY YOUNG ARTISTS WHO TOOK PART IN A SKETCHING ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME AT THE OCEAN PARK LAST NOVEMBER.

THE 220 EXHIBITS WERE FIRST DISPLAYED AT THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART IN THE CITY HALL IN JANUARY.

MORE THAN 30 000 LOCAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION.

TODAY'S OPENING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MR NATHAN MA NING-HEI, CHARIMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG CHILDREN'S ARTS EXHIBITIONS, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE EXHIBITION TO YUEN LONG.

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AMS ANNUAL DINNER
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THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL DINNER AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE IN CAUSEWAY BAY ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29).

ABOUT 1 000 AMS STAFF AND A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, INCLUDING SIR SHIU-KIN TANG AND LADY TANG, WILL ATTEND THE DINNER.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG IN HIS CAPACITY AS AMS UNIT CONTROLLER WILL PRESENT CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE CLASPS TO 41 LONG SERVING MEMBERS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE AMS ANNUAL DINNER IN THE MAXIM'S PALACE RESTAURANT, WORLD TRADE CENTRE AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29).

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WAN CHAI
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THE URBAN CLEARWAY HOURS AT YIU WA STREET AND A SECTION OF MATHESON STREET FROM HOUSE NO 11 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH LEIGHTON ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE REVISED FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29).

FROM SUNDAY VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING OF GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY IN THE TWO CLEARWAY ZONES.

THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM CLEARWAY RESTRICTION IN THE TWO STREETS WILL BE RESCINDED FROM THAT DAY.

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