

Scamp 26 OCTOBER 1983

A peek into how Government works

SO Sir Philip Haddon-Cave has finally let us into the secret of how the Hongkong Government operates.

At the top are three super-dupers: the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Attorney-General. These three, along with the Governor, play God (correction, Government).

Of course, the Hongkong people are mentally lazy (fortunately for the super-dupers), so they leave all their thinking to the supermen and superwomen selected by the super-dupers.

The chosen elite then speak on behalf of our mentally lazy population on councils, committees and advisory bodies.

What they say is of no interest to our lazy populace, so everything has to be "shrouded in confidentiality." (Actually the word "shroud" alone would be sufficient to clothe these corpses of democracy.)

What Sir Philip did not reveal is the secret of how these supermen and women are selected. I had to try to figure that one out from long experience in Hongkong.

Studying these super-beings, I find that while there are a few ordinary human beings among them, the majority have a special kind of head, usually rather enlarged. Not with grey matter, as far as can be detected. The special quality lies in the movement capacity of the head.

Super-beings have a kind of swivel arrangement whereby they can swing and face the public to say one thing, then quickly swivel round towards the Government and say the reverse.

They also have a peculiar quality in that while their heads find no problem in making up and down movements, they have considerable difficulty in moving back and forth from right to left.

Sir Philip after all his years in Hongkong has reached a rather shaky conclusion, that the calls for public participation have been vague. Perhaps he and the other super-dupers are slightly deaf so they have not heard the clamour of the past 10 to 20 years. Lost in monetary calculations, perhaps.

Well, all this non-democracy is necessary in our free society, to allow freedom for the supers to rule and for the rest to obey.

E. ELLIOTT (Mrs)