



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994

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LOCALISATION OF LAW SET FOR COMPLETION BEFORE 1997

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THE GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATES THAT LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1996.

HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE INTO EARLY 1997 AND THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP IN 1997.

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE, NOT MUCH TIME TO DO IT, IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A COMPLETE SET OF LAWS CAPABLE OF CONTINUING BEYOND 1997, MR NG SAID.

"IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR US TO LET GAPS IN THE LAW DEVELOP AFTER 1997. AND WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP TO OUR TARGET FOR THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT EXERCISE," THE SECRETARY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY THE STRONG WISH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH THIS WORK ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"WE WOULD DO ALL WE CAN TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THAT," HE SAID.

ON LOCALISATION OF LAWS, MR NG SAID OF THE 300 OR SO UK ENACTMENTS ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED FOR LOCALISATION, AROUND 30 HAD BEEN LOCALISED AS HONG KONG ORDINANCES IN THE AREAS OF ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION AND MERCHANT SHIPPING.

"A FIRST STAGE CIVIL AVIATION BILL (COVERING THE LOCALISATION OF FOUR UK ENACTMENTS) IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY LEGCO," HE SAID.

NINETY ENACTMENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS NOT REQUIRING LOCALISATION.

CONSULTATION PAPERS ON ANOTHER 75 ENACTMENTS HAVE BEEN HANDED TO THE CHINESE SIDE.

DRAFTING OF SEVERAL LOCALISING BILLS IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE.

ON ADAPTATION OF LAWS, MR NG SAID AN INITIAL REVIEW OF THE ORDINANCES AND SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION HAD ALMOST BEEN COMPLETED.

"OUR FIRST CONSULTATION PROPOSAL WAS HANDED TO THE CHINESE SIDE IN NOVEMBER 1992.

"SINCE SEPTEMBER 1993 WE HAVE BEEN HANDING OVER CONSULTATION PROPOSALS TO THE CHINESE SIDE IN A STEADY FLOW," MR NG SAID.

UP TO NOW, CONSULTATION PAPERS COVERING ABOUT 30 ORDINANCES HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE CHINESE SIDE.

DRAFTING OF AN OMNIBUS ADAPTATION BILL IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE, HE SAID.

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TIGHT CONTROL OVER LAND DISPOSAL BY PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES

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THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SHORTLY CONDUCT A REVIEW OF HOW PROCEEDS FROM FUTURE LANDS SALES BY PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING FARES WHEN THE SITES CONCERNED ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE FRANCHISED OPERATIONS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY FURTHER APPLICATIONS PERTAINING TO THE RELEASE OF DEPOT SITES OF BUS COMPANIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SIU SAID SITES MIGHT BE GRANTED TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES FOR APPROPRIATE UTILITY PURPOSES, ONLY IF THE COMPANY CONCERNED DID NOT DISPOSE THE LAND GRANTED WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION.

HE SAID SUCH LAND WAS GRANTED BY PRIVATE TREATY AT FULL MARKET VALUE AND SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER AND MORTGAGING WERE PROHIBITED.

THESE COMPANIES MAY BE ALLOWED TO REDEVELOP SITES IN THE URBAN AREAS IF THERE IS ADVANTAGE IN MOVING THEIR FACILITIES AWAY FROM DENSELY POPULATED AREAS TO ALLOW BETTER USE OF THE LAND AND TO REALISE PLANNING GAINS.

"SUCH REDEVELOPMENTS WOULD NORMALLY REQUIRE A MODIFICATION OF THE LEASE CONDITIONS AND THE UTILITY COMPANIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY FULL MARKET VALUE PREMIUM AND GIVE AN UNDERTAKING NOT TO SEEK A FURTHER GRANT OF LAND BY PRIVATE TREATY IN THE SAME AREA," MR SIU SAID.

WHERE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES HAVE ACQUIRED LAND ON THE OPEN MARKET AND THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER, SUCH LAND CAN BE DISPOSED OF:

- * IF IT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE COMPANY; OR
- * IF IT IS NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR THE PURPOSE IT WAS ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED AS A RESULT OF POPULATION MOVEMENT OR SHIFTS IN THE PATTERN OF DEMAND.

WHERE LAND REQUIREMENTS CAN CHANGE OVER TIME, SUCH AS THOSE RELATING TO BUS DEPOTS, LAND WILL BE PROVIDED ON A SHORT-TERM TENANCY BASIS.

"THE COMPANY CONCERNED PAYS RENT FOR THE LAND AND THIS IS ACCOUNTED FOR AS AN OPERATING EXPENSE.

"AS SUCH TENANCIES INVOLVE NO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, THEY HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE COMPANY'S AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS OR PERMITTED RETURN," HE SAID.

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NO PLAN FOR DAYA BAY DRILLS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO ARRANGE DRILLS AS PART OF THE DAYA BAY CONTINGENCY PLAN INVOLVING THE PHYSICAL EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

FOR ONLY TWO PERMANENT HONG KONG RESIDENTS, BOTH LIVING ON PING CHAU, ARE CAST INTO THE 20 KM-RADIUS OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PLANNING AREA COVERS THE OPEN WATERS OF MIRS BAY.

HOWEVER, MR ASPREY SAID THE MARINE POLICE, RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH EVACUATION, DID PRACTISE THE LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AS PART OF DAYA BAY EXERCISES AND THE TWO RESIDENTS HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON THE ARRANGEMENTS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY ALSO SAID THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY PUBLISHED A MONTHLY RECORD OF DAILY READINGS OF THE AMBIENT GAMMA RADIATION LEVELS AT ITS 10 MONITORING STATIONS. THESE BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE BACKGROUND GAMMA RADIATION LEVELS, MR ASPREY EXPLAINED, VARIED FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND FLUCTUATED WITH TIME AND WEATHER. THUS NORMAL VARIATIONS OF UP TO 100 PER CENT OF AVERAGE LEVELS WERE COMMON.

THE LEVEL OF RADIATION WHICH WOULD BE OF PUBLIC CONCERN WOULD BE SEVERAL HUNDRED TIMES THE BACKGROUND LEVELS, HE SAID.

"THE INCLUSION OF THESE MEASUREMENTS IN DAILY WEATHER REPORTS WOULD BE OF VERY LIMITED PRACTICAL BENEFIT," HE ADDED.

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STAMP ARRANGEMENTS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH CHINA

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TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS FOR HONG KONG ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI, MR SUEN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED NO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN PUTTING IN PLACE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WELL BEFORE JUNE 30, 1997.

THIS MEANS THE PUBLIC WILL IN NO WAY BE INCONVENIENCED OR POSTAL SERVICES ADVERSELY AFFECTED, HE ADDED.

"ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE CLOSER TO THE TIME TO DEAL WITH UNUSED STAMPS BEARING THE QUEEN'S PORTRAIT," HE SAID.

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TRENDS UNDER CONSTANT MONITORING

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TRENDS ARE CONSTANTLY MONITORED TO ENSURE THAT RESOURCES ON INTERCEPTING OPERATION ARE EFFECTIVELY DEPLOYED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WHERE LOOPHOLES ARE DISCOVERED, STEPS ARE TAKEN TO CLOSE THEM," HE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION ASKED BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID THE MARINE POLICE STOPPED AND CHECKED NEARLY 110,000 VESSELS LAST YEAR.

ABOUT 2,400 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED AT SEA LAST YEAR AND 60 PER CENT OF THEM WERE FOUND IN THE DEEP BAY AREA.

OTHER ENTRY POINTS WERE MIRS BAY, SAI KUNG, CASTLE PEAK BAY, ABERDEEN AND CHEUNG CHAU, MR ASPREY ADDED.

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ALLOCATION OF AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS FAIR AND OPEN

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THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IN ALLOCATING AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT ARE TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF THE BAYS AND TO HELP THE TRANSFER OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PASSENGERS BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SIU SAID AIRLINES OPERATING AT KAI TAK AIRPORT WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT ADVANCE NOTICE ON A SIX MONTHLY BASIS OF THEIR INTENDED FLIGHT SCHEDULES.

THE DEPARTMENT THEN DETERMINES THE ALLOCATION OF PARKING BAYS IN ORDER BEST TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AIRCRAFT SIZE AND PASSENGER LOAD FACTORS.

PARKING BAYS ARE NOT ALLOCATED OR RESERVED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF ANY PARTICULAR AIRLINE, HE ADDED.

ONLY EIGHT OF THE 69 AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS AT KAI TAK ARE SERVED BY AIR-BRIDGES CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING.

"PRIORITY FOR THESE BAYS IS ALWAYS GIVEN TO THE LARGEST AIRCRAFT," HE SAID.

MR SIU ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) HAD YET TO FINALISE THEIR PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PARKING BAYS AT THE NEW AIRPORT.

"VARIOUS OPTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED WITH THE AIRLINES."

/AIRLINES WILL

AIRLINES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO EXCHANGE BAY ALLOCATIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES ONCE MADE; BAYS WILL BE ALLOCATED AND REALLOCATED BY AIRPORT MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO AGREED CRITERIA, MR SIU SAID.

A COMPUTERISED ALLOCATION SYSTEM WAS COMMISSIONED FOR KAI TAK IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY USED TO HELP OPERATIONAL STAFF ALLOCATE PARKING BAYS.

"THIS ENSURES A FAIR AND EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS, WITHOUT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BEING GIVEN TO ANY PARTICULAR AIRLINE," MR SIU SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PAA ALSO RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION AT THE NEW AIRPORT WHICH WAS FAIR AND OPEN AND WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE AIRLINES.

"IT IS ULTIMATELY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PAA AND THE AIRLINES TO ENSURE THAT THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM IS COST-EFFECTIVE."

TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM, IT IS INTENDED THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD RETAIN FLEXIBILITY TO ENSURE OPTIMUM USE OF THE BAYS AVAILABLE, MR SIU SAID.

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MORE FLEXIBILITY ON CIVIL SERVICE JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

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TENDERS FOR PUBLISHING GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INVITED FROM ALL BONA FIDE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES TO ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY AND GREATER COMPETITION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THE BASIS OF CIRCULATION, READERSHIP PROFILE AND COST.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON ADVERTISING GOVERNMENT VACANCIES IN 1993/94 WAS \$5,404,718.

"THIS INCLUDED \$3,266,843 SPENT BY INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS ON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING IN A RANGE OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE NEWSPAPERS AND \$2,137,875 THROUGH THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH ON BULK RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING UNDER TWO CONTRACTS WITH ONE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER AND ONE CHINESE NEWSPAPER GROUP," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE CONTRACTS WOULD EXPIRE AT THE END OF APRIL THIS YEAR AND A REVIEW OF THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERS WOULD BE PROMULGATED AND CIRCULATED TO THE DEPARTMENTS.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO PLACE THEIR ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ANY OF THE NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES ON THE LIST AT FIXED PRICES.

HE BELIEVED THAT THIS METHOD SHOULD RESULT IN GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLICATION OF GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING.

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HELP FOR JUVENILE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE
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THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND JUVENILES WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ABUSE INCLUDING SEXUAL ABUSE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID INTENSIVE COUNSELLING SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKERS AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS TO HELP VICTIMS RELIEVE THEIR PAIN AND COPE WITH THEIR EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.

"DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES, SOCIAL WORKERS ALSO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUPPORTING SERVICES SUCH AS COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING AND SCHOOL PLACEMENT," SHE SAID.

"IF THE VICTIMS ARE CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE TO STAY IN THEIR OLD HOME, ARRANGEMENT WILL BE MADE FOR THEM TO STAY IN CHILDREN'S HOMES, FOSTER HOMES OR SMALL GROUP HOMES."

ALL THESE SERVICES AIM TO HELP THE VICTIMS RECOVER FROM THE TRAUMA AND START A NEW LIFE IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

ON LEGISLATION, MRS WONG SAID THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 1, 1993, HAD GREATLY ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AND JUVENILES AND SAFEGUARDED THEIR RIGHTS AND WELFARE.

THE ORDINANCE HAS WIDENED THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A CHILD OR A JUVENILE IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION TO ENCOMPASS PHYSICAL ABUSE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE AS WELL AS NEGLECT.

IT ALSO PROVIDES A NEW PROCEDURE WHEREBY A NOTICE CAN BE SERVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO REQUIRE A PARENT/GUARDIAN TO TAKE THE CHILD FOR ASSESSMENT BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, AN APPROVED SOCIAL WORKER OR AN APPROVED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

IN ADDITION, THE ORDINANCE HAS SHORTENED THE TIME LIMIT FROM EIGHT DAYS TO 48 HOURS IN WHICH A CHILD IS REQUIRED TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE COURT FOR A CARE AND PROTECTION ORDER AFTER HIS/HER REMOVAL TO A PLACE OF REFUGE.

QUOTING POLICE STATISTICS, MRS WONG SAID THE NUMBERS OF SEXUAL OFFENCES INVOLVING CHILDREN AND JUVENILES AS VICTIMS IN 1991, 1992 AND 1993 WERE 796, 836 AND 753 RESPECTIVELY.

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PUBLIC FORMS ARE MADE USER-FRIENDLY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXAMINED SOME 6,000 PUBLIC FORMS IN A RECENT REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY, SIMPLE AND USER-FRIENDLY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MRS CHAN SAID AS A RESULT SOME 4,700 FORMS CONTINUED TO BE USED.

THIS REDUCTION IS THE RESULT OF SOME 800 FORMS BEING ABOLISHED; SOME 640 FORMS BEING COMBINED AND REDUCED TO ABOUT 130, AND THE CREATION OF FEWER THAN 30 NEW FORMS. SOME 2,300 OF THE REMAINING FORMS WERE IMPROVED OR SIMPLIFIED.

"THESE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE BETTER QUALITY PRESENTATION, CLEARER STRUCTURE OF FORMS, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF CHINESE TRANSLATIONS WHERE NECESSARY," MRS CHAN SAID.

A TOTAL OF 53 DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PUBLIC FORMS REVIEW EXERCISE.

THE REMAINING 23 DEPARTMENTS THAT HAVE NO PUBLIC FORMS OR HAVE CONDUCTED A SIMILAR REVIEW RECENTLY WERE EXEMPTED FROM THE EXERCISE.

SOME FORMS WERE ALSO EXEMPTED FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS, SHE ADDED.

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GREATER PROTECTION FOR WILD LIFE IN MAI PO MARSHES

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EXTEND THE RESTRICTED AREA TO COVER THE INTERTIDAL MUD FLATS OF INNER DEEP BAY SO AS TO GIVE GREATER PROTECTION TO THE WILD LIFE IN THE AREA, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR CANICE C F MAK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, MR MAK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE OCCASIONAL INTRUSION OF CHINESE FISHERMEN AND THEIR BIRD-CATCHING ACTIVITIES NEAR MAI PO MARSHES.

HE SAID THE EXTENSION OF THE RESTRICTED AREA WOULD SUPPLEMENT CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, WHICH INCLUDED REGULAR PATROL IN THE AREA BY AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT STAFF AND SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATION MOUNTED WITH THE HELP OF THE MARINE POLICE.

MR MAK SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG RECOGNISED THE MAI PO MARSHES AS AN IMPORTANT CONSERVATION AREA AND HAS DESIGNATED IT AS A RESTRICTED AREA UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE."

APART FROM THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE AREA IS BEING MANAGED FOR NATURE EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION BY THE WORLD WIDE FUND.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE HONG KONG - GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU WAS THE MAIN CHANNEL FOR DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF DEEP BAY AND ITS CATCHMENTS, AND A TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP SINCE 1992 TO DISCUSS RELATED MATTERS, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF THE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE.

MR MAK POINTED OUT THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND ADJACENT TO THE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE WAS CONTROLLED BY STATUTORY TOWN PLANS AND APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD WAS REQUIRED FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS NOT PERMITTED AS OF RIGHT IN THE TOWN PLANS.

"DEVELOPERS HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THEIR PROPOSALS WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE OF THE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE AND THE INNER DEEP BAY BEFORE THEY ARE APPROVED," HE SAID.

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NO RESURGENCE IN CAR THEFTS
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THERE IS NO RESURGENCE IN THE NUMBER OF CAR THEFTS IN THE TERRITORY.

IN FACT, THE LEVEL OF LUXURY CAR THEFTS IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 72 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE MET REGULARLY WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND CAR MANUFACTURERS TO ENCOURAGE THE FITTING OF ANTI-THEFT DEVICES IN THE CARS.

"THE RECENT DECREASE IN THE THEFT OF NEW MODEL VEHICLES WITH THESE ANTI-THEFT DEVICES ILLUSTRATES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS DIALOGUE," HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 697 VEHICLES WERE REPORTED STOLEN, HIGHER THAN THAT IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR BY 67.

IT COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE FIGURE OF 995 FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

HE SAID MONTHLY FIGURES FOR STOLEN VEHICLES TENDED TO FLUCTUATE.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE POLICE CLOSELY MONITORED CAR THEFTS AND CONTINUALLY GATHERED INTELLIGENCE TO HELP IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.

THE POLICE ALSO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN CHINA, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY MARKET FOR STOLEN CARS, TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF CROSS-BORDER SMUGGLING.

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SPECIAL CLEANSING MOVE TO RID RATS

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A SPECIAL HOUSING CLEANSING PROGRAMME HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AT TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING FROM MARCH 14 TO 23 TO URGE RESIDENTS TO CLEAN UP THEIR PREMISES TO ELIMINATE RAT HARBOURAGE PLACES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN TO ADVISE THE RESIDENTS ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE RAT-PROOFING MEASURES TO THEIR PREMISES.

THE RAT POISONING PROGRAMME HAS ALSO BEEN STEPPED UP, AND JUNK CLEANED UP, IN KWAI CHUNG, WHERE RECENT REPORTS OF RAT-BITES HAVE OCCURRED.

MRS WONG SAID THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES TO KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT OFFICE HAS AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 585 STAFF, INCLUDING 10 SOLELY DEPLOYED FOR RAT CONTROL DUTIES.

THE RAT CONTROL STAFF OF A DISTRICT CONDUCTS REGULAR RAT INFESTATION SURVEYS COVERING THE ENTIRE DISTRICT AND RAT POISONING PROGRAMMES ARE THEN DRAWN UP WHILE RAT HARBOURAGE PLACES ARE DEALT WITH UPON DETECTION.

IN ADDITION, SPECIAL SURVEYS AND POISONING ARE CARRIED OUT AS AND WHEN COMPLAINTS OF RAT INFESTATION ARE RECEIVED.

"STAFFING FOR RAT CONTROL DUTIES IS MONITORED BY THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, AND IS REVIEWED ON A NEED BASIS," MRS WONG SAID.

ON RAT CONTROL METHODS, SHE SAID THE PEST CONTROL OFFICER IN-CHARGE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS THE ADVISER TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO BE EMPLOYED FOR THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF RATS AND THE TYPES OF POISONS TO BE USED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE METHODS USED WERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND WERE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

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TUEN MUN HOSPITAL BEDS MEET DEMAND

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OF THE 1,606-BED COMPLEMENT AT TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, 1,093 BEDS ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION AS AT MARCH 1 TO SATISFY PREVAILING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG, MRS WONG SAID THE REMAINING 503 BEDS OF TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WOULD BE OPENED IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON SERVICE DEMANDS.

"ACCORDING TO PRESENT PROJECTIONS MADE BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE HOSPITAL WILL OPERATE TO FULL CAPACITY BY 1996.

"THE AUTHORITY IS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL MANPOWER REQUIREMENT OF 70 DOCTORS AND 400 NURSES," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG ALSO EXPLAINED THAT HOSPITALS WERE DESIGNED TO CATER FOR LONG-TERM MEDICAL NEEDS:

COMMISSIONING TO FULL CAPACITY INVOLVES THE CAREFUL IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICE NEEDS, POPULATION GROWTH, DISEASE PATTERN AND DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE.

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OVERCROWDED FAMILIES IN PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING DECREASING

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EVERY YEAR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY SETS ASIDE A QUOTA IN THE ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING.

USING THIS QUOTA, AN AVERAGE OF 4,000 OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS HAVE OBTAINED LARGER UNITS OR AN ADDITIONAL UNIT IN EACH OF THE LAST THREE YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR CANICE C F MAK, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

UNDER THE POLICY OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, HE SAID, THE DENSITY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING ESTATES AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS ARE SET AT 4.5 SQUARE METRES AND 3.4 SQUARE METRES OF THE INTERNAL FLOOR AREA PER PERSON RESPECTIVELY.

AGAINST THESE YARDSTICKS, THE HOUSEHOLDS REGARDED AS LIVING IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS MAY APPLY FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING.

MR MAK SAID: "OVERCROWDED FAMILIES CAN ALSO OBTAIN RELIEF THROUGH THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE WAITING LIST OR THE PURCHASE OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME FLATS."

THROUGH THESE AVENUES, THE NUMBER OF OVERCROWDED PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE HOUSEHOLDS HAS DECREASED FROM 111,800 IN 1982 TO THE PRESENT 19,100.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994

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EXTRA FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE YOUTH SOCCER

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SOCCER IS ONE OF THE SEVEN TARGET SPORTS IDENTIFIED BY THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

AS SUCH, THE GRANT WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT A TERRITORY-WIDE YOUTH FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$1,972,000 FOR 1994/95.

IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE HAS BUDGETED OVER \$4.1 MILLION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCCER IN 1994/95.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SO SAID THE GRANT ALLOCATED TO THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YOUTH FOOTBALL SCHEME IN 1993/94 WAS \$1,910,500 AS COMPARED WITH \$1,400,000 IN 1992/93 AND \$905,000 IN 1991/92.

WITH REGARD TO HIRING CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE NEW HONG KONG STADIUM, THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL ON A PACKAGE FOR ITS USE DURING THE COMING YEAR.

"THE PACKAGE INCLUDES THE USE OF THE VENUE FOR A TOTAL OF 10 MATCHES AT A CHARGE OF \$1,500,000 OR 20 PER CENT OF GROSS AGGREGATE GATE RECEIPTS, WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER.

"FOR SUBSEQUENT MATCHES, THE NORMAL CHARGE OF \$150,000 PER DAY OR 20 PER CENT OF GROSS GATE RECEIPTS, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, WILL APPLY," MR SO SAID.

THE SECRETARY ALSO NOTED THAT TICKET PRICING WAS A MATTER FOR THE ORGANISER.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SINCE THE NEW STADIUM COULD SEAT SOME 40,000 SPECTATORS AS OPPOSED TO A CAPACITY OF 28,000 BEFORE THE REDEVELOPMENT, IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT TICKET PRICING WOULD BE BEYOND THE REACH OF THE AVERAGE SPECTATOR.

SOCCER MATCHES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ATTRACT A SMALLER NUMBER OF SPECTATORS MAY BE HELD AT THE MONGKOK STADIUM AND THE SHAM SHUI PO SPORTS GROUND WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 9,000 AND 2,000 SPECTATORS RESPECTIVELY.

THE MINIMUM CHARGES FOR THESE TWO VENUES ARE 20 PER CENT GROSS INCOME SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$2,000 OF GATE RECEIPTS WHICHEVER IS GREATER, AND \$1,450 PLUS 10 PER CENT OF GROSS INCOME RESPECTIVELY.

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SECURITY IN ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT TAKEN CARE OF
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THE POLICE REGULARLY PATROL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES DUE FOR REDEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS IS TO DEAL WITH SECURITY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH VACANT UNITS IN THESE ESTATES.

APART FROM THE POLICE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ALSO CONDUCTS REGULAR CHECKS ON SUCH UNITS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, MR ASPREY SAID SECURITY PROBLEMS THERE USUALLY RELATED TO MINOR BURGLARY CASES OR TRESPASSING BY YOUNG DELINQUENTS AND DRUG ADDICTS.

ESTATE OFFICERS ON PATROL WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON COMPLAINTS REGARDING SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN VACANT UNITS WITH THE HELP OF THE POLICE, HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE POLICE ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON THIS FRONT.

HE SAID THE SUBJECT OF SECURITY IN ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT WAS MONITORED AT A NUMBER OF DISTRICT FORUMS INCLUDING DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, DISTRICT BOARDS, DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

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CIVIL SERVICE MORALE REMAINS HIGH
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ALTHOUGH SOME SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREER AFTER THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY, THIS HAS NOT AFFECTED THEIR WORK, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY HON LAU WAH-SUM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR SZE SAID MORALE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE REMAINED HIGH AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH CIVIL SERVANTS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS TO KEEP ABREAST OF THEIR MOOD AND MORALE.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE SENSITIVE TO STAFF NEEDS AND CONCERN," SAID MR SZE.

"WE WILL MAINTAIN CIVIL SERVICE PAY AT REASONABLY ATTRACTIVE LEVEL, TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN PEOPLE OF HIGH CALIBRE.

"WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF CIVIL SERVANTS ARE UPDATED AND APPROPRIATE."

QUOTING EXAMPLES, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO DEVELOP COMMON TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS OFFICERS.

THERE ARE PROPOSALS ARISING FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW AIMED AT ENCOURAGING A MORE SYSTEMATIC AND FOCUSED APPROACH TO STAFF MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE INCREASED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS OF DIFFERENT LEVELS.

TO SET UP A SUBSTANTIAL PENSION RESERVE FUND IS ALSO A CONCRETE MEASURE TO ADDRESS STAFF CONCERN.

ON CONTINGENCY MEASURES, MR SZE SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF A PORTION OF OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE BEFORE OR AFTER THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 HAD NOT BEEN RULED OUT.

"TO PREPARE FOR THIS POSSIBILITY, WE HAVE STEPPED UP OUR DIRECTORATE SUCCESSION PLANNING EXERCISE AND OUR TRAINING FOR MIDDLE RANKING OFFICERS WITH POTENTIAL, TO ENSURE THAT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE UP HIGHER LEVEL POSTS IF REQUIRED," HE ADDED.

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MTRC TO CONSIDER SHORT-TERM BOND ISSUE

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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) WILL CONSIDER ISSUING SHORT-TERM BONDS OF SMALL DENOMINATIONS FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS TO INVEST IN THE CORPORATION, DEPENDING ON THE FINANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FUNG KIN-KEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE MTRC HAS ALREADY ISSUED A STEP-UP BOND IN DENOMINATIONS OF \$10,000 MATURING IN 1995.

"THIS IS LISTED ON THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE INTEREST RATES PAYABLE TO HOLDERS OF THIS BOND ARE STEPPED UP ANNUALLY UP TO MATURITY," MR TSANG SAID.

AS AT DECEMBER 31 LAST YEAR, MTRC'S TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING LOANS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES WAS \$18,591 MILLION.

THIS INCLUDED \$6,480 MILLION (35 PER CENT) FOR CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENTS; \$10,695 MILLION (57 PER CENT) FOR BANK AND OTHER LOANS; AND \$1,416 MILLION (EIGHT PER CENT) FOR OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES.

THE CORPORATION'S BORROWINGS, EXCLUDING OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES, AMOUNTED TO \$17,175 MILLION LAST YEAR.

THIS COMPRISED:

* FIXED RATE LOANS AND LOANS SWAPPED TO FIXED RATES OF \$12,266 MILLION WITH INTEREST RATES RANGING FROM 4.55 PER CENT TO 10.31 PER CENT.

* VARIABLE RATE LOANS OF \$4,909 MILLION, THE INTEREST RATE BEING DETERMINED BY REFERENCE TO EITHER THE PRIME RATE, THE HONG KONG INTERBANK OFFERED RATE OR THE LONDON INTERBANK OFFERED RATE.

MR TSANG ADDED THAT THE OVERALL EFFECTIVE COST OF FUNDING LAST YEAR WAS 7.3 PER CENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994

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EXTRADITION CASES EXPLAINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPLAINED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE CIVILLY LIABLE IF AN ARRESTED PERSON PENDING EXTRADITION WAS EVENTUALLY DISCHARGED BY A HONG KONG COURT.

WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACTED IN GOOD FAITH ON REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY A COUNTRY WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAS EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, IT WILL NOT BE CIVILLY LIABLE, HE SAID.

THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF A PERSON WANTED FOR TRIAL IN SUCH A COUNTRY OCCURS ONLY AFTER HONG KONG HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM IT, MR ASPREY SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG.

OF ALL PERSONS ARRESTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS ON PROVISIONAL WARRANTS OF ARREST FOLLOWING A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION, FOUR WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED.

"NO CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF THESE CASES," HE SAID.

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CHIEF SECRETARY CONDEMNS UNRULY BEHAVIOUR

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN:

"I AM SURE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL JOIN ME IN CONDEMNING THE BEHAVIOUR OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER YESTERDAY AND TODAY.

"THE COMMUNITY EXPECTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS TO BE CONDUCTED IN A CIVILISED AND ORDERLY MANNER. THESE INCIDENTS OF UNRULY AND UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOUR REFLECT POORLY ON THOSE INVOLVED AND ARE NOT THE HONG KONG WAY OF DOING THINGS.

"THERE ARE MANY LEGITIMATE WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. WE ACCEPT PEACEFUL PROTESTS AND VIGOROUS DEBATE, BUT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE BULLYING AND INTIMIDATION."

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FS REGRETS JARDINE DE-LISTING DECISION

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT THE DECISION BY JARDINE MATHESON TO TERMINATE ITS SECONDARY LISTING IN HONG KONG.

"OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, ALL PARTIES CONCERNED - THE COMPANY ITSELF, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT - HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT TO ADDRESS JARDINE MATHESON'S CONCERNS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT INVESTORS' INTERESTS WOULD BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED AND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR MARKET WOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED.

"WHILST REPRESENTING ONLY ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF MARKET CAPITALISATION, IT IS SAD THAT IN THE END JARDINE MATHESON HOLDINGS HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY TO DE-LIST.

"BUT I WELCOME JARDINE'S STATEMENT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR INVESTOR AND EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG," SIR HAMISH SAID.

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CONCERTED EFFORT TO RID CENTRAL OF ILLEGAL HAWKERS

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FIRM ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO ARREST AND PROSECUTE THOSE WHO HAWK ILLEGALLY IN THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT AND THE SURROUNDING AREA OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, ACTING CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR HOWARD LEE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CONCERTED EFFORTS WILL BE MADE BY THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE WHOSE PRESENCE WILL BE VERY VISIBLE DURING THE FIVE CONSECUTIVE HOLIDAYS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID: "IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO HAWK WITHOUT A LICENCE.

"THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A \$2,500 FINE PLUS ONE MONTH'S IMPRISONMENT ON FIRST CONVICTION AND \$5,000 FINES PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

FURTHERMORE, ALL HAWKING COMMODITIES AND PARAPHERNALIS SEIZED WILL BE CONFISCATED UPON CONVICTION.

MR LEE ALSO SAID IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WOULD JOIN THE OPERATION TO HELP INVESTIGATE ANY SUSPECTED BREACH OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

HE CALLED ON VISITORS AND FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS IN HONG KONG NOT TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL HAWKING.

SPEAKING AT A BRIEFING FOR A DISTRICT BOARD WORKING GROUP ON THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT TODAY, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID HAWKING MIGHT BREACH THE CONDITIONS OF STAY IMPOSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION UPON VISITORS AND DOMESTIC HELPERS.

HE EMPHASISED THAT SUCH BREACHES CONTRAVENED THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE AND MIGHT RENDER THE INDIVIDUAL LIABLE TO BE REMOVED FROM HONG KONG.

THE LATEST OPERATION IS BEING MOUNTED FOLLOWING THE CHAOS CAUSED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN HAWKERS ILLEGALLY SELLING THEIR WARES IN THE AREA DURING THE RECENT LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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CONSULTATIONS ON SAFETY LAWS ARE ADEQUATE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS WHICH QUOTED MR RAYMOND LEUNG OF THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (HKCA) AS SAYING THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD NOT CONSULTED RELEVANT INDUSTRIES BEFORE SUBMITTING PROPOSED SAFETY LEGISLATION TO THE AUTHORITIES, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE GROSSLY UNTRUE AND MISLEADING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN PROMOTING TRIPARTITE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROMOTION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AS WELL AS ACCIDENT PREVENTION FOR MANY YEARS.

"WE HAVE ATTACHED AND WILL CONTINUE TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VIEWS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ON SAFETY LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT," HE SAID.

"THE SETTING UP OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) AND ITS FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES, SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (CISH), REFLECTS THE DEPARTMENT'S EMPHASIS ON CONSULTATION."

HE NOTED THAT IN THE CASE OF SAFETY LEGISLATION, ALL PROPOSALS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE LAB AND THE CISH ON WHICH THE HKCA WAS REPRESENTED.

ANOTHER VENUE FOR MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDEAS IN THIS CONNECTION ALSO EXISTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE UNDER THE AUSPICE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

BOTH THE HKCA AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THIS PARTICULAR COMMITTEE.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF SAFETY OFFICERS AND SAFETY SUPERVISORS REGULATIONS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES EMPLOYING MORE THAN 100 WORKERS, ALL MAJOR EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS, INCLUDING THE HKCA AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, WERE CONSULTED BEFORE THE PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CISH AND LAB.

"THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HKCA, MR PATRICK CHAN, RESPONDED TO OUR CONSULTATION PAPER IN HIS REPLY TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1993," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PROPOSAL, TOGETHER WITH HKCA'S OBSERVATION ON THE SUPPLY OF SAFETY OFFICERS, WAS DISCUSSED AT THE CISH ON JULY 19, LAST YEAR.

THE HKCA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE, MR PETER NIE, ATTENDED THE MEETING DURING WHICH MEMBERS WERE INFORMED OF THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED SAFETY OFFICERS, THE NUMBER OF PRACTISING SAFETY OFFICERS AND THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL OUTPUT OF SAFETY OFFICERS FROM LOCAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.

IT WAS SAID AT THE MEETING THAT THE SUPPLY OF SAFETY OFFICERS WOULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED AFTER THE CITY POLYTECHNIC JOINED IN WITH THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY IN PROVIDING SAFETY OFFICER COURSES.

THE ANNUAL THROUGHPUT IS NOW ABOUT 240 AND AS AT MARCH 14, 1994, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED SAFETY OFFICERS IS 934.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE COMPULSORY ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY COMMITTEES IN DANGEROUS TRADES WAS ALSO CIRCULATED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, AGAIN INCLUDING THE HKCA, FOR CONSULTATION.

"THE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS COLLECTED WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CISH AND LAB FOR COMMENTS. AND THE HKCA WILL BE CONSULTED ONCE AGAIN IN THE COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ALL THESE FACTS STRONGLY INDICATED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD CONSULTED THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED ADEQUATELY WHEN DRAWING UP PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL SAFETY LEGISLATION.

THE SPOKESMAN WELCOMED A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE HKCA TO IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR THEIR RENEWED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.

"THROUGH OUR CONTINUED CO-OPERATION WITH THE HKCA AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED IN IMPROVING CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY, WE HOPE SITE ACCIDENTS CAN BE REDUCED IN THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

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KOWLOON BAY SITE TO LET

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LOT IN KOWLOON BAY.

THE 6,710-SQUARE-METRE LOT, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF WANG KWONG ROAD AND KAI WAH STREET, CAN BE USED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NON-DANGEROUS GOODS.

/THE TENANCY

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 8.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

TENDER PLANS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICES.

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TRAINING PROGRAMME IN BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

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MORE THAN 30 INTERNSHIP TRAINING PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE FOR LOCAL TERTIARY STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE FIRST HAND ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCES IN HONG KONG'S FLEDGLING BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

ORGANISED BY THE BIOTECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE (BSC) OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME IS A PILOT TRAINING SCHEME AIMED AT BETTER PREPARING TERTIARY STUDENTS TO CAPITALISE ON OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VAST AND DYNAMIC FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY.

"WE ALSO HOPE THAT THIS PIONEER PROJECT WILL HELP ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCES OF HONG KONG'S BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY," ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, SAID.

A TOTAL OF 11 BIOTECHNOLOGY-RELATED COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS WOULD OFFER 31 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INTERNSHIP PLACES FOR A THREE-MONTH PERIOD, WITH PROGRAMMES RANGING FROM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, MANUFACTURING AND MARKET ANALYSIS.

MR YOUNG SAID APPLICANTS FOR THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WHO HAD EITHER COMPLETED AT LEAST TWO YEARS' UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES OR BEEN CONDUCTING A POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN A BIOTECHNOLOGY-RELATED DISCIPLINE AT A RECOGNISED LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTION.

GRADUATES WHO WOULD COMPLETE THEIR FIRST DEGREE THIS SUMMER AND PURSUE THEIR MASTER OR DOCTORATE STUDIES IN THE COMING AUTUMN MIGHT APPLY FOR POST-GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES, HE ADDED.

THE BSC AND THE PARTICIPATING COMPANIES WOULD SHARE THE COST OF REMUNERATION TO THE INTERNS, WHICH IS SET AT A MONTHLY RATE OF \$6,500 FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND \$9,000 FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION MATERIAL ON THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PLACEMENT OFFICES OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OR FROM THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WITH PROPER STAMPED AND SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD REACH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AT 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, 5 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI ON OR BEFORE APRIL 16.

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\$190M SEWER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING SIGNED A \$190 MILLION CONTRACT FOR SEWERAGE MAINTENANCE WORKS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE), MR SIH NAM-SEN, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, GAMMON CONSTRUCTION LIMITED.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ALL PUBLIC SEWERS AND STORMWATER DRAINS IN KOWLOON, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG AREAS.

MINOR SEWERS, DRAINS AND DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND PLANTS WILL ALSO BE BUILT.

THE CONTRACT WILL BEGIN THIS MONTH AND LAST 32 MONTHS.

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SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERIES AT EASTER

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SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERIES WILL BE PROVIDED ON GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 1) AND ON APRIL 4, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

NO DELIVERIES WILL BE MADE ON APRIL 2, 3 AND 5.

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE EASTER AND CHING MING HOLIDAYS.

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**HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS**

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| | \$ MILLION | TIME (HOURS) | CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION) |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,540 | 0930 | -864 |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,160 | 1000 | -664 |
| CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO : | | 1100 | +290 |
| MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY | +490 | 1200 | +490 |
| LAF TODAY | -870 | 1500 | +490 |
| | | 1600 | +490 |
| LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER | TWI 125.7 | *+0.0* | 23.3.94 |

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

| TERMS | YIELD | TERM | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE | YIELD |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 1 WEEK | 3.20 | 18 MONTHS | 2508 | 4.625 | 99.90 | 4.75 |
| 1 MONTH | 3.38 | 21 MONTHS | 2511 | 4.15 | 98.83 | 4.95 |
| 3 MONTHS | 3.72 | 24 MONTHS | 2602 | 4.40 | 98.76 | 5.16 |
| 6 MONTHS | 3.92 | 32 MONTHS | 3610 | 4.20 | 96.90 | 5.57 |
| 12 MONTHS | 4.43 | 35 MONTHS | 3701 | 4.60 | 97.31 | 5.71 |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,222 MN

CLOSED 23 MARCH 1994

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