



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1985

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OBJECTIVES CAN BE MET, SAYS SIR PHILIP
* * * *

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD SET HONG KONG FIRMLY ON THE ROAD TOWARDS MEETING THE STATED OBJECTIVES.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE: ROOTING THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT FIRMLY IN HONG KONG AND DEVELOPING AN ACCEPTABLE AND RESPECTED CHANNEL FOR THE AUTHORITATIVE EXPRESSION OF THE VIEW OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SIR PHILIP WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN THE MOTION +THAT THIS COUNCIL WELCOMES THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG WOULD THEREFORE BECOME MORE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE HERE.

+THUS, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE WHITE PAPER WHICH IS TO PREPARE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE NEW POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FUTURE.

+ACCORDINGLY, SIR, I COMMEND THE WHITE PAPER TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR APPROVAL,+ HE SAID.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SIR PHILIP'S SPEECH:

+SIR, I RISE TO MOVE THE MOTION STANDING IN MY NAME ON THE ORDER PAPER: +THAT THIS COUNCIL WELCOMES THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.+

+WHEN THE WHITE PAPER WAS LAID ON 21 NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, YOU YOURSELF, SIR, OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REMIND MEMBERS, AT THE OUTSET OF THIS DEBATE, OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER WERE WORKED UP AND THEN AMENDED WHEN FINALISING THE PLANS SET OUT IN THE WHITE PAPER.

OBJECTIVES

+OUR OBJECTIVES CAN BE STATED QUITE SIMPLY. THEY ARE, FIRST, THAT THE FUTURE SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE ROOTED FIRMLY IN THE COMMUNITY AND THEREBY BE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE SECOND OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT IT IS BROADLY BASED, AND WHICH WILL MINIMISE ANY TENDENCY TO FACTIONAL POLITICS AND DIVISIVENESS. THE THIRD OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED.

PRINCIPLES

+TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES THE PLANS IN THE WHITE PAPER HAVE BEEN BASED ON FOUR PRINCIPLES. THE FIRST PRINCIPLE BORNE IN MIND WAS THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE BASED, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ON OUR EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND SHOULD PRESERVE THEIR BEST FEATURES, INCLUDING THE WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF GOVERNMENT BY CONSENSUS. THE SECOND PRINCIPLE BORNE IN MIND WAS THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED GRADUALLY AND PROGRESSIVELY. THE THIRD PRINCIPLE BORNE IN MIND WAS THAT A REASONABLE BALANCE SHOULD BE STRUCK IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BETWEEN ELECTED, APPOINTED AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS. AND THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE BORNE IN MIND - AND VERY MUCH SO - WAS THAT THE MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT PUT AT RISK THOSE FACTORS WHICH HAVE SECURED THE SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

+IN THE RATHER LONGER TERM OF APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD ENABLE THREE OTHER OBJECTIVES TO BE REALISED. THAT IS TO SAY, THE APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD ASSIST US, FIRST, TO DECIDE UPON THE CHANGES WHICH SHOULD BE MADE IN THE COMPOSITION, METHOD OF SELECTION AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL; SECONDLY, TO DEFINE THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR IN RELATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS; AND, THIRDLY, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO MAKE THE EXECUTIVE ORGANS OF THE GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

+THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES IS TO ENSURE THAT A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED DURING THE NEXT 12 YEARS WHICH WILL PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF OUR PRESENT SOCIETY AND WHICH WILL ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR HONG KONG FROM ITS PRESENT STATUS AS A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORY TO THAT OF A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA, WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

+NEEDLESS TO SAY, IN PREPARING THE PLANS STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER, THE PROVISIONS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, WHICH PROVIDE, INTER ALIA, FOR THE LEGISLATURE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION TO BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS, HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

COMPOSITION OF NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

+OBVIOUSLY, THE FIRST AND SECOND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLANS IN THE WHITE PAPER WHICH I MENTIONED A FEW MOMENTS AGO WILL BE BEST ACHIEVED BY ENSURING THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL MAJOR SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY. SO THE WHITE PAPER DEFINES HOW A NEW STYLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED WITH EFFECT FROM THE 1985-86 SESSION.

/+ELECTIONS WILL

+ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD, IN SEPTEMBER 1985, FOR 24 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO WILL HOLD OFFICE FOR THREE YEARS. TWELVE MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED BY AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE COMPOSED OF ALL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND TWELVE MEMBERS BY SPECIAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+WITHIN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE GROUPED INTO TEN GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES REPRESENTING ROUGHLY 500 000 PEOPLE EACH, WHILE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL FORM TWO SPECIAL CONSTITUENCIES. EACH OF THESE CONSTITUENCIES WILL RETURN ONE MEMBER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THUS, THERE WILL BE 12 MEMBERS IN ALL ELECTED BY THESE +POPULIST+ CONSTITUENCIES.

+THERE WILL BE NINE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES REPRESENTING THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL, LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE TEACHING, LEGAL AND MEDICAL AND THE COMBINED ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING AND SURVEYING PROFESSIONS.

+THE COMMERCIAL CONSTITUENCY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL CONSTITUENCY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION. EACH OF THESE FOUR ORGANISATIONS WILL RETURN ONE MEMBER EACH TO THE COUNCIL. THE LABOUR CONSTITUENCY, MADE UP OF ALL REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS, WILL RETURN TWO MEMBERS, WHILE THE OTHER CONSTITUENCIES WILL EACH RETURN ONE MEMBER. THUS, 12 MEMBERS IN ALL WILL BE ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THESE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE REDUCED FROM THE PRESENT 30 TO 22; WHILE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE REDUCED FROM 16 TO 10, INCLUDING THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

+IN SUMMARY, THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW SESSION WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 46 TO 56: THERE WILL BE TWO CATEGORIES OF ELECTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, 'POPULIST' AND FUNCTIONAL, AND THERE WILL BE TWELVE IN EACH CATEGORY; THE RATIO OF ELECTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO APPOINTED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE 24:22; AND THE RATIO OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE 46:10, COMPARED WITH 30:16 AT PRESENT. THUS, THE THIRD OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN MET.

THE 1987 REVIEW

+THE WHITE PAPER ALSO ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONDUCT A REVIEW IN 1987 OF OUR EXPERIENCE DURING THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS OF THE LIFE OF THE NEW COUNCIL. AS PERCEIVED AT THIS TIME, THE REVIEW WILL ADDRESS AT LEAST FOUR QUESTIONS.

+FIRST, THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1988 AND BEYOND SHOULD BE CONTEMPLATED INCLUDING WHETHER AND, IF SO, WHEN, AT LEAST A PROPORTION OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE MADE UP OF MEMBERS DIRECTLY, AS OPPOSED TO INDIRECTLY, ELECTED. SECONDLY, THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POWERS, COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, INCLUDING WAYS AND MEANS OF DEVISING A LINK - AND THE EXTENT OF THAT LINK - BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME FORM OF MINISTERIAL SYSTEM. THIRDLY, THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY CHANGES IN THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR IN RELATION TO BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AND, FOURTHLY, THE REVIEW WILL CONSIDER THE NEED FOR, AND TIMING OF, ANY FURTHER REVIEW OR REVIEWS.

PUBLIC REACTION TO THE WHITE PAPER

+PUBLIC REACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS ANNOUNCED IN THE WHITE PAPER HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVOURABLE, AS EVIDENCED BY REPORTS IN THE MEDIA AND COMMENTS MADE BY MANY MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CLAIMS FOR REPRESENTATION THROUGH ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, FROM SUCH ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS AS THE HEUNG YEE KUK, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, RELIGIOUS BODIES, THE MEDIA, SOCIAL WORKERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES. THESE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BUT, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THEM, AT ANY RATE AT THIS STAGE.

+THERE CLEARLY HAS TO BE SOME LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WHICH CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO START WITH. MOREOVER, HAVING REGARD TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS WHOLE EXERCISE, A CAREFUL BALANCE HAS TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE VARIOUS COMPONENT ELEMENTS - ELECTED, APPOINTED, OFFICIAL - THAT WILL MAKE UP THE NEW COUNCIL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE CLAIMS OF THESE ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS ARE WITHOUT MERIT, OR THAT THEY ARE UNIMPORTANT, LET ALONE THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IS NOT RECOGNISED. THE INTERESTS OF SOME OF THESE ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS WILL NO DOUBT BE REFLECTED THROUGH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE OR APPOINTED BY YOU, SIR. IN ANY CASE, THE REVIEW IN 1987 WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

/+SINCE THE

+SINCE THE WHITE PAPER WAS PUBLISHED, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME RENEWED DEMANDS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED IMMEDIATELY. I SHOULD MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE EITHER TIMELY OR WISE TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS JUST NOW, IT DOES NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS PARTICULAR METHOD OF ACQUIRING MEMBERSHIP. AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL NOT TO PUT AT RISK THE HARMONY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG BY INTRODUCING TOO MANY MAJOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TOO RAPIDLY, OR TO OVERLOAD THE SYSTEM (INCLUDING THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THE ADMINISTRATION) WITH TOO MANY CHANGES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

+I SHOULD JUST MENTION HERE, SIR, THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN HONG KONG. THE PLANS TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED IN THIS COUNCIL IN JULY LAST YEAR BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ARE WELL IN HAND. A NEW SUBJECT OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IS TO BE INTRODUCED. THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HAS TENDERED ADVICE ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE CIVIC EDUCATION ELEMENT IN EXISTING SUBJECTS AND IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF GUIDELINES ON PROMOTING CIVIC AND POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS IS BEING PREPARED.

LEGISLATION

+AS STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER, THE ELECTORAL LEGISLATION WILL BE ALONG THE LINES OF EXISTING ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, WHICH HAS PROVED TO BE GENERALLY ADEQUATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THE LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING DRAFTED AND WILL COVER SUCH MATTERS AS THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A VOTER, THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A CANDIDATE, THE METHODS BY WHICH THE ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR THE VARIOUS CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE DRAWN UP AND THE PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING THE ELECTIONS. IT WILL ALSO LAY DOWN THE DETAILED COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKING GIVEN IN THE WHITE PAPER, A SERIES OF MEETINGS HAS BEEN HELD DURING THE PAST SIX WEEKS OR SO WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS ON WHICH THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE BASED, IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE LEGISLATION AND THE PROCEDURES WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR CONDUCTING THE ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER NEXT. VARIOUS POINTS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THESE ORGANISATIONS WHICH WILL BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

+THE ELECTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, IN SIMILAR FASHION TO THAT IN WHICH THE DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED ALREADY; AND, OF COURSE, VOTING WILL BE BY SECRET BALLOT.

+THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PUBLISH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND TO INTRODUCE IT INTO THIS COUNCIL FOR DEBATE, WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO, SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

CONCLUSION

+SIR, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE WHITE PAPER WILL SET US FIRMLY ON THE ROAD TOWARDS MEETING OUR STATED OBJECTIVES OF ROOTING THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG FIRMLY IN HONG KONG AND OF DEVELOPING AN ACCEPTABLE AND RESPECTED CHANNEL FOR THE AUTHORITATIVE EXPRESSION OF THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG WILL THEREBY BECOME MORE DIRECTLY - AND WILL BE SEEN TO BE MORE DIRECTLY - ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THUS, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE WHITE PAPER WHICH IS TO PREPARE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE NEW POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FUTURE.

+ACCORDINGLY, SIR, I COMMEND THE WHITE PAPER TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR APPROVAL.+

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UK BILL TO END SOVEREIGNTY WILL BE PUBLISHED HERE
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BILL TO PROVIDE FOR TERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997, WOULD BE MADE WIDELY KNOWN IN HONG KONG, ONCE IT IS PUBLISHED THERE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JOHN SWAINE, SIR PHILIP QUOTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, AS HAVING SAID IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON DECEMBER 5 LAST YEAR, WHEN THE HONG KONG AGREEMENT WAS BEING DEBATED, THAT THE UK WOULD BRING FORWARD LEGISLATION EARLY THIS YEAR FOR THE TERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY.

THE LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE POWERS TO MAKE OTHER CHANGES TO THE LAW, INCLUDING THE NATIONALITY LAW, WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGREEMENT AND TERMINATION OF SOVEREIGNTY, SIR GEOFFREY HAD SAID.

AS THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE AN ACT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, SIR PHILIP SAID, HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ANTICIPATE ITS CONTENTS.

+BUT I CAN ASSURE MR SWAINE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF A BILL UPON ITS INTRODUCTION INTO PARLIAMENT.

/+THIS WILL

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+THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED AFTER AN INTERVAL BY THE NORMAL PROCESS OF PUBLIC DEBATE IN BOTH HOUSES, AND THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE MADE BY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IF THEY SO WISH.

+ANY SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION WOULD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURE, ALSO BE SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

+FOR OUR PART, GIVEN THAT THE BILL WILL BE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL NATURALLY ENSURE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE BILL, ONCE PUBLISHED IN THE UK, ARE MADE WIDELY KNOWN HERE,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

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VOTING RIGHT FOR EVERY REGISTERED DOCTOR - HARRY FANG
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ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION IN THE MEDICAL CONSTITUENCY SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NOR CONFINED TO REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE PROFESSION, DR THE HON HARRY FANG SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, DR FANG SUGGESTED THAT ALL PRACTITIONERS WHOSE NAMES APPEARED ON THE HONG KONG MEDICAL REGISTER SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES, STAND FOR ELECTION AND VOTE.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD WHERE PRACTICABLE ELECT THEIR CANDIDATES TO LEGCO DIRECTLY AND IN THIS CASE THE MEDICAL CONSTITUENCY, WHICH IS PERHAPS THE MOST HOMOGENEOUS GROUP, IS PARTICULARLY WELL PLACED TO TEST THE DIRECT ELECTION CONCEPT AND SHOULD DO SO,+ HE SAID.

ON THE WHOLE, DR FANG SAID, THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY CONCEPT WAS AN IMPORTANT INTERIM MEASURE, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HONG KONG HAD A MUCH LARGER LEGISLATURE WITH WIDER REPRESENTATION TO ENABLE CANDIDATES FROM SMALL BUT VITAL PROFESSIONS, SUCH AS LAW, BANKING, ACCOUNTANCY AND MEDICINE TO BE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE FROM GENERAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+THE EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF COUNCILLORS FROM THESE FIELDS ARE ESSENTIAL, IN MY VIEW, TO THE EFFICIENT AND PROGRESSIVE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1985

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FRANCIS TIEN WARNS OF DEMOCRACY GONE WRONG
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DEMOCRACY GONE WRONG WAS A DIRE DANGER, THE HON FRANCIS TIEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+PUT GRAPHICALLY, IT IS SOMETHING LIKE THE ART OF RUNNING THE CIRCUS FROM THE MONKEY CAGE,+ HE SAID, ON THE FIRST DAY OF DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

DEMOCRACY GONE WRONG WAS DEFINED AS A SYSTEM IN WHICH THE WHOLE WAS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE PARTS, HE SAID.

+IF A MAJORITY TELLS US THAT TWO PLUS TWO EQUALS FIVE= OR IF IT SEEKS TO SPEND MONEY WHICH IT DOES NOT POSSESS, THEN WE ARE CLOSE NOT TO DEMOCRACY, BUT TO DICTATORSHIP.

+MR TIEN SAID HE WAS NO CYNIC, BUT WAS AN ADVOCATE OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT.

+I DO BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE AND DEVELOPMENT.

+BUT A WELL THOUGHT OUT FUTURE MUST BE A MEASURED FUTURE - A BALANCED FUTURE.

+CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, BUT CONTINUITY IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT,+ HE SAID.

MR TIEN SAID TO INNOVATE WAS NOT ALWAYS TO REFORM.

+INDEED CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING INFORMED US THAT WE HAVE A NEED TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

+DRASTIC CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IS RULED OUT BY COMMON SENSE AS WELL AS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT GET TOO FAR OUT OF ALIGNMENT WITH REALITY.+

HE SAID THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE SHOULD NOT LISTEN TO SIREN VOICES, EXPRESSED LOCALLY OR ABROAD, WHICH THREATENED HONG KONG'S STABILITY.

+AT ALL COSTS, WE MUST NOT BE DRIVEN HELTER-SKELTER TOWARDS ILL-CONSIDERED ACTION,+ HE SAID.

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PRIORITY URGED FOR ADULT CIVIC EDUCATION
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ADULT EDUCATION SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER PRIORITY AND WAYS AND MEANS SHOULD BE SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE HONG KONG'S ADULT CITIZENS TO TAKE CIVIC EDUCATION SERIOUSLY, THE HON ALEX WU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER, MR WU SAID: +I PUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT EDUCATION BECAUSE IT IS MY HOPE THAT ADULTS AND YOUTHS ALIKE WILL LOSE NO TIME IN LEARNING ABOUT THIS NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

+WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT WE HAVE JUST BEGUN TO LEARN ABOUT DEMOCRACY, WHICH IS LIKE EMBARKING ON A CRASH REMEDIAL COURSE WITH WHICH WE MUST HASTEN TO DIGEST THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY BEFORE WE CAN MAKE PROPER USE OF IT.+

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MOST PEOPLE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT AND ARE NOT PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR REGISTRATION AS VOTERS, NOT TO MENTION THE OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES OF A VOTER, MR WU ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED FOR THE EDUCATION OF VOTERS BY HEIGHTENING THEIR AWARENESS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES WHEN DRAWING UP THE CURRICULUM OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

+I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLARIFY IF CIVIC EDUCATION PROVIDES, APART FROM GUIDANCE, ANY MEANS OF TESTING THE AVERAGE VOTER'S UNDERSTANDING OF HIS OBLIGATIONS,+ HE SAID.

+ARE HONG KONG PEOPLE, WHO ARE ALWAYS HARD PRESSED FOR TIME, WILLING TO RECEIVE THIS KIND OF EDUCATION AND CAN THEY AFFORD THE TIME FOR IT?+ HE ASKED.

MR WU BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE +COUNTLESS DIFFICULTIES+ IN IMPLEMENTING A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 1987 REVIEW WHICH COULD HELP TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD WORK WELL.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COOPERATION OF THE PUBLIC, HONG KONG WILL MOVE SUCCESSFULLY TOWARDS 'HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG',+ HE SAID.

MR WU LIKENED HONG KONG'S PRESENT SITUATION TO A BIG COMPANY ABOUT TO BE LISTED.

+IT HOPES NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN ITS GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT (PROSPERITY), BUT ALSO TO DO EVEN BETTER UNDER THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF ITS ABLE DIRECTORS, BOTH OLD AND NEW.

+THE DIRECTORS SHOULD EXERCISE GREATER CAUTION BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE LISTING, TO AVOID CONFUSION AND LOSS TO THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS.

+I HOPE THAT, WHEN IT GOES PUBLIC, THE LISTING PRICE WILL NOT BE LOWER THAN THE BOTTOM PRICE AND I WISH IT SMOOTH SAILING AHEAD,+ MR WU SAID.

CONTINUED PUBLIC VIEWS URGED
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HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE URGED PEOPLE TO FORWARD THEIR VIEWS, ESPECIALLY ON PROBLEMS ARISING FROM NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE FUTURE LEGCO.

+THEY WILL BE USEFUL INPUTS TO THE REVIEW WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO YEARS' TIME.

+THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR OPINIONS EXPRESSED THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD LEADING TO THE REVIEW AND SHOULD EXTEND THE CONSULTATION NETWORK AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS CAPACITY AS CONVENER OF THE UMELCO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS PANEL, MR CHEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER WERE BROADLY IN LINE WITH THE UMELCO RECOMMENDATIONS.

COMMENTING ON THE WHITE PAPER PROPOSAL ON THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS, MR CHEN SAID IT HAD IN FACT BROUGHT FORWARD THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL FROM 1988 TO 1985.

+AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THE PROPOSED MOVIES, IN MY OPINION, BOTH FAST ENOUGH AND FAR ENOUGH, BUT WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT FURTHER STEPS SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF SATISFACTORY PROGRESS, WHICH I AM SURE WILL BE REGULARLY MONITORED AND TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE 1987 REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

+IN NO WAY SHOULD WE PRE-EMPT THE FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW, OTHERWISE WE WOULD BE DENYING OURSELVES TWO YEARS' VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH WE CAN ILL AFFORD TO LOSE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHOICE OF FUNCTIONAL GROUPS, MR CHEN SAID IT SHOULD BE SUCH THAT A BALANCED COMPOSITION OF THE FUTURE LEGCO COULD BE ENSURED, SO THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE TO DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER.

+THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF ELECTION THROUGH FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WAS THEREFORE TO ENABLE THE VARIOUS 'FUNCTIONS' TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY, RATHER THAN FOR THE INTERESTS OF THOSE GROUPS TO BE PROTECTED IN LEGCO,+ HE SAID.

+HONG KONG IS FACING AN IMPORTANT CHANGE AND WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLIC SPIRIT, NOT SELFISHNESS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE WHITE PAPER DID NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT ELECTIONS, NOR THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE, THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

+I AM SURE THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE URGENCY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE MATTERS AND WOULD GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHTS TO THEM IN THE COMING YEARS BEFORE THE REVIEW IN 1987,+ HE SAID.

DESTRUCTIVE SPLITS MUST BE AVOIDED -- LYDIA DUNN

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WE MUST NOT PUT OUR FUTURE AT RISK IN THE PURSUIT OF SELF-CENTRED GOALS, THE HON MISS LYDIA DUNN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, MISS DUNN SAID THOSE IN PUBLIC LIFE NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE, MUST ADHERE TO CERTAIN ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN THEIR APPROACH TO THEIR DUTIES AND AVOID DESTRUCTIVE DIVISIONS AMONG THEMSELVES.

+WE MUST THINK POSITIVELY AND SET ABOUT MASTERING SITUATIONS IN A PRACTICAL WAY,+ SHE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND EVERYONE ELSE IN PUBLIC LIFE MUST PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP,+ SHE SAID.

+AND LEADERSHIP DOES NOT JUST MEAN MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS ON COMPLEX ISSUES.

+IT MEANS HAVING A PERCEPTION OF THE BEST MEANS OF SECURING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND A COMMITMENT TO THAT PERCEPTION.+

MISS DUNN SPOKE OF FOUR DETERMINANTS OF HONG KONG'S SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS: A COMMITMENT TO A FREE MARKET ECONOMY; THE EXERCISE OF RESTRAINT BY THE GOVERNMENT; AN APPROACH TO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH SOUGHT A CONSENSUS AND AVOIDED DISPUTE; AND AN ABSENCE OF DIVISIVE FORCES.

ON THE FREE MARKET ECONOMY, SHE SAID FOR MANY YEARS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STANCE HAD BEEN CHARACTERISED BY MINIMUM INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A CONSISTENT AND PREDICTABLE FISCAL, LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH BUSINESS COULD BE CARRIED ON.

+IF THIS POLICY STANCE IS ERODED, THEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUR TURNING IN A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE REMOTE,+ SHE WARNED.

ON GOVERNMENT RESTRAINT, MISS DUNN SAID THERE WAS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF EXPECTING TOO MUCH OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO IMAGINE THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD AND SHOULD CURE ALL THE ILLS THAT AFFLICTED SOCIETY AND TO BLAME THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT FAILED TO DO SO.

+SO, EVEN IN HONG KONG, THERE ARE FAIRLY CONTINUOUS CALLS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FAVOUR SOFT POLICY OPTIONS TO THE POINT OF RELIEVING PEOPLE AND ENTERPRISES OF ALL SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY,+ SHE SAID.

+IF SUCH CALLS ARE HEEDDED, HONG KONG WILL NOT SURVIVE AS A DYNAMIC AND NON-INSTITUTIONALISED CARING SOCIETY,+ SAID MISS DUNN.

TURNING TO THE CONSENSUAL APPROACH, MISS DUNN SAID ON THE WHOLE, HONG KONG HAD BEEN GOVERNED ON THIS BASIS.

WE HAD, GENERALLY SPEAKING, AVOIDED ADVERSARIAL POLITICS, THAT WAS TO SAY POLITICS WHICH TENDED EITHER TO PERSONALISE ISSUES OR TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE POLICY OBJECTIVES IN A WELTER OF ARGUMENT.

WE DID NOT WASTE TIME OR HUMAN EFFORT ON EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES AND, BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF ADVERSARIAL POLITICS, WE HAD BEEN FREE TO TACKLE ISSUES HEAD ON AND AVOID THOSE CORRUPTIVE FORCES WHICH HAD PLAGUED THE POLITICAL LIFE OF SO MANY COUNTRIES, EAST AND WEST.

+TO ACHIEVE A TRUE CONSENSUS REQUIRES THE SEEKING OUT OF WILLING AND ABLE REPRESENTATIVES OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS AND VIEWS.

+IT IS PERHAPS ARGUABLE WHETHER UNDER OUR SYSTEM OF NOMINATED APPOINTMENTS SUCH PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IDENTIFIED.

+BE THAT AS IT MAY, HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER THEMSELVES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, BUT IF ON BEING ELECTED THEY DISCARD THE REALITIES OF OUR ECONOMIC SITUATION, IF THEY CARELESSLY SEEK TO INVOKE THE AID OF GOVERNMENT FOR SECTIONAL INTERESTS, AND IF THEY REJECT THE CONSENSUAL APPROACH, THEN WOE BETIDE THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY OF THIS CITY OF OURS,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE ABSENCE OF DIVISIVE FORCES, MISS DUNN SAID HONG KONG HAD A STABLE AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY WHICH MATCHED, SHE BELIEVED, THE CONSENSUAL TRADITION IN GOVERNMENT.

THERE WAS A CONVERGENCE HERE OF PEOPLE OF MANY RACES AND BELIEFS WHICH IN PART REFLECTED, AND IN PART HAD CONFERRED UPON, HONG KONG THAT INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION WITHOUT WHICH HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR CENTRE OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND FINANCE.

+OUR FUTURE WOULD INDEED BE IN JEOPARDY IF, BY ONE ROUTE OR ANOTHER, DIVISIVE FORCES BEGIN TO EMERGE,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT'S STATED INTENTIONS IN THE WHITE PAPER AS TIMELY AND RELEVANT TO HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

+BUT AS WE CONSIDER THE POLITICAL CHANGE ENVISAGED IN THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT AND AS WE EMBARK UPON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, WE SHOULD SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THIS NEW PHASE IN OUR HISTORY DOES NOT INVOLVE A SHARP BREAK WITH THE PAST.

+THAT IS TO SAY, WHATEVER MAY BE THE ULTIMATE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG, WE MUST PRESERVE THE HONG KONG STYLE AND THE HONG KONG SYSTEM INTACT,+ SHE SAID.

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PEOPLE'S ROLE VITAL FOR SUCCESS - PETER WONG

THE SUCCESS OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS BE LARGELY DEPENDENT UPON THE DEGREE OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AT ALL LEVELS, THE HON PETER C WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

A CONCERTED EFFORT MUST BE MADE FOR THE PEOPLE TO BE POSITIVELY INVOLVED NOT ONLY IN CIVIC AFFAIRS BUT ALSO IN ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

+IN THIS WAY AND IN THIS WAY ALONE CAN OUR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY BE MAINTAINED,+ MR WONG SAID.

PARAGRAPH SIX OF THE WHITE PAPER CONTAINS WHAT HE CONSIDERED A KEY STATEMENT - THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, AND TO FRAME PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

+THE FACT IS : HONG KONG IS NOT HEADING FOR INDEPENDENCE BUT WILL BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA,+ HE SAID.

+AS LONG AS WE BEAR THIS IN MIND, WE SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED.

+THE PRESENT PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH DEALING MAINLY WITH THIS YEAR'S ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ARE NEVERTHELESS A REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

+THEY REPRESENT A CAUTIOUS BUT SOLID STEP TOWARDS DEVELOPING A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT SUITED TO THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG - A STEP WHICH, I BELIEVE, MOST PEOPLE WOULD ENDORSE.

+SOME WOULD SAY THAT GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO RUSH THROUGH AN IMPORTANT PACKAGE HURRIEDLY PUT TOGETHER.

+ON THE FACE OF IT, THERE MAY SEEM TO BE SOME JUSTIFICATION IN SUCH A STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT WE HAVE ONLY 12 YEARS TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS MORE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE,+ MR WONG SAID.

TIME WAS NOT REALLY ON OUR SIDE AND THE NEED TO ACT DECISIVELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY WAS SELF-EVIDENT, HE ADDED.

HE CONCEDED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER WOULD NOT BE EASY, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

+MUCH HARD WORK AND CO-ORDINATION REMAINS TO BE DONE.

/+SINCE SO

+SINCE SO MUCH IS AT STAKE, GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO DO A GOOD AND THOROUGH JOB.

+INDEED, THERE IS LITTLE ROOM FOR ERROR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IN THE MEANTIME, PUBLIC CONSULTATION SHOULD CONTINUE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS AND EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS, CAREFUL THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FURTHER STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1985 AND APPROPRIATE PLANS FORMULATED ACCORDINGLY.

+IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REMEMBER THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CREATE A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT UNLESS THE PEOPLE AND THEIR EXISTING INSTITUTIONS ARE READY FOR IT.

+IN THIS CONTEXT, GOVERNMENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF A WIDER RANGE OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN RESPONSE TO POPULAR DEMAND DESERVES OUR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

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POINTS MISSING FROM WHITE PAPER, SAYS WONG LAM

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THE HON WONG LAM SAID TODAY HE FELT TWO POINTS HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

MR WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE WHITE PAPER, APART FROM DEALING WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MADE NO REFERENCE AS TO HOW THE COUNCIL COULD BE BETTER EMPOWERED TO MONITOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+I DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR REASON FOR DEFERRING THE REVIEW OF THIS QUESTION FOR TWO YEARS AS IT IS AN INDEPENDENT ISSUE,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO SAID THAT THE WHITE PAPER HAD NOT MENTIONED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+IF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN MONITORING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, ITS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SHOULD NOT AT THE SAME TIME BE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BECAUSE THE LATTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

HE FELT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DRAW A LINE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE - AS WELL AS MONITORING - BODIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTING ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF THE WHITE PAPER, MR WONG SAID THE ARRANGEMENT OF RETURNING UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD GIVEN RISE TO CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS.

HE SAID FIRSTLY, THE WHITE PAPER PUT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE BALANCED COMPOSITION OF THE MEMBERS, LIMITING EACH CATEGORY OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS TO 12.

THIS WOULD RESULT IN SOME MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES BEING KEPT OUT, AND MR WONG SAW A NEED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER IN ORDER TO ENLARGE REPRESENTATION IN THIS CATEGORY.

SECONDLY, THE WHITE PAPER DID NOT MENTION IN DETAIL THE CRITERIA BY WHICH THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE CHOSEN.

THIRDLY, THE DIRECT ENTRY OF MEMBERS FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES THROUGH INDIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST ARRANGEMENT SINCE MEMBERS NEEDED TO HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY.

IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SOME SUPPORTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS APPOINTING MORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE BODIES TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS OR MAJOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES, TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES THEY MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE UP ONCE THEY WERE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

FOURTHLY, TO AVOID INCONSISTENCY IN THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPECIFY THAT ONLY THOSE CHOSEN BY GENERAL ELECTION WITHIN A CONSTITUENCY COULD BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COUNCIL.

LASTLY, MR WONG SAID, TO AVOID A GREAT TURNOVER OF THE MEMBERS FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE UPON THEIR MINIMUM TERM OF OFFICE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR WONG SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO RETAIN APPOINTED MEMBERS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE PRESENT STAGE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WERE POINTS HERE WHICH DESERVED CONSIDERATION.

+FIRSTLY, AS THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE (OR BY DIRECT ELECTION) AND BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES INCREASES AND AS THEY GAIN MORE AND MORE EXPERIENCE, THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS SHOULD BE REDUCED GRADUALLY.

+SECONDLY, THE APPOINTED MEMBERS SHOULD BE THE ELITE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND SHOULD HAVE NO BEARING ON THEIR APPOINTMENT, + HE SAID.

+IN OTHER WORDS, THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE USED TO COMPENSATE THOSE PROFESSIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED AS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES ELIGIBLE FOR RETURNING MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, MR WONG SAID HE CONSIDERED THE GROUPING OF A DISTRICT OR DISTRICTS WITH POPULATION OF 500 000 AS ONE CONSTITUENCY IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AS RATHER DEMANDING.

HE SAID THE NUMBER SHOULD BE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS SO THAT THE MEMBERS COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

CONCERNING THE ARRANGEMENT FOR ELECTING UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, MR WONG SAID HE FULLY SUPPORTED IT AND FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED INDEFINITELY SIDE BY SIDE WITH DIRECT ELECTIONS IN FUTURE.

HE CONSIDERED AS ARBITRARY THE VIEW THAT UNOFFICIALS ELECTED IN THIS WAY WOULD ONLY CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE GROUPS TO WHICH THEY BELONGED.

+THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL GROUPS MAY NOT NECESSARILY GO AGAINST THOSE OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

+EVEN IF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN GROUPS DO VENTURE TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ONLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR OWN PROFESSIONS IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF PUBLIC INTERESTS, THERE ARE STILL MANY OTHER MEMBERS IN THE COUNCIL TO KEEP AN EFFECTIVE BALANCE,+ HE SAID.

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'REVIEW SHOULD MAP OUT REFORMS TO END OF CENTURY'
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THE 1987 REVIEW PROPOSED IN THE WHITE PAPER SHOULD MAP OUT A PROGRAMME OF REFORMS FOR THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG TO THE END OF THIS CENTURY, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER, DR HO SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE TIMING OF THE REVIEW HAD BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD TO 1987.

+THERE ARE ONLY 12 YEARS BEFORE 1997 AND AN EARLY REVIEW IS IMPORTANT,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SAID THE REVIEW SHOULD DEAL WITH AT LEAST THREE AREAS OF CONCERN.

FIRST, IT SHOULD MAP OUT A PROGRAMME OF REFORMS FOR THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG TO THE END OF THE CENTURY.

+THE REFORMS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FUNCTIONS AND COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS AND THE POSITION AND ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR,+ HE SAID.

SECOND, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PHASING OUT OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

HOWEVER, THERE SHOULD BE ELECTION FROM EACH OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ENSURE A GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DR HO SAID.

THE THIRD AREA WHICH DR HO RECOMMENDED THE REVIEW SHOULD LOOK INTO WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS, BASED ON UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN GRADUALLY THAT THE APPOINTMENTS SYSTEM STILL HAD ITS MERITS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND COULD EXIST SIDE BY SIDE WITH DIRECT ELECTIONS.

THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CONSCIOUS, SUSTAINED AND LARGE-SCALE PROGRAMME OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR HO SAID.

DR HO SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR HONG KONG TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BEFORE 1997 TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE COULD ADMINISTER THE TERRITORY EFFECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR RADICAL REFORMS OR POLITICAL EXPERIMENTATION AND THEREFORE ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE THE CAUTIOUS, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO POLITICAL REFORMS ADVOCATED IN THE WHITE PAPER.

HOWEVER HE SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON LAYING DOWN CLEAR GUIDELINES ON THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES AND THE COMPILATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, TO ENSURE THAT MEMBERS RETURNED BY THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES COULD TRULY REPRESENT THEIR FUNCTIONAL GROUPS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GROUPING OF THE DISTRICTS INTO 10 GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES DISREGARDED POPULATION DIFFERENCES, DISTRICT IDENTITIES AND LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS.

HE WOULD RATHER SEE EACH OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS RETURNING ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN PROPORTION TO THEIR POPULATION, HE SAID.

DR HO ALSO FELT THAT DUAL MEMBERSHIP ON DIFFERENT BOARDS AND COUNCILS SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

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HE SAID OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP WOULD FOSTER AN EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ENABLE MEMBERS TO FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY.

ON THE EXISTING OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN, DR HO SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE REPLACED BY AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

+FURTHERMORE, THE EXISTING RULE BARRING MEMBERS OF FOREIGN COUNCILS FROM BEING MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED RIGIDLY TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE BECAUSE CHINA SHOULD NOT BE TREATED, STRICTLY SPEAKING, AS A FOREIGN STATE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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CALL FOR AN EXPANDED LEGCO
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A CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO 60 MEMBERS IN 1988 WAS MADE BY THE HON ALLEN LEE.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE WARNED THAT ANY PRESSURE FROM BRITAIN TO SPEED UP DEMOCRATISATION AT THIS STAGE COULD HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS.

SPEAKING TODAY AT THE LEGCO DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR LEE COMMENTED ON THE FORMATION OF THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE 1987 REVIEW, AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM IN GENERAL.

ON THE 1985 LEGCO, MR LEE SAID, +I HAVE ATTENDED QUITE A NUMBER OF FORUMS AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. TO MY RECOLLECTION, NO ONE HAS SERIOUSLY COMMENTED ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE 1985 LEGCO FORMATION.

+THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONCENTRATED ON 1988 AND THE FUTURE ALONG WITH COMMENTS ON A SUGGESTED REVIEW IN 1989 AND THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM.

+TO MY SURPRISE, THE WHITE PAPER HAS PUSHED THE 1988 PROPOSAL TO 1985.+

MR LEE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO FIND REASONS FOR THE SPEEDING-UP OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION HE COULD DRAW WAS THAT THIS WAS NOT DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE IN HONG KONG NOR THE CHINESE DEMAND TO SPEED-UP THE PROCESS.

/+IT COULD

+IT COULD BE THE PRODUCT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TRYING, THROUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, TO SPEED-UP THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+IF THIS IS TRUE, MAY I REMIND HMG THAT PRESSURISING THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE ON A WESTMINSTER STYLE OF DEMOCRACY COULD LEAD TO DISASTROUS RESULTS.+

ON THE 1987 REVIEW, MR LEE SAID THERE WAS STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR BRINGING THE REVIEW FORWARD TO 1987 WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE SPEEDING-UP OF DEMOCRATISATION IN 1985. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED, THE WHITE PAPER WAS LACKING IN LONG TERM VISION AND PLANNING EVEN DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

IT HAD RELIED ON THE REVIEW ITSELF IN 1987. IT DID NOT SAY THAT IN THE 1987 REVIEW A LONG TERM PLAN OF POLITICAL REFORM AND THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE CLEARLY STATED UP TO 1997 AND CONTINUITY BEYOND 1997.

MR LEE ADDED: +THIS LACK OF LONG TERM VISION AND PLANNING BOTHERS ME BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE.+

+THEREFORE, I STRONGLY URGE THE GOVERNMENT THAT DURING THE 1987 REVIEW IT SHOULD GIVE THE PUBLIC A CLEAR INDICATION AS TO WHERE HONG KONG IS GOING IN ITS GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE.+

ON THE QUESTION OF AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE, MR LEE SAID THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE LEGISLATURE OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS.

+THE WHITE PAPER BEFORE US TODAY IS TAKING A FIRST STEP TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WHICH IS CURRENTLY ADOPTED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS A MATTER OF THE PAST. ELECTIONS ARE INEVITABLE IN THE FUTURE.+

MR LEE CALLED FOR CAREFUL PLANNING ON THE FORMATION OF AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE.

THE AWARENESS AMONG ALL STRATA OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CONCERNING ELECTIONS WAS GROWING AND WOULD GROW FURTHER IN THE FUTURE.

SINCE THERE WOULD BE AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE IN THE YEARS AHEAD, MR LEE BELIEVED THAT WE MUST EXPRESS OUR OPINIONS NOW AS TO HOW WE COULD ACHIEVE THIS WITHOUT ABRUPT CHANGES.

HE SAID: +I BELIEVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OUGHT TO BE EXPANDED IN THE FUTURE WITH A GREATER NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY.

/+THEREFORE, I

+THEREFORE, I PROPOSE THAT IN 1988, THE NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO 60 WITH 20 MEMBERS FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, 20 MEMBERS FROM THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND 20 MEMBERS THROUGH TERRITORY-WIDE ELECTIONS.

+THERE ARE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG CONCERNED ABOUT DIRECT ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF SO-CALLED 'FREE LUNCHERS' GETTING INTO THE LEGISLATURE. I UNDERSTAND THIS CONCERN BUT I DISAGREE.

+THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES DIRECTLY FOR THE LEGISLATURE AND I AM SURE MANY PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO MAKE PERSONAL SACRIFICES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG. THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT NECESSARILY 'FREE LUNCHERS'.

+THE ALLOCATION OF ONE THIRD OF THE SEATING TO A SINGLE LIST TERRITORY-WIDE ELECTION SHOULD BOOST THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVING THE SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG WHICH WAS PROMISED BY CHINESE LEADERS.+

MR LEE SAID THIS PROPOSAL WOULD ALSO HELP HONG KONG IN ESTABLISHING AN ELECTED LEGISLATURE AND WOULD MOST PROBABLY SUCCEED IN THE FORMATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AS STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE CONTINUITY UP TO AND BEYOND 1997.

SPEAKING ON THE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM, MR LEE SAID IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE FUTURE.

SUPPORTING CALLS FOR A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM, HE SAID: +I BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHORITY TO CONTROL AND SUPERVISE THE POLICIES AND OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE THROUGH A FORM OF MINISTERIAL SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE.

+IT IS A SYSTEM THAT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. EVEN THOUGH I AGREE WITH THE WHITE PAPER THAT THE WHOLE SUBJECT WILL BE ADDRESSED FURTHER AT A LATER STAGE, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE.+

MR LEE SAID: +I HAVE EXPRESSED MY RESERVATIONS ON THE 1985 FORMATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND I HAVE SPOKEN ON MY PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE.

+THE PUBLIC AT LARGE SEEM TO ACCEPT THE FORMATION OF THE 1985 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVEN THOUGH IT IS LACKING IN LONG TERM VISION AND PLANNING.

+I AM WILLING TO SUPPORT THE WHITE PAPER AND THE MOTION BEFORE US TODAY PROVIDED THAT IN THE 1987 REVIEW THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE GIVEN THE FUTURE PROPOSALS RUNNING UP TO 1997.+

+HONG KONG WILL OVERCOME HURDLES+

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HONG KONG WAS COMPARED TO AN ATHLETE BEING TRAINED FOR AN IMPORTANT EVENT BY HER TRAINER, THE BRITISH, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER, THE HON ANDREW SO SAID HE STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT THIS ATHLETE WITH POTENTIAL WOULD MAKE DAZZLING ACHIEVEMENTS IN JUMPING OVER THE HURDLES GRACEFULLY.

+I THINK THE PROGRAMME, THE METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTED IN THE WHITE PAPER ARE SUITABLE FOR THE ATHLETE, HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+THE WHITE PAPER PRESENTS THE PROGRAMME, METHODS AND COURSE FOR TRAINING. THE COMPOSITION AND PACE OF THE PROGRAMME WILL DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF THE WHOLE TRAINING PROJECT. IT IS ALSO A 'STARTING BLOCK' SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THIS PARTICULAR ATHLETE, HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT ATHLETIC TRAINING SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES, FROM THE BASICS TO THE MOST SOPHISTICATED FORM OF TRAINING, AND IT SHOULD BE GEARED TO INDIVIDUAL TRAINEES' POTENTIAL AND CAPABILITIES.

MR SO POINTED OUT THAT THE TRAINER IN THIS CASE WAS WELL KNOWN TO BE AN +IRON MAN+ WHO WAS RENOWNED FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED TECHNIQUES IN TRAINING AND HIS DEMAND WAS EXTREMELY HIGH.

+HE WISHES TO TRAIN UP THIS ATHLETE, HONG KONG, TO BECOME A TOP RUNNER IN THE HURDLE RACE AND AIMS AT HIS FINISHING THE RACE IN A 'WORLD RECORD OF 12.6 SECONDS',+ HE SAID.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE TRAINER WILL DEVOTE HIMSELF TO COUNSELLING THE ATHLETE, INSTEAD OF GIVING HIM STIMULANTS WHICH WILL MAKE HIM BREACH THE RULES.

+I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS ATHLETE WITH POTENTIAL WILL MAKE DAZZLING ACHIEVEMENTS IN JUMPING OVER THE HURDLES GRACEFULLY AND REACH THE FINISHING LINE WITH FLYING COLOURS EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD RECORD OF 12.6 SECONDS MAY NOT BE CLOCKED,+ HE SAID.

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VITAL NEW ROLE SEEN FOR UMELCO

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UMELCO'S ROLE IN THE NEXT 12-1/2 YEARS WOULD BE +EXTREMELY IMPORTANT+, THE HON F.K. HU SAID TODAY.

IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE +A NEW CHALLENGING ROLE IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING MUTUAL TRUST, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

IT WOULD HAVE TO KEEP THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ADVISED OF THE FEELINGS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE CONCERNING CHINESE POLICIES, TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES.

MR HU WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

+FURTHERMORE, UMELCO MUST BE FULLY AWARE OF CHINESE POLICIES, WHETHER DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL, AS FAR AS THEY AFFECT HONG KONG, SO THAT IT MAY ADVISE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WHICH, IF NECESSARY, COULD MAKE SUITABLE ADJUSTMENTS IN POLICY ACCORDINGLY.

+A GOOD UNDERSTANDING THROUGH UMELCO AND THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO BE ESTABLISHED CAN ENSURE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT ALONG A WORKABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PATH WHICH WILL LEAD TO A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE SAR GOVERNMENT WITHOUT SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC CHANGES WHICH MIGHT HAVE A DISTURBING EFFECT,+ MR HU SAID.

HE ALSO AGREED WITH THE VIEW CONCERNING THE NEED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC +AT ALL LEVELS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND BETTER ALL THE IMPLICATIONS AND COMPLEXITIES OF PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG+.

+THEY WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS MORE OPENLY ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE SYSTEM THEY PREFER.

+THEY WILL ALSO BE PLACED IN A BETTER POSITION TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO IN THEIR VIEW UNDERSTAND THE OVERALL COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT OVER-EMPHASIS ON BENEFIT FOR ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR,+ MR HU SAID.

DISCUSSING THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DECIDE THE RIGHT MIX AT THIS STAGE.

+WE MUST TRY AND TEST VARIOUS METHODS BEFORE WE CAN ARRIVE AT A PROPER COMPOSITION OF A FULLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TWO OR THREE YEARS BEFORE 1997.

+BESIDES INDIRECT ELECTION THROUGH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THERE WILL BE DIRECT ELECTION INTRODUCED AT A LATER STAGE AND THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO BE PHASED OUT AND MAY BE REPLACED BY MORE OPEN CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

/MR HU

MR HU SAID ONCE THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE CREATED BY ANY METHOD WAS AGREED UPON, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER IN SOME CATEGORIES AND THUS MAKE FUTURE ADJUSTMENT MORE DIFFICULT.

THEREFORE, HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF A CAUTIOUS APPROACH AND FULLY SUPPORTED THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSAL OF SIX MEMBERS EACH FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO STRONG EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC OPINION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER FROM SIX TO 12, MR HU VIEWED THAT BY ALLOWING THE NUMBER TO DOUBLE IN THE WHITE PAPER IT WOULD MAKE THE REVIEW IN 1987 MORE DIFFICULT AS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE LESS ROOM TO MANOEUVRE.

MR HU ALSO SAID HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A REASONABLY BALANCED GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS THE ARRANGEMENT FOR INDIRECT ELECTION BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN 1985, HE FELT THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE SHOULD APPLY FOR DIRECT ELECTION IN FUTURE.

+THE RATIO OF MEMBERS ELECTED THROUGH INDIRECT ELECTION AND DIRECT ELECTION ON THE BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE DECIDED IN THE FUTURE REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

MR HU UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE BOUND TO BE NUMEROUS PROFESSIONS AND TRADES WHICH CONSIDERED THEMSELVES QUALIFIED TO BE ONE OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY EVERY GROUP.

HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT THE PROCEDURE FOR INDIRECT ELECTION MUST BE STANDARDISED THROUGH LEGISLATION AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GIVE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE BASE OF VOTERS FOR ALL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN ORDER TO GIVE THE ELECTED MEMBER SUFFICIENT BACKING IN HIS REPRESENTATION.

+THEREFORE, ALL THOSE RELATED TO ANY PARTICULAR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENT AS A REGISTERED VOTER MUST BE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR THESE CONSTITUENCIES.

+HOWEVER, THE NOMINEES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO VOTERS WITH ACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATION OF ANY PARTICULAR CONSTITUENCY,+ HE SAID.

MR HU SAID IF THERE WERE TOO MANY NOMINEES IN ANY CONSTITUENCY, AN ELECTION OR ELECTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO ELIMINATE THE NUMBER OF NOMINEES UNTIL ONE NOMINEE OBTAINS OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE VOTES CAST.

FOR THE ELECTIONS BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, THERE SHOULD BE NO DUPLICATION OF VOTERS AND NOMINEES. ONE CAN ONLY VOTE ONCE OR STAND AS NOMINEE ONCE IN EITHER CONSTITUENCY, HE SAID.

LASTLY, MR HU SAID, IT WAS LOGICAL TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENT IN 1987, ONE YEAR BEFORE THE 1988 ELECTION.

HE FELT THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD ALSO BE REVIEWED IN 1993 AND 1993 BEFORE THE 1991 AND 1994 ELECTIONS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN 1994.

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JOINT COMMUNITY EFFORT URGED

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THE SUCCESS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON THE SMOOTH OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ALL SECTORS OF WHICH IT IS MADE UP, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, HE SAID THAT DURING THE FINAL STAGE OF THE REFORM PROCESS, THE GREATEST CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT WAS THAT APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY ELECTED ONES.

HE BELIEVED THAT MOST OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS WOULD REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL STRATA, PROFESSIONS AND DISTRICTS.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT, IF EVER ANY SECTOR INSISTED ON PROTECTING ITS OWN INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, ALL WOULD, TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT, BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

+HENCE, THE KEY TO SUCCESS OF OUR SOCIETY DEPENDS ON WHETHER ELECTED MEMBERS WHO COME FROM DIFFERENT SOCIAL STRATA WILL PROPERLY LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, RESTRAIN THE INTERESTS OF THE SECTORS WHICH THEY REPRESENT IF CONDITIONS SO REQUIRE AND PUT THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THEIR SECTORS ABOVE IMMEDIATE BENEFITS WHERE APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE FACE OF ALL KINDS OF CHANGES, THEREFORE, WE MUST ACT CAUTIOUSLY, ADVANCE STEADILY, REVIEW THE EFFECTS AFTER TAKING EACH STEP OF REFORM AND THEN PROCEED WITH THE NEXT STEP IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCE,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG STRESSED, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, +AN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS+ ATTITUDE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTING AND DEVELOPING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

+AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE WHITE PAPER IN VARIOUS ASPECTS ARE IN LINE WITH THIS SPIRIT,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THAT ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG'S PROPOSED POLITICAL SYSTEM WERE NOT BASED ON EXPERIENCE, HE BELIEVED THAT THROUGH CLOSE CONTACTS WITH COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD DURING THE POST-WAR DECADES, HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD GAINED CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE AND A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS.

+BASED ON THIS, I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

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HEAVY BURDEN SEEN FOR LEGCO MEMBERS
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FUTURE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHETHER INDIRECT OR DIRECT, WOULD CARRY A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE PROPERLY REFLECTED IN THE POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THOSE WHO ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY WILL ALSO NEED IN DUE COURSE TO SHARE AUTHORITY, AND HAVE GREATER POWERS OF DECISION IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED,+ HE SAID.

MR BROWN WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT INVOLVES FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES NOT ONLY IN THE MANNER WE CONDUCT OUR AFFAIRS, BUT ALSO IN OUR MENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AS PRACTISED UNDER THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO MR EDWARD HEATH'S COMMENT THAT YOUNG CHINESE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE ANXIOUS TO ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITY BUT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD CAUTION AGAINST HASTE IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR APPOINTED POSITION, MR BROWN BELIEVED THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COULD SPEAK FOR THE MAJORITY, IF NOT ALL THE MEMBERS.

+MUCH HARD WORK HAS BEEN DONE AND CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN DEVELOPING THE POLITICAL AWARENESS OF THIS COMMUNITY, AND THEN TRANSLATING IT INTO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OUR AFFAIRS,+ HE SAID.

+THE CREATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THEIR CONTINUING EVOLUTION IS ONLY ONE CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF HOW A HONG KONG SITUATION HAS BEEN TACKLED IN HONG KONG IN A HONG KONG WAY.

+AND HONG KONG'S TRACK RECORD OF GETTING THINGS RIGHT IN MOST OF ITS FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR IS NOT ONLY GOOD, BUT INDEED IS NOT INFREQUENTLY THE CAUSE OF ENVY BY THOSE WHO LIVE IN SO CALLED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHOSE OWN PROBLEMS SEEM SO INCAPABLE OF SOLUTION BY THOSE SAME PEOPLE WHO LEVY CRITICISM IN OUR DIRECTION,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, WHILE DEVELOPING OUR SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GRADUAL AND PROGRESSIVE MANNER WHICH SEEMED GENERALLY TO HAVE FOUND FAVOUR WITH THE PUBLIC, WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE STAY TUNED IN TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

+IN THE LONGER TERM WE MUST ALSO AVOID ANY OVER-CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN THE HANDS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH BY DEFINITION ENCOURAGES THE MAN IN THE STREET TO BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE MERIT IN THINKING THINGS OUT FOR HIMSELF AS OTHERS WILL IN ANY CASE DECIDE,+ HE SAID.

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MR BROWN NOTED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY ENTERED THE ERA OF TRANSITION TOWARDS MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND DURING THIS PERIOD OF CHANGE IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION BY WORD OR DEED THAT THE COLONIAL ARGUMENT THAT +IT WOULD BE SO MUCH BETTER IF THESE PEOPLE LET US GO ON RULING THEM BECAUSE WE DO IT SO MUCH BETTER THAN THEY EVER COULD+ HAD ANY VALIDITY TO OUR SITUATION TODAY.

+I DO NOT THINK THAT WE DO GIVE THAT IMPRESSION, BUT IN ANY CASE THE ARGUMENT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE,+ HE SAID.

+I DO NOT THINK ANYONE HERE DISAGREES WITH THE VIEW THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF MANAGING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

+THE WHITE PAPER IS DESIGNED PRECISELY TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THAT DIRECTION: A STEP MOREOVER THAT WISELY RECOGNISES THE NEED TO WORK WITHIN THE LONGER TERM OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT COMPATIBLE TO THE TERMS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION IN 1997,+ HE SAID.

+WHOEVER HOLDS THE REINS OF POWER IN HONG KONG THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR LEADERSHIP IS TO ENSURE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

+THIS IS A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES= IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF CHANGE IT IS DOUBLY DIFFICULT,+ MR BROWN ADDED.

HE SAID HE SUPPORTED THE WHITE PAPER BECAUSE WHEN WEIGHING THE REQUIREMENT FOR RAPID PROGRESS WITH THE CAUTIONARY +MORE HASTE LESS SPEED+ MESSAGE IN THE WHITE PAPER, HE HAD NO DOUBTS IN HIS MIND THAT THE BALANCE AS REFLECTED IN THE WHITE PAPER WAS RIGHT FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TODAY.

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CALL TO RETAIN SOME UNOFFICIALS

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THE WISDOM OF RETAINING SOME APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS WAS STRESSED IN LEGCO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN.

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE WHITE PAPER, MR CHAN SAID THE APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS COULD GRADUALLY PASS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO THEIR NEW COLLEAGUES.

+THE ARRIVAL OF NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS THROUGH INDIRECT ELECTION INTO THIS COUNCIL WOULD OPEN A NEW CHAPTER,+ SAID MR CHAN.

+THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD GLADLY UNLOAD THEIR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NEWCOMERS AND GRADUALLY LET THE APPOINTMENT TRADITION OF OVER A CENTURY FADE AWAY.+

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT THE HONG KONG APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WAS BASED ON THE SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL PERSONS FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

MANY HAD DONE YEARS OF WORK ON HUNDREDS OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS BEFORE THEIR APPOINTMENT INTO THE COUNCIL.

THIS VOLUNTARY SERVICE DEMANDED MANY WORKING HOURS TO DIGEST AND ANALYSE THE DAILY PILE OF GOVERNMENT PAPERS BEFORE ATTENDING THE VARIOUS MEETINGS.

THIS MEANT A SACRIFICE OF THEIR BUSINESS AND FAMILY LIFE, BUT THIS WAS OFTEN PURPOSELY IGNORED BY PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO UNDERMINE COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THEIR POWER STRUGGLE.

+IT IS THEREFORE WISE,+ SAID MR CHAN +TO RETAIN SOME OF THESE APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS SO THAT THEY MAY GRADUALLY PASS THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO THEIR NEW COLLEAGUES BEFORE COMPLETELY BOWING OUT.

+OF COURSE, THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT AGREE AND BELIEVE THESE UNOFFICIALS HAVE NOT DONE ONE BIT OF GOOD AND SHOULD BE GOT RID OF LIKE WEEDS IMMEDIATELY.+

SPEAKING ON GRASSROOTS AND FUTURE LEADERS, MR CHAN SAID THERE WAS A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE TERM GRASSROOTS WHICH WAS NOT A CHINESE TERM. ACCORDING TO THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY IT MEANT THE VOTERS THEMSELVES.

+SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE WRONG CONCEPT THAT THE POORER THE PERSON THE MORE 'GRASSROOT' HE IS,+ SAID MR CHAN.

+IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN BEGGARS AND THE LIKE SHOULD BE ELECTED INTO THIS COUNCIL.

+WHAT VOTERS SHOULD ELECT ARE PEOPLE WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP, FORESIGHT, KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND TO WITHSTAND POLITICAL PRESSURES IN THE YEARS TO COME.+

MR CHAN SAID THAT CIVIC EDUCATION ALONE WAS NOT ENOUGH TO SAFEGUARD OUR FREEDOM.

+LEGISLATION SHOULD BE MADE FOR COMPULSORY REGISTRATION AND VOTING BY EVERYONE ELIGIBLE AS FULL PARTICIPATION IS THE BEGINNING OF CIVIC EDUCATION.+

MR CHAN ALSO CALLED FOR AN ANNUAL REVIEW TO ADJUST THE COURSE OR ACCELERATE OR DECELERATE THE PROGRAMME WHICH HE SAID WAS A PRUDENT MOVE.

IF A MINISTERIAL SYSTEM WAS ADOPTED, HE SAID, THE MINISTERS SHOULD ONLY BE CHOSEN FROM THE ELECTED MEMBERS AND NOT FROM THE APPOINTED UNOFFICIALS AS THEY WERE ADVISERS TO THE GOVERNOR AND SHOULD NOT SEEK POWER OR AUTHORITY.

HE SAID HE WAS PERTURBED THAT SOME CANDIDATES HAD PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR WISH TO CHANGE THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUCH AS CHANGING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CROWN AS A PRE-CONDITION OF JOINING IT.

+DOES THIS UNDERMINE BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY FROM NOW TO 1997 AND THE CLEAR-CUT RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS SO VITAL TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG?+ HE ASKED.

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DANGER OF SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT RAISED

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IN A CALL TO LEGISLATORS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR, THE HON JOHN SWAINE SAID TODAY THAT SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT BY PRESSURE OR FEAR WERE AMONG HONG KONG'S GREATEST DANGERS.

SPEAKING ON THE WHITE PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, MR SWAINE SAID THAT DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT LAST OCTOBER, HE HAD SAID WE MUST ENSURE THAT, WHEN THE TIME CAME, THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PROMISED WAS NOT AN EMPTY PHRASE.

HONG KONG HAD TO PREPARE ITSELF IN THE YEARS AHEAD TO BUILD ITS OWN STRONG REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS SO THAT THE IDEAL OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ADMINISTERING HONG KONG BECAME A REALITY.

+I SUBSCRIBE THEREFORE TO THE AIM OF MEASURED PROGRESS IMPLICIT IN THE WHITE PAPER, AND TO THE EXPRESS AIM THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE FIRMLY ROOTED IN HONG KONG AND SHOULD PRESERVE THE BEST FEATURES OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

+IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE OF CHANGE, WE MUST NOT BE QUICK TO JETTISON OLD VALUES.

+WE MUST BE JEALOUS AND PROTECTIVE OF THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES WE ENJOY UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, AND NOT YIELD TO PRESSURE OR BE SEDUCED BY HOPE OF GAIN.

+AS I SAID IN MY EARLIER SPEECH, THE SUPPRESSION OF DISSENT BY PRESSURE OR FEAR ARE AMONG OUR GREATEST DANGERS.

+WE MUST HAVE LEGISLATORS WHO ARE DEVOTED, I WOULD SAY PASSIONATELY DEVOTED, TO THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, AND WHO ARE PREPARED AND ABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR, WHATEVER MAY BE THE ULTIMATE FORM OF THE LEGISLATIVE OATH.+

THIS WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE PROVISION IN CLAUSE 1 ANNEX 1 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION THAT THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LEGISLATURE, HE SAID.

+I SUPPORT THE WHITE PAPER AND HENCE THE MOTION FOR ITS ASPIRATIONS AND ITS PROGRAMME OF MEASURED PROGRESS,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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TDC AIMS FOR MORE TRADE WITH JAPAN

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THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING TRADE WITH JAPAN AND IN NURTURING HONG KONG'S RAPIDLY GROWING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, THE HON LYDIA DUNN SAID TODAY.

MISS DUNN, WHO WAS TABLING THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983/84 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SAID THE COUNCIL HAD ALSO ENSURED THE CONTINUITY OF HONG KONG'S STRONG PROMOTIONAL PRESENCE IN ITS TRADITIONAL MAJOR MARKETS IN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE.

SHE SAID DURING THE YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE HAD IMPROVED STEADILY, AND HONG KONG HAD ENJOYED A SATISFACTORY RECOVERY IN TRADE WHICH HAD BEEN SUSTAINED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

+AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE TDC HAS MAINTAINED A HIGH LEVEL OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND TRADING COMPANIES,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

+IN PARTICULAR, OUR STRATEGY HAS BEEN TO MAXIMISE OUR EFFORTS IN THOSE MARKETS WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING TRADE IS GREATEST AND WHERE TDC SUPPORT IS MOST NEEDED.+

MISS DUNN SAID DURING THE YEAR THE TDC HAD ORGANISED 63 OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTIONS IN 21 COUNTRIES.

THESE WERE WELL SUPPORTED BY SOME 650 HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS, MAINLY SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COMPANIES.

IN ADDITION, PRODUCT SAMPLES FROM 1 700 COMPANIES WERE FEATURED IN 18 TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

IN HONG KONG HIGHLY PUBLICISED EVENTS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG WOOL KNITWEAR SHOW AND THE ANNUAL TOY AND GIFT FAIR REPRESENTED ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE TDC'S TOTAL ACTIVITY.

MISS DUNN SAID THE TDC'S TRADE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE CONTINUING AT A HIGH LEVEL.

EFFORTS TO PENETRATE THE JAPANESE MARKET HAD BEEN A MAJOR PRIORITY, AND THE RECENT ECONOMIC MISSION AND TOY PROMOTION IN TOKYO COMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN THAT MARKET.

A SECOND PRODUCT EXHIBITION IN CHINA WOULD BE STAGED IN SHANGHAI THIS MAY.

+THE TDC WILL ALSO BE ASSUMING ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES,+ SHE SAID.

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+BY AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE OVER FROM THE GOVERNMENT THE HONG KONG SHIPPERS' COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG/JAPAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE.+

APART FROM TRADE PROMOTIONS, THIS YEAR PROMISED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT ONE IN OTHER RESPECTS, SAID MISS DUNN. WORK WOULD START ON THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE PROJECT WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED IN 1988, WAS EXPECTED TO BE ASIA'S LARGEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED PURPOSE-BUILT EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE COMPLEX.

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MORE DEMAND SEEN FOR HK-CHINA FLIGHTS * * * *

THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL AIR SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE TALKS WITH UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN, HE AGREED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A GROWING DEMAND FOR FLIGHTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND A NUMBER OF CHINESE CITIES.

NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO AIR SERVICES TOUCHING HONG KONG, MR JACOBS CONFIRMED, WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HMG GOVERNMENT.

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GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT URGED FOR PROVISIONAL COUNCIL * * * * *

SOME GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT WOULD BE NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL COULD DISCHARGE ITS DUTIES WELL DURING ITS ONE-YEAR LIFE SPAN, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID THERE WAS NO DETAILED PROVISION IN THE BILL ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL.

+I THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THIS POINT DUE CONSIDERATION,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE RECENT REORGANISATION EXERCISE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

/HE HOPED

HE HOPED THAT THE NEW REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD RENDER FULL EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND HIS STAFF TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND TO GIVE ADVICE WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

+CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL IS GIVEN THE IMPORTANT TASKS OF BOTH ADVISING THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT REGIONAL COUNCIL AND ALSO ON THE FULL RANGE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES WHICH AFFECT THE DAILY LIVES OF MILLIONS OF NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS, I THINK THE VALUABLE ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WOULD HELP TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH INAUGURATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

ON THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT CLAUSE 7 OF THE BILL CONFERRED THE GOVERNOR WITH A DISCRETION TO SPECIFY THE PERIOD FOR THE CHAIRMAN, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL TO HOLD THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES.

HE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THE 12 APPOINTED MEMBERS WOULD TEAM UP AMICABLY WITH THE NINE ELECTED MEMBERS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS FROM THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

THE HON PETER C. WONG ALSO SAID HE SUPPORTED THE BILL, SUBJECT TO AN AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISQUALIFICATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS FROM BEING MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, THANKED MR WONG FOR THE AMENDMENT WHICH, HE SAID, REMOVED ANY POSSIBILITY OF AMBIGUITY IN THE PROVISIONS ON THE DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP ON GROUNDS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

LIKE MR CHEUNG, MR AKERS-JONES ENVISAGED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD HAVE A HEAVY TASK AHEAD OF THEM.

HE SAID HE APPRECIATED MR CHEUNG'S CONCERN OVER THE SHORT TIME MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.

+PROVIDED ALL CONCERNED HEED HIS ADVICE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN THE GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL IN THEIR OWN FIELDS AS WELL AS THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE RUNNING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL OVER PAST YEARS, AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WE CAN BE READY IN TIME FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE FULL REGIONAL COUNCIL IN 1986,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

IMPROVING LIFE IN WALLED CITY
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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO RESIDENTS OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY, HAVING REGARD TO PRIORITIES IN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WHAT PLANS THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE WALLED CITY.

+IN THE VICINITY OF THE WALLED CITY, THERE ARE SCHOOLS, CLINICS, SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRES AND THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, TO WHICH RESIDENTS HAVE RELATIVELY EASY ACCESS,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF THE WALLED CITY RESIDENTS IN RECENT YEARS BY IMPROVING THE FOOTPATHS AND THE MAIN ALLEYWAYS AND IN PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME,+ HE ADDED.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE WALLED CITY, TREATING IT NO DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG.

+THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FOR INSTANCE, COLLECTS REFUSE FROM THE AREA EVERY DAY, A POSTAL SERVICE IS PROVIDED, REGULAR POLICE PATROLS ARE MADE AND A FULL RANGE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IS AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, FLOODING AND OTHER EMERGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

+THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE HELPS RESIDENTS TO FORM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO PROMOTE THE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WERE ACTIVE WITHIN THE WALLED CITY, OPERATING YOUTH CENTRES, CHILD CARE CENTRES, SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, KINDERGARTENS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

PUBLIC UTILITIES, SUCH AS TELEPHONE, GAS, AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES WERE ALSO PROVIDED, WHILE STANDPIPES LOCATED BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE WALLED CITY PROVIDE WATER TO RESIDENTS.

+PLANS TO IMPROVE THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ARE BEING STUDIED BY THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

A MAJOR RECREATIONAL AMENITY, THE CARPENTER ROAD PARK, IS ABOUT TO BE BUILT NEXT TO THE WALLED CITY.

+IT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE SPORTS AS WELL AS RELAXATION FOR THE THOUSANDS OF KOWLOON CITY RESIDENTS, WHETHER THEY LIVE IN OR OUTSIDE THE WALLED CITY,+ HE SAID.

CANDIDATES REMINDED ABOUT CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES
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CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS ON MARCH 7 WERE REMINDED TODAY THAT THEY MUST OBTAIN PRIOR PERMISSION BEFORE PUTTING UP CAMPAIGN POSTERS OR BANNERS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT POSTERS AND BANNERS CANNOT BE PUT UP ON PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS.

+CANDIDATES SHOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND SELF-DISCIPLINE AND MUST ENSURE THAT NO RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY ARISES FROM THE DISPLAY OF BANNERS AND POSTERS,+ HE ADDED.

IN PREPARING CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY, CANDIDATES SHOULD PROVIDE TWO COPIES OF ALL PRINTED ELECTION MATERIALS, INCLUDING ANY ADDRESS, BILL, NOTICE, PLACARD OR POSTER, TO THE RETURNING OFFICER NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THEIR PUBLICATION.

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POSITIVE YOUTH ROLE IN SOCIETY URGED
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YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD SHAKE OFF THEIR INERTIA TOWARDS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND ASSUME A ROLE OF POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIETY, THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, MRS CHOW SAID THE UNITED NATIONS INTENTION IN DESIGNATING 1985 AS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR WAS TO DRAW WORLD ATTENTION TO THE LARGEST SEGMENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION WHICH WOULD SHAPE THE WORLD'S FUTURE.

+OF THE 5.3 MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, 2.3 MILLION WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 25, AND 3.7 MILLION ARE UNDER 40.

+IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE FOR US TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THEM, THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND THEIR PROBLEMS, AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE BEST WAY THEY COULD PREPARE THEMSELVES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES IMMEDIATELY FACING HONG KONG AS A RESULT OF OUR CHANGE IN CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS IN 1997.

+THE THREE MAIN THEMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR ARE: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

+ON THEIR OWN, THEY MAY SOUND LOFTY AND IDEALISTIC.

+BUT WHEN APPLIED TO PRESENT DAY HONG KONG, THEY ARE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY.

/+IN OUR

+IN OUR HITHERTO APOLITICAL COMMUNITY, MOST ENERGY AND EFFORT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INVESTED IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

+HOWEVER, EVENTS ARE SUCH THAT WE CAN NO LONGER LOOK TOWARDS OTHERS TO ASSUME OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY.

+TODAY WE NEED TO RELY ON OURSELVES, AND IN PARTICULAR ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PROVIDE US WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT HONG KONG WILL PERPETUATE ITS STATUS QUO THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER OF POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATION TO A REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM.

+AS A FIRST STEP, THEREFORE, A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE MUST TAKE PLACE, SO THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL SHAKE OFF THEIR INERTIA TOWARDS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND ASSUME A ROLE OF POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT IN OUR SOCIETY.

+PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL SO AS TO FURNISH THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE WITH THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY CAN BE READY TO TAKE ON FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY.+

MRS CHOW SAID IT WAS WITH A CONTINUING PROCESS OF LEARNING THROUGH PARTICIPATION THAT WE COULD FURTHER DEVELOP WORTHWHILE AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE VALUE OF SOCIAL STABILITY AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR PRESENT LIFE STYLE COULD NOT BE STRESSED ENOUGH, SHE CONTINUED.

AT THIS JUNCTURE, HONG KONG NEEDED TO BE EXTRA-SENSITIVE TO THIS ASPECT OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, AS BOTH THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION TOWARDS A MORE ADVERSARIAL STYLE OF POLITICS, AND THE INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTATION OF +ONE COUNTRY TWO SYSTEMS+ WERE LIKELY TO DISTURB THE HITHERTO PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE OF MANY DIFFERENT AND PERHAPS CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND BELIEFS.

CARE THEREFORE NEEDED TO BE EXERCISED TO MAINTAIN THE STATE OF PEACE IN HONG KONG IN THE MICRO, MACRO AS WELL AS WORLD CONTEXT.

MRS CHOW URGED EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATION TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE OCCASION BY INITIATING AND SUPPORTING AS MANY MEANINGFUL PROJECTS FOR AND BY YOUTHS AS POSSIBLE, FOR THE SAKE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR HONG KONG.

ALSO SPEAKING ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID: +IN MY MAIDEN SPEECH IN THIS COUNCIL THREE YEARS AGO, I BEGAN BY SAYING, 'THE CHILDREN OF OUR SOCIETY TODAY, THE PILLARS OF OUR SOCIETY TOMORROW'.

+WHEREAS IN 1973, 33.7 PER CENT OF OUR POPULATION WAS UNDER 15, NOW AFTER 12 YEARS THIS GROUP OF CHILDREN HAVE BECOME OUR YOUTHS.

/+IT MAY

+IT MAY NOW BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO SAY 'THE CHILDREN OF OUR SOCIETY YESTERDAY, THE YOUTHS OF OUR SOCIETY TODAY, THE PILLARS OF OUR SOCIETY TOMORROW'.+

DR IP SAID JUST AS SHE STRESSED THE RIGHTS AND THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, LIKewise SHE SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF YOUTHS.

WE MUST NURTURE YOUTHS TO GROW UP INTO MATURE, CARING AND RESPONSIBLE ADULTS WHO HAD A BALANCED APPROACH TOWARDS WORK AND LEISURE.

THEY NEEDED TO BE KEPT NOT JUST HEALTHY, BUT PHYSICALLY FIT WITH PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS SO AS TO WITHSTAND THE STRESSES OF A MODERN SOCIETY= THEY NEEDED TO BE EDUCATED TO THE EXTENT OF BEING INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE, SHE SAID.

THEY MUST BE CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AN ADEQUATE FAMILY AND A HEALTHY SEX RELATIONSHIP.

WE MUST LEAD THEM TOWARDS GOALS IN LIFE, WHICH NOT ONLY BENEFITED THEMSELVES BUT THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVED, SO THAT IN FUTURE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE FOR US AN EVEN BETTER HONG KONG.

+IT IS INDEED REASSURING THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY PROMOTING THIS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AND THE THEMES, PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, NO DOUBT WILL MEET OUR OBJECTIVES IN FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR YOUTHS,+ DR IP SAID.

THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES THANKED MRS CHOW FOR MOVING, AND DR IP FOR SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

HE SAID MRS CHOW HAD +QUITE RIGHTLY+ UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AT THIS TIME IN OUR HISTORY OF CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR WITH ITS MESSAGE OF +PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE+.

HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE CHARACTERISTIC ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION WITH WHICH HONG KONG AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS WERE TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY THE CONCEPT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

+WE SHALL GAIN MUCH BY THIS INVOLVEMENT AND IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE WITH THESE EFFORTS WITH THE SAME VIGOUR IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE SAID.

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SEAT BELT RULE CUTS DOWN CASUALTIES
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THE WEARING OF SEAT BELTS WAS MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING THE NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF FRONT SEAT CASUALTIES IN ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

THERE HAD BEEN 14 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, WHICH INCLUDED A 15 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FATAL OR SERIOUS INJURIES, IN THE SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS, COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS, HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED, MR SCOTT SAID, THAT THESE FIGURES INDICATED A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT BY THE POLICE, AND THAT IT WAS HELPING TO ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEAT BELT WEARING LEGISLATION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU, HE ALSO SAID THAT BETWEEN THE OCTOBER 1, 1983 AND THE NOVEMBER 30, 1984, THERE HAD BEEN 12 237 PROSECUTIONS FOR THE OFFENCES OF DRIVING A PRIVATE CAR WITHOUT WEARING A SEAT BELT OR DRIVING A PRIVATE CAR WITHOUT THE FRONT SEAT PASSENGER WEARING A SEAT BELT.

+SEVEN OF THESE PROSECUTIONS WERE BY WAY OF ARREST; 2 512 BY SUMMONS ACTION; AND 9 718 BY FIXED PENALTY TICKETS. OF THE FIXED PENALTY PROSECUTIONS, 4 454 WERE FOR THE DRIVERS PERSONALLY NOT WEARING A SEAT BELT, AND 5 264 WERE FOR DRIVING WITHOUT THE FRONT SEAT PASSENGER WEARING A SEAT BELT,+ HE SAID.

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NEW LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED
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THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND SUPPLY (SCLS) AND THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BDAC) COULD BE COMBINED AND EXPANDED AND A MORE PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SET UP, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID THE PROPOSAL TO FORM A NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC), WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

MRS WONG, WHO WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF VICTORIA, SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS PART OF AN EXERCISE +TO RATIONALISE A NETWORK OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES DEALING WITH LANDS AND WORKS MATTERS.+

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID THE AIM OF THE LBAC WOULD BE TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS FOR LAND= THE PLANNED PROVISION, THE TAKE-UP AND UTILISATION OF LAND= AND THE ADEQUACY OF LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

ITS OBJECTIVE WOULD ALSO BE TO MONITOR AND ASSESS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO PLANNING, BUILDINGS AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE BDAC, CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, IS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ALL MATTERS AFFECTING CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO EXAMINE AND KEEP UNDER REVIEW ALL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND TO RECOMMEND TO GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS WHERE THESE ARE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

AS FOR THE SCLS, ITS CURRENT FUNCTION IS TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS FOR NEW LAND, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STRATEGIC AND SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING BACKGROUND, AND, TO THIS END, TO REPORT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON TARGETS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND FOR THE SALE OF LAND= AND THE ADEQUACY OF THE SUPPLY OF LAND.

THE SCLS HAS CONFIRMED THERE IS SUFFICIENT LAND FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS' PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AND STEPS ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE A CONTINUATION OF LAND SUPPLY TO THE END OF THE DECADE.

IN THEIR REPORT LAST YEAR, IT WAS STATED THAT: +THE COMMITTEE HAS NOW FULFILLED THE MAIN PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED AND CONSIDERATION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO WHETHER THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE DISBANDED OR ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE CHANGED TO GIVE IT AN ALTERNATIVE FUNCTION+.

+GIVEN THAT THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCLS HAVE NOW PASSED, AND TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO OBTAIN THE BENEFIT OF ADVICE FROM EXPERTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF SCLS AND BDAC SHOULD BE COMBINED AND EXPANDED AND A MORE PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE SET UP IN LIEU, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC),+ SHE SAID.

+IN LINE WITH OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE PROPOSED LBAC SHOULD BE CHAIRED BY AN UNOFFICIAL, AND AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO REDUCE OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP.+

MRS WONG SAID THREE SUB-COMMITTEES WILL ALSO BE PROPOSED. THEY ARE:

- * REAL ESTATE SUB-COMMITTEE, TO CONSIDER LAND AND BUILDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS THEY AFFECT REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION AND TO REPORT ON THESE MATTERS TO THE LBAC;

- * LAND SUPPLY SUB-COMMITTEE, TO IDENTIFY CROWN LAND WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE; WITHIN AN AGREED OVERALL LIMIT, TO FORMULATE BIANNUALLY A PROVISIONAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME AND A LAND SALES FORECAST EXTENDING FOR A FURTHER 12 MONTHS; AND TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY, AND
- * LEGISLATION SUB-COMMITTEE, TO CONSIDER THE RATIONALISATION OF BUILDING AND PLANNING LEGISLATION AND TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ASPECT OF THE LEGISLATION AND TO MONITOR THEIR WORK.

ON THE ROLE OF THE BRANCH ITSELF, MRS WONG SAID IT WAS A POLICY BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, POLICY AND LEGISLATION OF ALL AREAS CONCERNING THE LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS UNDER ITS AEGIS.

IN ADDITION, THE BRANCH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS AND ALSO RESIDUAL CO-ORDINATION FUNCTIONS. IT IS NOW OPERATED CHIEFLY THROUGH TWO DIVISIONS -- THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION AND THE POLICIES AND LEGISLATION DIVISION, EACH HEADED BY A DEPUTY SECRETARY WORKING TO THE SECRETARY.

THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION, HEADED BY MR T. EASON, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING LAND PRODUCTION AND LAND-USE PLANNING AND THE PREPARATION OF A TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE CAPITAL WORKS AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES.

+THE POLICIES AND LEGISLATION DIVISION IS HEADED BY ME AND IT IS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICIES AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS,+ SHE SAID.

+THE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE REVIEW OF MANPOWER RESOURCES FOR LANDS AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS, AND RELATED TRAINING MATTERS; PROCEDURES AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS PERTAINING TO THOSE AREAS FALLING WITHIN THE POLICY RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, FOR EXAMPLE, BUILDING RELATED LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY, PROCESSING OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO LAND, POLICY ON COMPENSATION AND EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES, PROCESSING OF OBJECTIONS LODGED UNDER VARIOUS ORDINANCES.

+THE WORK OF THE TWO DIVISIONS, THOUGH EACH DISTINCT WITH ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, IS NOT COMPARTMENTALISED, BUT DOVETAILED INTO EACH OTHER. IT IS A RATIONALISATION OF A COMPLEX SCHEDULE,+ SHE ADDED.

POWER TO BAN UNSAFE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
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THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES WILL BE EMPOWERED TO BAN THE USE OR SALE OF ANY ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE IF HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE IT WILL PRESENT A DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY.

STATING THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID, +WE HOPE TO HAVE THE ENABLING BILL READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.+

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER POON, MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS PLANNED THAT REGULATIONS WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO ENABLE STANDARDS TO BE IMPOSED FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF ELECTRICAL FITTING AND APPLIANCES.

+THE REGULATIONS WILL BE PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE SAFE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN HONG KONG.

+WITH REGARD TO ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, IT IS INTENDED THAT A NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ORDINANCE AND REGULATION MADE THEREUNDER WILL ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES TO SPECIFY CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF APPLIANCES, INCLUDING PLUGS AND CHAFING DISHES, WHICH WILL HAVE TO MEET PRESCRIBED MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS BEFORE THEY ARE PLACED ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

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NOISE CONTROL BILL READY SOON
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A COMPREHENSIVE NOISE CONTROL BILL WAS BEING PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID TODAY.

BUT LEGISLATION COULD NOT PROVIDE THE COMPLETE ANSWER TO ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE PROBLEMS, HE STRESSED.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS WERE REASONABLY EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH THE NOISE PROBLEMS TO WHICH THEY APPLIED.

GIVING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THE BAN ON PILING WORK AT NIGHT WAS GENERALLY EFFECTIVE, AS WERE THE PERMIT CONTROLS ON NOISE ON CONSTRUCTION WORK BETWEEN 7 PM AND 7 AM AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE.

/THE CONTROL

THE CONTROL OF VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING NOISE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE WAS ALSO EFFECTIVE, HE SAID.

BUT THERE WERE OTHER NOISY ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG WHICH NEEDED TO BE CONTROLLED. SOME IMPROVEMENTS AND RATIONALISATIONS WERE ALSO NEEDED IN THE EXISTING RATHER FRAGMENTED LEGISLATION DEALING WITH NOISE. THE NOISE CONTROL BILL WOULD BE AIMED AT DEALING WITH ALL THESE.

MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS AS IMPORTANT TO TAKE STEPS AT THE PLANNING STAGE OF PROJECTS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY NOISE.

+TO THIS END, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADVISES GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THE ACOUSTICAL DESIGN OF SUCH PROJECTS AS NEW HOUSING ESTATES, SCHOOLS AND ROADS,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR EXCESSIVE EXHAUST EMISSIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN 10 581 PROSECUTIONS FOR THIS OFFENCE DURING THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1984. FIGURES FOR DECEMBER WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

DEALING WITH ANOTHER POINT, HE SAID IT WAS NOT AN OFFENCE IN LAW FOR DRIVERS TO USE RADIO NETWORKS TO WARN OTHER DRIVERS OF POLICE ROAD BLOCKS.

+THE POLICE ARE, HOWEVER, AWARE OF THIS PRACTICE AND TAKE MEASURES TO LIMIT ITS EFFECTIVENESS, MAINLY BY SHIFTING THE LOCATION OF KERBSIDE CHECKING POINTS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO MR YEUNG'S FINAL QUESTION, HE SAID INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATERS WERE IN GENERAL TREATED AND DISPOSED OF TOGETHER WITH MUNICIPAL SEWAGE. THE CURRENT PROGRAMME FOR THE PROVISION OF TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR THESE COMBINED WASTE WATERS INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TOTAL OF 34 SCREENING PLANTS WITH SUBMARINE OUTFALLS AND TREATMENT PLANTS BETWEEN 1983 AND 1993 AT A COST OF ABOUT \$3 200 MILLION.

+IN ADDITION, WE ARE PLANNING TO INTRODUCE SHORTLY LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON THE COMPOSITION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATERS IN SPECIFIC WATER CONTROL ZONES BY MEANS OF REGULATIONS TO BE ENACTED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE. SPECIFIC CONTROLS ON TOXIC WASTES ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

BUSINESS OF EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORP GROWS
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THE CONTINUING RECOVERY IN GLOBAL DEMANDS FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURES DURING 1984-85 HAD LED TO A RAPID GROWTH IN THE BUSINESS VOLUME OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+AT THE SAME TIME THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP DECLINE IN THE INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF CLAIMS MADE ON THE CORPORATION, A TREND WHICH IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

BUT FOR 1983-84, MR HO REPORTED MODERATE GROWTH IN THE CORPORATION'S BUSINESS. A NET INCREASE OF 133 POLICIES ISSUED RAISED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POLICIES TO 1 490.

IN TABLING THE CORPORATION'S 1983-84 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS, MR HO SAID THE VALUE OF TOTAL INSURED EXPORTS ALSO GREW BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT TO \$4 693 MILLION, 60 PER CENT OF WHICH WAS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKETS, ACCOUNTING FOR \$2 778 MILLION.

INSURED EXPORTS TO NORTH AMERICA, ACCOUNTING FOR \$994 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT OF TOTAL INSURED EXPORTS, GREW BY 52 PER CENT.

THE PRODUCTS COVERED REMAINED CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS, WITH TEXTILES AND CLOTHING ACCOUNTING FOR 38 PER CENT, RADIOS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS FOR 10 PER CENT AND TOYS FOR NINE PER CENT, MR HO SAID.

GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY A YEAR OF RECOVERY, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CORPORATION HAD UNDERTAKEN A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND OF THE NATURE AND LEVEL OF RISKS ASSUMED IN RECENT YEARS.

+AS A RESULT, HE HAS DRAWN UP A THREE-YEAR PLAN CONTAINING FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES TO SECURE THEM WHICH, IF ACHIEVED, WILL RESTORE THE CORPORATION TO A BETTER STATE OF FINANCIAL HEALTH,+ MR HO SAID.

+THIS PLAN HAS RECEIVED THE BENEFIT OF THE ADVICE OF THE CORPORATION'S ADVISORY BOARD, AND IS NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

MR HO ADDED THAT REINSURANCE COVER, WHICH WAS LOST TO THE CORPORATION SINCE SEPTEMBER 1983, AND WHICH PLAYED A VITAL PART IN REDUCING ITS LOSSES, HAD NOW BEEN FRESHLY ACQUIRED.

RECLAMATIONS REDUCE TYPHOON SHELTER SIZE
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RECLAMATION WORKS AT CHAI WAN, SHAU KEI WAN AND ABERDEEN HAD MARGINALLY REDUCED THE SIZE OF THE TYPHOON SHELTERS AT THESE LOCATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT THIS HAD NOT AGGRAVATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS OVERCROWDING, POOR SANITATION OR FIRE HAZARDS.

HE ADDED THAT IN FACT, AS BOAT-SQUATTERS HAD BEEN CLEARED AND RESETTLED IN THE PROCESS, THE SITUATION HAD IMPROVED.

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OYSTER FARMING RESEARCH STILL USEFUL
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TECHNICAL ADVICE OFFERED TO OYSTER FARMERS AS A RESULT OF RESEARCH BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN THE EARLY 1970'S WAS STILL CONSIDERED PRACTICABLE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS SAID TODAY.

THE RESEARCH RELATED TO THE FARMING OF OYSTERS SUSPENDED WELL CLEAR OF THE SEA BOTTOM, HE EXPLAINED.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR JACOBS SAID ALSO THAT, WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, OYSTER FARMERS WERE +REGRETTABLY, NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LOW INTEREST LOANS OR OTHER FINANCIAL HELP FROM ANY OF THE FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

HOWEVER, IN CASES OF GENUINE FAMILY HARDSHIP AND IN THE EVENT OF NEED FOR PERSONAL RELIEF AS A RESULT OF NATURAL DISASTERS, +IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT OYSTER FARMERS MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR ASSISTANCE FROM THE VARIOUS TRUST FUNDS MAINTAINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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SIX BILLS PASSED
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SIX BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE: ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984; PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984; TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984; FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984; PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1985

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PLAN TO IMPROVE EDUCATION QUALITY APPROVED

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND TO ABOLISH THE JSEA IN 1991 SO AS TO PROVIDE A SUBSIDISED FULL-TIME PLACE FOR EVERY STUDENT WHO WISHES TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION AFTER FORM 3.

SUBJECT TO THE RESULTS OF LANGUAGE RESEARCHES NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVELY THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. BUT IT AGREES WITH THE COMMISSION THAT THE CHOICE OF THE MEDIUM SHOULD NOT BE FORCED ON INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

AT LAST YEAR'S PRICES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEED TO SPEND SOME \$431 MILLION IN NON-RECURRENT COSTS, AND \$301 MILLION EACH YEAR IN RECURRENT COSTS ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR Q.W. LEE, ARE SET OUT IN THEIR FIRST REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, PUBLISHED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION TODAY.

THEY INCLUDE:

- * THE PHASING OUT OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) IN 1991 THROUGH A PROGRESSIVE EXPANSION OF SUBSIDISED FULL-TIME POST-FORM 3 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. BY 1991 A SUBSIDISED PLACE IN ONE OF THE TWO STREAMS OF EDUCATION - GENERAL OR VOCATIONAL - WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EVERY FORM 3 STUDENT WHO WISHES TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION. THIS TARGET WILL BE ACHIEVED BY BUILDING 24 SECONDARY SCHOOLS, IN ADDITION TO THE 11 SCHOOLS WHICH ARE TO COME ON STREAM IN 1987 AND 1988; MODIFYING THE STRUCTURE OF EXISTING SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE MORE FORM 4-5 PLACES; AND BUYING FORM 4 PLACES IN THOSE PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHICH ARE REGARDED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO BE OF SATISFACTORY STANDARD. THIS FURTHER EXPANSION OF SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATION REFORMS.
- * THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF LANGUAGES - CHINESE AND ENGLISH - IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF MORE CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF MORE NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS WITH TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS.

/* THE PROMOTION

- * THE PROMOTION OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT RESEARCH EFFORTS SUBSTANTIATE THE POPULAR BELIEF THAT ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, TEACHING AND LEARNING WOULD GENERALLY BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WERE THE MOTHER TONGUE. ALTHOUGH THE DECISION ON WHAT MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION TO USE WILL REMAIN WITH SCHOOLS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENCOURAGE THE MORE PREVALENT USE OF CHINESE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GOOD QUALITY CHINESE TEXTBOOKS AND THE RE-ORIENTATION OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHINESE MEDIUM EDUCATION. IN PARTICULAR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS WHICH ADOPT CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND OTHER RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOES NOT FALL AS A RESULT OF A VOLUNTARY CHANGE OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.
- * THE QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND QUANTITATIVE EXPANSION OF THE TEACHING SERVICE IN HONG KONG THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A NEW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE IMAGE AND STATUS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION THROUGH VARIOUS MEASURES. THESE INCLUDE MORE ACTIVE TEACHER INVOLVEMENT IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT; MORE TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ORGANISATION, IN ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS AND IN THE PLANNING OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES; THE DRAWING UP OF A 'CODE OF PRACTICE' FOR TEACHERS AND THE SETTING UP OF TEACHERS' CENTRES ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO INTRODUCE A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE COURSE FOR SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADS AND EXPERIENCED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PROMOTE LEADERSHIP AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT.
- * THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN EDUCATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND IN DIFFERENT FORMS WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL BE STUDYING IN DETAIL IN THE COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION AGREED WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF A UPGC REPORT THAT AN OPEN UNIVERSITY MODELLED ON THE UK OPEN UNIVERSITY WAS UNSUITED TO HONG KONG BECAUSE MOST STUDENTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE STUDY ENVIRONMENT AT HOME AND BECAUSE MOST OF THE NECESSARY ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO STAFF AN OPEN UNIVERSITY WOULD NOT BE FOUND IN HONG KONG, YET A KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS OF THE TERRITORY IN EDUCATIONAL TERMS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS.
- * THE IMPROVED CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WITH THE PLANNING AND FORMULATION OF EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING EFFORTS DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH.

COPIES OF THE COMMISSION REPORT ARE BEING SENT TO ALL SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, GROUPS AND INTERESTED PARTIES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT MAY WRITE TO THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 3/F, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG OR TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 3/F, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

HK'S ROLE IN SHENZHEN AIRPORT PLAN EXPLAINED

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IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SOME OF THE RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MOOTED SHENZHEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAD BEEN MISLEADING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ANY DECISION TO BUILD AN AIRPORT ON THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE BORDER WAS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE RELEVANT CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM CAAC GUANGZHOU, CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD VISITED SHENZHEN ON NOVEMBER 6 AND 7 LAST TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE PLANNING OF A SHENZHEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE DISCUSSIONS HAD DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG OF THE SITING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH AN AIRPORT, IN PARTICULAR THE OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN AIRPORT LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

IN THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING, THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF POSSIBLE SITES AND ALSO WHETHER THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT COULD ASSIST IN THE SELECTION AND BRIEFING OF SUITABLE CONSULTANTS FOR THIS PROJECT. THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THESE REQUESTS TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRPORT WAS NOT INVITED.

ON NOVEMBER 22, FOLLOWING DUE CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUESTS, CAAC GUANGZHOU WERE INFORMED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN SELECTING AND INSTRUCTING CONSULTANTS. COMMENTS ON A POSSIBLE DEEP BAY SITE WERE ALSO GIVEN.

AS IS WELL-KNOWN, THIS IS A TIME OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. ADDITIONALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OFFICIALS OF THE CAD CONCERNED WITH AIRPORT PLANNING MATTERS, WHO WOULD BE BEST QUALIFIED TO LEND ASSISTANCE TO CAAC, ARE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH WORK ON THE EXTENSION OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING AT KAI TAK, AND WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTS TO EXPAND HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CAPACITY OVERALL TO MEET PROJECTED TRAFFIC DEMANDS.

IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES ABOUT THE DEEP BAY SITE. IT WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH-WEST NEW TERRITORIES AND WOULD ALSO GIVE RISE TO UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF AIRCRAFT NOISE. IT MIGHT CONFLICT WITH PROPOSALS FOR FLOOD AND POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE SHENZHEN RIVER WHICH WERE UNDER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES. THERE WOULD ALSO BE SEVERE PROBLEMS OF BIRD STRIKE FROM THE LARGE WILDFOWL POPULATION OF THE MAI PO MARSHES.

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REPERESNTATIVES OF CAAC AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES HAVE PAID SEVERAL VISITS TO KAI TAK TO OBSERVE FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS THERE. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED SUCH VISITS, WHICH ARE NORMAL BETWEEN AVIATION AUTHORITIES, AND BOTH CAAC GUANGZHOU AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT FURTHER VISITS WOULD BE WELCOMED.

IF A DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN SHENZHEN, THERE WOULD BE NEED FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND CAAC ON SPECIFIC MATTERS, SUCH AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

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BOARD TO HEAR ABOUT YEAR'S PLAN

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW.

PROPOSALS IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUEN LONG NEW TOWN, THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT AND THE NORTH WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

PROJECTS IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES TOGETHER WITH A FORECAST OF POPULATION, LAND SALES AND FUNDS REQUIRED.

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT WILL AGAIN BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, SO THAT BOARD MEMBERS CAN HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE BENEFITS AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS THE SYSTEM WILL BRING.

OTHER ITEMS IN THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 2, KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER IN TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1 PM SHARP TO TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO YUEN LONG.

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PARK LITTERBUGS FINED

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MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED FOR LITTERING IN OR NEAR THE COUNTRY PARKS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT 18 OTHERS WERE FINED FOR USING FIRE AND FIVE FOR CAMPING IN NON-DESIGNATED SITES WHILE FOUR PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED FOR POLLUTING STREAM COURSES.

RECORDS SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN COUNTRY PARKS WAS DROPPING, HE SAID.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR THREE SITES

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF THREE SITES, ONE AT KWAI CHUNG AND TWO AT CHAI WAN.

THE KWAI CHUNG SITE AT HING SHING ROAD, MEASURING 4 700 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR GOODS VEHICLES EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY FOR THE SITE IS ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SITES AT CHAI WAN ARE AT KA YIP STREET, WITH EACH MEASURING ABOUT 2 000 SQUARE METRES. THEY ARE FOR CONCRETE BATCHING INCLUDING THE HANDLING OF AGGREGATE AND CEMENT, BUT EXCLUDING ROCK CRUSHING PURPOSES.

THE TENANCY FOR THE TWO SITES IS THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 25.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND PLANS INSPECTED AT:

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE KWAI CHUNG SITE; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG NORTH, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG FOR THE CHAI WAN SITES.

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ALL TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES LEASED

ALL 208 STALL SITES AT THE FORTHCOMING TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WERE LEASED ABOVE THE UPSET RENTS AT A PUBLIC BIDDING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TODAY'S BIDDING WAS CONDUCTED BY STAFF OF THE TSUEN WAN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND BETWEEN FEBRUARY 13 AND 20.

THE REMAINING SIX LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL ALSO BE HELD IN THE SAME PERIOD.

TOMORROW (THURSDAY), 113 STALL SITES AT THE SHEUNG SHUI FAIR WILL BE PUT UP FOR LEASE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TOWN HALL STARTING AT 9.30 AM.

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RESTRICTED ZONES

FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 11), THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN ROAD 2502 AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES EAST OF THE FANLING ROUNDABOUT WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

MOTORISTS, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS, AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

FROM THE SAME DAY, A NUMBER OF ROADS AND LOCATIONS IN KWUN TONG WILL BE PROHIBITED 24 HOURS DAILY TO ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

THEY ARE: TAK WO STREET, HONG LEE ROAD, THE SCHEDULED SERVICE STANDS EAST OF THE KWUN TONG FERRY BUS TERMINUS, AND THE CUL-DE-SAC OF ON TAK ROAD NORTH OF BLOCK 9 OF UPPER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE.

ALSO FROM FRIDAY, THIS PROHIBITION WILL BE IN FORCE AT THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM SAU LAI STREET TO BLOCK 16 OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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TRAFFIC BAN LIFTED

A TRAFFIC BAN IN ABERDEEN WILL BE LIFTED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 11). UNDER THIS BAN, VEHICLES EXCEPT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE UNNAMED ROAD LEADING FROM ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD TO ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET.

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