



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

### CONTENTS

### PAGE NO.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OVER COMMISSION'S METHODOLOGY POINTED OUT .....	1
EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS URGED .....	4
REPORT NO. 2 FAILS TO PROVIDE PRACTICABLE SOLUTIONS ....	5
STRENGTHEN PUTONGHUA TEACHING IN SCHOOLS .....	7
COMMISSION URGED TO TAKE MORE ANALYTICAL APPROACH .....	8
LONG-AWAITED OPEN EDUCATION PLAN WELCOMED .....	10
LANGUAGES SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT .....	11
SCOPE FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION IN PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES .	13
TRAINING INSTITUTE DESERVES CLOSE STUDY .....	15
COMMISSION PRAISED FOR ITS HANDLING OF REPORT NO. 2 ....	16
'LACK OF UNDERSTANDING' TOWARDS KINDERGARTENS .....	18
REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED .....	19
PROPER TEACHER TRAINING IMPORTANT FACTOR .....	21
GOOD PROGRESS MADE ON EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME .	22
MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED .....	24
BILL SEEKS TO ABOLISH RATES RELIEF SCHEME .....	26
FINANCIAL AUTONOMY FOR JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE .....	27
FINES UNDER SOCIETIES ORDINANCE INCREASED .....	29
FOUR BILLS PASSED .....	30

/ACAN WORKING .....

ACAN WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED .....	31
AIRPORT NOISE PROBLEM UNDER REVIEW .....	32
ABERDEEN BOAT DWELLERS TO BE REHOUSED IN PHASES .....	33
WELFARE SERVICE PREMISES PROCESSING TO BE IMPROVED .....	34
CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES BEING REVIEWED .....	35
EFFORTS TO HELP STREET-SLEEPERS TO BE STEPPED UP .....	36
CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR GAMBLING ALLOWED .....	37
LRT EXTENSIONS BEING STUDIED IN STAGES .....	38
SUMMONSES AGAINST GAMES CENTRES DECREASING .....	39
CENSUS COVERS LEGAL IMMIGRANTS .....	39
OVERALL STRUCTURE OF TAXATION SYSTEM CONSIDERED .....	40
DB'S TO BE CONSULTED ON HOUSING REVIEW .....	40
SELECTIVE TRAINING PROVIDED FOR ATHLETES .....	40
16 BUS ROUTES, 3 FERRY SERVICES CANCELLED .....	41
TRAFFIC OFFENDERS MAY PLEAD GUILTY BY LETTER .....	42
SCOTT APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF CAYMAN ISLANDS .....	43
DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS .....	44
'INTERESTING AND EXCITING' NEW JOB -- CHAN .....	45
NO DECISION YET ON ABOLITION OF TITLE .....	46
ACTING GOVERNOR TO GIVE SIR DAVID GENERAL BRIEFING .....	47
BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEEDS ABLE GRADUATES .....	48
\$100 +LAI SEE+ FOR 6,200 ELDERLY .....	48
ELDERLY IN SAI KUNG RECEIVE +LAI SEE+ .....	49
SCOUTING, GUIDING HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE .....	50
SOUTHERN SEMINAR ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT .....	50
SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY .....	51
TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CAUSEWAY BAY .....	52
NORTH POINT URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION .....	52
ROAD RE-ROUTED FOR SLOPE REPAIR WORK .....	52

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 1 -

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OVER COMMISSION'S METHODOLOGY POINTED OUT  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TWO AREAS WHERE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S METHODOLOGY SEEMED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

WINDING UP THE FIRST OF TWO DEBATES ON THE SECOND REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BRIDGE SAID:

+FIRST, THERE ARE SUGGESTIONS THAT ADDITIONAL TOPICS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION, OR THAT TOPICS WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TACKLED IN MORE DETAIL.

+I BELIEVE THAT, IN DECIDING THE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WHICH CAN BE COVERED BY ONE SINGLE REPORT, WE MUST FIND A BALANCE. REPORT NO. 2 DOES COVER THE MORE COMPLICATED AND FUNDAMENTAL OF THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1982 VISITING PANEL WHICH REMAINED OUTSTANDING FROM REPORT NO. 1.

+BUT THE COMMISSION IS A PERMANENT BODY AND THE FACT THAT A SUBJECT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT NO. 2 DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL NOT BE COVERED BY THE COMMISSION IN FUTURE.

+INDEED, THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR REPORT NO. 3 AND HAS BEGUN TO SEEK COMMENTS ON SOME OF THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN REPORT NO. 4.+

MR BRIDGE SAID THE SECOND AREA OF CRITICISM IN RELATION TO THE REPORT AS A WHOLE HAD BEEN THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT CONSULT ADEQUATELY ON SOME SUBJECTS BEFORE PUBLISHING ITS REPORT.

+THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE SUGGESTION THAT THE VIEWS OF MAJOR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WERE IGNORED, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED RECENTLY IN SOME MEDIA REPORTS,+ HE SAID.

+THE WRITTEN RECORD SHOWS THAT CONSULTATION WITH THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WAS DETAILED AND CONTINUOUS. NOT THAT THE COMMISSION COULD ACCOMMODATE EVERY VIEW PUT FORWARD; IN THE END, MEMBERS HAD TO TAKE A VIEW IN THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

+BUT NO MAJOR INSTITUTION CAN FAIRLY CLAIM THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT TAKE THEIR VIEWS SERIOUSLY OR FAILED, WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE, TO ACCOMMODATE THEM,+ HE ADDED.

/MR BRIDGE .....

MR BRIDGE NOTED THAT AFTER THE REPORT NO. 2 WAS PUBLISHED ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC DEBATE FOLLOWED. WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO NEARLY ALL THE REPORT'S PROPOSALS AND THIS COVERAGE WAS CAREFULLY MONITORED. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION PROVIDED BRIEFS, GAVE INTERVIEWS AND ATTENDED SEMINARS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE REPORT.

+IN ADDITION, NEARLY 100 FORMAL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED. THESE CAME FROM SCHOOL COUNCILS, DISTRICT BOARDS, INSTITUTIONS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ACADEMICS AS WELL AS ORDINARY CITIZENS,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MOST OF THE PROPOSALS ON PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES RECEIVED BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT, MR BRIDGE SAID SOME QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVED FREE ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THERE HAD BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS AND TEACHERS RATHER THAN PARENTS.

IT HAD ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF TEACHER PREPARATION SHOULD BE ACCELERATED, HE ADDED.

ON THE COMMISSION'S PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, MR BRIDGE SAID IT HAD TAKEN THE VIEW THAT, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ASSERT DOGMATICALLY THAT PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION WAS ESSENTIAL, IT WAS SO WIDESPREAD AND SO CLEARLY PERCEIVED AS BENEFICIAL THAT NO CHILD SHOULD BE DENIED ACCESS TO SUCH EDUCATION.

HE SAID HE FELT THAT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD DO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND WOULD LEAD TO THE UNIFICATION OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES WHICH SO MANY EDUCATORS HAD ADVOCATED.

+AND THE COMMISSION HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO FUTURE REFINEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM BY RECOMMENDING LONG-TERM RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECT OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG,+ MR BRIDGE ADDED.

POINTING OUT THAT THE MAJORITY OF COMMENTS ON TEACHER PREPARATION HAD BEEN FAVOURABLE, MR BRIDGE SAID MOST CRITICISM RELATED TO WHETHER THE COMMISSION HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH, WHETHER THE VARIOUS TRAINING PROGRAMMES COULD BE EXPANDED OR WHETHER MORE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COULD BE OFFERED.

+WE MUST, OF COURSE, BE REALISTIC AND REMEMBER THAT EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE AND PRIORITIES HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY BALANCED,+ HE SAID.

/REFERRING TO .....

- 3 -

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN EDUCATION CONSORTIUM, MR BRIDGE SAID THERE HAD BEEN MANY USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE CONSORTIUM SHOULD FURTHER BE DEVELOPED.

+DIFFERING VIEWS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN RELATION TO WHAT LEVEL OF COURSE SHOULD BE OFFERED FIRST, WHAT INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSORTIUM AND WHAT SHOULD BE THE EXTENT AND FORM, IF ANY, OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID HE AGREED WITH THE COMMISSION THAT SOMETHING MORE THAN CO-OPERATION OF AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS WAS REQUIRED FOR AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY.

TURNING TO PROPOSALS ON THE FINANCING OF EDUCATION, MR BRIDGE SAID THAT IT HAD ATTRACTED RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMENT.

ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE MAJOR PROPOSALS IN REPORT NO. 1.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT ALL COMMENTS WILL BE ANALYSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION - ISSUES WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE CONTROVERSIAL OR SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED WILL THEN BE REFERRED BACK TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR ADVICE.

+THEREAFTER, IT IS INTENDED THAT ALL THE TOPICS IN THE REPORT WILL BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MID-1987,+ HE NOTED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TO ASSIST IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ADVISE ON SUITABLE PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN SET UP ON PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, SIXTH-FORM EDUCATION AND OPEN EDUCATION.

+IN ADDITION, A STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCING OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN CONVENED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN CHAPTER 9 OF THE REPORT; IN PARTICULAR, TO ADMINISTER THE PROPOSED CONSULTANCY ON FINANCIAL MODELS,+ HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, MR BRIDGE REITERATED THAT PARTICULAR ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID, IN DRAWING UP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, MEMBERS' VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN TODAY'S DEBATE AND IN THE FURTHER DEBATE TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH ON THE COMMISSION'S SIXTH-FORM PROPOSALS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 4 -

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS URGED

\* \* \* \* \*

MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 ARE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

LEADING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE REPORT AS CONVENER OF A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP THAT STUDIES THE MATTER, MR CHEN SAID THIS WAS THE COMMON VIEW SHARED BY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN AREAS REQUIRING FURTHER DELIBERATION.

MEMBERS GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO MOST OF THE SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE REPORT, SUCH AS PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION, OPEN EDUCATION, LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AND THE FINANCING OF EDUCATION.

MR CHEN REPORTED THAT THE GROUP HAD HELD FOUR MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE REPORT AND HAD DECIDED THERE SHOULD BE TWO DEBATES ON THE MATTER.

IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, ONE DEBATE WOULD BE SOLELY DEVOTED TO THAT SUBJECT ON FEBRUARY 18 WHILE TODAY'S DEBATE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, HE SAID.

MR CHEN ALSO EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF BILINGUAL SECONDARY EDUCATION.

RECOGNISING THAT MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING HAD DEFINITE AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES FOR THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS, HE STRESSED THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRED CAREFUL PLANNING AND CONSIDERATION.

+ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT ONE HAS TO BEAR IN MIND IS THAT BILINGUALISM IS ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG TO RETAIN ITS POSITION AS A LEADING INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF FINANCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

+ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS THE LIKELY IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR EXISTING TERTIARY EDUCATION SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY WAS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IF ENGLISH WERE CONTINUE TO BE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AS WAS GENERALLY THE CASE AT PRESENT.

MR CHEN SAID HE FEARED THAT A FALL IN THE STANDARD OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A RESULT OF LOSS OF EXPOSURE WAS INEVITABLE AND MIGHT CARRY FORWARD TO THE POST-SECONDARY LEVEL.

/A LOWER .....

- 5 -

A LOWER STANDARD OF ENGLISH MIGHT HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POLICIES OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

+THEY MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH GENERALLY OR INTRODUCING COURSE-RELATED REMEDIAL ENGLISH CLASSES TO UPGRADE STUDENTS' ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TO ENABLE THEM TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR COURSES,+ HE SUGGESTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REPORT NO. 2 FAILS TO PROVIDE PRACTICABLE SOLUTIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE PRACTICABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT SIXTH FORM EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, THE HON SZETO WAH TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE REPORT, MR SZETO SAID THE PROBLEMS WERE ENORMOUS EXAMINATION PRESSURE ON STUDENTS, DIFFERENCES IN ADMISSION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA OF POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, AND INCOMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM WHICH WAS DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PREPARING STUDENTS TO TAKE UP UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

HE SAID THE PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATION WITH AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL EXAMINATION WOULD FURTHER INCREASE EXAMINATION PRESSURE ON STUDENTS, AS MORE STUDENTS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THE I-LEVEL EXAMINATION THAN IN THE A-LEVEL EXAMINATION.

MR SZETO RECOMMENDED TO AUTHORITIES TO SHELVE THE PROPOSAL AND UNDERTAKE A FURTHER GENUINE OVERALL REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ITS STRUCTURAL ASPECT.

IN THE OVERALL REVIEW, A CENTRALISED ADMISSION SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR +CONCURRENT DECISIONS+ BY THE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE FORMULATED, HE SAID.

+THE EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE SYSTEMS IN THE UNIVERSITIES, ON WHICH DISCUSSION APPEARS TO BE FORBIDDEN, SEEMS NOT ONLY TO EXERT AN INVISIBLE INFLUENCE ON SIXTH FORM, SECONDARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION, BUT ALSO IMPOSED SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON AN OVERALL REVIEW OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL REFORMS,+ MR SZETO SAID.

- 6 -

FOLLOWING A RECENT DECISION BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO LENGTHEN ITS DEGREE COURSES FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS, HE SAID HE HOPED THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF TWO SEPARATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED.

MR SZETO SAID HE SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT TO ALLOW CANDIDATES OF A-LEVEL EXAMINATION TO USE EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE IN THEIR ANSWERS AND TO MAKE +CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE+ A COMPULSORY SUBJECT FOR ALL STUDENTS.

MR SZETO SAID HE FELT STRONGLY THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

+IT COULD BE DONE BY MAKING DIRECT SUBSIDY TO APPROVED NON-PROFIT-MAKING INSTITUTIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, EXPEDITING THE PROVISION OF TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, FORMULATING A REASONABLE SALARY SCALE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF CHILD CARE CENTRE STAFF AND UNIFYING THE OPERATION OF KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED A PARALLEL SUBVENTION POLICY BE ADOPTED.

+THAT IS TO SAY, APART FROM THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR PARENTS, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD, BY WAY OF MAKING PROVISIONS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET, GRADUALLY CONVERT SOME OF THE NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS INTO SUBSIDISED ONES,+ MR SZETO EXPLAINED.

+THESE SUBSIDISED KINDERGARTENS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHARGE FEES. THEY SHOULD OPERATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENTS IN REGARD TO TEACHER-PUPIL AND PUPIL-SPACE RATIOS, NUMBER OF TRAINED TEACHERS, SALARIES ETC. AND SHOULD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

+HEALTHY COMPETITION BETWEEN SUBSIDISED AND PRIVATELY-RUN KINDERGARTENS CAN ENHANCE THE GENERAL QUALITY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS, MR SZETO SAID TEACHER PREPARATION WAS VITAL TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND SO THE PROVISION OF TRAINING MUST BE ACCELERATED.

HE PROPOSED THAT A JOINT TRAINING INSTITUTE SHOULD BE CREATED TO PROVIDE UNIFIED TRAINING COURSES FOR BOTH KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE CENTRE STAFF, WHICH COULD AVOID THE WASTAGE OF RESOURCES RESULTING FROM THE PROVISION OF TRAINING BY DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS.

THE TWO-YEAR TEACHER TRAINING COURSE RUN BY THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE EXPANDED IN 1988 AND PRE-SERVICE TRAINING SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN 1990, HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 7 -

STRENGTHEN PUTONGHUA TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TEACHING OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED WITH A VIEW TO CHANGING THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FROM CANTONESE TO PUTONGHUA GRADUALLY, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, PROFESSOR THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, PROF POON SAID THE CONTINUED AND EXCLUSIVE USE OF CANTONESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WOULD CREATE COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS WITH CHINA WHEN HONG KONG BECAME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

+A CHANGE FROM CANTONESE TO PUTONGHUA AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WOULD NOT BE AS DIFFICULT AS A CHANGE FROM CANTONESE TO ENGLISH OR ENGLISH TO CANTONESE BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE KIND OF WRITTEN CHINESE,+ PROF POON SAID.

HE WELCOMED THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 THAT ADDITIONAL CHINESE TEACHERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

+MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NOT MADE ADEQUATE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF PUTONGHUA IN SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

PROF POON ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THE USE OF CHINESE, LEADING TO PUTONGHUA, SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, A PROPER USE OF ENGLISH WAS ALSO NECESSARY.

HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT ADEQUATE STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN ENGLISH TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THIS SHOULD BE OF HELP AS ONE OF THE FACTORS IN ENSURING THAT HONG KONG RETAINED ITS STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTRE AND AS A MEETING POINT FOR EAST AND WEST.

TURNING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION, PROF POON SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES RUN BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT BLOCK-RELEASE OF TRAINEE TEACHERS MIGHT NOT BE A PRACTICAL PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IN THE FIELD,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID PART-TIME TRAINING COURSES MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 8 -

COMMISSION URGED TO TAKE MORE ANALYTICAL APPROACH

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION MUST IN FUTURE ADOPT A FAR MORE ANALYTICAL, COURAGEOUS AND PENETRATING APPROACH IN ORDER TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NUMEROUS THORNY ISSUES WHICH BESET THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE HON DAVID LI SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, MR LI SAID PERHAPS THE GREATEST TRAGEDY OF THE REPORT WAS ITS TOTAL LACK OF CANDOUR WITH REGARD TO THE FORCES AT WORK IN THE HONG KONG SCHOOL SYSTEM.

HE SAID THE FACT WAS THAT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS SHAPED BY THE A-LEVEL EXAMINATION SYLLABUS WHICH WAS DETERMINED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF UNIVERSITIES. THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM DETERMINED THE PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM WHICH IN TURN DETERMINED THE KINDERGARTEN SYSTEM.

+THUS THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FEW THOUSAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DETERMINE THE WHOLE OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM CATERING FOR A MILLION CHILDREN OF VERY VARIED NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR LI SAID THE SYSTEM WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF THE TAIL WAGGING THE DOG BUT THE REPORT HAD SIMPLY IGNORED THE REAL PROBLEM AND FAILED TO GIVE A PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

TURNING TO PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION, MR LI SAID THE EMPHASIS IN THE REPORT TENDED TO BE MISPLACED.

+TRAINING OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE VERY EXPENSIVE IDEAS TO TRAIN LOCAL ENGLISH TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY WILL RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS AND BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, COLLEAGUES AND PUPILS TO MAINTAIN FORMER METHODS AND TO IGNORE THEIR NEW-FOUND SKILLS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION FAILED TO RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT LOCAL KINDERGARTEN WERE ALREADY TOO HIGHLY STRUCTURED. THE LAST THING HONG KONG NEEDED WAS A MORE STRUCTURED APPROACH.

HE DESCRIBED AS +NAIVE+ THE SUGGESTION OF USING LECTURERS IN OTHER DISCIPLINES WHO TOOK AN INTEREST IN KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION TO LECTURE AND TRAIN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.

HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PROVIDING STRONG CURRICULUM GUIDANCE FOR KINDERGARTENS. BUT THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS SHORTAGE OF EXPERTISE IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND HENCE POOR CURRICULUM GUIDANCE FOR KINDERGARTENS.

/HE ADDED .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 9 -

HE ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD FAILED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF PRESSURE SO WRONGLY APPLIED ON KINDERGARTENS, AND HOW THIS SITUATION SHOULD BE RECTIFIED. HE SAID THAT IF PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY TEACHING WAS IMPROVED, THEN ALL EDUCATION THAT FOLLOWED COULD BE CORRECTED ACCORDINGLY.

TURNING TO THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS, MR LI SAID THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION MUST GIVE TEACHERS MORE TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT. HE ADDED THAT TRAINING FOR TEACHERS WAS TOO GENERAL AND THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR TEACHING PRACTICE IN SCHOOLS WAS TOO SHORT.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL DEGREES FOR HEADS OF PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE THE PROPOSED BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE WOULD BE VIEWED AS A +SECOND CLASS+ DEGREE BY THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND BY THE TEACHERS CONCERNED.

+AGAIN, THIS PROPOSAL FAILS TO ADDRESS THE AREA OF REAL WEAKNESS, WHICH IS NOT THE ACADEMIC PROWESS OR PROMISE OF HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

MR LI SUGGESTED THAT IN THE SHORT RUN, IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE IF THE UNIVERSITIES ACCEPTED A TEACHING QUALIFICATION PLUS SOME YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS EQUAL TO A FIRST DEGREE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING FURTHER DEGREE COURSES.

HE ADDED THAT THE REPORT DID CONTAIN SOME CONSTRUCTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THE CALL FOR OPEN EDUCATION HAS BEEN WELCOME BY ALL WHO ARE EAGER TO LEARN BUT WHO CANNOT ATTEND CLASSES. THIS PROPOSAL DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS IT COULD PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANY SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE HANDICAPPED,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 10 -

LONG-AWAITED OPEN EDUCATION PLAN WELCOMED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAS BEEN LONG AWAITED, RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT FROM THE HON LIU LIT-FOR.

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR LIU SAID THAT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WHO WERE DENIED THE CHANCE OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

IT WAS FAIR AND REASONABLE TO OFFER THESE YOUNG PEOPLE A SECOND CHANCE BY PROVIDING THEM WITH SUB-DEGREE AND DEGREE COURSES, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COURSES PROVIDED SHOULD COVER A WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO OPEN EDUCATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS.

ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING, MR LIU SAID THERE WAS STILL A NEED TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE WORKFORCE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY.

+THE PROVISION OF THESE COURSES IS NECESSARY IF WE WANT TO MAINTAIN AND FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY AS WELL AS AFFIRM AND ENHANCE THE TERRITORY'S LONG-TERM COMPETITIVENESS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

MR LIU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CONSORTIUM IN CHARGE OF OPEN EDUCATION SHOULD RECRUIT HIGHLY COMPETENT AND EXPERIENCED STAFF EVEN AT THE EARLY STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. IF THERE WERE NO SUITABLE LOCAL CANDIDATES, HE ADDED, A RECRUITMENT EXERCISE OVERSEAS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

HE ALSO PROPOSED, AS A PILOT PROJECT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF +COMMUNITY COLLEGES+ WHICH WERE WIDELY IMPLEMENTED IN THE UNITED STATES.

+THESE INSTITUTIONS CAN PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS AND YOUTHS BOTH IN THE DAY-TIME AND IN THE EVENING.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE COLLEGES WILL PROBABLY MEET THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN NEW TOWNS WHERE ACCESS TO TRANSPORT IS RELATIVELY INCONVENIENT,+ MR LIU SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTIONS, MR LIU SAID HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION THAT EQUAL EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE USE OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE IN SCHOOLS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT A RECENTLY-CONDUCTED EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SURVEY ON THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS AFTER 1988 SHOULD THE RESPONSE FROM MOST SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS ENCOURAGING.

ALTHOUGH A FEW SCHOOLS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD TEACH ALL SUBJECTS IN CHINESE, THE MAJORITY SAID THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO USE CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF TEACHING FOR SOME SUBJECTS.

MR LIU SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO MAKE A DECISION AS THE VIEWS OF THE STUDENTS' PARENTS MUST ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THEREFORE, IT WAS WISE FOR THEM TO TAKE A PRUDENT ATTITUDE AND A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH, HE SAID. HOWEVER, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE SITUATION WAS INDEED ENCOURAGING AND THAT AN IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS WOULD SOON BE MADE IN THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF TEACHING.

REGARDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH, MR LIU SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD NOT PUT FORWARD ANY LONG-TERM PLANS.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY WOULD SUFFER A SERIOUS SETBACK IN TRADING, CULTURAL AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH DEPEND ON ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION IF THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH WERE TO DECLINE.

HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WOULD TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS MATTER TO ENSURE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AND AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LANGUAGES SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT  
\* \* \* \* \*

A FAVOURABLE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IS VITAL TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVELY THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM AND RAISE FURTHER THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH AMONG STUDENTS, THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM WHICH GAVE MORE WEIGHT TO ENGLISH THAN TO CHINESE, AND CONSIDERING THE SOCIAL VALUES ATTACHED TO THE TWO LANGUAGES AS WELL AS THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS HAD LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN CHOOSING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

/SPEAKING DURING .....

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 MRS TAM SAID APART FROM WIDELY PUBLICISING ITS BILINGUAL POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET AN EXAMPLE BY EMPHASISING THAT EQUAL IMPORTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE STANDARDS OF BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE IN RECRUITING CIVIL SERVANTS.

SHE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WHICH ADOPTED ENGLISH AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE REMEDIAL LANGUAGE COURSES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAD RECEIVED THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CHINESE SO THAT THEY MIGHT ADAPT THEMSELVES TO THE CHANGE IN THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

MRS TAM WAS CONVINCED THAT IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT FAITHFULLY THE POLICY OF ADOPTING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND ATTACHING EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STATE CLEARLY ITS DETERMINATION AND OBJECTIVES.

MRS TAM ALSO BELIEVED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FAVOURABLE FACTORS CONDUCIVE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TEACHING POLICY AT SCHOOLS, SHOULD CHINESE BE ADOPTED AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TEACHERS OF CHINESE AND ADOPTING SPLIT CLASS TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION REPORT, MRS TAM SAID THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD ALSO TAKE CERTAIN POINTS INTO CONSIDERATION.

FIRSTLY, SHE OBJECTED TO THE MODE THAT, APART FROM TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CHINESE LANGUAGE SUBJECTS, ALLOWED SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TO ADOPT ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR SOME SUBJECTS AND CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM FOR OTHERS.

+I THINK THAT STUDENTS WILL BE CONFUSED BY THIS MODE AND WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ADAPTATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY CHANGE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.

+I HOPE THE AUTHORITIES WILL GIVE UP THIS PARTICULAR MODE,+ SHE SAID.

SECONDLY, SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT HAVING AN ADEQUATE PROVISION OF TEXTBOOKS WRITTEN IN CHINESE WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY OF ADOPTING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

THEREFORE, SHE FULLY SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION.

ON RAISING THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH, MRS TAM BELIEVED THAT APART FROM RESORTING TO SPLIT CLASS TEACHING, THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT METHODS AND APPROACHES CURRENTLY USED IN TEACHING ENGLISH.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 13 -

AT PRESENT, MOST SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE USING ONLY THE COMMUNICATION APPROACH IN TEACHING ENGLISH, SHE SAID.

+HOWEVER, IN THIS PREDOMINATELY CHINESE SOCIETY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE USING CANTONESE AS THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN THEIR DAILY LIVES, SO IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE USE OF THE COMMUNICATION APPROACH IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IS EFFECTIVE.

+PERHAPS THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING OTHER TEACHING METHODS TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF STUDENTS,+ MRS TAM SAID.

ON EMPLOYING EXPATRIATE ENGLISH TEACHERS, SHE SAID THEY MIGHT NOT APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES FACING STUDENTS IN LEARNING ENGLISH AND THEREFORE MIGHT FAIL TO MAKE A SUITABLE ADJUSTMENT IN THEIR TEACHING METHODS.

AS A LONG TERM MEASURE, SHE BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE TRAINING OF LOCAL ENGLISH TEACHERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SCOPE FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION IN PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO CO-ORDINATE COURSES AND TO ADVISE VARIOUS INSTITUTES ON TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, DR HO SAID THAT PARTICIPANTS HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS OF THESE CO-ORDINATED TRAINING PROGRAMMES WOULD BECOME QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.

+AS AN INCENTIVE FOR UNDERTAKING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, A GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED SALARY SCALE MUST BE INTRODUCED FOR QUALIFIED PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SAID THE PRESENT SITUATION WAS THAT THERE EXISTED A VAST NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WHO NEEDED TO BE TRAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

/HOWEVER, AT .....

HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF UN-COORDINATED KINDERGARTEN COURSES OF VARYING DURATION AND DEPTH IN CONTENT OFFERED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BUT WERE NOT RECOGNISED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES.

DR HO ENDORSED A GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION BUT EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE +SPLIT CONTRIBUTION FACTOR+ APPROACH AS RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO 2.

UNDER THE APPROACH, KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS SHOULD RECEIVE THE FEE ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS, CHECK AND FORWARD THEM TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR PROCESSING. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD CALCULATE THE FEE ASSISTANCE PAYABLE, AND CONDUCT SPOT CHECKS ON KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS AND RANDOM MEANS TESTS OF PARENTS.

SUCH AN APPROACH WAS ARBITRARY AND CUMBERSOME IN ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID.

HE PROPOSED THAT IN DECIDING THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES FOR NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTENS, OTHER PROGRAMME CRITERIA SUCH AS IMPROVED FACILITIES, THE RATIO OF SPACE TO PUPILS, AND TEACHING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BESIDES THE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS.

TURNING TO OPEN EDUCATION, DR HO SUGGESTED THAT AN OPEN EDUCATION COUNCIL BE ESTABLISHED TO CO-ORDINATE AND ADVISE ON PRIORITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

THE COUNCIL SHOULD ADVISE ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SUBVENTION APPLICABLE TO SELECTED COURSES AND TO ELIGIBLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. IT SHOULD ALSO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRAINING ADULT EDUCATION TEACHERS, DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING MATERIALS AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE PROVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION.

DR HO SAID THE NEED FOR A CO-ORDINATED, SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN EDUCATION WAS IMMINENT. HOWEVER, WHETHER THE CONSORTIUM MODEL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2 WAS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE THIS WAS OPEN TO DEBATE.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC AND PRESUMPTUOUS TO EXPECT THE CONSORTIUM TO TAKE OVER ALL THE COURSES NOW BEING OFFERED BY VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF ADULT EDUCATION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAJOR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PROPOSED COUNCIL AND THE CONSORTIUM WAS THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT HAVE ANY EXECUTIVE FUNCTION.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 15 -

TRAINING INSTITUTE DESERVES CLOSE STUDY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE CONCEPT OF SETTING UP AN INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES DESERVED A CLOSER AND MORE IMMEDIATE LOOK, THE HON SELINA CHOW TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, MRS CHOW SAID SUCH AN INSTITUTE WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOUSE ALL LEVELS OF TRAINING UNDER ONE ROOF, BUT WOULD ALSO OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR RESEARCH STUDIES ON PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION.

SHE RECALLED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP SUCH AN INSTITUTE AS PUT FORWARD BY THE 1981 WHITE PAPER ON PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES WAS REGARDED AS A MOST IMAGINATIVE AND SINCERE INITIATIVE ON GOVERNMENT'S PART TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF THIS UNIVERSALLY DEMANDED SERVICE.

+NOW, FIVE AND A HALF YEARS LATER, I AM DISAPPOINTED TO SEE A BACKTRACKING. INSTEAD OF SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED IN SEPTEMBER 1984, THE GOVERNMENT'S WORKING PARTY, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1982 TO IMPLEMENT THIS TASK, DECIDED AGAINST IT,+ SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT THE RATIONALE GIVEN FOR THE DECISION WAS THAT THE ORIGINALLY INTENDED COMBINED TRAINING FUNCTION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BOTH KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE CENTRE STAFF WAS NO LONGER APPLICABLE BECAUSE OF AN INCREASE IN REQUIREMENT FOR THE FORMER AND A DECREASE FOR THE LATTER.

+HOW SUCH A KEY DISCREPANCY COULD HAVE ARISEN IN THE PLANNING FIGURES IN THE SPACE OF ONE YEAR IS PUZZLING,+ SHE SAID.

MRS CHOW ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY, GIVEN THE RATHER URGENT NEED TO TRAIN A LARGE NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS QUICKLY AND CONTINUOUSLY, THE ORIGINAL SCHEME WAS NOT ADAPTED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

SHE SAID THAT IN STEPPING UP PRESENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NUMBERS IN QUALIFIED ASSISTANT TEACHERS, ATTENTION HAD BEEN DIVERTED FROM TRAINING QUALIFIED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.

+MORE WORRYING IS THE LACK OF MENTION FOR TRAINING OF HEAD TEACHERS OR PRINCIPALS OF KINDERGARTENS, WHO REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION OF LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS FOR THEIR POSITION,+ SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PROPOSED FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, MRS CHOW SAID ALTHOUGH SHE AGREED WITH THE BASIC THINKING THAT KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE FULLY AIDED FOR SOME TIME TO COME, SHE DID BELIEVE IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE TEACHERS MET CERTAIN BASIC QUALIFICATION AND WERE PAID ACCORDINGLY.

/+I THEREFORE .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 16 -

+I THEREFORE SUPPORT THE CALL FOR DIRECT SUBSIDY TO COVER TEACHING STAFF SALARIES INSTEAD OF THE SPLIT CONTRIBUTION APPROACH,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID DIRECT SUBSIDY WOULD SIGNIFY THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF TEACHING PERSONNEL IN KINDERGARTENS.

SHE ADDED THAT A \$500 MONTHLY ALLOWANCE FOR THE HEAD TEACHER WAS DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE RESPONSIBILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK LOAD CURRENTLY UNDERTAKEN BY MOST KINDERGARTEN PRINCIPALS, AND MUST BE REVIEWED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMMISSION PRAISED FOR ITS HANDLING OF REPORT NO. 2

\*\*\*\*\*

THE WAY IN WHICH THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HANDLED ITS REPORT NO. 2 -- THAT WAS +TO CONSULT BEFORE DECIDING+ -- AND WAS SUPPORTED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT, MR LEE SAID HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FOLLOW SUCH PROCEDURE IN FUTURE BEFORE DECIDING ON ANY MAJOR POLICY SO AS TO DEVELOP THE +ADVISORY FORM OF GOVERNMENT+ INTO AN +OPEN GOVERNMENT+.

HE RECALLED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 1, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION. HENCE, EVEN IF THE PUBLIC HAD VIEWS TO EXPRESS, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ALTER THE DECISION MADE.

MR LEE SAID HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE SHOULD JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM A CONSORTIUM TO PROMOTE OPEN EDUCATION.

HE SAID A CONSORTIUM WOULD BE MORE RESOURCE SAVING THAN THE SETTING UP OF ANOTHER INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION, AND IT WOULD BE EASIER TO RUN.

/HOWEVER, TERTIARY .....

- 17 -

HOWEVER, TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ALL HAD THEIR OWN ACADEMIC PRIDE AND MIGHT NOT CO-OPERATE EASILY WITH ONE ANOTHER. THEREFORE, THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGAN OF THE CONSORTIUM MUST BE REINFORCED TO EXERCISE AN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, HE SAID.

+IF THE OPERATION OF OPEN EDUCATION COULD RUN SMOOTHLY AND DEVELOP RAPIDLY, WE SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE NOTED THAT MANY OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS WERE FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN THOSE OF HONG KONG IN THE PROMOTION OF OPEN EDUCATION. +WE SHOULD THEREFORE ADOPT A LIBERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS WHICH INTEND TO OFFER DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES IN HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE CONSORTIUM ON OPEN EDUCATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS SCHEDULED FOR ADMISSION ONE OR TWO YEARS BEFORE 1990, SO AS TO FIT IN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF CABLE TELEVISION AND PROVIDE SECOND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, NO DISTINCTION INTO ARTS AND SCIENCE CLASSES SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE FORM 5, SO THAT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS COULD RECEIVE A BALANCED EDUCATION.

+ALTHOUGH OUR THIRD UNIVERSITY HAS NOW BEEN NAMED THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, I STILL WISH THAT ITS CURRICULUM WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF A STUDENT'S CHARACTER,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO TEACHERS TRAINING, HE SAID THAT THE THREE EXISTING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, TOGETHER WITH THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND THE PROPOSED FOURTH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO A FEDERAL TYPE OF TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTION.

THIS INSTITUTION SHOULD BECOME A STATUTORY BODY INDEPENDENT OF ANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SUGGESTED.

+BY RESTRUCTURING THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION INTO AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION, THE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING STAFF WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT RESTRICTIONS AND SO IT WOULD BE EASIER TO RECRUIT SCHOLARS TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC STANDARDS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 18 -

'LACK OF UNDERSTANDING' TOWARDS KINDERGARTENS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S FINDINGS ON HONG KONG'S PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SERVICES WERE CRITICISED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DESCRIBING THE SECTION ON PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SERVICES OF THE REPORT AS 'A +HALF-HEARTED ATTITUDE+ TO AND A +LACK OF UNDERSTANDING+ OF THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HONG KONG, HE SAID THE SOCIAL SERVICES FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY HAS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION ON THE ISSUE.

MR HUI PREDICTED, DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, THAT THE DEMAND FOR PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES WOULD GROW BECAUSE MORE WORKING MOTHERS WERE JOINING THE LABOUR FORCE.

HE URGED THAT AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BE DRAWN UP FOR THE PROPOSED LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION AND EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF FORWARD PLANNING.

+WE SEE IT AS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME MORE INTERVENTIONIST IN ITS PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION POLICY.

+IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ONLY FEE ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS. NON-PROFIT-MAKING KINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATORS NEED TO GET MORE SUBSIDY TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND SALARIES,+ HE SAID.

MR HUI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSAL HE PUT FORWARD REQUIRED THE GOVERNMENT TO FOOT A MUCH BIGGER BILL, IT WAS A TEST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY AND WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

APART FROM PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, MR HUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHTS TO ENFORCING UNIFIED STAFFING STANDARDS FOR KINDERGARTEN AND CHILD CARE CENTRES.

HE SAID THE ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHER POSTS NOW FILLED BY FORM 3 GRADUATES SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AND THAT ONLY FORM 5 GRADUATES BE EMPLOYED AFTER 1988.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT REGULATIONS BE DRAWN UP TO ENSURE THAT OPERATORS DO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED SALARY SCALES FOR QUALIFIED STAFF.

ON STAFF TRAINING, MR HUI URGED THAT A LONG PROMISED TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS BE SET UP WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

/+TO SPEED .....

+TO SPEED UP THE EXPANSION OF TRAINING FACILITIES, RECOGNITION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SPECIALISED COURSES ON PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROVIDED BY VARIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, AMONG THE MANY ISSUES RELATED TO TEACHER PREPARATION THAT MERIT CLOSER EXAMINATION IS THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATED TRAINING; THERE SHOULD BE BASIC UNIFIED CONTENT WITH SPECIALISED ELECTIVE SUBJECTS FOR THE DIFFERENT TRAINING COURSE AVAILABLE.

+LIKE A COMMON CURRICULUM, RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING OBTAINED IN SIMILAR PROGRAMMES IS ONE IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS UNIFICATION OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SERVICES.+

HE BELIEVED THAT UNIFICATION SHOULD BE THE LONG-TERM GOAL TO BRING ABOUT EFFICIENT SUPERVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS FOR ALL PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD LIAISE ON OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES, DESIGN A CONCRETE PLAN FOR THE UNIFICATION EXERCISE AND WORK OUT THEIR RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE MERGING PROCESS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES WITH A VIEW TO UNIFYING PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2, MR CHUNG SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A SET OF CLEARLY DEFINED REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY OF UNIFYING PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES.

THESE INCLUDED REGULATIONS GOVERNING STANDARD FACILITIES, STAFFING, SALARY SCALE, QUALIFICATION OF TEACHING STAFF, TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO, FEE LEVEL, CONTROL MEASURES AND REGISTRATION OF KINDERGARTENS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES.

/IN ORDER .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 20 -

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REQUIREMENTS, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER AMENDING THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE OR INTRODUCING A NEW CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICE INSTITUTIONS AND KINDERGARTENS.

HE FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRICTLY ASSESS THE STANDARD OF SCHOOL SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGISLATION AND THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD DEPEND ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SCHOOLS AND THE NUMBER OF PARENTS APPLYING FOR FEE ASSISTANCE.

MR CHUNG SAID THAT DISCIPLINE AND SCHOOLING WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PROVISION OF PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES.

+THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND REMUNERATION OF KINDERGARTEN STAFF ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DRAW UP A PLAN TO PROVIDE PRE-SERVICE COURSES TO MEET LONG-TERM NEEDS APART FROM IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THESE TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT MOST PEOPLE REGARDED THE 12-WEEK PART-TIME TRAINING COURSE PROPOSED IN THE REPORT AS INADEQUATE, AND IT SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO SIX MONTHS.

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL THAT FULL-TIME PRE-SERVICE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' TRAINING SHOULD BE DEFERRED, MR CHUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE EVENING COURSES FOR FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTRODUCE A ONE-YEAR PRE-SERVICE COURSE AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE INTENDING TO BECOME KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS MIGHT RECEIVE THE NECESSARY TRAINING AND WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THEIR SERVICE.

ON THE SUBJECT OF OPEN EDUCATION, MR CHUNG SAID HE SUPPORTED THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT A CONSORTIUM BE SET UP JOINTLY BY EXISTING POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHERE NECESSARY THE PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES SHOULD PROVIDE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS THE VENUE AND FACILITIES FOR TEACHING AS REQUIRED BY THE RESPECTIVE COURSE TIMETABLE.

MR CHUNG FELT THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED IN HONG KONG FOR AN OPEN EDUCATION PROGRAMME COVERING THE PROVISION OF EXTERNAL DEGREE COURSES IN PROFESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT.

/+THE ENTIRE .....

- 21 -

+THE ENTIRE OPEN EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT TERTIARY LEVEL SHOULD HAVE MULTIPLE EXIT POINTS INCLUDING CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMA, DEGREE, SECOND DEGREE AND ADVANCED DIPLOMA LEVEL TO CATER FOR THE CHOICE OF STUDENTS,+ HE SAID.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, HE SAID, THE EXIT QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AS EQUIVALENT TO STANDARD UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS AND THOSE WHO HAD ACQUIRED SUCH QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXACTLY THE SAME ENTRY POINT WHEN THEY WERE OFFERED APPOINTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROPER TEACHER TRAINING IMPORTANT FACTOR  
\* \* \* \* \*

TEACHER QUALITY AND PROPER PREPARATION OF TEACHERS FOR THE JOB WERE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION, THE HON PAULINE NG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO 2, MRS NG SAID THAT EFFORTS IN EXPANDING CHANNELS OF EDUCATION WOULD BE COMPLETELY SPOILED WITHOUT A COMMITTED AND QUALIFIED TEACHING STAFF.

SHE NOTED THAT EDUCATION HAD DIVERSIFIED IN RECENT YEARS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF HONG KONG AS A COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, RESULTING IN TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL STUDIES BEING OFFERED IN BOTH SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS.

SHE SAID THAT NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS FROM THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE (HKTTTC) REMAINED THE MAIN SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR TEACHERS OF COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS UP TO FORM 5 BUT SHE FELT THE QUALITY OF SUCH TEACHERS SHOULD BE COMPARABLE TO THAT OF GRADUATE TEACHERS TEACHING GENERAL SUBJECTS.

MRS NG WELCOMED THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE ALL GRADUATE TEACHERS TO BE TRAINED BUT SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SIMILAR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS TEACHING COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS UP TO FORM 5 LEVEL.

/+THIS WOULD .....

+THIS WOULD NOT ONLY ENSURE TEACHING IN A PROPER METHODOLOGY BUT ALSO OFFER CAREER PROSPECTS FOR TEACHERS IN THIS FIELD,+ SHE SAID.

SHE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION SHOULD GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO PROPER TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN THESE SUBJECTS.

NOTING THAT IN-SERVICE PART-TIME COURSES OF INITIAL TRAINING WERE OFFERED BY THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HKTTC, MRS NG SAID THE REFRESHER COURSES AND FURTHER TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OFFERED IN SOME OF THESE COLLEGES WERE ALSO USEFUL.

SHE SAID THESE COURSES, IN THE FORM OF SHORT-TERM BLOCK RELEASE COURSES, ALLOWED A HIGH ENROLMENT AND HENCE MORE TEACHERS TO BENEFIT.

SHE STRESSED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE KEPT IN VIEW AND SHE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT REGULAR REVIEWS TO SEE THAT THE COURSES OFFERED IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WERE GEARED TO THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF SOCIETY AND WERE OF PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC USE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOOD PROGRESS MADE ON EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ONE CONTRACTOR FOLLOWING INQUIRIES INTO THE 26 PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS AFFECTED BY THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND HEARING WAS EXPECTED IN EARLY 1988, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, DISCLOSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A STATEMENT REVIEWING PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LIAO PLEDGED THAT INVESTIGATIONS WOULD CONTINUE.

HE SAID THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WOULD COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATION BY APRIL THIS YEAR.

+ABOUT 150 PEOPLE, EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS, HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED AND A REPORT COVERING THE GREATER PART OF THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOR APPRAISAL,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO ALSO REPORTED GOOD PROGRESS ON THE REHOUSING SIDE.

/OF THE .....

- 23 -

OF THE 1 283 FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE THREE CATEGORY I BLOCKS IN NOVEMBER 1985, 944 HAD EITHER ALREADY MOVED OR HAD ACCEPTED NEW ACCOMMODATION, LEAVING 339 FAMILIES OR 26.4 PER CENT YET TO CHOOSE THEIR NEW HOME, HE ADDED.

AS A RESULT, MR LIAO SAID THE CLEARANCE OF CATEGORY I BLOCKS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WAS PROCEEDING AHEAD OF PROGRAMME.

+GOOD PROGRESS ALSO IS BEING MADE ON THE CLEARANCE OF THE 23 CATEGORY II BLOCKS WHERE FINAL CLEARANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1989,+ MR LIAO SAID.

OF THE 14 029 FAMILIES INVOLVED, HE SAID 5 878 HAD ALREADY MOVED OR SIGNED UP TO DO SO, REPRESENTING 42 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL IN 30 PER CENT OF THE PROGRAMMED TIME.

+IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT SO FAR 2 312 FAMILIES HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE NEW HOS FLATS,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO ALSO REPORTED GOOD PROGRESS ON THE CLEARANCE OF COMMERCIAL TENANTS WHICH AGAIN WAS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

HE SAID HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF HAD SPARED NO EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE TENANTS TO MOVE TO NEW HOMES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THEY WOULD VISIT AFFECTED TENANTS IN THE EVENINGS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THEIR PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY MIGHT BE OFFERED THE MOST SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION.

TENANTS WERE ALSO GIVEN A FIRST CALL ON ALL AVAILABLE VACANCIES INCLUDING A WIDE RANGE OF FLATS IN NEW URBAN ESTATES AS WELL AS PRIORITY IN PURCHASING HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ALSO MADE AVAILABLE FLATS TO AFFECTED TENANTS IN EXISTING ESTATES AT A SIMILAR RENT THEY WERE CURRENTLY PAYING IF DESIRED, MR LIAO ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS WOULD CONTINUE TO STRICTLY MONITOR THE AFFECTED BLOCKS DURING THEIR REMAINING LIFE AND PRIOR TO THEIR DEMOLITION.

+THIS IS AN ONGOING AND SYSTEMATIC OPERATION WHICH IS INTENSIFIED DURING TYPHOON CONDITIONS.

+THE SYSTEM FUNCTIONED VERY SATISFACTORILY DURING 1986,+ HE ADDED.

+UNTIL ALL BLOCKS ARE FINALLY CLEARED, ANY NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT,+ HE SAID.

/WITH REGARD .....

- 24 -

WITH REGARD TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, MR LIAO SAID THE COMPLETION OF THE TWO REPLACEMENT BLOCKS AT KWAI FONG ESTATE, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE 905 FLATS, HAD BEEN ADVANCED TO MAY AND JULY THIS YEAR, AND CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS ALREADY PROGRESSING ON FIVE MORE SUPPLEMENTARY SITES.

+THESE SITES AT KWAI CHUNG, SHUN TIN, CHUK YUEN, SHAM SHUI PO, AND SHEK LEI WILL, ON COMPLETION AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR, PRODUCE A FURTHER 5 000 FLATS,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO FURTHER SAID ADDITIONAL URBAN SITES WERE BEING ACTIVELY SOUGHT WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS.

MR LIAO SAID THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, ASSISTED BY SPECIALLY APPOINTED CONSULTANTS AND A NEW IN-HOUSE TEAM, WAS CURRENTLY COMPLETING PLANS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OF THE AUTHORITY'S OLDER HOUSING STOCK.

+THIS WILL INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITES VACATED BY THE DEMOLITION OF THE 26 BLOCKS, AND WILL PROVIDE THE BLUE PRINT FOR THE EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WHICH SOUGHT TO GIVE A MAGISTRATE DISCRETION TO AMEND OR DISMISS A DEFECTIVE COMPLAINT, INFORMATION OR SUMMONS, WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, THE HON MARTIN LEE NOTED THAT SECTION 27 OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY INTERPRETED BY THE SUPREME COURT AS ENJOINING A MAGISTRATE TO AMEND A DEFECTIVE COMPLAINT, INFORMATION OR SUMMONS WITHOUT GIVING ANY DISCRETION WHATSOEVER TO THE TRIAL MAGISTRATE, WHO MIGHT FEEL DISINCLINED TO MAKE THE AMENDMENT BECAUSE IT WAS UNFAIR TO THE DEFENCE.

HE RECALLED THAT SOME 15 YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS A JUNIOR APPEARING BEFORE A FAIR-MINDED MAGISTRATE, HE FACED A SIMILAR DIFFICULTY. THE MAGISTRATE WAS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO AMEND A DEFECTIVE SUMMONS BUT FELT OBLIGED TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE MANDATORY LANGUAGE USED IN SECTION 27 OF THE ORDINANCE.

/+HE AMENDED .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 25 -

+HE AMENDED THE SUMMONS; BUT SUGGESTED TO ME THAT I SHOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE BAR COMMITTEE IN ORDER THAT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO AMEND SECTION 27 SO AS TO GIVE THE MAGISTRATE A DISCRETION IN THE MATTER - A DISCRETION WHICH IS GIVEN TO JUDGES IN THE HIGH COURT AND THE DISTRICT COURT,+ MR LEE SAID.

HE THEN TOOK UP THE MATTER WITH THE BAR COMMITTEE, AND THE BAR COMMITTEE TOOK UP THE MATTER WITH THE THEN ATTORNEY-GENERAL. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED.

HE SAID THE MATTER WAS AGAIN TAKEN UP ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BUT WAS COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN UNTIL HE ASKED HIS QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE NOTED THAT IT HAD TAKEN THREE ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND AT LEAST 12 YEARS TO PRODUCE THE BILL.

+I AM SURE THE DELAY WAS NOT DELIBERATE ON THE PART OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OR HIS PREDECESSORS, ALTHOUGH THE PROSECUTION IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS HAVE HAD A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE SO LONG AS SECTION 27 REMAINS UNCHANGED.+ HE SAID.

+IT IS BETTER LATE THAN NEVER,+ HE ADDED.

WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOOK NOTE OF MR LEE'S COMMENTS, AND OBSERVED THAT AMONG THE HOST OF ISSUES THAT AN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD TO DEAL WITH SOME, LIKE ELEPHANTS, STOOD OUT MORE THAN OTHERS.

+THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 27 WAS PERHAPS A LESS VISIBLE, LESS THREATENING ANIMAL,+ HE SAID.

+WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE PASSAGE OF TIME IN THIS CASE, MEMBERS MAY FIND IT REASSURING TO DISCOVER THAT EVEN THE LAZIEST RIVER EVENTUALLY FINDS THE SEA.+

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/26 .....

BILL SEEKS TO ABOLISH RATES RELIEF SCHEME

\* \* \* \* \*

THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 SEEKS TO ABOLISH THE RATES RELIEF SCHEME TO ENSURE THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE LAST GENERAL REVALUATION IN RE-DISTRIBUTING THE RATES BURDEN ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BEFORE THE NEXT REVALUATION TAKES EFFECT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT THE CURRENT SCHEME LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF RATES INCREASE FOR A PROPERTY IN ANY YEAR TO A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THE RATES PAYABLE IN THE PRECEDING YEAR, SO THAT, IF THE RATES OF ANY PROPERTY WERE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY ON A GENERAL REVALUATION, THE INCREASE WAS PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

+AT PRESENT, THE LIMIT IS 20 PER CENT OVER THE AMOUNT PAID IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR.

+THE LIMIT IS IMPOSED UNTIL THE RATEPAYER IS PAYING THE FULL INCREASED RATES RESULTING FROM THE REVISED RATEABLE VALUE OF HIS PROPERTY,+ HE SAID.

JACOBS NOTED THAT DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 390 400 RATED TENEMENTS, OR 47.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO RATES RELIEF. IN 1987-88, THIS WOULD DECLINE TO 65 500 OR 7.3 PER CENT IF THE PRESENT RELIEF SCHEME WERE TO BE CONTINUED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME HAD ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED AS A TEMPORARY CONCESSION. AND IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE CHANGES CAUSED BY A REVALUATION SHOULD BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BEFORE THE NEXT REVALUATION TOOK EFFECT.

+OTHERWISE, SOME RATEPAYERS WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY PAYING RATES BASED ON COMPOUNDED INCREASES ON THE AMOUNT PAYABLE IN 1983 - THAT IS BEFORE THE LAST GENERAL REVALUATION IN 1984 - AND NOT ON THE CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE. TO SOME EXTENT THIS DEFEATS THE OBJECT OF CARRYING OUT THE REVALUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO ABOLISH THE RELIEF SCHEME WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

MR JACOBS SAID THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT WAS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A FURTHER REVALUATION OF TENEMENTS INTENDED TO TAKE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1988.

+CURRENT PROJECTIONS ARE THAT OVERALL INCREASES WILL BE AROUND 10 PER CENT WITH FAIRLY SIMILAR INCREASES FOR MOST TYPES OF PROPERTY.

/+THERE WILL .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 27 -

+THERE WILL BE SOME CASES, OF COURSE, WHERE THE INCREASES WILL BE HIGHER,+ HE SAID.

ON THE EFFECT OF THE ABOLITION, MR JACOBS SAID THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (OVER 94 PER CENT) OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC UNITS WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY ABOLITION OF THE SCHEME.

+FOR THE 37 900 UNITS THAT ARE AFFECTED, THE AVERAGE ADDITIONAL MONTHLY RATES WILL BE ONLY \$22.64.+

HE CONTINUED: +THE ABOLITION OF THE RATES RELIEF SCHEME WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT ON PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS, BUT THE BURDEN WILL NOT BE GREAT.

+THE ACTUAL AVERAGE MONTHLY INCREASE IN RATES RESULTING FROM THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF THE SCHEME WILL BE ONLY \$1.97 FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANTS CURRENTLY OBTAINING RATES RELIEF, AND ANY SUCH INCREASES WILL ONLY BE REFLECTED IN THE BIENNIAL RENT REVIEWS MADE AFTER APRIL 1, 1987.+

IN THE MEANTIME, THE INCREASES WOULD BE ABSORBED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - O - - - -

#### FINANCIAL AUTONOMY FOR JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE

\*\*\*\*\*

THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN IS TO FUNCTION AUTONOMOUSLY UNDER A TRUST FUND SET UP WITH A \$350 MILLION ENDOWMENT FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE HON HU FA-KUANG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WHICH PROVIDES THE NECESSARY LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MOVE, MR HU SAID FINANCIAL AUTONOMY OF THE CENTRE WOULD ALLOW BETTER USE OF ITS FACILITIES AND RESOURCES AS WELL AS GREATER FREEDOM IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TRUST FUND WOULD BE VESTED IN A COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE FUND WOULD LAST FOR 20 YEARS AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MONEY TO THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BOARD TO SUPPORT ITS PROGRAMME.

/+AS SUCH .....

+AS SUCH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES AND THE BOARD MUST BE SO THAT WHILE THE COMMITTEE IS ALLOWED TO EXERCISE ITS TRUSTEESHIP TO SAFEGUARD THE FUND, IT SHOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE BOARD,+ HE SAID.

MR HU SAID A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE BILL PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES WOULD APPLY THE FUND IN SUCH MANNER AND TO SUCH EXTENT AS THE BOARD MIGHT ADVISE, TO MEET EXPENSES OF THE SPORTS CENTRE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 20 YEARS.

HE SAID THE AD HOC GROUP NOTED THAT DESPITE THE CREATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES, THE BOARD WOULD RETAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH MONEYS AND OTHER ASSETS NOT DESIGNATED FOR THE TRUST FUND.

+THIS WILL ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH OTHER DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED BY THE SPORTS CENTRE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND IN VARIOUS FORMS,+ HE SAID.

MR HU POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL PROPOSED TO DO AWAY WITH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE AND SUGGESTED A MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP OF TWO INSTEAD.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH IN REALITY IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE FUTURE BOARD WOULD HAVE JUST THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS, THE AD HOC GROUP FELT THAT A MINIMUM OF TWO MEMBERS WOULD OPEN UP THE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A BOARD ABSOLUTELY CONTROLLED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE BOARD SHOULD CONSIST OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE AND NOT LESS THAN TWO OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, HE SAID.

MR HU ALSO NOTED THAT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION AS THE BEST TRAINING CENTRE IN ASIA.

RECOGNISING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FEW OUTSTANDING ISSUES, HE SAID THE GENEROUS ENDOWMENT FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WOULD RESOLVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS AND WOULD PLACE THE CENTRE IN A FAVOURABLE POSITION TO MAP OUT ITS FUTURE STRATEGIES.

HE WELCOMED THE CLUB'S AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER THE CENTRE'S REQUESTS FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS IF SUCH SHOULD BE NECESSARY, AND CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE SIMILAR UNDERTAKING AS AN ASSURANCE TO THE PUBLIC OF ITS DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT A HEALTHY LONG-TERM POLICY ON SPORTS AND RECREATION.

THE RELEVANT AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC GROUP WERE MOVED BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND THE HON ANDREW WONG RESPECTIVELY AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BILL.

THANKING MR HU FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR LIAO ASSURED HIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER CERTAIN REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, PROVIDED EACH CASE COULD BE JUSTIFIED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FINES UNDER SOCIETIES ORDINANCE INCREASED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR A NUMBER OF OFFENCES UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID ITS MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE WAS TO EMPHASISE THE GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO TACKLE TRIADS FIRMLY.

HE SAID THE MOTION ALSO AIMED AT RESTORING THE REAL LEVELS OF FINES IN THE PROVISIONS, AND TO REMOVE AN APPARENT IMBALANCE WHICH RESULTED WHEN SOME OF THE FINES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WERE INCREASED IN 1982.

MR JEAFFRESON NOTED THAT SOME OF THE FINES HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED MOST SINCE 1957, OR 1961 OR 1964, AND HAD LOST THEIR IMPACT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

MR JEAFFRESON ALSO SAID THAT ONE OF THE OPTIONS IN THE +DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO COUNTER THE TRIAD PROBLEM+, ISSUED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IN APRIL LAST YEAR, WAS TO REVISE THE FINES AVAILABLE UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE. THIS HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES AS WELL AS SOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

HE SAID: +IN ORDER TO BRING THE FINES UP-TO-DATE WITH RESPECT TO INFLATION, A FIVEFOLD INCREASE IS NECESSARY. THIS LEVEL OF INCREASE IS PROPOSED FOR THOSE SECTIONS WHICH DO NOT DEAL WITH TRIAD RELATED OR OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES.

/+ALTHOUGH THEY .....

- 30 -

+ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO TRIAD MEMBERSHIP, TWO OF THE OFFENCES INVOLVE MEMBERSHIP OF UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES IN GENERAL AND ALLOWING PREMISES TO BE USED BY SUCH SOCIETIES.

+THESE OFFENCES ARE CONSIDERED SERIOUS AND ADEQUATE PENALTIES NEED TO BE AVAILABLE. A TENFOLD INCREASE, WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE INCREASING PURCHASING POWER OF INDIVIDUALS SINCE 1960, IS PROPOSED.+

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE OFFENCES OF BEING A TRIAD MEMBER OR BEING AN OFFICE BEARER OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY, AND THAT WHICH INVOLVED INCITING SOMEONE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY, MUST BE FIRMLY DEALT WITH AND MORE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE RELEVANT FINES WERE PROPOSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FOUR BILLS PASSED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANOTHER BILL - THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 - WAS READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON IT WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO FEBRUARY 18.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 31 -

ACAN WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE CONTROL OF PSYCHOTROPIC AND NON-OPIATE NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES ESTABLISHED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) RELEVANT TO MANDRAX AND HAD IMPLEMENTED THAT OR WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SO, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG REGARDING MANDRAX SEIZED IN HONG KONG, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT BOTH THE ACAN AND THE GOVERNMENT VIEWED WITH GREAT CONCERN THE PROBLEM OF THE ABUSE OF MANDRAX AND WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK HARD AT OTHER POSSIBLE WAYS OF DEALING WITH IT.

HE SAID THAT 24 422 MANDRAX TABLETS WERE SEIZED IN 1983, 10 649 MANDRAX TABLETS AND 152 GRAMS OF MATHAQUALONE POWDER (WHICH IS A POWDER USED TO MAKE MANDRAX TABLETS) WERE SEIZED IN 1984. IN 1985, 15 666 TABLETS WERE SEIZED.

THE SEIZURES IN 1986 INCREASED TO 259 168 TABLETS AND 33.4 KILOGRAMS OF POWDER MAINLY DUE TO TWO SEIZURES OF LARGE AMOUNTS.

+TO CURB THE SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING OF MANDRAX, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THE QUANTITIES OF MANDRAX SEIZED IN RECENT YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN 1986, ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THE EFFORTS OF BOTH TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT SUPPLY IN HONG KONG.+

THE WORKING PARTY HAD BEEN WATCHING CLOSELY THE INCREASE IN THE ABUSE OF MANDRAX SINCE 1983, HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUP AS ENDORSED BY ACAN:

- \* THE SENDING OF RETURNS TO ACAN OF THE IMPORT, EXPORT, MANUFACTURE, STOCK HOLDING AND CONSUMPTION TRENDS OF SUCH NON-OPIATE DRUGS OF ABUSE;
- \* THE PROVISION OF DRUG IDENTIFICATION CHARTS AND KITS CONTAINING SAMPLES OF MANDRAX TO POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS;
- \* AMENDMENTS TO THE REPORT FORM OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE TO INCLUDE MANDRAX AS ONE OF THE DRUGS THAT COULD BE ABUSED BY PERSONS REPORTED TO THE REGISTRY;
- \* TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

/IN DECEMBER .....

IN DECEMBER 1986, ACAN ENDORSED THE WORKING PARTY'S FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED:

- \* A LARGE-SCALE SCHOOL SURVEY ON PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSE INCLUDING MANDRAX COVERING SOME 100 000 STUDENTS IN 120 SCHOOLS WHICH IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE END OF 1987;
- \* THE ERECTION OF CONSPICUOUS NOTICES AT THE BORDER CROSSING POINTS WARNING TRAVELLERS TO CHINA THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR THEM TO BRING SUCH PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS INTO HONG KONG WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION; AND
- \* MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN PUBLICITY AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION THROUGH TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS, POSTERS AND SCHOOL TALKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### AIRPORT NOISE PROBLEM UNDER REVIEW

\* \* \* \* \*

THE WHOLE QUESTION OF AIRPORT NOISE WAS UNDER REVIEW, AND THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAD LET A CONSULTANCY TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REMEDIAL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NOISE LEVELS AFFECTING RICHLAND GARDENS, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED, WOULD BE PROVIDING CONSIDERABLE INPUT TO THIS STUDY AND CONSULTANTS WERE EXPECTED TO REPORT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR BARNES SAID THAT LAND OCCUPIED BY RICHLAND GARDENS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME WAS REZONED FROM +INDUSTRIAL+ TO +RESIDENTIAL+ BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 1981.

+AT THAT TIME, THE DEMAND FOR URBAN RESIDENTIAL LAND EXCEEDED THE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND, AND SITES FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE SCALE OF RICHLAND GARDENS WERE SCARCE AND URGENTLY NEEDED,+ HE SAID.

BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGAN, BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEVELOPER WERE AWARE OF THE NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NOISE GENERATED FROM THE AIRPORT IN THE DESIGN, HE ADDED:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 33 -

MR BARNES SAID THAT FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE 22 BLOCKS NOISE FROM THE AIRPORT, MAINLY FROM AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF AND LANDING, WAS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

IT WAS SIMILAR TO NOISE LEVELS EXPERIENCED BY OTHER RESIDENTIAL AREAS CLOSE TO THE AIRPORT, AND DID NOT TAKE PLACE DURING THE NIGHT.

+HOWEVER, THERE IS A NOISE PROBLEM FOR SOME OF THE BLOCKS CLOSEST TO THE AIRPORT, IN PARTICULAR FOR THOSE FLATS FACING DIRECTLY THE HAECO PREMISES AND THE AIR CARGO COMPLEX, AS A RESULT OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND CARGO HANDLING, AT NIGHT.

+AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE 24 HOURS OF THE DAY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE AIRPORT.

+A SIMILAR SITUATION APPLIES TO CARGO HANDLING,+ HE ADDED.

MR BARNES SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEVELOPER OF RICHLAND GARDENS HAD HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH HAECO AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO SEE HOW NOISE LEVELS COULD BE REDUCED, AND THAT THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

#### ABERDEEN BOAT DWELLERS TO BE REHOUSED IN PHASES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER WOULD BE CLEARED OF BOAT DWELLINGS BY THE MID-1990'S AND BOAT DWELLERS WERE BEING REHOUSED IN PHASES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LIAO SAID THE NUMBER OF BOAT DWELLINGS IN THE SHELTER HAD DECREASED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS BECAUSE OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S REHOUSING PROGRAMME AND, IN ADDITION, SOME BOATS HAD SUNK.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR ON THE RECENT FIRE AT THE SHELTER WHICH LEFT 242 FAMILIES HOMELESS, MR LAIO SAID THESE FAMILIES, COMPRISING 1 153 PEOPLE, WERE BEING REHOUSED.

A FURTHER 364 FAMILIES, COMPRISING 1 752 PEOPLE, WOULD BE REHOUSED IN PHASED CLEARANCES IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES REMAINING WOULD BE REHOUSED BY THE MID-1990'S, HE SAID.

/+GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES .....

+GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY OVERCROWDING OF DWELLING BOATS IN TYPHOON SHELTERS.

+IN ADDITION TO THE FIRE RISKS CREATED BY THIS PHENOMENON, THE BOATS OCCUPY VALUABLE TYPHOON SHELTER SPACE AND THEY ALSO GENERATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HYGIENE PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

+IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM, ALL TYPHOON SHELTERS WERE GAZETTED AS PRESCRIBED AREAS IN 1985-86,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID ALL EXISTING DWELLING BOATS IN THE SHELTERS WERE LICENSED AND NO NEW DWELLING BOATS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE PROVISION OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT ON DWELLING BOATS, MR LIAO SAID THIS WAS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF BOAT DWELLERS.

+HOWEVER, MOST DWELLING BOATS HAVE ON BOARD SOME FORM OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS FIRE BUCKETS, BLANKETS ETC. WHICH ARE ABLE TO EXTINGUISH SMALL DOMESTIC FIRES.

+THE FIRE BOATS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT PATROL DAILY THE FAIRWAYS AND FIRE ACCESS,+ HE SAID.

FIRE PREVENTION BROADCASTS AND FIRE EXERCISES WERE ALSO CONDUCTED ON A REGULAR BASIS AND PAMPHLETS ON FIRE SAFETY MEASURES WERE PLACED IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES FOR YEAR-ROUND DISTRIBUTION.

+ADDITIONALLY, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS LIAISING WITH BOAT DWELLERS AND FISHERMEN REPRESENTATIVES TO ADVISE THEM TO ACQUIRE FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR DWELLING VESSELS,+ MR LIAO ADDED.

- - - - O - - - -

WELFARE SERVICE PREMISES PROCESSING TO BE IMPROVED

\* \* \* \* \*

CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS FOR PROCESSING PROJECTS INVOLVING SPACE IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS ALLOCATED FOR WELFARE SERVICES HAS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROSANNA TAM, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE PROCEDURES WERE NOW BEING REVISED WITH A VIEW TO MAKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

/HE SAID .....

- 35 -

HE SAID DELAYS HAD OCCURRED IN TWO CASES WHICH WERE REFERRED TO BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN HIS 1985-86 REPORT.

+IN BOTH CASES, THE DELAY WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THE UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION WAS DUE PARTLY TO INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND PARTLY DUE TO THE LACK OF AGREED PROCEDURES ON THE HANDLING OF SUCH PROJECTS, WHICH WERE A RELATIVELY NEW ARRANGEMENT.

TO PREVENT SIMILAR DELAYS OCCURRING IN FUTURE, MR CHAMBERS SAID, A SET OF PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECTS OF THIS TYPE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN MARCH 1985.

+IN ADDITION, PLANNING OF THIS TYPE OF PROJECT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN FIVE YEARS AHEAD OF THE EXPECTED AVAILABILITY OF THE PREMISES INSTEAD OF TWO YEARS AS PREVIOUSLY,+ HE SAID.

+THIS SHOULD ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE SELECTION OF SUITABLE OPERATING AGENCIES AND FOR THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS OVER LAYOUT PLANS AND FINANCING OF THE PROJECTS,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES BEING REVIEWED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING SEVERAL ASPECTS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY CHILD CARE CENTRES, INCLUDING CRECHES FOR CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OLD AND NURSERIES FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID A RECENT STUDY OF ALL 19 DAY CRECHES IN THE TERRITORY REVEALED THAT A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THOSE ENROLLED OR WAIT-LISTED DID NOT MEET THE INCOME AND SOCIAL NEED CRITERIA.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO EXAMINED THE POLICY ON THE PROVISION OF DAY CRECHES, THE EXPANSION OF WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE 1979 ON THE ADVICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSULTED AGAIN ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE.

/TURNING TO .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 36 -

TURNING TO THE CONTROL OF CHILD CARE CENTRES, MR CHAMBERS SAID: + A RECENT REVIEW HAS RECOMMENDED CERTAIN CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS, AND MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE IS BEING ISSUED TO STAFF ON THEIR ENFORCEMENT OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRE ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS.+

HE SAID THAT THE PLANNING AND PROVISION OF CHILD CARE CENTRES WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN REVIEW FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT NOW IN PROGRESS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EFFORTS TO HELP STREET-SLEEPERS TO BE STEPPED UP  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL STEP UP EFFORTS THIS YEAR TO HELP STREET-SLEEPERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO WERE ELDERLY, DISABLED, SUSPECTED TO BE ON DRUGS OR MENTALLY ILL, WITH A VIEW TO PERSUADING THEM TO ACCEPT WELFARE OR MEDICAL SERVICES OR REHOUSING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG CONCERNING WELFARE FOR STREET SLEEPERS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THEY CAUSED.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO DEVELOP SOME DAY RELIEF CENTRES (POSSIBLY WITH SOME TEMPORARY SHELTER PLACES), TO BE OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, TO PROVIDE BASES FOR ASSISTING AND COUNSELLING STREET SLEEPERS.

+IN ADDITION, A GRANT FROM A TRUST FUND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION INCORPORATED WILL ENABLE THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY TO DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION THEY PROVIDE IN THE SHAM SHUI PO CAMP, AND THE STREET SLEEPERS SHELTER SOCIETY WILL SHORTLY BE OPENING A NEW SHELTER IN WAN CHAI,+ HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN THE DISTRICTS TO MARK THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS.

/MR CHAMBERS .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 37 -

MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COUNSELLING, REHOUSING AND OTHER WELFARE SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO WERE GENUINELY HOMELESS, OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONDUCTED REGULAR CLEARANCE OPERATIONS WITH THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES, TO DETER STREET-SLEEPING AND CURB NUISANCES.

+DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, 48 CLEARANCE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A NUMBER OF DISTRICTS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HOW BETTER CO-ORDINATION COULD BE ACHIEVED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR GAMBLING ALLOWED  
\* \* \* \* \*

IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO RESTRICT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAMBLING BUT TO ALLOW CONTROLLED OUTLETS FOR GAMBLING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR THOMAS SAID UNDER THE EXISTING LAW (GAMBLING ORDINANCE CAP. 148), ALL GAMBLING WAS UNLAWFUL WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS AND HEAVY PENALTIES WERE IMPOSED FOR OPERATING ESTABLISHMENTS IN WHICH UNLAWFUL GAMBLING TOOK PLACE.

HE SAID: +SECTION 3(4) OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE LIMITS THE EXTENT TO WHICH A PRIVATE CLUB OR ASSOCIATION, IN CONDUCTING GAMES OF MAHJONG BY WAY OF TRADE OR BUSINESS, MAY CHARGE THEIR MEMBERS FOR THE HIRE OF MAHJONG TILES. THIS LIMIT IS PRESENTLY FIXED AT \$20 PER DAY.

+THUS, FRIENDLY ASSOCIATIONS AND PRIVATE CLUBS, EVEN IF REGISTERED, WHICH CHARGE THEIR MEMBERS MORE THAN \$20 PER DAY FOR THE HIRE OF THE MAHJONG TILES WILL BE DEEMED TO BE GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS AND PEOPLE WHO PLAY MAHJONG THERE ARE LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED,+

MR THOMAS STRESSED THAT THE POLICE DIRECTED THEIR EFFORTS PRINCIPALLY AT THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH EXISTED PRIMARILY OR SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAMBLING.

/+THESE PROVISIONS .....

- 38 -

+THESE PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN IN FORCE IN THEIR PRESENT FORM FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS AND THE OPERATORS AND MANAGERS OF FRIENDLY ASSOCIATIONS AND PRIVATE CLUBS CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE LAW,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS ADDED THAT HE WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THESE PROVISIONS IN THE COURSE OF HIS GENERAL REVIEW OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LRT EXTENSIONS BEING STUDIED IN STAGES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCRC) IS OBLIGED TO HAVE REGARD TO THE REASONABLE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OF HONG KONG AND TO OPERATE ON PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR GREWAL SAID THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) EXTENSIONS STUDY, COMMISSIONED AND FINANCED BY THE KCRC, WAS BEING CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF STAGE 1 WAS TO EXAMINE EACH ALTERNATIVE ROUTE IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO ENABLE THEM TO BE RANKED AND SHORTLISTED SO THAT THOSE WHICH WARRANTED FURTHER MORE DETAILED EVALUATION IN STAGE 2 OF THE STUDY COULD BE IDENTIFIED.

+THE STAGE 1 STUDY HAS IDENTIFIED AND EXAMINED FOUR POSSIBLE LINKS CONNECTING THE LRT WITH THE URBAN AREA AND EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES. THEY ARE THE TUEN MUN TO TSUEN WAN LINK, AND LINKS FROM YUEN LONG TO TSUEN WAN, TAI PO (I.E. TAI PO NORTH) AND SHEUNG SHUI RESPECTIVELY,+ HE ADDED.

MR GREWAL SAID THAT HAVING CONSIDERED THE CONSULTANTS' INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THE FOUR ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENTS AND PATTERN OF TRAVEL DEMAND IN AND FROM THE NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, THE KCRC HAD ASKED THE CONSULTANTS TO EXAMINE THE YUEN LONG TO TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG TO TAI PO OPTIONS IN GREATER DETAIL.

+THE SEARCH FOR A VIABLE LRT EXTENSION TO TSUEN WAN IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CORPORATION WILL DECIDE WHAT THE PREFERRED ROUTE IS IN MARCH THIS YEAR BEFORE MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 39 -

SUMMONSES AGAINST GAMES CENTRES DECREASING  
\* \* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF 3 330 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED LAST YEAR FOR BREACHES OF LICENCE CONDITIONS, MAINLY FOR OPERATING UNAPPROVED GAMES AND MACHINES AND FOR ADMITTING UNDERAGED PERSONS TO ADULT CENTRES, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM, MR FORD SAID THAT THIS REPRESENTED A DROP OF NEARLY 1 000 SUMMONSES COMPARED TO THE 4 362 IN 1985.

+I AM ADVISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES ARE NOT MORE PRONE TO CRIME THAN OTHER PLACES WHERE THE PUBLIC CONGREGATE,+ HE SAID.

IN 1986, HE ADDED, 143 CASES OF VIOLENT CRIMES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN SOME 680 AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, WITH THE THREE MOST COMMON OFFENCES BEING SERIOUS ASSAULTS, ROBBERIES AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

MR FORD SAID THAT STATISTICS ON CRIMES WHICH OCCURRED IN AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES WERE NOT KEPT SEPARATELY IN 1985.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CENSUS COVERS LEGAL IMMIGRANTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

LEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE COVERED IN THE CENSUS AND THE NUMBERS OF ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS LIKELY TO ARRIVE FROM CHINA EACH YEAR ARE INCLUDED IN POPULATION PROJECTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THESE PROJECTIONS PROVIDED A FRAMEWORK BY AGE AND SEX FOR USE IN PLANNING PUBLIC SERVICES.

HE SAID THAT 27 111 ONE-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS FROM CHINA HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO STAY DURING LAST YEAR. THE FIGURES FOR 1985 AND 1984 WERE 27 202 AND 27 755 RESPECTIVELY.

+THE NUMBERS ACCORD WITH THE LEVEL OF ADMISSIONS AGREED WITH CHINA AND ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN AT THIS LEVEL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,+ MR JEAFFRESON ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/40 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 40 -

OVERALL STRUCTURE OF TAXATION SYSTEM CONSIDERED  
\* \* \* \* \*

IN PREPARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET, NOT ONLY THE POSITION OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS BUT THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE TAXATION SYSTEM AND THE BUDGETARY SITUATION ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON SZETO WAH, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING SOME FORMS OF TAX CONCESSIONS IN VIEW OF THE IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OF COURSE CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF TAXATION, INCLUDING THE ISSUES RAISED BY MR SZETO.

+I CAN SAY NO MORE UNTIL I DELIVER MY BUDGET IN THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB'S TO BE CONSULTED ON HOUSING REVIEW  
\* \* \* \* \*

DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE RESULTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STRATEGY REVIEW CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR LIAO SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW WAS TO EXAMINE THE DEMAND FOR, AND SUPPLY OF, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING UP TO THE YEAR 2001, AND TO DEVISE A STRATEGY TO SATISFY THE IDENTIFIED HOUSING DEMANDS IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SELECTIVE TRAINING PROVIDED FOR ATHLETES  
\* \* \* \* \*

ATHLETES WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING POTENTIAL OR ABILITY IN THEIR CHOSEN SPORT WERE PROVIDED WITH SELECTIVE TRAINING THROUGH LONG-TERM TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF SPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LIAO SAID FUNDS TO FINANCE THESE PROGRAMMES WERE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

+IN 1986-87, A TOTAL OF \$10 MILLION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL WAS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SETTING UP A SPORTS AID FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO YOUNG ATHLETES WHO HAD THE POTENTIAL TO ATTAIN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN THEIR CHOSEN SPORTS, HE ADDED.

+SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO ELIGIBLE ATHLETES IN THE FORM OF FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES TO COVER ANY LOSS OF EARNING INCURRED DURING ABSENCE FROM EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE TRAINING OR COMPETITION PERIOD.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

16 BUS ROUTES, 3 FERRY SERVICES CANCELLED  
\* \* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF 16 FRANCHISED BUS ROUTES AND THREE FRANCHISED CROSS-HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR FINANCIAL REASONS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, MR GREWAL SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD ALSO APPROVED THE CANCELLATION OF A FURTHER THREE PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT NO CANCELLATIONS WERE MADE LIGHTLY OR BEFORE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS FULLY CONVINCED THAT SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVES DID EXIST, OR WOULD BE CREATED, TO SERVE ANY PASSENGERS DISPLACED.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, +ROUTES ARE ONLY CANCELLED FOLLOWING AND NOT IN ANTICIPATION OF REDUCTIONS IN PASSENGER DEMAND FOR THE SERVICE CONCERNED.+

BEFORE ANY SUCH DECISION WAS TAKEN, HE SAID, IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S NORMAL PRACTICE TO CONSULT THE DISTRICT BOARDS CONCERNED.

/HE ENSURED .....

- 42 -

HE ENSURED THAT THOSE LOSS-MAKING SERVICES WHICH WERE HIGHLY SOCIALLY DESIRABLE AND COULD BE HARDLY REPLACED BY OTHER ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD BE MAINTAINED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

GIVING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE CANCELLATIONS, MR GREWAL SAID FOR THE BUS ROUTES, NINE WERE OPERATED BY THE CMB, FOUR BY THE KMB AND THREE JOINTLY BY THE TWO COMPANIES.

THESE ROUTES WERE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF REDUCED DEMAND AND INSUFFICIENT PATRONAGE IN LIGHT OF COMPETITION FROM THE MTR, KCRC AND GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES.

AS REGARD FRANCHISED FERRY SERVICES, HE SAID THE THREE HYF'S CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES WHICH HAD BEEN CANCELLED FOLLOWING A RATIONALISATION PLAN TO MAINTAIN THE VIABILITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THE OUTLYING ISLANDS WERE ONE FOR VEHICLES AND TWO FOR PASSENGERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC OFFENDERS MAY PLEAD GUILTY BY LETTER  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A RESOLUTION THAT AMENDS THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE SO THAT AN OFFENDER AGAINST THE ROAD TRAFFIC (VILLAGE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1986 MAY PLEAD GUILTY BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE MAGISTRATE RATHER THAN DO SO BY APPEARING IN COURT.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON HARNAM GREWAL, SAID THE PURPOSE WAS TO AMEND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENT WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 2, THE SAME EFFECTIVE DATE AS THAT FOR THE ROAD TRAFFIC (VILLAGE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON JULY 8 LAST YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 43 -

SCOTT APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF CAYMAN ISLANDS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN HONG KONG AND LONDON AT 8.30 PM TODAY (HK TIME):

+HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HAS BEEN PLEASED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR A.J. SCOTT, CVO, CBE TO BE GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IN SUCCESSION TO MR G.P. LLOYD, CMG, CVO, WHO WILL BE LEAVING GRAND CAYMAN ON EXPIRY OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE.+

- - - - -

COMMENTING ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR ALAN SCOTT SAID:

+IT IS A GREAT HONOUR TO ACCEPT HER MAJESTY'S APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. OF COURSE, MY WIFE AND I WILL LEAVE HONG KONG WITH GREAT REGRET, FOR WE HAVE BOTH FOUND MANY INTERESTS TO PURSUE HERE, AS WELL AS WORK; AND HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE IN MANY LASTING FRIENDSHIPS.

+FIFTEEN YEARS WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN CHALLENGING AND REWARDING, FALLING AS THEY HAVE IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT PERIOD IN HONG KONG'S MODERN HISTORY.

+PERHAPS OF ALL MY JOBS, THREE YEARS AS SECRETARY FOR HOUSING WERE THE MOST DEMANDING AND EXCITING -- WORKING IN A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING WITH SO MANY COMPETENT AND DEVOTED PEOPLE, CIVIL SERVANTS AND UNOFFICIALS TOGETHER.

+MY PRINCIPAL WORK CONTINUES ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 1987 REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, AND MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE GIVING OUR FULL ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT TASK.+

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/44 .....

DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT MR JOHN CHAN, LVO, OBE, JP, THE PRESENT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR ALAN SCOTT, CVO, CBE, JP WHEN HE LEAVES IN EARLY APRIL TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

MR CHAN WILL VACATE HIS PRESENT POST ON FEBRUARY 2, 1987 AND BE ON ATTACHMENT TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH HIS NEW DUTIES.

MRS IRENE YAU, WHO IS CURRENTLY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, WILL SUCCEED MR CHAN AS DIRECTOR.

SHE WILL BE REPLACED BY MR KEVIN MAK, WHO IS NOW DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON).

FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS:

MR ALAN J. SCOTT, CVO, CBE, JP

AGED 53. MR SCOTT JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE AS A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN SEPTEMBER 1971. HE SERVED INITIALLY AS ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BECAME SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 1973.

HE BECAME SECRETARY FOR HOUSING IN 1977; WAS SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION FROM JULY 1980 TO JANUARY 1982, WHEN HE BECAME SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

HE HAS HELD HIS PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY SINCE APRIL 1985.

MR JOHN CHAN CHO-CHAK, LVO, OBE, JP

AGED 43. MR CHAN JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER II IN JULY 1964. HE BECAME AN ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER TWO MONTHS LATER AND STAYED IN THE FORMER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT UNTIL JANUARY 1970 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

HE THEN HELD VARIOUS POSTS IN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH.

FOLLOWING A SHORT BREAK IN HIS SERVICE, HE RETURNED TO SERVE AS A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE SECURITY BRANCH AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, AND AS A DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY (GENERAL DUTIES) FROM FEBRUARY 1984 TO JANUARY 1986 WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT POST OF DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS CURRENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

MRS IRENE YAU LEE CHE-YUN  
-----

AGED 44. MRS YAU JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN JULY 1964 AS A HOUSING ASSISTANT, SHE TRANSFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE GRADE AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER II IN JUNE 1965 AND JOINED THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS AN INFORMATION OFFICER IN APRIL 1970.

SHE WAS PROMOTED TO HER PRESENT RANK OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION IN JANUARY 1986.

MR KEVIN MAK IU-KWAN, JP  
-----

AGED 48. MR MAK JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER II IN AUGUST 1963. HE REMAINED IN THE EXECUTIVE GRADE UNTIL APRIL 1981 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C.

SINCE THEN, HE HAS SERVED AS A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE FORMER SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH AND AS DISTRICT OFFICER (KWUN TONG).

HE HAS HELD HIS PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON) SINCE APRIL 1986.

- - - - 0 - - - -

'INTERESTING AND EXCITING' NEW JOB -- CHAN  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE WAS +VERY PLEASSED AND VERY HONOURED+ BY HIS APPOINTMENT TO TAKE OVER FROM MR ALAN SCOTT, AND WOULD BE TRYING HIS VERY BEST TO MAKE A GOOD JOB OF IT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS NEW APPOINTMENT, MR CHAN DESCRIBED THE JOB AS +INTERESTING AND EXCITING+ AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR HIM.

/HE SAID .....

- 46 -

HE SAID THE 1987 REVIEW WOULD BE AMONG HIS NEW DUTIES.

COMMENTING ON THE TITLE OF THE POST HE IS TO TAKE UP, MR CHAN SAID THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE EXISTING TITLE MIGHT BE CHANGED IN EARLY APRIL WHEN HE TOOK UP THE POST, BUT A DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE.

ASKED ABOUT MR SCOTT'S DUTIES WHICH HE IS TO UNDERSTUDY, MR CHAN SAID THESE DUTIES AT PRESENT INCLUDED WORK ON THE 1987 REVIEW, AND ASSISTING THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN CO-ORDINATING POLICY MATTERS WHICH INVOLVED MORE THAN ONE BRANCH.

ON THE REASON BEHIND HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE NEW JOB, MR CHAN SAID: +I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO WHOEVER MADE THAT DECISION, AND I SHALL BE TRYING MY BEST TO ENSURE THAT MY WORK PERFORMANCE WOULD NOT DISAPPOINT THEM.+

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU, SAID SHE WAS HONOURED TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR AND SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

SHE SAID THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED THROUGH THE MEDIA, AS WELL AS REFLECTING VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE MEDIA TO THE GOVERNMENT.

+I WILL CERTAINLY DO MY BEST TO ASSIST THE MEDIA IN THEIR REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT WORK AND POLICIES,+ SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO DECISION YET ON ABOLITION OF TITLE  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING THAT IT WAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER THE TITLE OF DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY WOULD BE ABOLISHED AFTER MR ALAN SCOTT LEFT THE POST.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS, MR FORD SAID: +WHETHER WE WILL STILL KEEP THE SAME TITLE IS A MATTER FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, BUT BASICALLY THERE IS THE SAME RANGE OF DUTIES. THERE MAY BE SOME AMENDMENTS IN THE DUTIES, BUT LARGELY THE SAME RANGE OF DUTIES WILL REMAIN.+

ASKED WHEN THE DECISION WILL BE MADE WHETHER TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE POST, HE SAID: +I THINK WE HAVE UNTIL THE TIME MR SCOTT LEAVES TO DECIDE THAT.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

/47 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 47 -

ACTING GOVERNOR TO GIVE SIR DAVID GENERAL BRIEFING  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WHILE IN LONDON NEXT MONTH HE WOULD BRING THE NEW GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND ON MAJOR EVENTS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE TANG SHIU KIN SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE IN KWAI CHUNG, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN ACTING GOVERNOR FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS.

+SO IT'LL BE A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO BRING SIR DAVID UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN HONG KONG, HOW MUCH WE'VE BEEN DOING, WHAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IN LEGCO AND SO ON, AND WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IN THE YEAR AHEAD AND TO GIVE HIM JUST A GENERAL BACKGROUND BRIEFING.+

SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC PROBLEM HE WOULD RAISE WITH THE NEW GOVERNOR.

+BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS GOING ON IN HONG KONG, THERE ARE LOTS OF PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH ARE GOING THROUGH LEGCO AT THE MOMENT AND ARE GOING TO COME THROUGH LEGCO AND THERE IS THE GREEN PAPER, THE TIMING OF THE ISSUE OF THE GREEN PAPER AND SO ON AND SO FORTH. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS GENERALLY.+

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT HE WOULD ALSO BRIEF THE NEW GOVERNOR ON HOW LEGCO MEMBERS FELT ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

ASKED WHETHER AN ASSESSMENT OFFICE WOULD BE SET UP TO GAUGE PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GREEN PAPER, SIR DAVID SAID NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE ON HOW TO COLLATE OPINIONS ON THE GREEN PAPER, +BUT WE'LL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FAIRLY SOON.+

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A DEPUTY GOVERNOR POST, SIR DAVID SAID: +I LEAVE THAT TO SIR DAVID WILSON TO DECIDE ON THE ARRANGEMENTS HE WANTS FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION WHEN HE GETS HERE.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

/48 .....

BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEEDS ABLE GRADUATES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUSINESS SECTOR MUST CONTINUE TO GET A FAIR SHARE OF THE MOST ABLE GRADUATES OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OPENING THE BUSINESS INFORMATION DAY ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS IN ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (AIESEC) - HONG KONG, HELD AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, MR CHAU SAID THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, LIKE ANY OTHER COMMUNITY, NEEDED TO RENEW ITSELF IF IT WAS TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER.

HE SAID THAT ON THE ONE HAND IT WAS FOR THE UNIVERSITIES TO PRODUCE GRADUATES WITH THE RIGHT QUALIFICATIONS AND OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MUST BE ABLE TO OFFER NOT JUST JOBS FOR FRESH GRADUATES, BUT ALSO INTERESTING, CHALLENGING AND REWARDING LONG-TERM CAREER PROSPECTS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT THE BRIGHTEST AND THE BEST AMONG OUR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE BUSINESS INFORMATION DAY SERVED A USEFUL AND IMPORTANT FUNCTION BY BRINGING TOGETHER THE BUSINESS WORLD AND THE STUDENTS OF HONG KONG'S TWO UNIVERSITIES.

+IT ENCOURAGES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM IN THE WORLD OF COMMERCE AND ABOUT THE IMPORTANT PART THEY CAN PLAY IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$100 +LAI SEE+ FOR 6 200 ELDERLY  
\* \* \* \* \*

ABOUT 6 200 RESIDENTS OF 58 HOSTELS AND HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) EACH RECEIVED \$100 NEW YEAR +LAI SEE+ FROM THE SHANGHAI FRATERNITY ASSOCIATION.

THE MONEY HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE ASSOCIATION'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

THE DISTRIBUTION BEGAN AT THE HONG KONG AND MACAU LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAI KEI HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY IN AP LEI CHAU WHERE ABOUT 100 RESIDENTS RECEIVED THEIR RED PACKETS THIS MORNING.

/SPEAKING AS .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 49 -

SPEAKING AS THE DISTRIBUTION BEGAN, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS EVELYN DOE, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY AND SAID THAT IT HAD SET AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL GROUPS.

THOSE TAKING PART IN THE DISTRIBUTION INCLUDED MRS WONG CHI-WAI, WIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S CHAIRMAN, AND MR SUEN LIT-FAI, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ELDERLY IN SAI KUNG RECEIVE +LAI SEE+  
\* \* \* \* \*

ABOUT 800 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SAI KUNG, HANG HAU AND RENNIE'S MILL WILL RECEIVE +LAI SEE+ PACKETS FROM THE FAT CHOY SPECIAL AID FUND STARTING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) UNTIL FRIDAY.

THIS MORNING, 263 ELDERLIES HAPPILY RECEIVED RED PACKETS FROM STAFF OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AT A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD IN THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID OTHER ELDERLY PEOPLE WOULD RECEIVE RED PACKETS IN THE HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE, THE YEUNG CHUN HOUSE IN RENNIE'S MILL AND SEVERAL HOMES FOR THE AGED OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

THE FAT CHOY SPECIAL AID IS AN ANNUAL DRIVE BY THE SING TAO NEWSPAPER LIMITED TO HELP NEEDY INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE A HAPPIER LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SUM OF \$40 000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THIS YEAR'S RED PACKETS DISTRIBUTION IN SAI KUNG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/50 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 50 -

SCOUTING, GUIDING HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE  
\* \* \* \* \*

BOTH SCOUTING AND GUIDING WILL CONTINUE TO IMBUE HONG KONG'S YOUNG WITH THEIR SPIRIT AND MOTIVATION TOWARDS GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE TANG SHIU KIN SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN, SIR DAVID SAID HE WISHED THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF KWAI CHUNG, YOUNG AND OLD WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THE ADAPTABLE BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION HEADQUARTERS OF THE SCOUT AND GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION.

SIR DAVID ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SIR SHIU-KIN TANG.

+IT IS A GREAT SADNESS THAT SIR SHIU-KIN TANG, WHO HAD BEEN AN ARDENT SUPPORTER OF BOTH ASSOCIATIONS SINCE THEIR INTRODUCTION TO HONG KONG IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY, IS NOT WITH US TODAY,+ HE SAID.

+INDEED WE HAD HOPED THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD PERFORM THIS CEREMONY, HAVING TOPPED OUT THE BUILDING IN DECEMBER 1984.+

THE TANG SHIU KIN SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE WAS BUILT WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND MANY GENEROUS DONORS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOUTHERN SEMINAR ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

A SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG WILL BE HELD AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (JANUARY 22) IN THE WAH FU COMMUNITY HALL FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

ABOUT 100 RESIDENTS FROM LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE THREE-HOUR SEMINAR.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAH FU AND THE POK FU LAM CIVIC EDUCATION TEAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

/THE PROGRAMME .....

- 51 -

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES A 30-MINUTE TALK BY GUEST SPEAKERS, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, MR ANDREW WONG, AND MISS EMILY LAU OF THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN FORUM CONVENED BY SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR JASPER LAM, AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS LED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SIMON LORD, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS OLIVIA NIP, WILL BRIEFLY INTRODUCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BEFORE GUEST SPEAKERS SPEAK.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE WAH FU COMMUNITY HALL, WAH FU ESTATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL PERFORM THE SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING.

THE FESTIVE LIGHTING COSTING AROUND \$200 000 HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN FESTIVE LIGHTING ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY TOMORROW AT 6.30 PM AT THE SAND MARTIN BRIDGE NEAR THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1987

- 52 -

TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CAUSEWAY BAY

\* \* \* \* \*

TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TAI HANG, CAUSEWAY BAY, FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 24):

- \* ORMSBY STREET BETWEEN KING STREET AND SHEPHERD STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.
- \* ORMSBY STREET BETWEEN SHEPHERD STREET AND SUN CHUN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- \* WARREN STREET BETWEEN SECOND LANE AND SHEPHERD STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.
- \* BROWN STREET BETWEEN TUNG LO WAN ROAD AND SUN CHUN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NORTH POINT URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION

\* \* \* \* \*

GREIG ROAD IN NORTH POINT FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A PEAK-HOUR (7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 24).

WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY, NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ROAD RE-ROUTED FOR SLOPE REPAIR WORK

\* \* \* \* \*

FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 23), KENG HAU ROAD IN SHA TIN WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY DOWNHILL BECAUSE OF SLOPE REPAIR WORK.

MOTORISTS WISHING TO GAIN ACCESS TO KENG HAU ROAD SHOULD ENTER THE ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PO ROAD. THOSE WISHING TO COME OUT FROM THE ROAD SHOULD MAKE USE OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHE KUNG MIU ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -