



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

BILLS DEFINE SCOPE OF COUNCILS .....	1
RULES ON ASBESTOS USE TAKE EFFECT AUGUST 1 .....	3
PUBLICITY ON ASBESTOS HAZARDS URGED .....	5
NEW BANKING BILL EXPECTED IN MARCH .....	7
ANTI-DRUG EFFORT GETS HIGH PRIORITY .....	8
HK-UK AID FOR STUDENTS .....	9
VIEWS ON AGE OF MAJORITY EXPECTED .....	10
GREATER VIABILITY SOUGHT FOR ARTS CENTRE .....	10
+CLEARER INDICATION+ SOUGHT FROM CONSULTATION .....	12
REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES URGED .....	14
BETTER SERVICES FOR MENTALLY ILL PLANNED .....	15
CLOSURE OF TUNNEL TUBE EXPLAINED .....	15
RAMPED ACCESS FOR DISABLED NECESSARY .....	16
PRIORITY AREAS FOR PROJECTS CONSIDERED .....	17
BILL TO RELAX NT HOUSE HEIGHT LIMIT PLANNED .....	17
CRITERIA FOR CONTRACTS EXPLAINED .....	18
SPEECH THERAPY COURSE PLANNED .....	19
SPECIALIST RECOGNITION UP TO ROYAL COLLEGES .....	19
NO PLANS FOR NURSING DEGREES .....	20

/BAN ON .....

BAN ON SOME VISITORS STILL VALID .....	21
PIG, POULTRY FARM PATTERN LITTLE CHANGED .....	21
PRACTISING DENTISTS .....	22
BILLS PASSED .....	22
PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED .....	23
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE .....	23
PUBLIC URGED TO AVOID CONGESTION .....	25
MEETING ON WAR MEMORIAL FUND .....	26
BARBECUE BAN TO BE LIFTED .....	27
TRAFFIC PLAN FOR NEW YEAR FAIRS .....	27
ARRANGEMENTS TO EASE CONGESTION AT AIRPORT .....	28
RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR ISLANDERS .....	29
BOARD GROUP HOLDS OPEN MEETING .....	30
FINANCE COMPANY LICENCE REVOKED .....	30
CLOSURE ORDER SOUGHT FOR ILLEGAL STRUCTURES .....	31
OPEN STORAGE SITE FOR RENT .....	31
CANDIDATES MEET THE PRESS .....	31
CENTRAL AND WESTERN CANDIDATES TO MEET PRESS .....	32
FIRE OFFICERS COMMENDED .....	33
LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTINGS .....	33
NEW YEAR LIGHTS TO GO ON .....	34
NEW PLAYGROUND ON HEI LING CHAU .....	35
VARIETY SHOW IN TAI PO .....	35
COMPUTERISED WHEELCHAIR DEVELOPED .....	36
TAI HANG WATER SUPPLY TO BE INTERRUPTED .....	36
ROADS TO OPEN .....	37
RESTRICTED ZONES .....	37

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 1 -

BILLS DEFINE SCOPE OF COUNCILS

\* \* \* \*

THREE BILLS DEFINING THE RESPONSIBILITIES, BOUNDARIES AND JURISDICTIONS OF THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON BARRIE WIGGHAM.

THE BILLS ENABLE THE TWO COUNCILS TO PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLOW FOR COST EFFECTIVENESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SUCH FACILITIES.

THE JURISDICTIONS OF THE TWO COUNCILS WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA IN DEALING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

+DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINANCE IN JULY LAST YEAR HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF MINOR CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE NECESSARY,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL SEEKS TO MAKE AMENDMENTS SO THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CAN OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WHEN IT COMES INTO BEING ON APRIL 1,+ HE SAID.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAS ALSO MADE CERTAIN CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE ESSENTIAL,+ HE ADDED.

PROPOSALS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL SPECIFY THAT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET ON APRIL 1 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COUNCIL WOULD BECOME THE AUTHORITY IN THE COLLECTION OF WASTE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA WHILE THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE COLLECTION AUTHORITY IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD, LIKE THE URBAN COUNCIL, BE EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND TO DETERMINE CHARGES ACCORDINGLY.

THE CHINESE NAME OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE CHANGED AS IT IS TOO SIMILAR TO THE CHINESE NAME OF DISTRICT BOARDS, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

+OTHER MINOR AMENDMENTS INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO EXPAND THE CATEGORY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS WHO MAY ATTEND MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, AND TO BRING THE ORDINANCE INTO LINE WITH THE EXISTING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND PRACTICES OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THOSE ENVISAGED FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

/+THE URBAN .....

+THE URBAN COUNCIL BILL SEEKS TO REDEFINE THE JURISDICTION OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA BECAUSE THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY OF THE COUNCIL IS DIFFERENT FROM ITS ELECTORAL BOUNDARY,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

PROPOSALS IN THE BILL ALSO SEEK TO LIFT CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW THE TWO COUNCILS TO PROVIDE RECIPROCAL ACTIVITIES IN RECREATION, CULTURE AND TRAINING.

+UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL THE URBAN COUNCIL'S POWERS ARE CURRENTLY RESTRICTED TO THE URBAN AREAS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED UNDULY LIMITING,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

+THE BILL THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT IN FUTURE THE URBAN COUNCIL, LIKE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WILL ONLY BE RESTRICTED TO ITS JURISDICTIONAL AREAS IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC PLACES AND FACILITIES RELATED TO RECREATION AND CULTURE.

+THIS WILL ALLOW THE URBAN COUNCIL TO ARRANGE, FOR EXAMPLE, SPORTS TRAINING CAMPS AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE. IT ALSO PERMITS THE TWO COUNCILS TO ACT TOGETHER, FOR INSTANCE IN CONSTRUCTING AND RUNNING A STAFF TRAINING SCHOOL,+ HE ADDED.

+THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN TERMS OF PROVIDING A FULL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, COST EFFECTIVENESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE URBAN COUNCIL'S SURPLUS FUNDS COULD BE LEGALLY INVESTED ONLY IN SUCH INVESTMENTS AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

+THE BILL PROPOSES TO RELAX THIS REQUIREMENT BY ALLOWING THE COUNCIL TO DEPOSIT MONEY IN A LICENSED BANK WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND IT ALSO SPECIFIES THAT THE COUNCIL IS EMPOWERED TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR ENGAGE FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STAFF,+ SAID MR WIGGHAM.

+THE BILL ALSO CLARIFIES THE STATUS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THAT IT IS NOT, AND NEVER HAS BEEN A SERVANT OR AGENT OF THE CROWN,+ HE ADDED.

+PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL ARE ALSO INCLUDED TO BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH THOSE APPLICABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

AS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES BILL, MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD EMPOWER THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO MAKE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION AND TO SET FEES IN RESPECT OF ITS AREA.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD ALSO BE THE AUTHORITY, IN PLACE OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, FOR A WIDE RANGE OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES, THE MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES, THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES, AMONG OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, HE ADDED.

REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO PERFORM THEIR PRESENT FUNCTIONS UNTIL APRIL 30, 1986 BY WHICH DATE, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE ABLE TO FULLY ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM.

+ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE TWO COUNCILS WILL SLIGHTLY AFFECT THE DELINEATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS IS MINIMAL AS THE AREA INVOLVED IS NEITHER LARGE NOR DENSELY POPULATED,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

MINOR CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS INCLUDE THE CHANGING OF THE TITLE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

THIS, MR WIGGHAM SAID, WOULD REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE NATURE OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH WAS CONCERNED WITH THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS — THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON THE BILLS THAT CONCERN THEM AND ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS THEREIN.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RULES ON ASBESTOS USE TAKE EFFECT AUGUST 1  
\* \* \* \* \*

REGULATIONS PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF ASBESTOS, AND CONTROLLING THE USE OF OTHERS, WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR.

APPROVAL OF THE MEASURES WAS GIVEN TODAY BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MOVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ASBESTOS) SPECIAL REGULATIONS 1986, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE AIM WAS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF WORKERS IN FACTORIES WHICH USE AN ASBESTOS PROCESS. THE REGULATIONS IMPOSE DUTIES ON PROPRIETORS OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, AND PROHIBIT THE USE OF BLUE ASBESTOS (CROCIDILITE), BROWN ASBESTOS (AMOSITE), OR ANY SUBSTANCE CONTAINING EITHER OF THESE MINERALS.

+THESE TYPES OF ASBESTOS ARE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS, BUT, FORTUNATELY, VERY RARELY USED IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

SPRAYING OF MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS IS ALSO PROHIBITED BECAUSE IT IS A SPECIALLY HAZARDOUS PROCESS, MR HENDERSON SAID. THE USE OF ASBESTOS WHICH IS NOT PROHIBITED IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED, AND THE REGULATIONS IMPOSE A NUMBER OF DUTIES ON A PROPRIETOR OF AN INDUSTRIAL TAKING WHO USES AN ASBESTOS PROCESS, HE EXPLAINED.

ALTHOUGH ASBESTOS IS NOT MINED IN HONG KONG AND THE MANUFACTURE OF ASBESTOS PRODUCTS IS VERY RARE AND ON A SMALL SCALE, ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOS PRODUCTS ARE USED IN A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN HONG KONG FOR INSULATION AND FIRE-PROOFING.

SPEAKING OF THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH ASBESTOS USE, HE SAID INHALATION OF ASBESTOS DUST IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES COULD RESULT IN PNEUMOCONIOSIS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. SINCE 1981, WORKERS WHO HAVE CONTRACTED ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DUST MIGHT ARISE IN HANDLING RAW MATERIALS OR WORKING IN ANY DUSTY PROCESS INVOLVING MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS. BECAUSE OF THE HEALTH HAZARD INVOLVED, MANY COUNTRIES HAD, IN RECENT YEARS, INTRODUCED LAWS CONTROLLING THE USE OF ASBESTOS.

THESE HEALTH HAZARDS HAD ALSO BEEN STUDIED IN HONG KONG BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, HE SAID.

DUTIES IMPOSED BY THE REGULATIONS ON THE PROPRIETOR WHEN ASBESTOS IS USED INCLUDE:

- \* USE OF EXHAUST VENTILATION EQUIPMENT OR PROVIDING WORKERS WITH RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING,
- \* PROPERLY CLEANING AND STORING SUCH PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND
- \* ENSURING THAT PLANT AND PREMISES ARE KEPT CLEAN AND FREE OF ASBESTOS DUST.

IN ADDITION, THE PROPRIETOR MUST NOT EMPLOY A PERSON UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. HE MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN ANY ASBESTOS PROCESS PERIODICALLY UNDERGO MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND MUST BEAR THE COST OF THE EXAMINATIONS.

FAILURE IN THESE DUTIES RENDERS THE PROPRIETOR LIABLE TO FINES VARYING FROM \$10 000 TO \$30 000.

MR HENDERSON ALSO RECALLED THAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER IN THE COUNCIL THAT HE THOUGHT THE REGULATIONS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR CORRESPONDING OFFENCES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY PROPRIETORS.

THIS POINT, HE EXPLAINED, HAD BEEN CONSIDERED WHEN THE REGULATIONS WERE BEING DRAFTED. BUT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO MAKE A SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR THIS SITUATION BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEES, APART FROM RENDERING THEMSELVES LIABLE TO DISMISSAL BY THE EMPLOYERS, WOULD ALSO BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER REGULATION 21 OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING REGULATIONS.

MR HENDERSON SAID THAT AUGUST 1 HAD BEEN SET FOR THE COMING INTO OPERATION OF THE REGULATIONS TO GIVE TIME FOR PROPRIETORS TO INSTALL EXHAUST VENTILATION SYSTEMS OR ACQUIRE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

MEANWHILE, A GUIDE TO THE REGULATIONS WOULD BE PUBLISHED AND A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WOULD BE LAUNCHED.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, HAD ALREADY PUBLISHED A CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE CONTROL OF ASBESTOS AT WORK, PROVIDING GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO PREVENT ASBESTOS HAZARDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLICITY ON ASBESTOS HAZARDS URGED  
\* \* \* \* \*

A SUSTAINED EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME +TO HEIGHTEN AWARENESS+ OF ASBESTOS HAZARDS AMONG WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE MOUNTED TO MAXIMISE THE EFFECT OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ASBESTOS) SPECIAL REGULATIONS 1986.

THE SUGGESTION WAS MADE BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WHEN SUPPORTING THE MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE REGULATIONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REGULATIONS, HE SAID, WOULD HELP TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AGAINST INHALATION OF HARMFUL ASBESTOS DUST AND FIBRES.

+THE PROVISIONS IN THESE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN SO DRAFTED AS TO TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE WORRIES OF THOSE WORKERS BEING ENGAGED IN ASBESTOS PROCESSES.

+THEREFORE I CONSIDER THEM TO BE A GOOD PIECE OF PREVENTIVE LEGISLATION WORTHY OF OUR SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SAID HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT HIS CONCERN THAT WORKERS MIGHT NOT USE THE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DELIBERATIONS ON THE REGULATIONS AND WAS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED BY REGULATION 21.

HOWEVER, TO MAXIMISE THE EFFECT OF THESE REGULATIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT A SUSTAINED EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME BE MOUNTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

DR HO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT ANY BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS ONLY ENTAILED A MONETARY FINE AND WONDERED WHETHER A CUSTODIAL SENTENCE IN ADDITION TO A FINE FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE WOULD MAKE THE INDUSTRIAL PROPRIETOR MORE ABIDING TO THESE REGULATIONS, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT INVOLVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN ORDINANCE.

ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, HON CHENG HON-KWAN SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT WORKERS AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS AND THAT THE PROVISIONS MET MOST, IF NOT ALL, SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

MR CHENG SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN PROMPT ACTION.

HE NOTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE REGULATIONS WAS TO PROHIBIT THE USE IN ANY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING OF CERTAIN TYPES OF ASBESTOS, TO PROHIBIT ANY PROCESS INVOLVING THE SPRAYING OF ASBESTOS AND TO CONTROL THE USE OF OTHER TYPES OF ASBESTOS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

+IT IS INTENDED BY THE REGULATIONS THAT YOUNG PERSONS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE EMPLOYED IN ANY PROCESS INVOLVING ASBESTOS AND WORKERS HAVE TO BE MEDICALLY EXAMINED BEFORE BEING ENGAGED IN AN ASBESTOS PROCESS AND THEREAFTER TO BE MEDICALLY EXAMINED PERIODICALLY,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER MEMBER, THE HON DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE MOTION.

HE SAID THE HAZARD OF ASBESTOS WAS OFTEN UNKNOWN AND ONCE DAMAGE WAS DONE, IT WAS IRREVERSIBLE AND TREATMENT COULD ONLY PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION.

+THE SPIRIT OF THE REGULATIONS, WHICH IS TO IMPOSE DUTIES ON THE PROPRIETOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS, IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.

+AND THIS PROPOSAL IS TO BE APPLAUDED,+ DR CHIU SAID.

IT WAS HOPED THAT THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF THE REGULATIONS, THE DANGERS CAUSED BY ASBESTOS COULD BE MINIMISED, HE ADDED.

THANKING UMEICO MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE +IMPORTANT SET OF+ REGULATIONS, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, REFERRED TO THE POINT RAISED CONCERNING CUSTODIAL SENTENCES, AND SAID THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FINES HAD BEEN DETERMINED AFTER TAKING INTO REGARD THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENCE AND THE CORRESPONDING LEVELS OF PENALTIES IN OTHER SETS OF REGULATIONS.

+WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THESE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT, BUT IF THEY PROVE NOT TO BE, WE MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER A MORE STRINGENT APPROACH,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 7 -

NEW BANKING BILL EXPECTED IN MARCH

\* \* \* \* \*

SUBJECT TO FINAL DRAFTING ISSUES AND THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, A NEW BANKING BILL WAS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMIDGE SAID TODAY.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON +TROUBLED BANKS+ BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, SIR JOHN SAID HE INTENDED TO TOUCH ON THE NEW BANKING ORDINANCE IN PARTICULAR IN THE COMING BUDGET SPEECH, AND THEREFORE WOULD GIVE RATHER GENERALISED REPLIES.

SIR JOHN ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NO PRESENT INTENTION OF SEEKING TO REVOKE THE LICENCE OF ANY BANK.

REVOKING THE LICENCE OF A BANK WAS NOT THE BEST WAY OF HELPING DEPOSITORS OR OF MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF THE SYSTEM, HE SAID.

+WE ARE COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. THE NEED IS FOR THE BANKING COMMISSION TO FIND OUT WHEN TROUBLES ARE COMING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT TOGETHER WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BANK THE COMMISSIONER CAN FIND A BETTER COURSE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID HAVE LONG TERM METHOD TO IMPROVE THE BANKING SITUATION, HE SAID THE NEW BANKING BILL REPRESENTED THE OUTCOME OF THE TWO YEARS WORK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT GOVERNMENT COULD PREVENT FRAUD AT THE TOP NOR WAS THERE REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT SHAREHOLDERS IN PUBLICLY QUOTED BANKS SHOULD EXPECT ANY MORE CARE FOR THEIR POSITION THAN SHAREHOLDERS IN ANY OTHER COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

+THEY ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE. IF A BOARD WHICH IS ELECTED BY SHAREHOLDERS IS EITHER INCOMPETENT OR FRAUDULENT, THE SHAREHOLDERS ARE AT RISK,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

SIR JOHN NOTED THAT THE NEED FOR MAJOR NEW LEGISLATION HAD BEEN SAID BY THE GOVERNMENT MANY TIMES AND THE NEW POLICIES TO BE ADOPTED HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED.

HE DID NOT REGARD AS HELPFUL ANY VIEW THAT SUGGESTED THAT, MEANWHILE, AN UNSTABLE SITUATION EXISTED.

+IN FACT IF ONE CONSIDERS THE TURMOIL OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS IT IS REMARKABLE HOW RESPONSIBLY HONEST BANK MANAGERS HAVE DIRECTED THEIR AFFAIRS,+ HE SAID.

+DISHONESTY IS ANOTHER QUESTION, BUT NO LEGISLATION IN ITSELF WILL CURE THAT,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 8 -

ANTI-DRUG EFFORT GETS HIGH PRIORITY  
\* \* \* \* \*

ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DRUG ACTIVITY HAD BEEN GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY IN RECENT YEARS AND THE POLICE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR THOMAS SAID THE POLICE HAD BEEN ASSISTED BY AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS FOR INFORMATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD DRUG PEDDLERS.

THE POLICE RESPONSE TO INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC VARIED WITH THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION AND THE DETAIL PROVIDED, HE SAID.

+IN SOME CASES, AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IS JUSTIFIED. IN OTHERS A PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION AND OBSERVATION MAY BE NECESSARY.+

AS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS BY THE POLICE TO ELIMINATE DRUG +BLACK SPOTS+, MR THOMAS SAID THESE PLACES WERE KNOWN TO THE POLICE AND WERE THE SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

+MEASURES TO RESTRICT OR ELIMINATE SUCH ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS INCLUDE AN INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE, BY BEAT OR MOBILE PATROLS AND BY CALLING IN LOCAL SPECIAL DUTY SQUADS, WITH GREATER USE OF POWERS TO STOP AND SEARCH,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT IN 1985, THE NUMBER OF DRUG RELATED ARRESTS IN PUBLIC PLACES INCLUDING STAIRCASES AMOUNTED TO 6 408.

THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS MADE IN 1984 WAS 5 648, AND IN 1983 WAS 5 573.

BECAUSE OF THE MANY AND VARIED AVENUES OF APPROACH OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO PASS INFORMATION TO THE POLICE, WHETHER IN PERSON, BY LETTER OR TELEPHONE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FIGURES OF EXACTLY HOW MANY CASES INVOLVING DRUG TAKING AND DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC PLACES HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 9 -

HK-UK AID FOR STUDENTS  
\* \* \* \*

HONG KONG STUDENTS ON FIRST DEGREE AND HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES IN BRITAIN MAY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER A SCHEME JOINTLY FUNDED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR HENDERSON SAID 1 327 STUDENTS WERE OFFERED GRANTS AVERAGING 2 530 POUNDS STERLING PER STUDENT IN 1984-85.

+THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS APPROVED WAS 3 357 025 POUNDS STERLING, OF WHICH 50 PER CENT IS BORNE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND 50 PER CENT BY THE UK GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON SAID THE SCHEME, INTRODUCED IN 1983 AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF DIFFERENTIAL FEES FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN BRITAIN, WAS MEANS TESTED.

+IN ADDITION, INTEREST-FREE LOANS ARE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES MADE AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PROCEEDING TO UK,+ HE SAID.

+THESE ARE FUNDED SOLELY BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND IN 1984-85 WERE OFFERED TO 22 APPLICANTS WHO WERE LATE TO QUALIFY FOR GRANTS.+

MR HENDERSON SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON ALSO PROVIDED ADVICE AND INFORMATION TO HONG KONG STUDENTS GOING OVERSEAS TO STUDY.

+THE COST OF OPERATING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, THE JOINT UK-HK FUNDING SCHEME AND THE STUDENTS DIVISION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR IS ABOUT \$4.2 MILLION.+

AVAILABLE STATISTICS SHOWED THAT SOME 10 950 HONG KONG SECONDARY OR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS HAD LEFT TO STUDY IN THE UK, 10 070 HAD LEFT FOR CANADA, 5 990 FOR THE USA AND 1 660 FOR AUSTRALIA IN THE THREE YEARS FROM 1982 TO 1985.

+THESE ARE THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH SMALL NUMBERS ARE KNOWN TO BE STUDYING IN NEW ZEALAND, NETHERLANDS, WEST GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL NUMBERS STUDYING IN THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY HIGHER THAN THE FIGURES GIVEN, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE POINTED OUT, DID NOT REQUIRE STUDENTS TO ADVISE IT OF THEIR MOVEMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 10 -

VIEWS ON AGE OF MAJORITY EXPECTED  
\* \* \* \*

VIEWS BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION ON THE MATTER OF THE AGE OF MAJORITY ARE EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD IN JANUARY 1983 REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS VIEWS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE LAW WHERE MINIMUM AGES WERE STIPULATED FOR YOUNG PERSONS.

A SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION WAS THEN UNDERTAKEN BY A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON DAVID LI, ON THE AGE AT WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE VARIOUS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO MARRY, MAKE A WILL, GIVE VALID CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY AND STOCKS AND SHARES.

IN APRIL, 1983, A QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SENT TO 206 ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, WELFARE AGENCIES AND STUDENT AND YOUTH GROUPS, AND TO INDIVIDUALS IN CLOSE DAY-TO-DAY CONTACT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

AFTER DETAILED ANALYSIS AND CONSIDERATION OF 1 580 COMPLETED RESPONSES, THE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION IN OCTOBER 1985 WITH ITS VIEWS.

MR THOMAS ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, TITLED 'YOUNG PERSONS - EFFECTS OF AGE IN CIVIL LAW' WOULD, IN THE USUAL WAY, BE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT ANY OF THE RECOMMENDATION.

----- 0 -----

GREATER VIABILITY SOUGHT FOR ARTS CENTRE  
\* \* \* \*

A BILL ENABLING THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TO FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY AS A COMMERCIALY VIABLE VENUE OPERATOR WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE READING, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THE OBJECTIVES AND POWERS OF THE ARTS CENTRE, AND TO CREATE A MORE DIRECT AND CLEARLY DEFINED ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR THE CENTRE.

+THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ARTS CENTRE ARE TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE APPRECIATION OF, AND PARTICIPATION IN, THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES OF THE ARTS.

/+THE BILL .....

+THE BILL UNDERLINES THE CENTRE'S ROLE BOTH AS A VENUE-PROVIDER AND AS A PROMOTER OF THE ARTS.

+IT ALSO EXPANDS THE SCOPE OF THE CENTRE'S PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT IT MAY PURSUE ITS OBJECTIVES BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS THE ARTS CENTRE TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY IN SETTING ITS OWN FEES AND REGULATING THE USE OF ITS FACILITIES.

+TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE ARTS CENTRE, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS SHALL BE THE SOLE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CENTRE, AND THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE EXPANDED,+ SAID MR WIGGHAM.

+ITS COMPOSITION WILL ALSO BE CHANGED TO PROVIDE A BALANCE OF PERCEPTIVES, AND ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE VARIOUS BODIES INVOLVED IN THE ARTS CENTRE ARE FULLY REPRESENTED IN THE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.+

HE SAID THAT EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING THE ARTS CENTRE HAD SHOWN THAT, WHILE THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED A BROAD OUTLINE OF THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRE, THE DETAILED PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE WERE INADEQUATE.

+IN PARTICULAR, THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE ARE AMBIGUOUS AND HAVE, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, LED TO CONFUSION IN MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES,+ HE SAID.

+SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE ARTS CENTRE.+

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME PUBLICITY RECENTLY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE ARTS CENTRE.

+GOVERNMENT HAS ON TWO OCCASIONS EXTRICATED THE CENTRE FROM ITS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

+WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION NOW PROPOSED, THE ARTS CENTRE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY AS A COMMERCIALY VIABLE VENUE OPERATOR, AND AS A PROMOTER OF THE ARTS,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 12 -

+CLEARER INDICATION+ SOUGHT FROM CONSULTATION  
\* \* \* \* \*

LEGCO MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION EXERCISE A CLEAR INDICATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS ACCEPT A PROPOSAL, RATHER THAN REGISTERING MERE ACQUIESCENCE, SO THAT THE RESPONSE MIGHT BE MORE ACCURATELY ASSESSED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON MARIA TAM WHEN SPEAKING TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL.

OUTLINING THE UNOFFICIALS' STUDY OF THE BILL, SHE NOTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO BRING THE FIRE SERVICES IN LINE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE IN THAT ANY OFFICER WHO HAD, BY HIS NEGLIGENCE OR DEFAULT, CAUSED ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES WOULD BE ORDERED TO MAKE COMPENSATION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

UNDER CLAUSES 3 AND 5 OF THE BILL, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT:

- (A) WHERE A SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAS BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST A SUBORDINATE OFFICER OR MEMBER OF OTHER RANKS, EITHER THE GOVERNOR OR THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES MAY ORDER HIM TO PAY AS COMPENSATION A SUM OF LESS THAN ONE MONTH OF HIS SALARY.
- (B) WHERE THE DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS OF A MINOR NATURE, AND NO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING IS REQUIRED, THE DIRECTOR MAY STILL ORDER AN OFFICER TO MAKE A COMPENSATION PAYMENT OF LESS THAN ONE MONTH'S SALARY. HOWEVER, UNDER CLAUSE 6 OF THE BILL, THIS OFFICER IS GIVEN THE RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST AN ORDER MADE BY THE DIRECTOR.
- (C) IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A PERSON'S LIABILITY TO MAKE COMPENSATION, CLAUSE 3 PROVIDES THAT HE MAY ONLY BE ORDERED TO PAY COMPENSATION WHEN THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE GOVERNMENT ARISE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THAT PERSON'S NEGLIGENCE OR FAULT.

IN SCRUTINIZING THE BILL, MISS TAM SAID, SOME MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT A FIREMAN ENGAGED IN AN EMERGENCY OPERATION IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTY SHOULD NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR CAUSING DAMAGE TO HIS UNIFORM OR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT WHILE SOME WERE CONCERNED THAT ALTHOUGH THE JOINT COUNCIL ON STAFF RELATIONS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROPOSALS IN 1984 THEY HAD GIVEN NO RESPONSE TO INDICATE THEIR ACCEPTANCE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 13 -

A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORMED AND MET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO DISCUSS THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS' CONCERN ABOUT BEING ASKED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS USED AND DAMAGED DURING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

MEMBERS WERE ASSURED THAT IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT AN OFFICER COULD BE HELD LIABLE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PROVE +NEGLIGENCE OR FAULT+ ON THE DIRECTOR'S PART, MISS TAM SAID.

IN ORDER TO ALLAY THE STAFF'S CONCERN, THE DIRECTOR ALSO ARRANGED FOR HIS DEPUTIES TO MEET WITH THE SIX STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND BRIEF THEM IN CHINESE ON THE CONTENT OF THE BILL.

AFTER THREE MEETINGS, THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS ACCEPTED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

MISS TAM SAID THE AD HOC GROUP APPRECIATED THE DIRECTOR'S EFFORTS IN REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE STAFF WITHIN A MERE 10 DAYS.

SHE SAID MEMBERS WERE ALSO PROVIDED WITH THE MINUTES OF THE STAFF MEETINGS HELD IN 1984 AND CLEARLY THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WERE ADVISED OF THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID, MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE A CLEAR INDICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL RATHER THAN MERE ACQUIESCENCE SO THAT THEY MIGHT MORE ACCURATELY ASSESS THE RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE.

MISS TAM WAS ALSO PLEASED TO SEE THAT IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD TAKEN NOTE OF COMMENTS ON THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF PROVIDING A STATUTORY RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR AND THAT HE WOULD BE MOVING A SUITABLE AMENDMENT DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

MOVING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID THE POINT MADE BY MISS TAM ABOUT THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF WAS WELL TAKEN.

ON MATTERS OF PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, MR THOMAS SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSULTED WITH THE RELEVANT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND THE VIEWS THEY PUT FORWARD HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE DECISIONS WERE REACHED. ALTHOUGH ON MATTERS TO DO WITH DISCIPLINE, THIS POLICY MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE APPROPRIATE.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WOULD IN ALL CASES BE INFORMED OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DISCIPLINE RULES AND SO FAR AS POSSIBLE THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 14 -

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES URGED  
\* \* \* \*

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN EARLY REVIEW OF THE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONDUCT OF VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE HON S.L. CHEN WHEN HE TABLED THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHEN SAID THE AIM OF THE REVIEW WOULD BE TO CLARIFY FIRSTLY WHETHER THE DIRECTOR MIGHT CONDUCT VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES AND SECONDLY THE BOUNDARIES WITHIN WHICH SUCH STUDIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS +AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS+ WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO SHARP FOCUS IN THIS YEAR'S AUDIT REPORT.

IT HAD BEEN THE DIRECTOR'S PRACTICE IN COMPILING HIS SUCCESSIVE REPORTS TO CONDUCT VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES, HE SAID. THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WAS IN NO DOUBT OF THE NEED FOR SUCH STUDIES AND HAD IMPLICITLY ENDORSED THE DIRECTOR'S RIGHT TO CONDUCT THEM BY COMMENTING ON THEM IN ITS OWN REPORTS.

+WHAT IS LESS CLEAR ARE WHAT THE BOUNDARIES OF VALUE FOR MONEY STUDIES ARE, OR SHOULD BE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THERE SHOULD BE AN EARLY REVIEW OF THE DIRECTOR'S POWERS SO AS TO PUT THIS MATTER BEYOND ALL DOUBT IN THE FUTURE.

HE STRESSED THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL OR SURPRISING IN THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE AUDITOR'S POWERS, SAYING THAT SIMILAR DEBATES HAD OCCURRED IN ALL THOSE TERRITORIES WHICH HAD ADOPTED A SIMILAR SYSTEM.

HOWEVER HE CAUTIONED THAT WHILE SOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN OTHER TERRITORIES MIGHT HAVE SOME RELEVANCE HERE, THEY COULD NEVER BE THE FINAL DETERMINANT.

+OUR SOLUTION MUST HAVE REGARD TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG AND TO THE DELICATE AND UNIQUE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES WHEREBY ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS MAINTAINED ON THE ONE HAND AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION IS UPHELD ON THE OTHER,+ MR CHEN SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/15 .....

BETTER SERVICES FOR MENTALLY ILL PLANNED  
\* \* \* \*

EXISTING FACILITIES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL WERE CONSIDERED TO BE GENERALLY ADEQUATE, BUT THERE WERE SOME SHORTFALLS, AND PLANS WERE IN HAND TO AUGMENT AND IMPROVE THE SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE MOST COMMON MENTAL DISEASES IN HONG KONG WERE SCHIZOPHRENIC PSYCHOSIS, AFFECTIVE PSYCHOSIS, NEUROTIC DISORDERS, PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND PARANOID STATES.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE CARE OF THE MENTALLY-ILL. PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF HEALTH EDUCATION, OUT-PATIENT AND IN-PATIENT FACILITIES, DAY HOSPITALS, PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITY SERVICES AND AFTER-CARE FACILITIES, + HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE TOTAL NUMBERS OF PSYCHIATRIC IN-PATIENTS TREATED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS WERE: 6 276 IN 1983= 7 036 IN 1984, AND 7 083 LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBERS OF NEW PATIENTS SEEN IN PSYCHIATRIC OUT-PATIENT CLINICS IN THE SAME YEARS WERE 4 280 IN 1983= 4 377 IN 1984, AND 4 394 IN 1985, HE ADDED.

----- 0 -----  
CLOSURE OF TUNNEL TUBE EXPLAINED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE CLOSURE OF ONE OF THE TUBES OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BEFORE MIDNIGHT SHOULD NOT NORMALLY BE NECESSARY AND THE PRACTICE WAS NOT TO CLOSE A TUBE FOR MAINTENANCE AND CLEANSING UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT OR LATER DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR MACPHERSON SAID RECORDS SHOWED THAT ON THREE RECENT SATURDAYS ONE TUBE WAS NOT CLOSED UNTIL 1 AM AND ON ONE OCCASION UNTIL 1.30 AM WHEN THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC HAD FALLEN TO A LEVEL WHICH COULD COMFORTABLY BE HANDLED BY A SINGLE TUBE.

+THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A PROBLEM DURING DECEMBER WHEN ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK REVEALED THAT THE EXPANSION JOINTS IN THE CARRIAGEWAY OF THE NORTHBOUND TUBE WERE BREAKING UP, REQUIRING URGENT REMEDIAL WORK, + MR MACPHERSON SAID.

/THIS MEANT .....

THIS MEANT CLOSING THE TUBE BETWEEN 10 PM AND 6 AM FOR OVER THREE WEEKS, ALTHOUGH THE WORK HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AT WEEKENDS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND RACE DAYS, HE SAID.

MR MACPHERSON NOTED THAT THE NEED TO CLOSE THE TUBE AT 10 PM HAD BEEN CAUSED BY THE SPECIAL MATERIALS USED BY CONTRACTOR WHICH REQUIRED TIME TO SET AND HARDEN IN TIME FOR THE 6 AM RE-OPENING.

HE SAID HE THEREFORE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE OCCASIONS WHEN ONE TUBE OR ONE LANE HAVE TO BE CLOSED BEFORE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS WOULD NORMALLY ALLOW, NEVERTHELESS HE ASSURED THAT THOSE WOULD BE KEPT TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RAMPED ACCESS FOR DISABLED NECESSARY  
\* \* \* \*

IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE RAMPED ACCESS WHEREVER THERE ARE FOOTBRIDGES OR SUBWAYS, UNLESS THERE WERE OVERRIDING REASONS FOR NOT DOING SO, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR HENDERSON SAID TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED WAS COMPLEMENTARY TO RAMPED FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS, RATHER THAN A SUBSTITUTE.

AS IN MANY OTHER CITIES, MR HENDERSON SAID, THE RATIONALE FOR CONSTRUCTING RAMPS FOR ALL FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS PROVIDED FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE POPULATION.

+THE GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL SUPPORTS THE CURRENT EFFORTS BEING MADE TO RENDER HONG KONG MORE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE,+ HE SAID.

MR HENDERSON SAID A FOOTBRIDGE WITH RAMPS WAS ABOUT 130 PER CENT MORE COSTLY THAN A FOOTBRIDGE WITH STAIRCASES, AND A RAMPED SUBWAY ABOUT 40 PER CENT MORE COSTLY THAN A SUBWAY WITH STAIRCASES.

THE AVERAGE LAND USE RATIO FOR A FOOTBRIDGE WITH RAMPS WAS ABOUT 310 PER CENT HIGHER THAN A FOOTBRIDGE WITH STAIRCASES WHILE THAT FOR A RAMPED SUBWAY WAS ABOUT 260 PER CENT HIGHER THAN A SUBWAY WITH STAIRCASES, HE ADDED.

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO AVAILABLE DATA ON THE USAGE RATE OF THE TWO PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEMS ACROSS MODY ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST BY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## PRIORITY AREAS FOR PROJECTS CONSIDERED

\* \* \* \*

A COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDES OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF WELFARE AGENCIES WAS CONSIDERING NOMINATIONS OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN 1986-87, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AND WHETHER THE OLDER RESIDENTIAL AREAS, SUCH AS SHAM SHUI PO AND WESTERN DISTRICT WOULD BE ACCORDED PRIORITY DEPENDED ON THE COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT OF COMPETING CLAIMS FROM OTHER AREAS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR CHAMBERS SAID, WAS AWARE THAT THERE WERE SHORTFALLS IN PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES IN SOME OF THE OLDER URBAN AREAS, SUCH AS SHAM SHUI PO AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

+APART FROM THE COMPETING DEMANDS FOR FUNDS FOR OTHER PROJECTS, THE MAIN DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE PLANNED PROVISION IN THESE DISTRICTS IS IN FINDING SUITABLE PREMISES FOR SETTING UP FACILITIES SUCH AS CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECTS WERE INTENDED TO SERVE AREAS WHERE COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND WELFARE SERVICES DID NOT EXIST OR WERE GROSSLY INADEQUATE. SUCH AREAS INCLUDED TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, SQUATTER AREAS, BOAT SQUATTER AREAS AND SLUMS.

PAST PROJECTS HAD BEEN MAINLY ESTABLISHED IN SQUATTER AREAS, AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WHICH WERE GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED, AND WHICH, BECAUSE OF THEIR TEMPORARY NATURE, DID NOT NORMALLY QUALIFY FOR FULL-FLEDGED WELFARE FACILITIES, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

EACH YEAR, A NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS WERE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE WELFARE SERVICES, AND TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF THE MORE DEPRIVED AREAS, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## BILL TO RELAX NT HOUSE HEIGHT LIMIT PLANNED

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL PROPOSING TO RELAX THE HEIGHT LIMIT OF NEW TERRITORIES EXEMPT HOUSES IS NOW IN THE FINAL DRAFTING STAGE, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RICHARD LAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE PROPOSAL TO RELAX THE HEIGHT LIMIT TO 8.23 METRES (27 FEET) WAS PART OF A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO BE INCORPORATED IN A BILL TO REPLACE THE EXISTING BUILDINGS (APPLICATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES) ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

/THE BILL .....

THE BILL WOULD ALSO SEEK TO PROVIDE BETTER STATUTORY CONTROL OVER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TERRITORIES EXEMPT HOUSES TO IMPROVE THEIR SAFETY BY IMPOSING BETTER CONTROL OVER SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS, SPECIFYING THE THICKNESS OF PARTY WALLS OF SMALL HOUSES BUILT IN PAIRS, AND DEFINING TERMS LIKE 'HEIGHT' AND 'ROOFED OVER AREA', MR CHAN SAID.

+IT WILL ALSO EMPOWER THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS TO EXEMPT, INTER ALIA, STRUCTURES BUILT BY BONA-FIDE ORGANISATIONS FOR COMMUNITY USE FROM HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE STANDARD PROCEDURES UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

+THE BILL IS NOW IN THE FINAL DRAFTING STAGE AND IS ANTICIPATED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN APRIL FOR ENACTMENT WITHIN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THIS COUNCIL,+ HE TOLD THE COUNCIL.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

#### CRITERIA FOR CONTRACTS EXPLAINED

\* \* \*

THE CRITERIA UNDER WHICH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE AWARDED WAS OUTLINED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN.

MR CHAN WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES RESTRICT ITS INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PUBLIC WORKS TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS.

HE SAID UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICY TENDERS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS WORTH LESS THAN \$15 MILLION AND FOR TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS WERE RESTRICTED TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS.

+HOWEVER, I SHOULD ADD THAT THIS POLICY WAS NOT ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS, BUT RATHER THAT IT WAS THOUGHT THAT MAJOR OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR OPERATION, WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH SMALL-SCALE CONTRACTS,+

IN RESPECT OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$15 MILLION, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS WERE NORMALLY ALLOWED TO TENDER SO LONG AS THEY WERE IN THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES OF THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH APPROVED LIST OF CONTRACTORS.

+IN AWARDING THESE CONTRACTS, THE MAIN CONSIDERATIONS ARE, INTER ALIA, THE LEVEL OF TENDER PRICES, THE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES OF THE CONTRACTORS TO COMPLETE THE CONTRACT AND THE PAST AND PRESENT PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACTORS,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+IT IS BASED ON THESE CRITERIA, AND NOT THE LOCAL OR OVERSEAS STATUS OF THE CONTRACTOR, THAT GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE AWARDED.+

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 19 -

SPEECH THERAPY COURSE PLANNED  
\* \* \* \* \*

A DEGREE COURSE IN SPEECH THERAPY COULD BE OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FROM THE 1988-91 TRIENNIAL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, HE SAID THAT THE COURSE WOULD BE TO MEET THE SHORTFALL OF SPEECH THERAPISTS IN THE LONG TERM.

THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN ASKED, VERY RECENTLY, BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO START SUCH A COURSE IN SPEECH THERAPY.

+THE UNIVERSITY HAS ALSO BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER THE STARTING DATE AND INITIAL STUDENT INTAKE IN RELATION TO THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF SUITABLE CLINICAL PLACEMENTS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SPECIALIST RECOGNITION UP TO ROYAL COLLEGES  
\* \* \* \* \*

DOCTORS WORKING IN ANAESTHESIA OR PATHOLOGY IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS RECEIVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING, AND ALL TRAINEES IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT FOR HIGHER EXAMINATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID AS FOR THOSE HOSPITALS IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR, THE ROYAL COLLEGES RECOGNISED ONLY A FEW HOSPITALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING FOR HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS IN THESE TWO SPECIALTIES.

TURNING TO THE MANPOWER SITUATION AND STAFF STRUCTURE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS, MR CHAMBERS GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

<u>ANAESTHESIA</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS</u>	<u>SUBVENTED HOSPITALS</u>
ESTABLISHMENT	101	57
STRENGTH	94	54
HIGHER QUALIFICATION HOLDERS	28	20

/PATHOLOGY .....

PATHOLOGY

ESTABLISHMENT	56	26
STRENGTH	50	24
HIGHER QUALIFICATION HOLDERS	15	8

ESTABLISHMENT

<u>ANAESTHESIA</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS</u>	<u>SUBVENTED HOSPITALS</u>
CONSULTANTS	7	6
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICERS	21	13
MEDICAL OFFICERS	73	38
	---	---
	101	57
 <u>PATHOLOGY</u>		
CONSULTANTS	8	7
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICERS	14	3
MEDICAL OFFICERS	34	16
	---	---
	56	26

ON STAFF STRUCTURE, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE ABOVE WAS ONLY THE OVERALL SITUATION IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, AS THE STAFF STRUCTURE VARIED CONSIDERABLY BETWEEN HOSPITALS.

----- 0 -----

## NO PLANS FOR NURSING DEGREES

\* \* \* \* \*

THERE WERE NO DEFINITE PLANS TO ESTABLISH DEGREE COURSES IN BASIC OR POST-BASIC NURSING EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT PART-TIME POST-BASIC NURSING COURSES WERE AT PRESENT, PROVIDED BY THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

/IN ADDITION, .....

- 21 -

IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC PROVIDED A FULL TIME POST-REGISTRATION DIPLOMA COURSE IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION, HE SAID.

AS FOR CAREER PROSPECTS FOR NURSES IN SPECIAL FIELDS, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE PRACTICE IN HONG KONG FOR NURSES TO FOLLOW A CAREER IN A SPECIALIST FIELD.

NURSES MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO CARRY OUT WIDELY DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS AS THEY ROSE IN SENIORITY.

EXCEPT IN A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES, SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS DID NOT ENHANCE PROMOTION PROSPECTS, MR CHAMBERS SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## BAN ON SOME VISITORS STILL VALID

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GROUNDS FOR DENYING ENTRY PERMITS TO APPLICANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE STILL VALID AND THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO PROPOSALS FOR ANY CHANGE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HELMUT SOHMEN, MR THOMAS SAID THESE GROUNDS WERE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME, MOST RECENTLY IN AUGUST 1985.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## PIG, POULTRY FARM PATTERN LITTLE CHANGED

\* \* \* \* \*

PIG AND POULTRY FARMS ARE FOUND IN MOST PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION PATTERN HAS NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT 1979 FIGURES SHOWED ABOUT 48 PER CENT (2 670) OF THE FARMS WERE LOCATED IN NORTH-WEST NT, MAINLY IN KAM TIN, SAP PAT HEUNG, PAT HEUNG, SAN TIN, PING SHAN, TUEN MUN AND HA TSUEN.

ABOUT 33 PER CENT (1 840) WERE LOCATED IN NORTH-EAST NT, MAINLY IN SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING, TAI PO, TA KWU LING, SHA TAU KOK AND SHA TIN AND THE REMAINING 19 PER CENT (1 050) IN SAI KUNG, TSUEN WAN, ISLANDS AND THE URBAN AREAS.

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE 4 920 FARMERS PRINCIPALLY ENGAGED IN PIG KEEPING AND 4 460 ENGAGED IN POULTRY KEEPING IN 1976, WHILE THE FIGURES FOR 1981 WERE 4 267 ENGAGED IN PIG AND 4 830 IN POULTRY KEEPING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 22 -

PRACTISING DENTISTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

ALTOGETHER 117 DENTISTS HELD VALID PRACTISING CERTIFICATES UNDER SECTION 7(D) OF THE REPEALED DENTISTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE 1940 AT THE END OF 1985 ACCORDING TO THE REGISTER OF THE DENTAL COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT ALL OF THEM WERE IN PRACTICE AT THAT TIME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS PASSED  
\* \* \*

THREE BILLS - THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1985, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FOUR OTHER BILLS - THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE BILL 1986 WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO FEBRUARY 26.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 23 -

PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

\* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PROMOTED SUBSTANTIVELY TO THE RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:

MR I.F.C. MACPHERSON, OBE, JP

MR J.W. CHAMBERS, JP

MR D.R. FORD, LVO, OBE, JP

MR P. TSAO KWANG-YUNG, CPM, JP

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE

\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CAUSEWAY BAY ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (FEBRUARY 8) TO COPE WITH THE CROWDS ATTENDING THE FLOWER FAIR AT VICTORIA PARK.

AT THE SAME TIME, MOST PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS WILL EXTEND CERTAIN SERVICES TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

TRAMS WILL RUN ALL NIGHT BETWEEN WHITTY STREET AND NORTH POINT, BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND WHITTY STREET, BETWEEN KENNEDY TOWN AND NORTH POINT, BETWEEN HAPPY VALLEY AND SHAU KEI WAN, AND BETWEEN WHITTY STREET AND CAUSEWAY BAY. SERVICES BETWEEN KENNEDY TOWN AND HAPPY VALLEY WILL CEASE OPERATING AROUND MIDNIGHT, AND THOSE BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND KENNEDY TOWN WILL STOP AT ABOUT 2 AM.

MTR AND STAR FERRY SERVICES WILL OPERATE ALL NIGHT. HYF FERRIES ON JORDAN ROAD TO JUBILEE STREET, NORTH POINT TO KWUN TONG AND NORTH POINT TO HUNG HOM ROUTES WILL RUN UNTIL 1 AM. THE LAST KCR TRAIN BOUND FOR SHEUNG SHUI WILL DEPART FROM KOWLOON STATION AT 12 MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT.

SERVICES ON CMB ROUTES 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 37, 38, 40, 47, 48, 70, 71, 73, 81, 83, 90M, 92 AND 95 WILL CEASE OPERATING ABOUT AN HOUR LATER THAN ON NORMAL HOLIDAYS, I.E. FROM 11.30 PM TO 1.45 AM. ROUTE 5B WILL RUN UNTIL 2 AM. SPECIAL ROUTE 86 (CHAI WAN EAST - CAUSEWAY ROAD) WILL OPERATE FROM 8 PM, WHILST SPECIAL ROUTE 304 (CAUSEWAY ROAD - WAH FU) AND 308 (CAUSEWAY ROAD - CHAI WAN EAST) WILL START RUNNING SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT. ROUTE 86 WILL CEASE OPERATING AT MIDNIGHT BUT ROUTE 304 WILL OPERATE UNTIL ABOUT 5 AM. ROUTE 308 WILL CONTINUE OPERATING AS LONG AS WARRANTED BY DEMAND.

/SERVICES ON .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 24 -

SERVICES ON 35 KMB ROUTES WILL BE EXTENDED BY AN HOUR TO FINISH BETWEEN 11.12 PM AND 1.32 AM. THESE INCLUDE ROUTES 1, 2A, 3B, 3C, 6A, 6B, 9, 10, 15C, 16, 21, 29, 31M, 32, 33, 35, 36A, 36M, 37, 39A, 44A, 46, 54, 59, 60M, 61A, 63, 64K, 66M, 67M, 73, 76K, 77K, 85 AND 85A.

MEANWHILE, ROUTES 1A, 2, 5C, 6C, 11, 14, 15, 26, 27K, 31, 32B, 34A, 36, 37M, 39M, 43, 43M, 46A, 72K, 80K AND 81K WILL CEASE OPERATING AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF AFTER NORMAL SERVICE SCHEDULES, I.E. FROM 0.51 AM TO 2.10 AM.

SEVEN KMB ROUTES WILL RUN OVERNIGHT. THESE WILL INCLUDE: ROUTE 5 (CHOI HUNG - STAR FERRY), ROUTE 6 (MEI FOO - STAR FERRY), ROUTE 59M (BUTTERFLY ESTATE - TSUEN WAN MTR STATION), ROUTE 68M (YUEN LONG EAST - TSUEN WAN MTR STATION), ROUTE 70 (SHEUNG SHUI - KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION), ROUTE 70M (WO CHE - KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION) AND ROUTE 82M (YUEN CHAU KOK - KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION).

CROSS-HARBOUR BUSES ON ROUTES 102 AND 106 WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL 1.45 AM AND HALF PAST MIDNIGHT RESPECTIVELY. TWO SPECIAL ROUTES - 111A (CAUSEWAY BAY - CHOI HUNG) AND 112A (CAUSEWAY BAY - MONG KOK) WILL OPERATE OVERNIGHT IN ADDITION TO ROUTES 121 AND 122.

THE OPERATING HOURS OF 10 GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 15 IN KOWLOON AND 35 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED. IN SOME CASES, A FLAT FARE WILL BE CHARGED DURING THE EXTENSION PERIOD.

#### TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

A NUMBER OF ROAD LINKS NEAR VICTORIA PARK WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 6 PM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE UNTIL 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY: THESE INCLUDE LOCKHART ROAD EAST OF PERCIVAL STREET, JAFFE ROAD EAST OF PERCIVAL STREET, KESWICK STREET (EXCEPT FOR GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 21M), CANNON STREET, PATERSON STREET BETWEEN KINGSTON STREET AND YEE WO STREET, GREAT GEORGE STREET, SUGAR STREET, KINGSTON STREET BETWEEN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND CLEVELAND STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN CAUSEWAY ROAD AND THE SOUTHERN END OF THE VICTORIA PARK ROAD FLYOVER, CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN COTTON PATH AND JUNCTION OF LEIGHTON ROAD WITH PENNINGTON STREET, ROXY ROUNDABOUT, TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER SOUTHBOUND LEADING FROM GLOUCESTER ROAD TO TAI HANG ROAD, SUN WUI ROAD, EAST POINT ROAD, AND CANAL ROAD EAST BETWEEN LOCKHART ROAD AND HENNESSY ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE SECTION OF PERCIVAL STREET BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD AND THE SECTION OF TUNG LO WAN ROAD BETWEEN EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND NORTHBOUND EXIT RAMP OF TAI HANG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 PM.

/FROM 6 PM .....

FROM 6 PM ONWARDS, HYSAN AVENUE BETWEEN LEIGHTON ROAD AND YUN PING ROAD, AND LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN CANAL ROAD EAST AND WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND. KESWICK STREET, LAU LI STREET BETWEEN ELECTRIC ROAD AND HING FAT STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN PENNINGTON STREET AND HYSAN AVENUE, AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD BETWEEN MORETON TERRACE AND THE RAMP TO TAI HANG ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BECOME ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

VEHICLES ON HENNESSY ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR NORTH POINT SHOULD PROCEED VIA MARSH ROAD FLYOVER AND VICTORIA PARK ROAD. THEY SHOULD USE PERCIVAL STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD, WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND BLUE POOL ROAD TO REACH TAI HANG.

WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT, HEADING FOR WAN CHAI SHOULD USE TSING FUNG STREET FLYOVER AND VICTORIA PARK ROAD.

BECAUSE OF THE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FLOWER FAIR AT VICTORIA PARK, SOME BUS ROUTES AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL HAVE TO BE DIVERTED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE FLOWER FAIRS ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLIC URGED TO AVOID CONGESTION  
\* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC GOING TO THE FLOWER FAIR AT VICTORIA PARK ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (FEBRUARY 8) ARE URGED TO EXERCISE COMMONSENSE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE IN THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ALTHOUGH MOST PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WOULD BE EXTENDED, THE CROWDS COULD NOT BE CLEARED ALL AT ONCE IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THE FLOWER FAIR.

HE APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO LEAVE THE FAIR SITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO AS NOT TO OVERBURDEN TRANSPORT SERVICES, PARTICULARLY AFTER 2 AM WHEN THE MTR AND KMB START THEIR FREE SERVICES. THE PEAK HOUR OF LATE NIGHT SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE BETWEEN 2 AM AND 3 AM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT AS THE FREE SERVICES WILL RUN UP TO 6 AM, PEOPLE SHOULD EXERCISE FLEXIBILITY AND SPREAD OUT THEIR JOURNEY HOME TIME.

BUS USERS WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE SEVEN MAINLAND SERVICES NO. 5, 6, 59M, 68M, 70, 70M AND 82M AND FOUR CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES NO. 111A, 112A, 121 AND 122 OPERATED BY KMB WOULD BE FREE OF CHARGE FROM 2 AM.

/HOWEVER, CMB .....

- 26 -

HOWEVER, CMB WOULD BE CHARGING FARES OF \$2.70 FOR ITS ROUTES 304 AND 308 AND \$4 FOR CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES 121 AND 122.

+TO DISTINGUISH BUSES OFFERING FREE RIDES AND THOSE CHARGING FARES, COMMUTERS SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS DISPLAYED ON THE WINDOWS OF EACH BUS BEFORE BOARDING,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN HOPED COMMUTERS WOULD APPRECIATE THAT IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED CAPACITY AVAILABLE ON FREE SERVICES, PASSENGERS SHOULD NOT AVOID FARE PAYING BUSES.

+SIMILARLY, MTR RIDERS SHOULD ALSO EXERCISE DISCRETION IN PLANNING THEIR JOURNEYS HOME AFTER THE FAIR SO AS TO EASE THE BURDEN ON THE TRAINS,+ HE EMPHASISED.

MTR TRAINS WILL BE OPERATING ON A FIVE-MINUTE FREQUENCY FROM 11 PM TO 3 AM, AFTER WHICH TIME A 10-MINUTE INTERVAL SERVICE WILL COME INTO OPERATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

## MEETING ON WAR MEMORIAL FUND

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND WILL HOLD A FURTHER PUBLIC SESSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4.30 PM TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF WAR VETERANS.

A SPOKESMAN EACH FROM THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE (HKWMFC), THE HONG KONG PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION (HKPOWA), THE SECOND WORLD WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION (SWWVA) AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAR EASTERN PRISONER OF WAR CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS (NFFCA) WILL PRESENT THEIR ORGANISATIONS' VIEWS ON THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

THIS MEETING IS THE SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES, THE FIRST HAD BEEN HELD ON JANUARY 30 WHEN THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE PRESENTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS.

THE SPOKESMEN APPEARING AT TOMORROW'S HEARING WILL BE:

HKWMFC - SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES (CHAIRMAN)

HKPOWA - MR J. MITCHELL (CHAIRMAN)

SWWVA - MR MAXIMO CHENG (CHAIRMAN)

NFFCA - MR JACK EDWARDS (FAR EAST REPRESENTATIVE)

- - - - -

## NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PUBLIC SESSION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 27 -

BARBECUE BAN TO BE LIFTED  
\* \* \* \*

THE BAN ON BARBECUING IN ALL COUNTRY PARKS, OTHER THAN THE CLOSED PARKS IN TAI LAM, TAI MO SHAN, SHING MUN AND TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE, WILL BE LIFTED AS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE MOVE WAS MADE IN VIEW OF THE RECENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THIS WOULD ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ENJOY THE COUNTRY PARKS TO THE FULL DURING THE COMING LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN WARNED, THE FIRE RISK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS STILL HIGH.

+THERE IS, THEREFORE, A NEED TO KEEP THE TAI LAM, TAI MO SHAN AND SHING MUN COUNTRY PARKS AND THE TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE TO PREVENT FURTHER FIRE DAMAGE TO HONG KONG'S MAJOR PARK PLANTATIONS,+ HE SAID.

DESPITE THE LIFTING OF THE BARBECUE BAN, THE PUBLIC SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE AND BARBECUE ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS INSIDE THE OPENED PARKS.

+ILLEGAL LIGHTING OF FIRES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE PUNISHABLE WITH A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC PLAN FOR NEW YEAR FAIRS  
\* \* \*

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN YUEN LONG AND SAN PO KONG ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8) IN CONNECTION WITH THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS IN THE TWO AREAS.

IN YUEN LONG, TAI YUK ROAD BETWEEN KAU YUK ROAD AND MA TIN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM 5 PM ON FEBRUARY 8 TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY. MA TIN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EAST AND NORTHBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 39 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KAU-YUK ROAD, TAI YUK ROAD AND MA TIN ROAD ON ITS KUNG OM BOUND JOURNEYS.

/IN SAN PO .....

IN SAN PO KONG, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 6 PM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY- NG FONG STREET, THE UN-NAMED ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN SZE MEI STREET AND TAI YAU STREET, LUK HOP STREET, THE UN-NAMED ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN TAI YAU STREET AND TSAT PO STREET, SZE MEI STREET, KING FUK STREET BETWEEN SZE MEI STREET AND KING HONG STREET, TSAT PO STREET BETWEEN LUK HOP STREET AND PAT TAT STREET, AS WELL AS THE UN-NAMED ACCESS ROAD FRONTING SAN PO KONG INDUSTRIAL FACTORY BUILDING BLOCK NO. 5 JUNCTION WITH SZE MEI STREET AND KING FUK STREET.

THE SECTION OF TSAT PO STREET BETWEEN PAT TAT STREET AND SAM CHUK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

-----0-----  
ARRANGEMENTS TO EASE CONGESTION AT AIRPORT

\* \* \* \* \*

A SPECIAL CHECK-IN AREA WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE HONG KONG AIRPORT FOR GUANGZHOU-BOUND TRAVELLERS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD.

THE AREA WILL OPERATE FROM FRIDAY UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 11), AND IS SITUATED AT THE WESTERN END OF THE DEPARTURES HALL OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE AREA WAS PROVIDED TO PROCESS THE LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR GUANGZHOU DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

SIGNS WILL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED TO ADVISE PASSENGERS OF SPECIFIC FLIGHTS AND SPECIAL PROCESSING FACILITIES.

+THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY CROSS-FLOW OF PEOPLE AND BAGGAGE MOVEMENTS IN THE DEPARTURE HALL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED HOLIDAY-MAKERS TRAVELLING BY AIR DURING THIS PERIOD TO OBSERVE A FEW SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO HELP EASE CONGESTION AT THE AIRPORT.

+PASSENGERS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT EARLY AND CHECK-IN EARLY.

+THEY SHOULD LOOK FOR SIGNS INDICATING SPECIFIC FLIGHTS AND SPECIAL PROCESSING FACILITIES.

+IT IS ALSO IN THEIR INTERESTS THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT, INSTEAD OF PRIVATE CARS, IS USED TO GO TO THE AIRPORT.+

PASSENGERS WOULD HELP MINIMISE CONGESTION BY KEEPING THE NUMBER OF FRIENDS SAYING FAREWELL TO A MINIMUM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

-----0-----

## RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR ISLANDERS

\*\*\*\*\*

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE ABOUT 90 RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR THE 9 900 RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE.

IT WILL ALSO ORGANISE FOR THE FIRST TIME A SERIES OF EIGHT LUNAR NEW YEAR CARNIVAL TYPE EVENTS FOR CHILDREN TO TIE IN WITH OTHER FESTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE RSD'S DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER (ISLANDS), MR TAM PAK-HANG, AT A MEETING OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO INFORMED OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANS TO GAZETTE TONG FUK BEACH ON LANTAU ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC IN MAY. THE BEACH, LOCATED NEAR TO THE BUS ROUTE, HAS BEEN VERY POPULAR WITH PICNICKERS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

A PROPOSAL BY THE RSD TO PROVIDE A STANDARD SPORTSGROUND AT MUI WO ON LANTAU ISLAND RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING.

THE RSD'S SENIOR STAFF OFFICER (PLANNING), MR PETER LAW, SAID CURRENTLY THERE WAS NO STANDARD SPORTSGROUND IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AND MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS HAD TO BE HELD ELSEWHERE.

MR LAW POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES RECOMMEND THE PROVISION OF A STANDARD SPORTSGROUND FOR EVERY 250 000 RESIDENTS.

+WITH A CURRENT POPULATION OF ABOUT 52 000 AND A PROJECTED POPULATION OF 63 000 BY 1995, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT IS THEREFORE THE ONLY DISTRICT IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA WHERE THERE IS NEITHER AN EXISTING STANDARD SPORTSGROUND NOR ANY PLAN TO CONSTRUCT ONE,+ HE SAID.

+SINCE A STRICT APPLICATION OF THE PLANNING STANDARDS MAY RESULT IN UNDERPROVISION, A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY HAS TO BE APPLIED IN ASSESSING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE RATHER ISOLATED RURAL ISLANDS DISTRICT.+

HE ADDED THAT A STANDARD SPORTSGROUND ALLOWED FOR HIGH LEVEL COMPETITIONS AND MIGHT HELP TO FORGE A DISTRICT IDENTITY.  
+FLEXIBLE APPLICATION OF THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARD AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF A STANDARD SPORTSGROUND IN MUI WO IS CONSIDERED TO BE JUSTIFIABLE.+

AT THE MEETING, THE RSD'S DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (ISLANDS), MR IP KI-TIT, SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS PLANNING A SECOND CEMETERY ON LANTAU WITH 2 700 BURIAL SPACES, TWO CREMATORIA AND ASSOCIATED COLUMBARIUM WITH 1 000 NICHES, ONE ON CHEUNG CHAU AND THE OTHER ON LANTAU AND TWO 500-NICHE COLUMBARIA FOR PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 30 -

BOARD GROUP HOLDS OPEN MEETING  
\* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON +GAS SAFETY AT HOME+ BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GAS ADVISER'S OFFICE OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A MEETING ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 7) AT 9.30 AM.

THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON TEL: 0-6048078 FOR RESERVATION.

THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- \* COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AT 4 PM ON FEBRUARY 17.
- \* HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE, AT 2.30 PM ON FEBRUARY 19.
- \* TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, AT 9.30 AM ON FEBRUARY 21.
- \* FINANCE COMMITTEE, AT 9.30 AM ON FEBRUARY 25.

-----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETINGS.

----- 0 -----

FINANCE COMPANY LICENCE REVOKED  
\* \* \* \*

THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF ASIA ALLIANCE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 14(2) OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

----- 0 -----

CLOSURE ORDER SOUGHT FOR ILLEGAL STRUCTURES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF TWO ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF ADJACENT TO FLAT A ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF A BUILDING AT 44-49, SUN CHUN STREET, CAUSEWAY BAY, FOR DEMOLITION.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON MARCH 19 WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF THE EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JANUARY, 1985, REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AS A RESULT OF THE OWNERS' FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDER.

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS GRANTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OPEN STORAGE SITE FOR RENT  
\* \* \* \* \*

AN OPEN STORAGE SITE AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD NEAR CHAK ON ESTATE, KOWLOON, IS TO BE PUT UP FOR TENDER BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

MEASURING 5 250 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE CAN ALSO BE USED FOR STORING EMPTY CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS INITIALLY FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 21.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CANDIDATES MEET THE PRESS  
\* \* \*

A MEET-THE-PRESS SESSION TO INTRODUCE SOME OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATES TO THE MEDIA WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

DURING THE SESSION, EACH CANDIDATE WILL INTRODUCE HIS PLATFORM AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

IN EASTERN DISTRICT, THERE ARE SEVEN CANDIDATES VYING FOR TWO CONSTITUENCIES IN THE MARCH 6 ELECTIONS.

/CANDIDATES .....

CANDIDATES COMPETING FOR THE NORTH POINT CONSTITUENCY ARE MR MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR STEPHEN CHENG AND MR SHEK KWEI-CHUN.

MR CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG, MR B.A. BERNACCHI, MADAM CHEUNG WAI-PING AND MR TONG CHOR-YIN ARE STANDING FOR ELECTIONS IN THE SHAU KEI WAN CONSTITUENCY.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEET-THE-PRESS SESSION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 4 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CENTRAL AND WESTERN CANDIDATES TO MEET PRESS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE TWO CANDIDATES STANDING IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CONSTITUENCY OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION WILL MEET THE PRESS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY.

THEY WILL PRESENT THEIR PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, MISS WINDY KWOK, WILL INTRODUCE PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES ARRANGED FOR THE ELECTION IN THE CONSTITUENCY.

THE TWO CANDIDATES VYING FOR THE SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCY ARE MR CHOW WAI-KEUNG, AND MR HUNG WING-TAT WHO ARE BOTH ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN BOARD.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEET-THE-PRESS SESSION TO BE HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 33 -

FIRE OFFICERS COMMENDED  
\* \* \*

TWO FIRE STATION OFFICERS WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) COMMENDED FOR RESCUING 25 PEOPLE INCLUDING A TWO-YEAR-OLD BOY IN A PRE-WAR BUILDING DURING A NO. 3 ALARM FIRE IN CHEUNG SHA WAN LAST MONTH.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF KOWLOON COMMAND, MR M. KINGDOM, PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATIONS TO STATION OFFICERS MR CHAN YIU-MING, 26, AND MR YAU CHI-ON, 24, FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP, RESOURCEFULNESS AND DEVOTION TO DUTY UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

SENIOR FIREMAN CHAN CHI-KWONG, 35, WAS GIVEN SPECIAL MERITS FOR HIS PROMPT AND SKILFUL MOBILISATION OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT DURING THE FIRE-FIGHTING.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT IN A FOUR-STOREY TENEMENT BUILDING AT 342-344 UN CHAU STREET AT ABOUT 1.20 AM ON JANUARY 14 AND WAS UPGRADED TO NO. 3 ALARM SEVERAL MINUTES LATER. AT THAT TIME THE STAIRCASE WAS ABLAZE AND THE FRONT PORTION OF THE BUILDING HEAVILY SMOKE-LOGGED.

THE TWO OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY CARRIED OUT THE RESCUE AT THE NARROW REAR LANE WITH THE USE OF EXTENSION LADDERS AS THE LANE WAS NOT WIDE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE A LARGE TURNTABLE LADDER.

THEY HAD TO CLEAR THROUGH OBSTRUCTIONS AND TORE DOWN AWNINGS WHEN EFFECTING THE RESCUE OF THE RESIDENTS WHO WERE TRAPPED AT THE REAR PORTIONS OF THE UPPER FLOORS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTINGS  
\* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF SIX LOCATIONS IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL BE DECORATED WITH LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVE LIGHTS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) UNTIL FEBRUARY 24 TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE TIGER.

FUNDED BY THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF \$230 500, THE LIGHTINGS WILL BE PUT UP AT THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD/KWAI CHUNG ROUNDABOUT, TSING YI BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT, THREE FOOTBRIDGES ACROSS KWAI CHUNG ROAD, AND THE FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR WO YI HOP ROAD.

/THE BIGGEST .....

- 34 -

THE BIGGEST LIGHTING DISPLAY ERECTED AT THE FOOTBRIDGE NEAR KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES FEATURES +THE GOD OF FORTUNE+, WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE SWITCHED ON DAILY FROM 6 PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT, AND FROM 6 PM UNTIL 6 AM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE.

A SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 6 PM ON THE PODIUM OF KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR. KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO TUNG-CHING AND MRS BRIAN COAK, WIFE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

-----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY FOR THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTING DECORATIONS.

----- 0 -----

NEW YEAR LIGHTS TO GO ON  
\* \* \*

DECORATIVE LIGHTINGS FOR THE KWUN TONG LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WILL BE SWITCHED ON AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING.

THE LIGHTINGS INCLUDE THOSE ON A +PAI-LAU+ ERECTED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FAIR AND AROUND THE VENUE IN THE TSUI PING ROAD PLAYGROUND.

OFFICIATING AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY WILL BE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KEVIN MAK- DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI- URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR LAM CHAK-PIU- AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CULTURE, RECREATION, SPORTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR LAM KIN-KWOK.

-----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF THE KWUN TONG LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR AT 7 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE TSUI PING ROAD PLAYGROUND.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 35 -

NEW PLAYGROUND ON HEI LING CHAU

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WIFE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MRS FRANS CIA CHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OPENED A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ON HEI LING CHAU.

THE 1 500-SQUARE-METRE PLAYGROUND, WHICH WAS BUILT BY INMATES AND REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND, ENCOMPASSES VARIOUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND A PLAY-SCHOOL FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGE OF FOUR AND 11 YEARS.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 1 400 REFUGEES CURRENTLY STAYING AT THE HEI LING CHAU CLOSED CENTRE AND ABOUT 400 OF THEM ARE BELOW 13 YEARS' OLD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VARIETY SHOW IN TAI PO

\* \* \* \* \*

A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE STAGED TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW YEAR BAZAAR IN TAI PO.

THE SHOW, TO BE HELD IN THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND, IS PART OF THE PROGRAMMES OF THE ON-GOING TAI PO FESTIVAL.

TAI PO ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS), MS ANISSA WONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND RURAL LEADERS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TAI PO NEW YEAR BAZAAR NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND AT 8 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1986

- 36 -

COMPUTERISED WHEELCHAIR DEVELOPED  
\*\*\*\*\*

A +COMPUTERISED+ WHEELCHAIR WHICH RESPONDS TO SPOKEN INSTRUCTIONS, HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY ENGINEERING GRADUATES UNDER TRAINING AT THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A DEMONSTRATION OF THE WHEELCHAIR WILL BE GIVEN AT THE EMSD TRAINING CENTRE, CAROLINE HILL, AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

-----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE DEMONSTRATION.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE EMSD HQ AT 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD.

-----0-----

TAI HANG WATER SUPPLY TO BE INTERRUPTED  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE TAI HANG ROAD AREA WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM ON FRIDAY WHILE A DIVERTED WATER MAIN IS RECONNECTED. THE AREAS AFFECTED ARE 83 TO 113, TAI HANG ROAD, WANG FUNG TERRACE, TAI HANG DRIVE AND CHUN FAI ROAD.

THREE WATER TANKERS WILL PATROL THE AREAS WHILE THE SUPPLY IS INTERRUPTED.

WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE BEEN WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO DIVERT THE MAIN WHICH WAS ONE OF FOUR AFFECTED BY THE UNDERMINING OF TAI HANG ROAD AT THE JUNCTION OF BLUE POOL ROAD.

THIS WAS DISCOVERED ON THURSDAY LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT A LOW-PRESSURE MAIN WAS LEAKING. THE WATER HAD UNDERMINED AN ANCHOR BLOCK OF TWO HIGH-PRESSURE MAINS, THE FOUNDATIONS OF A RETAINING WALL AND ROAD SUPPORTING STRUCTURES IN THE AREA.

THE EAST-BOUND SECTION OF TAI HANG ROAD WAS CLOSED SO THAT REPAIR WORK COULD BE CARRIED OUT ON THE MAINS WITHOUT INTERRUPTING THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE JARDINE'S LOOKOUT AND TAI HANG AREA.

THE WHOLE ROAD WAS CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DAY, FRIDAY, WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT THE WEST-BOUND LANE SHOWED SIGNS OF SETTLING. SITE INVESTIGATION SHOWED HOLES OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE UNDER THE CARRIAGEWAY.

/HIGHWAYS OFFICE .....

- 37 -

HIGHWAYS OFFICE ENGINEERS HAVE SINCE BEEN WORKING AGAINST TIME TO MAKE THE ROAD SAFE AND IT IS HOPED TO OPEN ONE LANE OF TAI HANG ROAD BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

HOWEVER, THE ROAD WILL NOT BE RE-OPENED FULLY FOR ABOUT FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.

A HIGHWAYS OFFICE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SITE WAS SMALL, CONTAINED FOUR WATER MAINS, AND ROAD WORK HAD TO GIVE PRECEDENCE TO WORK ON THE WATER SUPPLY.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

ROADS TO OPEN  
\* \* \*

THE UNNAMED ROADS LEADING FROM SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND NAM ON STREET TO THE ALDRICH BAY BOATYARDS AND MONG LUNG STREET WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 7).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING ACCESS ROAD LINKING MONG LUNG STREET AND THE ALDRICH BAY BOATYARDS WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

RESTRICTED ZONES  
\* \* \*

THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF SHING YIP STREET, KWUN TONG, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING YIP STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 43 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8).

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA, NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

MEANWHILE, THE EXISTING RESTRICTED ZONE ON SHING YIP STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -