

Banning of corporal punishment will further rouse Chinese passions

THE surprise move towards banning corporal punishment in Hongkong comes at a time when many Chinese still regret that murderers can no longer be hanged, dog meat can no longer be eaten and concubines can no longer supplement married life.

If the caning of criminals is stopped, it will represent yet

Whitehall pressure may force end to 'crime deterrent'

by
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view of the Government's attitude in recent years.

Although the Government has not visibly bent over backwards, there has been a definite "British

another step in the erosion of traditional Chinese values. It is all the more surprising in

softshoe" approach to avoid trampling on Chinese sensitivities.

Such "side-stepping" has often gone as far as taking fung-shui into account in respect to government buildings. If the spirits are not right in a certain area, the building is simply not built.

A recent case in point was when the Mass Transit Railway Corporation decided to preserve an ancient Chinese temple in Tsunwan at a cost of \$2.8 million.

Metro work threatened the structure, so the Tin Hau Temple will be dismantled piece by piece and reassembled on its original site once the metro is completed.

This costly gesture to satisfy a handful of Tsunwan residents and worshippers epitomises what has long been a sign of British foreign rule — appeasing the wishes of the local population.



CAN the cane deter him from doing it again?