



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1985

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+AN EXERCISE IN ACCOUNTABILITY+  
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THE RECORD OF WRITTEN AND ORAL ANSWERS RAISED AT THE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AMOUNTED TO A CONSCIENTIOUS AND VERY PRACTICAL EXERCISE IN ACCOUNTABILITY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AND IT WAS ONE WHICH MIGHT WELL BE NOTED BY STUDENTS OF THAT SUBJECT, HE ADDED.

TABLING THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1986, SIR PHILIP SAID THE RECORD OF THESE WRITTEN AND ORAL ANSWERS WAS ANNEXED TO THE REPORT, AMOUNTING TO NO LESS THAN 393 PAGES OF TYPESCRIPT.

AT THE SAME TIME, SIR PHILIP SAID, THE REPORT REFLECTED MEMBERS' PAINSTAKING EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES, AN EXAMINATION DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE FUNDS REQUESTED WERE NO MORE THAN WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE EXECUTION OF APPROVED POLICIES.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS, WHICH WERE HELD IN PUBLIC OVER FOUR AFTERNOONS, THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 71 HEADS OF EXPENDITURE SUBMITTED WRITTEN ANSWERS TO 359 QUESTIONS, AND THAT 43 OF THEM WERE CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN PERSON.

THEY GAVE ORAL ANSWERS TO 221 QUESTIONS OF WHICH THEY HAD RECEIVED PREVIOUS NOTIFICATION, AND RESPONDED TO MORE THAN 200 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS, SIR PHILIP SAID.

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MTR ISLAND LINE OPENING MAY 31  
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THE MTR ISLAND LINE WILL OPEN TO PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN ADMIRALTY AND CHAI WAN ON MAY 31, FIVE WEEKS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IT WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE BUDGET OF \$11 BILLION, SIR JOHN SAID WHEN TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984.

HE NOTED THAT THE MTR WAS THE ONLY MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM IN THE WORLD WHOSE UNSUBSIDISED FARE REVENUES WERE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL COSTS, INCLUDING DEPRECIATION, PLUS A USEFUL OPERATING PROFIT MARGIN. SIR JOHN ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS THE MOST DENSELY UTILISED MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IN THE WORLD.

/LAST YEAR, .....

LAST YEAR, THE MTR CARRIED 411 MILLION PASSENGERS, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE 412 MILLION IN 1983. TOTAL FARE AND OTHER RECURRENT REVENUES EARNED BY THE CORPORATION ROSE BY 13 PER CENT TO \$1 168 MILLION.

+OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE DEPRECIATION INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT TO \$647 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 55 PER CENT OF REVENUE. THE PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND FINANCE CHARGES INCREASED TO \$318 MILLION, A 26 PER CENT IMPROVEMENT ON 1983.

+BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO SERVICE HEAVY INTEREST AND FINANCE CHARGES, THE CORPORATION SUFFERED A LOSS OF \$355 MILLION, WHICH IS 53 PER CENT LESS THAN 1983. THE PROFITS REALISED FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AND REDUCED INTEREST CHARGES AS A RESULT OF THE STRONG HONG KONG DOLLAR LAST YEAR HAVE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS REDUCTION,+ HE SAID.

NEW LOAN FACILITIES NEGOTIATED BY THE CORPORATION DURING 1984 TOTALLED \$3.5 BILLION. BY THE END OF 1984 LOANS RAISED BY THE CORPORATION TOTALLED \$26.5 BILLION. AS A RESULT OF THE CUMULATIVE LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE CORPORATION OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AT YEAR END WERE REDUCED TO \$2 843 MILLION.

+THE GOVERNMENT SHARES THE CORPORATION'S CONCERN ABOUT THE RATE AT WHICH THE SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS ARE BEING DEPLETED AND IS NOW CONSIDERING SUITABLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL POSITION,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

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#### PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES BILL INTRODUCED

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THE PURPOSE OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) BILL 1985 WAS TO FULFILL THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION UNDER THE TERMS OF ANNEX II TO PROVIDE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR THE FIVE CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP FOR MEETINGS IN HONG KONG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR THOMAS NOTED THAT CLAUSE 10 OF ANNEX II TO THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP SHOULD ENJOY PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS APPROPRIATE WHEN IN THE THREE LOCATIONS FOR MEETINGS OF THE GROUP, WHICH WERE BEIJING, LONDON AND HONG KONG.

+THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION CAN TAKE PLACE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THAT A SEPARATE AND SELF-CONTAINED ORDINANCE WAS REQUIRED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO EXISTING LEGISLATION WHICH COULD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

+THE SCHEDULE OF THE BILL SETS OUT THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO BE ENJOYED. THESE ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AS LAID DOWN IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID SOME FURTHER PROVISION MIGHT LATER HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THE EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AS WELL AS FOR THE CHINESE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE LAND COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE SEVEN OF ANNEX III TO THE JOINT DECLARATION.

+DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE EITHER AMENDMENTS TO THIS BILL, OR LATER A SUPPLEMENTARY BILL TO DEAL WITH THOSE FURTHER MATTERS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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UNOFFICIAL MAJORITY SOUGHT FOR ESTATES BOARD  
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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL IS TO PROVIDE THAT THE SIZE OF THE CORPORATION'S BOARD BE INCREASED BY ONE, AND CHANGED TO PERMIT AN UNOFFICIAL MAJORITY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR HO SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CORPORATION MIGHT BE A PUBLIC OFFICER.

HE SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1977 WITH THE BASIC PURPOSES OF DEVELOPING, LETTING AND MANAGING THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT TAI PO AND YUEN LONG.

+DURING THE FIRST THREE OR FOUR YEARS OF ITS LIFE, DEMAND FOR SITES AT THE TAI PO ESTATE, THE FIRST TO BE DEVELOPED, WAS BRISK.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, INTEREST AMONG INDUSTRIALISTS SLACKENED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. THESE INCLUDED THE DROP IN PROPERTY PRICES WHICH MADE LAND IN THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, THE PRICE OF WHICH WAS LINKED TO THE COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT, LESS COMPETITIVE WITH SITES AND PREMISES ELSEWHERE,+ MR HO SAID.

HE WAS PLEASED TO ADD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INTEREST RECENTLY, HE SAID.

ALSO, MR HO SAID, THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTATE WAS NOW NEARING COMPLETION, AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORPORATION WAS DUE TO RETIRE ON MAY 31, 1985.

THEREFORE TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR, THE BOARD OF THE CORPORATION DECIDED THAT IT DID NOT WISH TO APPOINT A NEW PERMANENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND THAT FOR THE TIME BEING IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY WAS APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT.

+AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS REALISED THAT THIS APPOINTMENT WOULD RESULT IN AN OFFICIAL MAJORITY ON THE BOARD, BECAUSE SECTION 7 OF THE CORPORATION'S ORDINANCE AS IT STANDS DOES NOT PERMIT THE APPOINTMENT OF MORE THAN THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, WHEREAS SUB-SECTION 1(D) PERMITS THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR PUBLIC OFFICERS IN ADDITION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WHO IS AT PRESENT NOT A PUBLIC OFFICER.

+ACCORDINGLY, THE BILL BEFORE COUNCIL SEEKS TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE BOARD BY ONE, AND THROUGH NOT PROVIDING FOR ANY LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO MAY BE APPOINTED, WITHIN THE OVERALL SIZE OF THE BOARD PRESCRIBED, WILL GIVE THE DESIRED FLEXIBILITY IN THE MIX OF MEMBERS,+ MR HO SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THESE VARIOUS CHANGES WERE NOT INTENDED TO CONVERT THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION INTO A PART OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, OR ANOTHER DEPARTMENT.

+THE INTENTION IS THAT THE CHAIRMAN WILL REMAIN AN UNOFFICIAL, SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL, TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE BOARD TO GIVE IT AN UNOFFICIAL MAJORITY; ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS, INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF LAND, WILL CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD; AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CORPORATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY JUNE 30, 1986.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL CLEARS WAY FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS

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IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF ANNEX III TO THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG THAT PREMIUM INCOME FROM LAND TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND INSTEAD OF BEING PASSED THROUGH GENERAL REVENUE AS AT PRESENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, SIR JOHN SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED, IN ORDER TO ENABLE THIS COUNCIL TO SPECIFY BY RESOLUTION THAT CERTAIN MONEYS SHOULD BE CREDITED DIRECTLY TO A FUND WITHOUT THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATION.

HE SAID HE INTENDED, ON ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, TO MOVE A RESOLUTION UNDER THE AMENDED SECTION 29 THAT WOULD CAUSE LAND REVENUE TO BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND.

SUCH MONEYS WOULD BE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED, HE SAID.

+FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL EXTEND TO RESOLUTIONS ALREADY PASSED THAT SPECIFY THE CREDITING OF CERTAIN MONEYS DIRECTLY TO FUNDS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AUDITING OF CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND PROPOSED

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IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE STATUS OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND SHOULD BE PLACED BEYOND QUESTION, SO AS TO DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY THAT THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WERE BEING COMPLIED WITH, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE USE TO BE MADE IN FUTURE OF THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND WAS LAID DOWN IN ANNEX III OF THE AGREEMENT, SIR JOHN SAID WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

HE SAID THAT THE BILL SOUGHT TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND TO BE TRANSMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

/+HE WILL .....

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+HE WILL EXAMINE AND AUDIT THESE ACCOUNTS, PREPARE A REPORT THEREON AND SUBMIT IT TO YOU, SIR, AS PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF THE ACCOUNTS, DULY CERTIFIED BY HIM.

+THE BILL IS TO COME INTO OPERATION WHEN THE JOINT DECLARATION ENTERS INTO FORCE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CODE FOR +CONTENTIOUS ISSUE+ PROPOSED  
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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD SUGGESTED THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS THAT THE +CONTENTIOUS+ ISSUE OF RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AUDITORS MIGHT BE BEST HANDLED BY MEANS OF A CODE OF PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE SOCIETY, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

+WITH THIS, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG WILL BE UPHELD IN WHAT IS PROBABLY A MORE APPROPRIATE WAY FOR A BODY OF PROFESSIONALS,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT WHEN THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED ITS MAIN PURPOSE APPEARED TO BE NO MORE THAN A STRAIGHTFORWARD, REASONABLE PROPOSAL TO TIGHTEN UP ON THE RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITORS - IN SIMPLE TERMS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE SIGNING CERTIFICATES WERE PHYSICALLY IN HONG KONG TO SUPERVISE THE WORK IN THEIR OFFICES AND RENDER EXPERT ADVICE TO THEIR CLIENTS.

+THE BILL HAD THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, BUT NOT UNFORTUNATELY OF ALL AUDITORS.

+NO ONE SEEMS TO OBJECT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF A RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENT, BUT TO DO SO BY LEGISLATION - AS OPPOSED TO THE INTERNAL RULES OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS - SEEMS TO RAISE OBJECTIONS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THIS BILL, BY REMOVING CERTAIN VESTED RIGHTS BY LAW, WOULD BE AT LEAST INEQUITABLE, AND AT WORST SERIOUSLY WEAKEN THE COMMUNITY'S FAITH IN OUR LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND THE RULE OF LAW,+ HE SAID.

/MR BROWN .....

MR BROWN EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL'S MONETARY AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP, OF WHICH HE IS THE CONVENER, HAD GONE INTO THE +MINEFIELD OF EMOTIONS+ RAISED BY THESE ISSUES IN SOME DEPTH AND THAT WAS WHY THE EXAMINATION HAD TAKEN A LONG TIME.

HE SAID THE POSITION IN A +NUTSHELL+ WAS AS FOLLOWS:

\* FIRSTLY WHEN THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTENCE OF THE THEN EXISTING AUTHORISED AUDITORS WHO WERE LISTED UNDER SECTION 131(3) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THESE AUTHORISED AUDITORS WERE RECOGNISED UNDER SECTION 30(4) AND BECAME ENTITLED TO BE ISSUED WITH A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE. THERE WAS NO RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR THIS GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG. THIS IS THEIR SO CALLED +VESTED RIGHTS+. ALL OTHER AUDITORS, WHICH INCLUDE NEWCOMERS TO THE PROFESSION IN HONG KONG BOTH CHINESE AND NON-CHINESE, BECAME SUBJECT TO A RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENT.

\* SECONDLY SINCE THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT IN 1973, TIME ITSELF WILL GRADUALLY REDUCE TO ZERO THE NUMBER OF AUTHORISED AUDITORS.

\* THIRDLY ALTHOUGH IN THEORY AN AUTHORISED AUDITOR COULD - UNDER THE LAW - SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME OUT OF HONG KONG, AND CONTINUE TO HOLD A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE, WHICH WOULD BE WITHHELD NORMALLY FROM OTHER AUDITORS AS THEY WOULD FAIL THE RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ON ENQUIRY THE UNOFFICIALS COULD NOT BE FURNISHED WITH ANY KNOWN ABUSE OF THIS PRIVILEGE.

\* FOURTHLY IT IS WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS TO GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF ALL ITS MEMBERS BY WAY OF CODES OF PRACTICE.

IN SUMMARY, MR BROWN SAID, IT SEEMED THAT IN REGARD TO THE RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENT THE BILL PROVIDED A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM THAT DID NOT EXIST.

/HE THEREFORE .....

HE THEREFORE MOVED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE AN AMENDMENT TO DELETE THE WHOLE OF CLAUSE 8 FROM THE BILL.

WHAT REMAINED OF THE BILL WERE NON-CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS TO MAKE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS ORDINANCE IN REGARD TO ITS DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES AND THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, MR BROWN SAID.

OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO RECTIFY MINOR DEFECTS IN THE ORDINANCE AND GENERALLY ATTEND TO MATTERS OF A +HOUSE-KEEPING+ NATURE CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, HE ADDED.

SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS HAD CONFIRMED ITS AGREEMENT TO THIS APPROACH, WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE REMAINDER OF THE BILL TO BE PASSED.

+IT WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL AND CLARIFY, AS PROPOSED IN CLAUSE 7, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT TO BE ISSUED WITH A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 29A OF THE ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

HE THANKED THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS +FOR THEIR PATIENT AND DETAILED RESPONSES TO THE MANY QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM+.

HE ALSO THANKED MR BROWN AND THE MONETARY POLICY GROUP IN UMELCO +FOR THE METICULOUS YET SYMPATHETIC EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED+.

+THIS PROTRACTED EXERCISE CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THIS COUNCIL IS RESPONSIVE TO MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN EVEN WHERE THE CLAUSE AT ISSUE IN THIS BILL WOULD HAVE AFFECTED ONLY A SMALL, AND DECREASING, NUMBER OF PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS.

+THE COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAS THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

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POLYTECHNIC WELL-POISED TO MOVE FORWARD  
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THE POLYTECHNIC WAS WELL-POISED TO MOVE FORWARD IN A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH THE MAIN THRUST OF ITS WORK LIES IN THE QUALITY OF ITS ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID TODAY.

TABLING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL REPORT 1983-84 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEN SAID: +THE YEAR COVERED BY THE REPORT WAS ONE OF CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSITION.

+STRONG EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON CURRICULUM REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT, ON IMPROVED TEACHING AND VALIDATION PROCESS, AND ON RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY.+

MR CHEN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1983-84, THE TOTAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT POPULATION OF 11 990 REPRESENTED ONLY A VERY SMALL INCREASE OVER THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

+THERE HAS BEEN A NOTABLE CHANGE, HOWEVER, IN THE MIX OF ENROLMENT ON DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFERED,+ HE SAID.

FIVE DEGREE PROGRAMMES WERE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1983.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE CONTINUED TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA LEVEL COURSE TO THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, RESULTED IN AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED ON HIGHER LEVEL PROGRAMMES.

+DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, 1.5 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED ON BACHELOR DEGREE COURSES, 20.5 PER CENT ON ASSOCIATESHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA, 47 PER CENT ON HIGHER DIPLOMA AND HIGHER CERTIFICATE, AND THE REMAINING 31 PER CENT ON DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES.+

WITH REGARD TO THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF GRADUATES, MR CHEN SAID A SURVEY CONDUCTED ANNUALLY BY THE POLYTECHNIC'S STUDENT AFFAIRS UNIT AGAIN SHOWED ENCOURAGING RESULTS.

THE EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN HONG KONG WAS REFLECTED IN MORE AND BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANY GRADUATES IN DISCIPLINES SUCH AS TEXTILES, CLOTHING, ENGINEERING, ACCOUNTANCY AND COMPUTING STUDIES, HE NOTED.

+OF A TOTAL OF 2 454 GRADUATES FROM FULL-TIME COURSES, 74.5 PER CENT FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN VARIOUS FIELDS, MAINLY IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, 17.6 PER CENT PURSUED FURTHER STUDIES, AND ONLY 7.7 PER CENT WERE STILL UNEMPLOYED AS AT OCTOBER 25, 1984, BUT MANY WERE AT THAT TIME BEING ACTIVELY PROCESSED FOR EMPLOYMENT.

/+THE OVERALL .....

+THE OVERALL AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARY OF THESE GRADUATES IN THEIR FIRST EMPLOYMENT WAS 9.4 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S GRADUATES, WHILE THE INFLATION RATE FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 1984 WAS ONLY 7.1 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN ALSO SAID DIRECTORSHIP OF THE POLYTECHNIC HAD BEEN ASSUMED BY DR JOHN LESLIE CLARK IN EARLY JANUARY THIS YEAR WHEN DR KEITH LEGG RETIRED ON COMPLETION OF NEARLY 10 YEARS' SERVICE AS DIRECTOR.

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CONSUMER COUNCIL NOW +FIRMLY ESTABLISHED+  
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THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, WHICH MARKED ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY IN APRIL 1984, HAD FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS THE CHAMPION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS, ITS CHAIRMAN, THE HON SELINA CHOW, SAID TODAY.

TABLING THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1983-84 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS CHOW ALSO SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ALSO BECOME +A SOUND ADVISOR TO CONSUMER QUERIES.+

MRS CHOW SAID THAT IN THE 1983-84 YEAR, THERE WERE 9 600 COMPLAINT CASES, AGAINST 4 800 IN THE FIRST YEARS OF OPERATION. AND ENQUIRIES MULTIPLIED ALMOST TEN-FOLD OVER EIGHT YEARS, FROM ABOUT 6 000 IN 1976-77 TO NEARLY 60 000 IN 1983-84.

+THIS SUCCESSFUL LINK BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE BUILT ON AND FURTHER EXPANDED AS WE CONTINUE WITH OUR POLICY OF SETTING UP TWO DISTRICT ADVICE CENTRES EACH YEAR UNTIL EACH AND EVERY DISTRICT WILL HAVE A CENTRE OF ITS OWN. WE HAVE NOW 12 SUCH CENTRES,+ SHE SAID.

MRS CHOW PRAISED HER PREDECESSOR, MR GALLANT HO FOR HIS +EXTRAORDINARY GOOD SENSE AND DEDICATION+ IN STEERING THE COUNCIL TO ITS POSITION OF STRENGTH DURING HIS FOUR AND A HALF YEARS AS CHAIRMAN.

HE HAD IDENTIFIED THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH HAUNTED THE COUNCIL FOR MANY YEARS - THAT THE LONG DELAYS EXPERIENCED IN THE PASSING OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION COULD BEST BE RESOLVED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

THE DELAYS, SHE SAID, HAD +UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN ONE OF THE MORE FRUSTRATING ASPECTS OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK.+

+FOR INSTANCE THE PROPOSAL TO ENACT THE HIRE PURCHASE ORDINANCE WAS INITIATED BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IN 1977.

+A BILL TO CONTROL MALPRACTICES BY TRAVEL AGENTS HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR THREE YEARS SINCE 1982, AND THAT WAS AFTER FIVE YEARS OF REPEATED REQUESTS FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, WHICH FIRST PUT FORWARD THE ARGUMENTS FOR LEGISLATION IN 1978.

+BOTH BILLS HAVE YET TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL.

+I AM, HOWEVER, GRATEFUL TO THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WHO HAS SYMPATHETICALLY RECOGNISED THE PROBLEM AND BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING IN EXPEDITING THE SOLUTION,+ SHE SAID.

+A CASE IN POINT WHICH I FIND PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING IS HIS SWIFT ACTION TO STUDY POSSIBLE LEGISLATION TO CURB MALPRACTICES BY RETAILERS OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES WHICH HE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY.

+FOR MUCH AS I SHARE HIS VIEW ON THE POWER OF PERSUASION, THERE COMES A TIME WHEN ANYTHING SHORT OF A PRISON SENTENCE OR A CRIMINAL RECORD WOULD BE TOO MILD A DETERRENT FOR THE DIE-HARD FRAUDULENT RETAILER.+

MRS CHOW ALSO THANKED MISS OPHELIA CHEUNG, WHO HAD SERVED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL UNTIL THE END OF 1984.

MISS CHEUNG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL'S LEADING POSITION IN THE CONSUMER MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG, AND ALSO FOR PLACING HONG KONG ON THE MAP OF INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER CAMPAIGNS, SHE SAID.

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BILL PASSED  
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THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FOUR OTHER BILLS WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE: THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) BILL 1985 AND THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 1.

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LAND AUCTION NETS \$789M  
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FIVE LOTS OF LAND, INCLUDING THE PRIME SITE IN QUEENSWAY ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL \$789.4 MILLION AT TODAY'S (THURSDAY) AUCTION AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

THE 10 690-SQUARE-METRE QUEENSWAY SITE WITH AN UPSET PRICE OF \$500 MILLION WAS BOUGHT BY SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED AT \$703 MILLION.

THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN 96 210 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1991.

THE OTHER FOUR SITES ARE IN SHA TIN. THREE OF THEM, NEAR SUI WO COURT ARE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

MEASURING ABOUT 11 710 SQUARE METRES, SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 194 WAS SOLD TO FAR EAST EMPIRE LIMITED AT \$45.5 MILLION WHILE STTL NO. 225 OF 9 515 SQUARE METRES WAS BOUGHT BY FAR EAST EMPIRE LIMITED AT \$27 MILLION.

THE THIRD SITE, KNOWN AS STTL NO. 252 AND MEASURING ABOUT 960 SQUARE METRES WAS SUCCESSFULLY BID BY MR KWAN CHUN AT \$1.8 MILLION.

THE LAST LOT LOCATED AT A SITE OF 4 915 SQUARE METRES NEAR TO SIU LEK YUEN WAS SOLD TO KOON NGAI CO LTD AT \$12.1 MILLION.

COMMENTING ON THE SALE, THE AUCTIONEER, GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JAMES HUGHES, SAID THAT THE PRICES ACHIEVED CONFIRMED THE STEADY STRENGTHENING OF THE MARKET OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN BORNE OUT BY THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO PUT SITES UP FOR SALE.

THE MAY 20 AUCTION, WHEN SEVEN SITES OF DIFFERENT TYPES WOULD BE OFFERED FOR AUCTION, WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL POINTER TO THE FUTURE, HE SAID.

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INSURANCE FEES INCREASED  
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THE AUTHORISATION AND ANNUAL FEE TO CARRY ON AN INSURANCE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$10 000 TO \$25 000 FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FEE FOR INSPECTING THE REGISTER OF AUTHORISED INSURERS HAS BEEN REVISED FROM \$2 TO \$5, FOR OBTAINING A COPY OF AN ENTRY IN THE REGISTER - FROM \$2 TO \$3, AND FOR CERTIFICATION OF A COPY OR AN EXTRACT OF AN ENTRY - FROM \$2 TO \$50.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE AUTHORISATION FEE WAS REVISED TO REFLECT THE FULL COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICE. THE OTHER FEES WERE REVISED TO BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH THOSE CHARGED FOR SIMILAR SERVICES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE FEE INCREASES, UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 13) REGULATIONS 1985 AND THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (REGISTER OF INSURERS)(PRESCRIBED FEE)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1985, HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW.

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INSIGNIA PRESENTATION  
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SEVENTY-FIVE PEOPLE DECORATED BY THE QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WILL RECEIVE THEIR INSIGNIA FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AT A CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING.

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS WILL BE MR MICHAEL THOMAS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO WAS AWARDED THE C.M.G.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A LIST OF THE RECIPIENTS AT THE INSIGNIA PRESENTATION MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE GIS NEWS DIVISION AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 19).

ONLY PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY SHOULD MEET GIS OFFICERS IN THE GUARD ROOM NOT LATER THAN 5.30 PM.

NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT SUCH PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS WITH MING YUEN STUDIO, 22 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, TEL. 5-224310.

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CUSTOMERS MAY NOW CLAIM PRECIOUS METAL-

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THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER SAID TODAY THAT HE WILL RECOGNISE THE CLAIMS OF FORMER PRECIOUS METAL CUSTOMERS OF DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LIMITED TO OWNERSHIP OF THE PRECIOUS METAL WHICH WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE COMPANY AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF ITS WINDING UP.

IT WAS PART OF DEAK'S BUSINESS TO TRADE IN PRECIOUS METALS AND MANY OF THE CUSTOMERS' HOLDINGS WERE LEFT WITH THE COMPANY TO BE STORED IN SAFE CUSTODY. THE STOCKS OF PRECIOUS METAL ARE NOW STORED IN BANKS IN HONG KONG AND ABROAD. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER THE PRECIOUS METAL IS REALLY OWNED BY THE CUSTOMERS OR BY THE COMPANY. THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER MADE AN APPLICATION FOR THE COURT'S DIRECTIONS ON THIS QUESTION. THIS HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED IN FAVOUR OF THE PRECIOUS METAL CUSTOMERS.

NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND AN UNNAMED PRECIOUS METAL TRADING COMPANY FOR A POSSIBLE TAKEOVER BY THE COMPANY OF ALL OF THE FORMER DEAK PRECIOUS METAL CUSTOMERS. UNDER THIS PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT THE NEW COMPANY WILL MAKE PROVISION FOR THE FORMER CUSTOMERS TO REDEEM THEIR CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY DEAK, RETAIN THEIR HOLDINGS OR RE-COMMENCE TRADING.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONCLUDED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND ALL PRECIOUS METAL OWNERS WILL BE INFORMED.

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FOURTH QUARTER RESTAURANT SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984, ESTIMATED AT \$4 779 MILLION, WERE SIX PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1983, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS TWO PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR THE WHOLE OF 1984 ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND FIVE PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHEN COMPARED WITH 1983.

A COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 WITH THOSE FOR THE PRECEDING QUARTER, SHOWED TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS WENT UP BY FIVE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RESTAURANT PURCHASES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984, ESTIMATED AT \$2 050 MILLION, WAS ONE PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1983 AND FOUR PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1984. FOR THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1984, IT INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 1983.

/IN THE .....

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, AT 12 PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1983. THOSE OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND FOUR PER CENT IN VOLUME. THE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES (COMPRISING HERB TEA SHOPS, CREAMERIES AND OUTLETS SELLING BEAN CURB JELLY, ETC.), BARS AND CHINESE RESTAURANTS WERE 10 PER CENT, SEVEN PER CENT AND FIVE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, AND THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE THREE PER CENT, THREE PER CENT AND ONE PER CENT.

COMPARING 1984 WITH 1983, NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS, AT 13 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY CHINESE RESTAURANTS (12 PER CENT), OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES (11 PER CENT) AND BARS (6 PER CENT). IN TERMS OF THE VOLUME OF RECEIPTS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS SHOWED THE LARGEST RATE OF INCREASE, AT SIX PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS (5 PER CENT), FAST FOOD SHOPS (4 PER CENT), BARS (3 PER CENT), AND OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES (2 PER CENT).

BARS RECORDED THE LARGEST RATE OF INCREASE IN TOTAL RECEIPTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AT 15 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 14 PER CENT IN VOLUME. TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS ALSO ROSE, BY NINE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. HOWEVER, RECEIPTS OF OTHER TYPES OF RESTAURANTS DECREASED, WITH NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS FALLING BY SIX PER CENT IN VALUE AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME, FAST FOOD SHOPS BY FIVE PER CENT IN VALUE AND SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME, AND OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES BY 14 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 3-7216024).

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LADY YOUDE SPENDS BUSY AFTERNOON IN WAN CHAI  
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THE GOVERNOR'S WIFE, LADY YOUDE, HAD A BUSY AFTERNOON IN WAN CHAI TODAY (THURSDAY), LOOKING AT OLD AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS, VISITING SEVERAL ORGANISATIONS AND MEETING PEOPLE.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, SHE FIRST WENT TO THE ROOF OF HOPEWELL CENTRE ON QUEEN'S ROAD EAST FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT AND A BRIEFING BY MR LAM ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL IN THE AREA.

LADY YOUDE THEN VISITED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S WAN CHAI HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY IN SPRING GARDEN LANE, A HOSTEL OCCUPIED BY 115 OLD PEOPLE WHICH WAS SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR TO FURTHER RELIEVE THE SHORTAGE OF HOSTEL PLACES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF SELF CARE.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY VISITS TO THE ST PAUL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL AND THE HONG KONG SANITORIUM.

THE PARTY LATER WENT TO PATERSON STREET AND CALLED AT A RESIDENTIAL UNIT THERE.

LADY YOUDE ALSO TOURED THE TIGER BALM GARDENS, A POPULAR TOURIST SPOT RECENTLY RENOVATED AND RENAMED AW BOON HAW GARDENS.

BEFORE LEAVING THE DISTRICT, SHE STOPPED AT THE METHODIST YOUTH CENTRE ON HENNESSY ROAD.

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TWO DISTRICT BOARDS TO ELECT CHAIRMEN  
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TWO MORE NEW DISTRICT BOARDS WILL ELECT THEIR CHAIRMEN TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

AT TUEN MUN IN THE MORNING, BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE ELECTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS ON THE BOARD'S STANDING ORDERS, THE FORMATION OF SIX COMMITTEES, ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN TUEN MUN.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TO ELECT THEIR CHAIRMAN AND DISCUSS SIMILAR BOARD MATTERS.

/THEY WILL .....

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THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF A PROPOSED FUNERAL PARLOUR IN LAI CHI KOK.

MEANWHILE AT KWUN TONG, THE NEW DB MEMBERS WILL HAVE ANOTHER INFORMAL GATHERING TOMORROW AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MATTERS BEFORE THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING ON MAY 6 TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN.

TOMORROW'S GATHERING WILL BE PRECEDED BY A COCKTAIL RECEPTION, AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL ALSO ATTEND.

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COUNCILLORS SEE FOR THEMSELVES HAWKER PROBLEMS  
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SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE SPENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING A NUMBER OF MARKETS, HAWKER BAZAARS AND PROPOSED MARKET SITES IN KOWLOON TO GET A FURTHER INSIGHT INTO HAWKER PROBLEMS.

LED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE, MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT, THE PARTY COMPRISED MISS CECILIA YEUNG, MR TONG KAM-BIU AND MRS MARGARET LI. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD.

THE COUNCILLORS FIRST VISITED THE KWUN CHUNG OLD MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAAR IN YAU MA TEI WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE HAWKERS THERE.

THEY THEN DROVE TO THE PROPOSED SITE OF THE TAI KOK TSUI UC COMPLEX TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING IT INTO A TEMPORARY HAWKER BAZAAR PENDING ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT.

THEY LATER VISITED SHAM SHUI PO MARKET WHICH WILL LATER BE CONVERTED INTO A MULTI-PURPOSE MARKET COMPLEX.

DURING THE TOUR, THEY MADE DETAILED ENQUIRIES ON HAWKER MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS VARIOUS POSSIBLE WAYS OF ACCOMMODATING STALL-HOLDERS TRADING IN THOSE MARKETS WHICH WILL BE PULLED DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MODERN MARKET COMPLEXES.

/MRS ELLIOTT, .....

MRS ELLIOTT, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL'S WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES, SAID: +THIS HAS BEEN A USEFUL VISIT SINCE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON HAWKER ISSUES ON THE GROUND.+

SHE ALSO REVEALED THAT BY THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR THE WORKING PARTY HOPED TO PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON HAWKER ISSUES TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE NEW DISTRICT BOARDS, THE HAWKER ASSOCIATIONS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE PRESS, THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND, OF COURSE, THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO OFFER SUMMER JOBS

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL URGED EMPLOYERS IN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND SERVICE SECTOR TO OFFER TRAINING PLACES IN SUMMER FOR SOME 1 700 STUDENTS OF FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

+PRACTICAL TRAINING IS A VITAL PART OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION. EXPOSURE TO INDUSTRIAL OR REAL-LIFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WILL HELP STUDENTS TO APPLY WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID.

THESE FULL-TIME STUDENTS, ALL AT TECHNICIAN OR POST-FORM 5 LEVEL, WOULD BE BENEFITED BY GAINING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN ESTABLISHMENTS RELATED TO THE FIELDS OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, COMPUTING STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, HOTEL AND TOURISM, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND PRINTING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EMPLOYERS WHO ARE ABLE TO OFFER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES DURING MID-JULY TO END OF AUGUST ARE URGED TO CONTACT THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES DIRECT : MORRISON HILL (5-745321), KWAI CHUNG (0-246221), KWUN TONG (3-7274331), HAKING WONG (3-615161) AND LEE WAI LEE (3-383611).

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YOUTHS URGED TO JOIN DESIGN CONTEST  
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ENTRIES ARE NOW INVITED FOR THE BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION 1985 ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS: THE OPEN GROUP FOR THOSE WHO ARE 18 OR ABOVE, THE STUDENT GROUP FOR STUDENTS AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 17 AND JUNIOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN OF 13 YEARS OF AGE OR BELOW.

ENTRIES SHOULD MEASURE 50MM X 170MM AND BEAR THE NAME, AGE, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, SCHOOL OR OCCUPATION OF THE PARTICIPANT. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY POST TO ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY MAY 15.

WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED TECHNICAL DRAWING APPARATUS, SCIENTIFIC MODEL SETS AND TROPHIES.

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MUSIC TRAINEES TO GIVE CONCERT  
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ABOUT 150 YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING AT THE MUSIC OFFICE'S MUSIC CENTRES WILL BE PERFORMING IN A CONCERT THIS SUNDAY (APRIL 21) AT THE DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL, JORDAN ROAD AT 3 PM.

THE KOWLOON REGION STUDENTS CONCERT, ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY THE EAST KOWLOON YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND AND THE KOWLOON YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A GUEST PERFORMANCE BY THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

MR ALBERT LI SZE-BAY, A MEMBER OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, WILL BE THE GUEST.

FREE ADMISSION COUPONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE IN KOWLOON. FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 3-7226240.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONCERT STARTING AT 3 PM THIS SUNDAY (APRIL 21) AT THE DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL.

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NEW BOARD TO START PUBLIC SESSION  
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THE NEW KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD WILL START ITS +MEET THE PUBLIC SCHEME+ FROM THIS SATURDAY (APRIL 20).

TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL TAKE TURNS TO MEET RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT TO LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 2.30 PM TO 4.30 PM AND ON SATURDAYS FROM 9.30 AM TO 11.30 AM.

TWO MEMBERS WILL BE ON DUTY EACH DAY AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES NEXT TO THE KWAI HING MTR STATION AT 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO MEET THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD MAKE ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT AT 0-212855 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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FLOWER SHOW DRAWS CROWDS  
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MANY PEOPLE TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BONSAI SHOW HELD AT CHING CHUNG KOON IN TUEN MUN.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES, SAID AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THAT LIKE OTHER CITIES IN THE WORLD, HONG KONG HAD ITS SHARE OF URBAN PROBLEMS, BUT THE NEED FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY LEISURE PURSUITS WAS FAR MORE COMPELLING.

DR HAYES, WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE INNER MEANING OF BONSAI AND ITS PLACE IN CHINESE CULTURE, SAID THAT IT ILLUSTRATED THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE PERCEPTION OF THE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE.

+IT ALSO EMBODIES A TIME-HONOURED CHINESE PHILOSOPHY WHICH CHERISHES THE SIMPLE ENJOYMENTS OF LIFE,+ DR HAYES SAID.

HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK MEMBERS OF THE CHING CHUNG KOON FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

+FACILITIES NOW UNDER THE KOON'S CARE INCLUDE TWO HOMES FOR THE AGED, A PRIMARY SCHOOL, FREE MEDICAL CLINICS, KINDERGARTENS AND A MUCH-NEEDED CARE AND ATTENTION HOME,+ HE SAID.

THE BONSAI SHOW WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FROM APRIL 18 TO 28, AND ADMISSION IS FREE.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1985

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CHAIRMAN ELECTED AT BOARD MEETING  
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MR LAM KWOK KWONG WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AT A MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

BOARD MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A PAPER ON THE COMPOSITION, TERMS OF REFERENCE, STANDING ORDERS AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD (1985-88).

THE BOARD WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING ON APRIL 26 (FRIDAY) AT THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL IN AP LEI CHAU ESTATE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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LABOUR OFFICE MOVES TO NEW PREMISES  
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THE KOWLOON WEST OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE AT SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL MOVE TO NEW PREMISES IN LAI KOK ESTATE, FIRST LEVEL, LAI HO HOUSE, CHEUNG SHA WAN ON MONDAY (APRIL 22).

THE OFFICE WILL HANDLE LABOUR DISPUTES IN THE DISTRICT AND GIVE ADVICE ON MATTERS RELATING TO CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN GENERAL. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT 3-7295444.

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