

S.C.M.P.

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...and finance men reply

The Tung Wah Group has already stopped providing free places and its schools are now operated on the same basis as other aided schools.

This was stated by the Finance Branch of the Government Secretariat in response to the Director of Audit's annual report.

The Finance Branch said the Government had felt it could not legitimately object

to implementation by the Tung Wah Group of its free educational scheme in secondary schools because it was at that time ascertained that the funds to cover the project would be drawn from sources not connected with the funding of the group's other services.

On the share of the income derived from donations being channelled to the group's Medical Division, the Finance Branch said the Director of Audit's suggestion to reconsider the terms agreed on before had been accepted by the Government.

In the overall management of the group's operations, the Finance Branch expressed the hope that the recruitment of senior executives, that of a chief executive, a chief accountant, and a property manager, would bring improvement to its present services.

Commenting on the criticism of the security of Government's computer installations, the Finance Branch said operational procedures and instructions had been available for some routine operations.

However, it pointed out, the computer system had expanded considerably in the past three years and it was accepted that the compiling of a working manual did not keep pace with the expansion.

With the change to a new series of computers, the Finance Branch said an operations manual, and systems and programming standards, are now being prepared.