



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

- 1 -

**BIG STEP TAKEN ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY
* * * ***

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TO ENSURE SAFETY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF REGULATIONS ON THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY. THE REGULATIONS, KNOWN AS THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ELECTRICITY) REGULATIONS 1982, WERE LATER APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

SEEKING APPROVAL OF THE REGULATIONS, MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT STATISTICS OF ELECTRICAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING EMPLOYEES SHOWED THAT THE STANDARD OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WAS OFTEN LOW.

LAST YEAR, 11 PEOPLE DIED AS A RESULT OF ELECTROCUTION AND THERE WERE 152 NON-FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ELECTRICITY.

HITHERTO, THERE HAD NOT BEEN A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE SET OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS. SOME MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS HAD BEEN CONTAINED IN DIFFERENT ITEMS OF SAFETY LEGISLATION AND HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO CERTAIN AREAS.

+THE REGULATIONS NOW TABLED BEFORE THIS COUNCIL ARE BASED BROADLY ON THE ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE UK FACTORIES ACT. THEY PRESCRIBE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE SAFETY IN THE USE OF ELECTRICITY IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS,+ MR HENDERSON NOTED.

MR HENDERSON SAID THAT THE REGULATIONS PLACED ON THE PROPRIETOR OF AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT HIS ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND APPARATUS ARE IN SAFE WORKING ORDER.

THEY ALSO DEAL WITH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE INSULATION AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF CONDUCTORS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SWITCHES AND SWITCHBOARDS, SWITCH FUSES, CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND INSULATING LINKS, MEANS OF ISOLATING VOLTAGE AND MEANS OF PREVENTING ELECTRICAL SHOCK AND FIRE.

AS PROPRIETORS MAY NEED TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS, MR HENDERSON PROPOSED THAT THE REGULATIONS SHOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN SIX MONTHS, PROBABLY FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR BY NOTIFICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE REGULATIONS.

/PROPRIETORS WOULD

PROPRIETORS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO FIND USEFUL INFORMATION ON HOW TO ACHIEVE PROPER COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS IN PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS THE REGULATIONS OF THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS AND IN THE POWER COMPANIES' SUPPLY RULES, MR HENDERSON ADDED.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, MR S.L. CHEN SAID THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE OBJECTIVES UNDERLINED BY THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD BE ACHIEVED DEPENDED A GREAT DEAL ON THE WORK AND THE QUALITY OF THE +COMPETENT PERSONS+ DEFINED IN THE REGULATIONS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF +COMPETENT PERSONS+ AT PRESENT AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG AND WHETHER THE NUMBER WAS ADEQUATE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SERVICE.

+TO THIS END, I FURTHER SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL REGISTER OF PERSONS WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS RELEVANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN BY THE NEW REGULATIONS.+

MR CHEN ALSO CALLED FOR A TRADE TEST CENTRE TO ASSESS THE COMPETENCE OF SUCH PERSONS.

+IF GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING SUCH FACILITIES WHEREBY PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL COULD GET QUALIFIED, I AM SURE THE TWO POWER COMPANIES WHERE THE EXPERTISE LIES WOULD BE ONLY TOO WILLING TO ASSIST,+ HE SAID.

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UNOFFICIALS SUPPORT VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL * * * *

ELEVEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SPOKE DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVING INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED TODAY ALSO ENVISAGES A NEW DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS.

LEADING THE DEBATE WAS DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN, CONVENER OF AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS FORMED TO STUDY THE BILL. DR TIEN SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED TO SEE THE ENACTMENT OF A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY BODY WITH THE MEANS TO ENSURE A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING GEARED TO THE DEVELOPING NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

THE NEED FOR SUCH A BODY IS STRONGLY BROUGHT HOME BY +A CURSORY GLANCE AT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM,+ HE SAID, ADDING +REALISATION HAS NOW COME THERE THAT VOCATIONAL TRAINING IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR THAT FALTERING ECONOMY.+

HE NOTED THAT THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WHEN ESTABLISHED, WOULD NOT ONLY CARRY OUT THE CURRENT ADVISORY FUNCTIONS OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, BUT ALSO THE EXECUTIVE ROLE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THESE AND POSSIBLY OTHER TRAINING SCHEMES.

+THIS IS A TASK AT THE SAME TIME DAUNTING AND CHALLENGING, FOR THE NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL MUST ENSURE, THROUGH A STEADY SUPPLY OF TRAINED MANPOWER, THAT HONG KONG'S COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND SPECIALISED SERVICES ARE PROPERLY CATERED FOR.+

DR TIEN SUGGESTED THAT A BROADLY-BASED ELEMENT OF PERSONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE TWO EXISTING TRAINING AUTHORITIES COULD BE PUT INTO GOOD USE. HE BELIEVED THE NEW TRAINING CENTRES SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH THEY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND TO THAT END, THE RESPECTIVE TRAINING BOARDS MUST BE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECTING THE OPERATION OF THE TRAINING CENTRES.

DR TIEN ALSO PRAISED THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WHICH WILL +RETIRE INTO HISTORY+ WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

QUOTING SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, HE REMINDED MEMBERS: +THIS IS NOT THE END. IT IS NOT EVEN THE BEGINNING OF THE END. BUT IT IS PERHAPS THE END OF THE BEGINNING.+

THE HON ALEX WU COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING SWIFTLY TO IMPLEMENT IN SUCH AN +IMAGINATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER+ THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

HE HOPED THAT THE NEW COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT +WILL BE AS BUSINESSLIKE IN ACTION+.

TO SOME EXTEND, HE SAID, THEIR SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THE EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE THROUGH WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL OPERATE, AND HE HOPED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION WOULD CLARIFY THE EXACT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT.

+I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE BENEFITS OF MERGING ELEMENTS OF THE LABOUR AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS WILL BE DIRECTLY EVIDENT IN TERMS OF WORK ON THE GROUND RATHER THAN IN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION.

+WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT UNLESS IT CAN DO WHAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE WELL ENOUGH BEFORE, DO IT MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND EXERCISE FREEDOM OF ACTION WHEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES,+ HE STRESSED.

THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT SAID SHE SUPPORTED THE BILL +BECAUSE IT RATIONALISES OUR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AT THE OPERATIVE, CRAFTSMAN, TECHNICIAN AND TECHNOLOGIST LEVELS+.

SHE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ALSO RATIONALISE TEACHER TRAINING AT THE NON-GRADUATE LEVEL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS SINCE +THE CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION WILL FURTHER ISOLATE THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE+.

+WE NEED TO UNIFY THE FOUR COLLEGES AT PRESENT RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING TRAINING,+ SAID MISS BENNETT. +THIS WILL GREATLY IMPROVE OUR EFFICIENCY IN THIS SPHERE, TOO.+

APART FROM WASTING A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IN THIS RESPECT AT THE MOMENT, SHE SAID, +WE ARE FRUSTRATING THE AMBITIONS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE DESIROUS OF TEACHING SUBJECTS LEARNT AT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND ONE OF THE OTHERS.

+I CAN INSTANCE THOSE WISHING TO TEACH ACCOUNTS AND BOOKKEEPING - THE COURSES FOR WHICH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE - AND IN ADDITION DRESSMAKING FOR WHICH THE STUDENTS HAVE TO STUDY AT SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,+ SHE ADDED.

THE HON S.L. CHEN DID NOT CONSIDER THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND PLACED UNDER THE COUNCIL BECAUSE:

- * IT MEANS SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE=
- * A NEW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD BE UNDER THE SAME CONSTRAINTS AS ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TOWARDS ENHANCING THE FLEXIBILITY IN THE WAY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION HAD IN MIND= AND
- * THE COUNCIL WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO EMPLOY AND REMUNERATE ITS OWN STAFF, WILL HAVE UNDER ITS CONTROL A MIXTURE OF CIVIL SERVANT AND NON-CIVIL SERVANT STAFF.

+THE LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVE MUST BE FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND ITS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TO BECOME WHOLLY DETACHED FROM GOVERNMENT AND FUNCTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL AND THE POLYTECHNIC,+ HE SAID.

+FOR FEW WILL DENY THAT THE POLYTECHNIC WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE ITS FLEXIBILITY ONLY AFTER IT WAS DETACHED FROM GOVERNMENT.+

AS AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, MR CHEN SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NEW COUNCIL MIGHT BE CONSTITUTED PARTLY BY STAFF FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND PARTLY FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+RATHER THAN FORMING A NEW DEPARTMENT, SUCH STAFF CAN REMAIN ADMINISTRATIVELY IN THESE DEPARTMENTS BUT FUNCTIONALLY THEY WILL WORK TO AND BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE UMELCO OFFICE IS BOTH THE SECRETARIAT AND EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE UMELCO,+ HE SAID.

THE HON WONG LAM SAID THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO COURSES OF SHORTER DURATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST EXISTING VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES PLACE EMPHASIS ON RELATIVELY LONG AND SOPHISTICATED COURSES.

ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE, HE SAID, THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR DISCUSSION.

+TAKING FOR INSTANCE, FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WISH TO BE DRIVERS OF CONTAINER-TRACTORS OR PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, OR TO TAKE UP JOBS OF A SIMILAR NATURE, THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FORMAL TRAINING IN THESE FIELDS.

+BUT THESE KINDS OF TRADES CERTAINLY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG REFERRED TO A CLAUSE IN THE BILL RELATING TO THE TRAINING OF OPERATIVES, CRAFTSMEN, TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TERM +TECHNOLOGIST+ IS GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE.

+THEIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE, OF COURSE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC, AND THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE,+ SAID DR HUANG.

TO AVOID CONFUSION AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED COUNCIL IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE CLEARLY SPECIFIED.

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WARNED THAT THE SETTING UP OF THE COUNCIL MUST NOT RESULT IN PRODUCING MERELY +HUMAN ROBOTS+ IN MEETING THE SHORT-TERM INDUSTRIAL MANPOWER NEEDS.

+THE COUNCIL MUST DO ALL IT CAN TO PRODUCE EDUCATED, SKILLED AND VERSATILE WORKERS CAPABLE OF FLEXIBLY ADJUSTING THEMSELVES TO THE CHALLENGES OF RAPIDLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGY.

+I THEREFORE ECHO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION'S SENTIMENTS THAT A FAIR PROPORTION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATIONAL, IN ADDITION TO THE INDUSTRIAL, FIELD SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SUGGESTED THAT PLANNERS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ESPECIALLY AT THE TECHNICIAN AND TECHNOLOGIST LEVELS, SHOULD FINELY BALANCE THE TRAINING CONTENTS BY INCORPORATING BROAD PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS, TO INFUSE IN THE STUDENTS AND TRAINEES AN ESSENTIAL ABILITY TO THINK, JUDGE AND MAKE APPROPRIATE DECISIONS.

WITH THESE QUALITIES, HE SAID, OUR WORKFORCE WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO ADAPT AND RESPOND QUICKLY TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF INDUSTRY.

HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED OVER THE INADEQUACIES OF FACILITIES FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED.

+ONLY THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, OUT OF THE EXISTING FIVE INSTITUTES, HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH THE NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED STUDENTS IN MIND, AND ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF PLACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH STUDENTS,+ HE SAID.

+I URGE THAT MORE OF THESE FACILITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE NEW INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES AND INSTITUTES, WITH PARTICULAR CARE THAT EASY ACCESS IS PROVIDED FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.+

THE HON ALLEN LEE STRESSED THAT HONG KONG COULD NOT AFFORD TO DELAY INDUSTRY-WIDE TRAINING PROGRAMMES ANY LONGER.

HONG KONG MUST UPGRADE ITS PRODUCTS AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRAINING TO ITS LABOUR FORCE IN ORDER TO COMPETE. +OUR COMPETITORS HAVE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS IMPROVED THEIR QUALITY OF PRODUCTS AND THEIR INCREASE IN THE MARKET SHARE HAS SURPASSED OURS EVEN THOUGH WE STILL ENJOY A RESPECTABLE GROWTH RATE,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS INEVITABLE HONG KONG MUST STAY AHEAD IN OUR EXPORTS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.+

IN ADDITION TO COMPETITION, MR LEE ADDED, HONG KONG IS ALSO NOW AFFECTED BY CHINA'S MODERNIZATION PROGRAMMES.

+THERE ARE ALREADY MANY HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ENTERING VARIOUS MANUFACTURING PROGRAMMES ACROSS THE BORDER.

+IT IS BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE GOOD FOR BOTH CHINA AND HONG KONG.

+HOWEVER, WE MUST THINK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO MANUFACTURE. THE ANSWER LIES IN BETTER QUALITY, MORE ADVANCED PRODUCTS,+ HE SAID.

THE HON WONG PO-YAN FELT THAT ONE OF THE MAIN DUTIES OF THE NEW COUNCIL SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT A FINE BALANCE IS ACHIEVED AMONG THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM OBJECTIVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROVIDE INDUSTRIOUS, EDUCATED AND VERSATILE WORKERS WITH A SOUND AND SOLID BASE FOR SELF-ACTUATION.

MR WONG STRESSED THAT WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD AND OUR NEIGHBOURING COMPETITORS ARE MOVING AHEAD QUICKLY, HONG KONG SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO LAG BEHIND.

+NOW, IN ORDER TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE TO SURVIVE, AND TO MAKE OUR DIVERSIFICATION AND MOVE UP-MARKET VIABLE, OUR WORKERS MUST BE TRAINED TO ENHANCE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS WITH THE ABILITY TO USE, AND USE WELL, NOT ONLY THEIR HANDS BUT ALSO THEIR BRAINS IN THEIR JOBS, TO IMPROVE THE DESIGNS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR MACHINES,+ HE SAID.

+IN SHORT, WE MUST NOW AIM TO TRAIN OUR WORKERS TO BE HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTIVE, TO MEET THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS TODAY, AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW.+

THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN CONSIDERED THAT PARENTS IN HONG KONG ARE TOO OBSESSED WITH SECURING PROFESSIONAL OR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

IT MAY BE A NOBLE GOAL, HE SAID, BUT SOME CHILDREN MAY BE BETTER WITH THEIR HANDS WHILE OTHERS MAY HAVE ARTISTIC TALENTS OR A TECHNICAL BENT.

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+IF FOR THESE AND VARIOUS OTHER REASONS THEY DO NOT GO INTO A UNIVERSITY, IT IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID. +IN FACT MANY WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN AND LEARNED A TRADE, WOULD LEAD A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY LIFE.

+THEIR OPPORTUNITIES TO CLIMB UP THE SOCIAL LADDER ARE EQUAL IN A FREE SOCIETY LIKE HONG KONG, AND MANY AN ENTERPRISING INDUSTRIALISTS TODAY WERE BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS, WHO HAD WORKED THEIR WAY FROM THE RANKS TO THE TOP.+

MR CHAN THOUGHT THAT VOCATIONAL TRAINING BENEFITS SOCIETY AS A WHOLE BY PROVIDING THE MEANS TO EMPLOYMENT, STABILITY AND AFFLUENCE.

+DO WE REQUIRE HOUSING, TRANSPORT, CATERING, CLOTHING, REPAIR AND OTHER SERVICES?+ HE ASKED. +THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF OUR EVERYDAY LIFE ARE CATERED FOR AND MAINTAINED MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY AS A RESULT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING.+

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY AN APPROPRIATE INJECTION OF CONCEPTS ON COMMUNITY SPIRIT, CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, SO AS TO PRODUCE SKILFUL AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS.

THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT +TO LOOK VERY CAREFULLY INTO THE COST ELEMENTS INVOLVED+ IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DEPARTMENT AS DESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION WHEN HE INTRODUCED THE BILL.

+IF A NEW DEPARTMENT DOES COST MORE BUT DOES NOT BRING WITH IT THE DESIRED ADDITIONAL BENEFITS COMMENSURATE WITH THE ADDITIONAL COST, OR WORSE STILL, AS MR S.L. CHEN HAD ALREADY SUGGESTED, IF HAVING A NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD BE LIABLE TO HINDER PROGRESS OF THE VTC TOWARDS THE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IT REQUIRES, THEN IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO EMBARK ON SUCH A VENTURE HASTILY,+ HE ARGUED.

+AFTER ALL, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT FORECAST OF PROLONGED UNFAVOURABLE WORLD ECONOMIC CLIMATE, ANY DEGREE OF GROWTH IN THE RATE OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE MUST BE WATCHED VERY CAREFULLY AND WEIGHED AGAINST ALL OTHER POSSIBLE COST-SAVING OPTIONS SO THAT THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY NEW VENTURE MUST NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF.+

MR CHEONG SAID HE BELIEVED THE FUTURE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE VTC WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE, THEREFORE, THAT THE PERSON APPOINTED TO THE POST MUST HAVE CONSIDERABLE PROFESSIONAL STATURE AND BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP REQUIRED, HE SAID.

+HE NEEDS TO BE A WELL-QUALIFIED SPECIALIST AND MUST HAVE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN BOTH TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

+INDEED UNLESS HE IS THUS QUALIFIED, HE WILL HAVE AN UPHILL BATTLE IN HARNESSING THE EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED TO FULFILL THE TREMENDOUS HOPES OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE,+ MR CHEONG SAID.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

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WATER CHARGES TO GO UP 20 PER CENT

WATER CHARGES WILL GO UP BY 20 PER CENT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, SAID THAT AN INCREASE IN THE CHARGE FOR WATER WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET IN SOME MEASURE THE ADDITIONAL COST OF OPERATING THE WATERWORKS.

+THESE ADDITIONAL COSTS ARISE PRIMARILY FROM THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER, THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS BEING THE INCREASED VOLUME OF WATER REQUIRING PUMPING AND THE ASSOCIATED INCREASE IN PUMPING COSTS- THE INCREASE IN SALARIES ARISING FROM AN EXPANDING SERVICE AND REVISIONS IN SALARY IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD- AND THE COST OF ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF WATER FROM CHINA COUPLED WITH THE NEW RATE WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 1982,+ HE SAID.

+THESE FACTORS HAVE RESULTED IN THE IN-YEAR PRODUCTION COSTS INCREASING FROM \$9.5 PER UNIT IN 1979/80 TO \$13.3 PER UNIT IN 1982/83, AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT.+

THE NEW CHARGES ARE:

DOMESTIC CHARGES

UNITS PER 4-MONTH BILLING PERIOD

CHARGE PER UNIT

| | PRESENT RATE \$ | NEW RATE \$ |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 0 - 4 | NIL | NIL |
| 5 - 8 | 3 | 3.6 |
| 9 - 14 | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| 15 - 20 | 8.5 | 10.2 |
| OVER 20 | 12 | 14.4 |
| <u>TRADE SUPPLIES</u> | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| <u>SHIPPING SUPPLIES</u> | | |
| NON OCEAN-GOING SHIPPING | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| OCEAN-GOING SHIPPING | 12 | 14.4 |
| <u>CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES</u> | 8.5 | 10.2 |

/PREPAID SUPPLIES

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| <u>PREPAID SUPPLIES</u> | 5.5 | 6.6 |
| <u>FLUSHING SUPPLIES</u> | | |
| SALT WATER | FREE | FREE |
| FRESH WATER | 3 | 3.6 |
| LESS A DEDUCTION PER DWELLING FOR EACH 4-MONTH BILLING PERIOD FOR FRESH WATER USED FOR FLUSHING | 20 | 24 |

MR MCDONALD SAID: +THE EFFECT OF THESE NEW CHARGES ON DOMESTIC CONSUMERS IS LIKELY TO BE MINIMAL. ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF CONSUMERS WILL CONTINUE TO PAY NO WATER CHARGES AND ANOTHER 65 PER CENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY LESS THAN \$1 PER WEEK EXTRA.+

WITH REGARD TO TRADE CONSUMERS, HE ADDED: +SOME RELIEF WILL BE GIVEN TO INDUSTRIES WHERE THE COST OF WATER REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THEIR TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES AND WHERE HARDSHIP MIGHT ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE IMPOSITION OF THE NEW RATES.+

MR MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONTINUE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR ONLY A CONCESSIONARY TARIFF.

THIS WILL BE THE CURRENT CHARGE OF \$5.50 PER UNIT FOR CONSUMPTION IN EXCESS OF 6 000 UNITS PER FOUR-MONTHLY BILLING PERIOD AND WILL GIVE THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR IT TIME WITHIN WHICH TO INTRODUCE, IF THEY SO WISH, MEASURES TO HELP THEM ECONOMIZE IN THEIR USE OF WATER.

HE RECALLED THAT THE CHARGES FOR WATER WERE LAST REVISED IN 1979.

+IN SETTING THE LEVEL OF THE CHARGES AT THAT TIME THE GOVERNMENT HAD REGARD TO THE +NO SUBSIDY+ PRINCIPLE WHICH IS THE BASIS ON WHICH IT SEEKS TO MANAGE PUBLIC UTILITY TYPE UNDERTAKINGS,+ HE SAID.

+IN OTHER WORDS, CHARGES FOR WATER ARE AIMED AT RECOVERING THE FULL COST OF THE WATERWORKS OPERATION, INCLUDING THE COST OF THE CAPITAL EMPLOYED.+

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE COST OF OPERATING THE DESALTER WAS EXCLUDED, AS THIS WAS A STRATEGIC AND STANDBY FACILITY AND WAS NOT A COMPONENT OF THE NORMAL WATER SUPPLY OPERATION.

A REVIEW OF THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE WATERWORKS INDICATES THAT THE FORECAST EXPENDITURE FOR 1982/83 WILL EXCEED THE EXPENDITURE IN 1979/80 BY 128 PER CENT. THIS COMPARES WITH AN INCREASE IN REVENUE OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF ONLY 66 PER CENT.

THIS REVISION, MR MCDONALD SAID, HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AND HAD HAD REGARD TO THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT OF INCREASED WATER CHARGES ON CONSUMERS AND THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSERVATION OF WATER.

REFERRING TO THE INCREASE IN COST, HE SAID IT WOULD ONLY MEET IN PART THE DEFICIT IN THE OPERATING ACCOUNTS, REFLECTING GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AT THE POSSIBLE INFLATIONARY CONSEQUENCES OF FULL ECONOMIC CHARGES.

THE NEW RATES OF CHARGE WILL, IN RESPECT OF WATER CONSUMED ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 1982 BE REFLECTED IN THE FIRST BILLS PRODUCED AS A RESULT OF METER READINGS TAKEN ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 1982.

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LAW ON SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT BY JUNE IT WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHETHER LEGISLATION DEALING WITH SEX ESTABLISHMENTS NEEDED TO BE AMENDED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HO KAM-FAI, MR GRIFFITHS REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTY IN SOME CASES OF PROVING IN COURT WHETHER PREMISES WERE USED +WHOLLY OR MAINLY+ BY TWO OR MORE WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSTITUTION, OR USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORGANISING OR ARRANGING OF PROSTITUTION.

HOWEVER, FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE COURT OF APPEAL IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, PROSPECTS OF SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION IN SUCH CASES WAS ENHANCED.

PROSECUTIONS WERE THEREFORE BEING MONITORED, IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW LEGAL DEFINITION HAD BEEN IMPROVED IN PRACTICE, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

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MORE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY
TO REFLECT HOUSING GROWTH IN NEW TERRITORIES
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THE HOUSING ORDINANCE IS TO BE AMENDED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE HOUSING AMENDMENT BILL 1982 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID: +SECTION 3 OF THE ORDINANCE EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT UP TO 13 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, OF WHOM EIGHT SHALL BE URBAN COUNCILLORS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE SHORTAGE OF DEVELOPABLE LAND IN THE URBAN AREA, AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF THE AUTHORITY'S HOUSING PRODUCTION IS NOW CENTRED IN AND AROUND THE NEW TOWNS AND THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE.

+IT IS, THEREFORE, NECESSARY TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION ON THE AUTHORITY OF NEW TERRITORIES' INTERESTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF THE URBAN AREA. FURTHERMORE, DISTRICT BOARDS ARE NOW BEING FORMED AND SOME HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO FUNCTION.

+TO TIE IN WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE SHOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTATION ON THE AUTHORITY OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

+IN ORDER TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES, IT IS NECESSARY TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASED NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON THE AUTHORITY.

+WHILE THERE WILL NO LONGER BE SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN THE ORDINANCE TO URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE PRESENT CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE URBAN COUNCIL SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, AND IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THAT THE NUMBER OF URBAN COUNCILLORS ON THE AUTHORITY SHOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE PRESENT.+

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES REVISED LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME TO GIVE LEGAL EFFECT TO THE NEW SALES FORMULA, WHICH EXCLUDES THE VALUE OF THE LAND BUT INTRODUCES FAR TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON RE-SALE.

SPEAKING ON THE RESTRICTIONS, MR LIAO SAID: +FLATS PRODUCED UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES ARE INTENDED FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY -- TO PROVIDE HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR THEM. IT IS NOT THE INTENTION TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECULATIONS, OR TO PROVIDE SUCH HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WHO FALL OUTSIDE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA. FOR THIS REASON, REALISTIC SANCTIONS ARE PROVIDED AGAINST ABUSES.+

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE DECLARATION WOULD BE INCREASED TO A FINE OF \$200 000 AND ONE YEAR'S JAIL.

/MR LIAO

MR LIAO SAID THAT AUTHORISED STAFF WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO CHECK ON THE OCCUPANCY OF THE FLATS TO GUARD AGAINST IRREGULARITIES, AND IF BREACHES WERE FOUND THE OFFENDER WOULD BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$200 000 AND ONE YEAR'S JAIL.

THESE SAFEGUARDS WOULD ALSO APPLY TO FLATS SOLD UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND THE MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING SCHEME, SAID MR LIAO.

OTHER IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS PROPOSED ARE:

- * TO ALLOW ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON THE SPOT AGAINST VEHICLES ILLEGALLY PARKED IN AUTHORITY CARPARKS OR ON ESTATE ROADS.
- * TO EXTEND TO 15 DAYS THE PERIOD IN WHICH APPEALS CAN BE MADE AGAINST NOTICES TO QUIT PREMISES, AND TO PERMIT AUTHORISED OCCUPANTS TO LODGE SUCH AN APPEAL IF THE TENANT IS UNABLE TO DO SO PERSONALLY.

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LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982
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A BILL TO MAKE LEGAL AID AVAILABLE IN CIVIL APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 AIMS AT PROVIDING LEGAL AID +IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO CIVIL PROCEEDINGS IN HONG KONG,+ THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON G. NAZARETH SAID, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

AT PRESENT, PEOPLE WHO WISH TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL BUT ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE HIGH COSTS, CAN DO SO ONLY ON GROUNDS OF POVERTY. SUCH AN APPELLANT MUST NOT POSSESS MORE THAN 100 POUNDS STERLING.

+THIS AMOUNT IS SO LOW THAT ANYONE WHO QUALIFIES IS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE COSTS OF PRODUCING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND MAKING AN APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL IN FORMA PAUPERIS (AS PAUPERS),+ HE SAID.

PERMISSION WOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO EVERYONE WHO WISHES TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL OR TO OPPOSE SUCH AN APPEAL.

THERE ARE PLANS TO EXTEND LEGAL AID FOR APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN CRIMINAL CASES AS WELL, HE SAID.

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LONGER WEEKENDS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO REGROUP CERTAIN GENERAL HOLIDAYS TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC PERIODICALLY TO ENJOY LONGER WEEKENDS.

THE REGROUPING FOLLOWS A REVIEW OF BOTH GENERAL AND STATUTORY HOLIDAYS CONDUCTED RECENTLY.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO SAID THAT VIEWS HAD BEEN SOUGHT FROM EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, THE DISTRICT BOARDS, CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

+ACCORDINGLY, IT IS NOW PROPOSED THAT THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN SHOULD BE CELEBRATED ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN JUNE, WHICH IS HER MAJESTY'S OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY, AND TO MOVE TO THE MONDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, THE HOLIDAY NOW ENJOYED ON THE FIRST WEEKDAY IN JULY.

+IT IS SIMILARLY PROPOSED THAT THE HOLIDAY NOW ENJOYED ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST SHOULD BE MOVED TO THE SATURDAY PRECEDING LIBERATION DAY WHICH IS CELEBRATED ON THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST,+ HE SAID.

WITH THESE CHANGES IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN FUTURE TUEN NG FESTIVAL COULD FALL ON THE DAY ON WHICH HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY IS KEPT, OR THE MONDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING. WHEN THIS ARISES, THE GOVERNOR MAY ORDER THAT THE WEEK DAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING, OR FOLLOWING, BE OBSERVED AS THE GENERAL HOLIDAY OF TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

TURNING TO STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, MR HO SAID, +MANY WORKERS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN WORKERS PREFERRED TO HAVE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL DAY, RATHER THAN THE DAY FOLLOWING, AS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY.+

IT IS THEREFORE PROVIDED THAT WHEN THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THEN THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL DAY ITSELF WILL BE CELEBRATED AS A HOLIDAY, INSTEAD OF THE WEEK DAY NEXT FOLLOWING AS AT PRESENT.

+SIMILARLY, IN A YEAR WHEN EITHER THE FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THEN LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL BECOME A HOLIDAY INSTEAD OF THE FOURTH DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR AS AT PRESENT.

+A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO COUNCIL LATER IN THE SESSION TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHANGES OUTLINED IN REGARD TO THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AND LUNAR NEW YEAR STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, AND TO ADD ONE ADDITIONAL FLOATING HOLIDAY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO 11 DAYS WITH EFFECT FROM 1983,+ HE SAID.

GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR 1983

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| EVERY SUNDAY | |
| THE FIRST WEEK-DAY IN JANUARY | SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 |
| THE DAY PRECEDING LUNAR NEW YEAR | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 |
| THE SECOND DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14 |
| THE THIRD DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 |
| GOOD FRIDAY | FRIDAY, APRIL 1 |
| THE DAY FOLLOWING GOOD FRIDAY | SATURDAY, APRIL 2 |
| EASTER MONDAY | MONDAY, APRIL 4 |
| CHING MING FESTIVAL | TUESDAY, APRIL 5 |
| THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN | SATURDAY, JUNE 11 |
| THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY | MONDAY, JUNE 13 |
| TUEN NG (DRAGON BOAT) FESTIVAL | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 |
| THE SATURDAY PRECEDING THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST | SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 |
| THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST, WHICH SHALL BE LIBERATION DAY | MONDAY, AUGUST 29 |
| THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 |
| CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 |
| THE FIRST WEEK-DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY | MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 |
| THE SECOND WEEK-DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 |

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

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NEED FOR WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE STRESSED

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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY, IN WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL 1982, SAID HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON A COMBINATION OF MANY FACTORS.

BUT AN EDUCATED AND WELL-TRAINED WORKFORCE IS NOT THE LEAST IMPORTANT AMONG THEM, HE ADDED.

HE AGREED THAT IN SOCIAL TERMS, IT IS RIGHT THAT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING BE DEVELOPED TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR TOPLEY ALSO REFERRED TO AN AMENDMENT WHICH HE WOULD BE PROPOSING AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE THAT CLAUSE 10 OF THE BILL BE DELETED.

AS DRAFT, HE SAID, THE CLAUSE WOULD REQUIRE THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

+THUS, THE CLAUSE ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT.

+HOWEVER, THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL ARE SPECIFIED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL IN CLAUSE 6 AND ARE INTENDED TO GIVE THE COUNCIL A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.

+HOWEVER, WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER, CLAUSE 6 AND 10 WOULD SEEM TO THWART THIS INTENTION AND TO FETTER THE COUNCIL TO AN UNACCEPTABLE EXTENT- IN FACT, TAKING AWAY FROM THE COUNCIL THE VERY INDEPENDENCE WHICH THE BILL STRIVES TO CREATE.+

MR TOPLEY SAID IT HAD BECOME APPARENT THAT CLAUSE 10 SERVED NO FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE AND COULD EASILY BE OMITTED.

THE LINK BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL BE SUFFICIENT, HE ADDED.

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VIALE FRAMEWORK FOR ARBITRATIONS

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IF THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 IS ENACTED AND PASSED INTO LAW, IT WILL PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY AND VIALE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ARBITRATIONS.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING SUITABLE FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION BY WAY OF PUBLICITY.

/HOWEVER, IT

HOWEVER, IT IS THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHO MUST FROM NOW ON CARRY THE MATTER FORWARD SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF THOSE SEEKING TO ARBITRATE IN HONG KONG, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTIES, ARE MET, HE ADDED.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THIS WILL INVOLVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN LOCAL BODIES CONCERNED WITH ARBITRATION, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE LAW SOCIETY, THE BAR AND OTHER BODIES TO CONSIDER HOW THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF TRAINED ARBITRATORS CAN BEST BE CURED AND THE OTHER NECESSARY SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED.

IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER AGREEING AND DRAFTING THE RULES UNDER WHICH HONG KONG ARBITRATIONS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED, AND TO ADOPT SUITABLE CLAUSES FOR INCORPORATION IN CONTRACTS WHERE THE PARTIES WISH TO NOMINATE HONG KONG AS THE PLACE FOR ARBITRATION IF CONTRACTUAL DIFFERENCES AND DISPUTES ARISE.

+THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE. BUT I AM CONFIDENT MYSELF THAT THE NEED IS THERE, AND THAT HONG KONG CAN AND WILL IN DUE COURSE MEET IT,+ HE SAID.

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TALKS ON FRENCH RESTRICTION RESUME NEXT WEEK

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON BILL DORWARD TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE GATT PROCEDURES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE EEC COMMISSION ON FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY WHETHER OR NOT HONG KONG RECEIVED EARLY SATISFACTION FOR ITS COMPLAINT.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN, MR DORWARD SAID THAT THE FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS HELD IN GENEVA LAST WEEK WERE ESSENTIALLY EXPLORATORY AND WERE DUE TO BE RESUMED IN PARIS NEXT WEEK.

+WHAT WE ARE SEEKING IS THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED ON NINE CATEGORIES OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS CONTRARY, IN OUR VIEW, TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GATT. EIGHT OF THESE WERE THE RESIDUE OF A ONCE LARGER NUMBER WHICH HAD BEEN GRADUALLY REDUCED.

+THE REMAINING EIGHT, THE NUMBER REMAINING SINCE 1977, HAVE BEEN IN PLACE FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS AT MANY LEVELS TO HAVE THEM REMOVED. THE NINTH WAS IMPOSED IN OCTOBER 1981 WHEN A LIMIT WAS UNILATERALLY PLACED ON QUARTZ WATCHES, EFFECTIVELY CUTTING BACK SHARPLY ON POTENTIAL EXPORTS WHICH HAD REACHED ROUGHLY \$240 MILLION IN VALUE OR 17 PER CENT OF TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO FRANCE IN 1980,+ SAID MR DORWARD.

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TICD'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION PROGRAMME
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON BILL DORWARD SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ACTIVE ENQUIRIES FROM POTENTIAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTORS RESULTING FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S VARIOUS OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES WERE NOW RUNNING AT BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN HUNDRED A YEAR - THREE TIMES WHAT THEY WERE ONLY FOUR YEARS AGO.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG REGARDING PROGRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MR DORWARD SAID: +THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE SEEN A CONSIDERABLE REFINEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION EFFORTS. THE SUCCESS OF THESE WILL BE HARD TO MEASURE BECAUSE OF THE TIME LAG BETWEEN AROUSING INITIAL INTEREST AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF PRODUCTION, WHICH CAN VARY FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS- AND THE VARIOUS WAYS THE RESULTS CAN SHOW, WHICH INCLUDE NEW INDUSTRIES, JOINT VENTURES, LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS, SUB-CONTRACTING OR SALE OF TECHNOLOGY.+

COMMENTING ON THE INCREASE IN INTEREST SHOWN BY OVERSEAS INDUSTRIALISTS DESPITE WIDESPREAD ECONOMIC RECESSION, MR DORWARD SAID THAT IT WAS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE MORE FOCUSED AND PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION WHICH TICD HAD BEEN ADOPTING IN RECENT YEARS.

+THIS HAS BEEN BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUND DATA BASE, THE RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICALLY COMPETENT MEN TO DO FIELD PROMOTION AND THE CREATION OF ADEQUATE BACK-UP FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THEM,+ HE ADDED.

OUTLINING THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION PROGRAMME, MR DORWARD SAID: +OVERSEAS PROMOTION HAS SO FAR BEEN CONDUCTED BY DELEGATIONS SENT OUT FROM HONG KONG. A RESIDENT INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICER HAS NOW BEEN APPOINTED IN TOKYO, HOWEVER, WHERE OUR OFFICE WILL FORMALLY OPEN NEXT MONTH. BEFORE THE END OF JUNE WE SHALL HAVE THREE SIMILAR OFFICERS, SELECTED FOR THEIR TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS, LOCATED PERMANENTLY IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.

+A 'ONE STOP FACILITY' HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY. THIS IS STAFFED BY SELECTED OFFICERS AND LINKS NINETEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS. IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE AND RAPID SERVICE TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS LAND, PREMISES, LABOUR, TAXATION, EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL BACK UP SERVICES,+ MR DORWARD SAID.

*/INVESTMENT PROMOTIONAL

INVESTMENT PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE CO-ORDINATED THROUGH AN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY AND CONSISTS OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION.

+THE ACCELERATION OF OVERSEAS ACTIVITY IS NOT DEFLECTING US FROM CONDUCTING APPROPRIATE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG ITSELF- AND THE SERVICES I HAVE MENTIONED ARE, OF COURSE, AVAILABLE EQUALLY TO LOCAL OR OVERSEAS INDUSTRIALISTS,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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AMENDMENTS TO BANKING, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES
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THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCES ARE INTENDED TO ENABLE HONG KONG FULLY TO ACCEPT THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH ACCOMPANIES ITS POSITION AS ONE OF THE LARGEST FINANCIAL CENTRES IN THE WORLD, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, MR BREMRIDGE SAID: +THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS THE DUTY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF DEPOSITORS AROUND THE WORLD, TO SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES BOTH OUTSIDE AND INSIDE HONG KONG OF BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WHICH ARE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID HONG KONG, THOUGH NOT A MEMBER, FULLY SUPPORTS THE WORK AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING REGULATIONS AND SUPERVISORY PRACTICES SET UP BY THE CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OF THE GROUP OF 10 COUNTRIES AND SWITZERLAND IN 1974.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENTIRELY ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPAL TENET OF THE CONCORDAT DRAWN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AND ENDORSED BY THE CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS IN 1975, WHICH STATES THAT THE SUPERVISION OF THE SOLVENCY OF A BANK'S OFFICES OUTSIDE ITS COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION RESTS FIRST OF ALL WITH THE BANKING SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY IN THAT COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION.

THE CONCORDAT ALSO EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE SUPERVISORS IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN WHICH AN INTERNATIONAL BANK MAINTAINS BRANCHES, SUBSIDIARIES, OR JOINT VENTURES.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE TWO BILLS BEFORE THE COUNCIL CONTAIN PROPOSALS TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO OBTAIN FROM LOCALLY INCORPORATED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SUCH INFORMATION AS HE REQUIRES ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR BRANCHES OUTSIDE HONG KONG, AND ABOUT ALL THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND ASSOCIATES.

+THE BILLS COVER THE EXAMINATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF OVERSEAS BRANCHES OF THESE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (IN THE SAME WAY AS HE NOW EXAMINES THEIR BRANCHES IN HONG KONG)- AND ALSO THE EXAMINATION BY OVERSEAS SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES OF THE HONG KONG BRANCHES OF BANKS OR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN THEIR COUNTRIES,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THE BILLS ALSO COVER THE SUPERVISION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES ESTABLISHED OVERSEAS BY HONG KONG- INCORPORATED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, OR ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG BY OVERSEAS BANKS.

+THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSIONER IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF, BUT A MEANS TO AN END,+ HE ADDED.

+WHEN THE COMMISSIONER HAS AN ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT LOCALLY INCORPORATED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ARE DOING OVERSEAS, OR THROUGH THEIR SUBSIDIARIES OR ASSOCIATES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP, AND THEN TO SEEK THE POWERS TO IMPLEMENT, A SYSTEM OF ON-GOING BALANCE-SHEET RATIO CONTROLS BASED ON CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS - A CONCEPT WHICH IS BEING MUCH DISCUSSED IN THE COOKE COMMITTEE AND ELSEWHERE.+

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MONEY LENDERS BILL * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE OVERSEAS BANKS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO BE ADEQUATELY SUPERVISED BY THE BANKING AUTHORITY OF THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CREDIT AND INVESTMENT INSURERS (THE BERNE UNION), AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EXPORT FINANCING BODIES, IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE CAP. 163.

IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE ARE +EXEMPTED PERSONS+ AND +EXEMPTED LOANS+ TO WHICH PARTS II AND III OF THE ORDINANCE GOVERNING LICENSING AND TRANSACTIONS OTHER THAN INTEREST RATES AND CHARGES DO NOT APPLY, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE CONTROL.

AMONG +EXEMPTED PERSONS+ ARE BANKS LICENSED IN HONG KONG, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND CREDIT UNION- +EXEMPTED LOANS+ INCLUDE LOANS MADE WITHIN A COMPANY, MORTGAGES AND LOANS MADE BY COMPANIES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR BUSINESS.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON SAID THE ORGANISATIONS WHICH HE PROPOSED TO ADD TO THE FIRST SCHEDULE ARE PROPERLY CONTROLLED AND DO NOT NEED TO BE FURTHER CONTROLLED UNDER PARTS II AND III OF THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE.

ALSO ADDED TO THE LIST ARE LOANS BETWEEN COMPANIES OF THE SAME GROUP. MR JEAFFRESON SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED NOT NECESSARY TO PROTECT COMPANIES AGAINST THEIR OWN CLOSE RELATIVES.

HE QUOTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO TOLD THE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 6 THAT THE ORDINANCE HAD HAD A BENEFICIAL EFFECT BY TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER MONEY LENDERS GENERALLY AND DIMINISHING THE INCIDENCE OF +LOAN SHARKING+.

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OPERATION OF DESALTER

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THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON DAVID MCDONALD ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE OPERATION OF THE DESALTER WOULD BE SUSPENDED AS SOON AS IT COULD BE DONE WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE LEVEL OF SUPPLY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM.

MR MCDONALD SAID, +ALTHOUGH WE ARE APPROACHING THE RAINY SEASON, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE WHEN IT WILL COMMENCE NOR HOW MUCH RAINFALL OR YIELD WILL BE RECEIVED SUBSEQUENTLY.+

+BEARING IN MIND THESE UNKNOWN FACTORS AND THE PRESENT COMPARATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF STORAGE IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO SUSPEND THE OPERATION OF THE DESALTER AT THIS TIME.+

+HOWEVER,+ HE ADDED, +THE SITUATION IS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED AND A REVIEW IS PLANNED FOR LATE APRIL, OR EARLIER IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT IT, TO DETERMINE THE SUPPLY AND DESALTER ARRANGEMENTS TO BE FOLLOWED THEREAFTER.+

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PLAN TO ENLARGE REHABUS SERVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SUBVENT AN ADDITIONAL THREE BUSES FROM APRIL THIS YEAR TO EXPAND THE REHABUS SCHEME FLEET FROM 11 TO 14 BUSES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON S.E. ALLEYNE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER C. WONG, MR ALLEYNE SAID THAT THERE WERE 50 PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST AT THE END OF DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

+THE REHABUS PROVIDES SERVICES ON SCHEDULED ROUTES PRIMARILY TO ASSIST SEVERELY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO REACH THEIR PLACES OF WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES OR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS,+ MR ALLEYNE SAID.

+THE REHABUS ALSO PROVIDES A 'DIAL-A-RIDE' SERVICE THROUGH WHICH DISABLED PEOPLE OR GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS CAN CHARTER A BUS EITHER FOR SPECIFIC TASKS LIKE ATTENDING MEDICAL TREATMENT OR FOR RECREATIONAL OUTINGS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

+OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS NEARLY 2 500 REQUESTS FOR THE DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE WERE RECEIVED,+ HE SAID.

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GAS COMPANY REGISTRATION

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A BILL WAS INTRODUCED TO TRANSFER THE COMPANY REGISTRATION OF A LOCAL GAS COMPANY BACK TO HONG KONG.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY (TRANSFER OF INCORPORATION) BILL, THE HON ROGER LOBO EXPLAINED ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO ENABLE THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LIMITED, A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND, TO TRANSFER ITS CORPORATE REGISTRATION TO HONG KONG AND TO BE TREATED AS A COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR CERTAIN ALTERATIONS TO THE SHARE CAPITAL AND THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY TO TAKE EFFECT UPON THE TRANSFER OF ITS CORPORATE REGISTRATION.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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POLICE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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A BILL TO IMPROVE AND SIMPLIFY THE LAW GOVERNING THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND AWARDS OF THE POLICE FORCE WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

MOVING THE MOTION FOR THE SECOND READING OF THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, SAID EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT FOUR MATTERS OF POLICE DISCIPLINE REQUIRED CHANGE.

AMONG THEM IS A PROVISION FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO ACCEPT LESS THAN ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OR A LESSER AMOUNT OF SALARY IN LIEU OF NOTICE FROM A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OR CONSTABLE WHO WISHED TO RESIGN. SIMILAR PROVISIONS WERE ALSO MADE IN THE AMENDING LEGISLATION FOR INSPECTORS.

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EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN

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IT IS LIKELY THAT GIRLS BETWEEN 15 AND 18 WILL SHORTLY BE ALMOST ENTIRELY PROHIBITED FROM WORKING IN LIQUOR-LICENSED PREMISES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON D.C. BRAY, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AT PRESENT GIRLS IN THE AGE GROUP MAY WORK FROM 6 AM TO 8 PM IN SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS, MR BRAY SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM.

SOME INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE, FOR INSTANCE IN SOME ORDINARY RESTAURANTS, BUT THEY WILL BE FEW, HE SAID.

IT IS ALREADY UNLAWFUL TO EMPLOY CHILDREN UNDER 15 IN LICENSED PREMISES, MR BRAY POINTED OUT, ALSO IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY MISS TAM.

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INTERVIEW OF RAPE VICTIMS

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE DOES ENSURE THAT ALL FEMALES WHO ALLEGE THEY ARE RAPE VICTIMS ARE INTERVIEWED BY WOMEN POLICE SO FAR AS IS POSSIBLE, AND CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE REV HON JOYCE BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR DAVIES SAID THAT WHENEVER A FEMALE MAKES A REPORT OF RAPE TO ANY POLICE FORMATION, THE DUTY OFFICER IS REQUIRED TO SUMMON A WOMAN OFFICER, PREFERABLY AN INSPECTOR, TO RECEIVE THE REPORT IN A SEPARATE ROOM.

THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PROCEDURE OCCUR, HE SAID, WHERE THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED TO THE SCENE OF AN ALLEGED RAPE EITHER BY THE VICTIM OR A THIRD PARTY.

+IN SUCH CASES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHETHER THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT MAY STILL BE IN THE VICINITY.

+AS SOON AS THE ALLEGED VICTIM HAS BEEN QUESTIONED SHE IS TAKEN TO THE NEAREST POLICE FORMATION WHERE SHE CAN BE INTERVIEWED BY A WOMAN POLICE OFFICER,+ MR DAVIES ADDED.

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OFFICE TERM EXTENDED

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THE HEUNG YEE KUK (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH SEEKS TO EXTEND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF KUK MEMBERS TO THREE YEARS WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT ITS SECOND READING, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG QUOTED THE THEN GOVERNOR, SIR HENRY BLAKE, AS SAYING IN HIS PROCLAMATION OF 1899: +THE MOST RESPECTED OF YOUR ELDERS WILL BE CHOSEN TO ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR VILLAGE AFFAIRS, TO SECURE PEACE AND GOOD ORDER AND THE PUNISHMENT OF EVIL-DOERS.+

HIS WORDS BECAME REALITY IN 1959 WITH THE FORMAL INSTITUTION OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, HE SAID.

+MANY OF US CONSIDER THAT SIR HENRY'S WORDS ARE THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THE HEUNG YEE KUK WAS BUILT.

+LIKE ITS FOUNDATION, THE KUK IS OF SOLID CONSTRUCTION.

+BUT TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES, THE KUK MUST ADAPT ITSELF TO CHANGING NEEDS IN CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

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NO CHANGE IN LABOUR DEPARTMENT TITLE

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THE TITLE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST SUCCINCT DESCRIPTION OF ITS ACTIVITIES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

NOTING THAT THE TITLE WAS WIDELY KNOWN AND ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC, HE ADDED THAT HE SAW NO COMPELLING REASON TO INSTITUTE A CHANGE.

MR HENDERSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THE TITLE OF THE DEPARTMENT ACCURATELY REFLECTED ITS FUNCTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE PRESENT FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED, ENCOMPASSED A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, RANGING FROM THE BETTER-KNOWN ONES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION, LABOUR RELATIONS, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, TO THE RATHER LESSER-KNOWN ONES OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AND STORAGE AND DELIVERY OF EXPLOSIVES.

THESE ACTIVITIES WERE MAINLY CONNECTED WITH THE CONDITIONS, THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF LABOUR, AND THE OVERALL AIM WAS TO MAINTAIN AND ADVANCE +LABOUR STANDARDS+ IN A MANNER APPROPRIATE TO THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG.

IN RECENT YEARS HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL SUGGESTIONS FROM ANY QUARTER THAT THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE CHANGED, MR HENDERSON ADDED.

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TDC ANNUAL REPORT
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GROWING PROTECTIONISM AND THE CURRENT WEAK ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE MAJOR MARKETS HAVE PLACED CONSIDERABLE PRESSURES ON OUR BUSINESSMEN AND THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE, THE HON WONG PO-YAN SAID.

HOWEVER, BY CAREFUL SELECTION OF PRODUCTS AND VENUES OF THE TDC'S EXPORT PROMOTIONS PROGRAMME, THE COUNCIL HAS ENSURED THAT THE +MADE IN HONG KONG+ LABEL NOW STANDS FOR QUALITY AND REACHES THE RIGHT MARKETS.

SPEAKING AT THE TABLING OF THE 15TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR WONG SAID: +AS SUCH, THE TDC HAS PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON SPECIALISED TRADE FAIRS AND IN MORE INNOVATIVE MARKETING APPROACHES.

+HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR IN BASLE TO PROMOTE WATCHES AND JEWELLERY, AND THE TDC'S JOINT EFFORTS WITH THE JAPANESE CHAIN STORES GROUP TO EXPAND EXPORTS TO JAPAN ARE JUST TWO SUCH EXAMPLES.+

MR WONG NOTED THAT THE 63 MAJOR OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTIONS MOUNTED BY THE TDC DURING THE YEAR CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGE EXTENT TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED TRADE GROWTH.

THE SCALE OF THESE PROMOTIONS MEANT THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD - MORE THAN TWICE A WEEK, EVERY WEEK OF THE YEAR - THERE WAS A GROUP OF HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN SELLING GOODS +MADE IN HONG KONG+, HE SAID.

IN FACT, OVER 5 000 HONG KONG COMPANIES HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE TDC'S OVERSEAS PROMOTIONS SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAMME IN 1966.

BUT THE COUNCIL'S WORK WAS NOT LIMITED TO PURE PRODUCT EXPOSURE, ADDED MR WONG.

+IN ORDER TO ENSURE FUTURE SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING ITS OVERSEAS PROMOTIONS, THE COUNCIL MAINTAINS HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITIES ABROAD.

+OVER 116 000 DIRECT TRADE ENQUIRIES HAD BEEN HANDLED BY THE COUNCIL'S STAFF DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW AND THE TDC PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION PUBLICATIONS IN SEVEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES TO OVER 170 COUNTRIES WORLD-WIDE.

+IN ADDITION, TDC MISSIONS LED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN, VISITED COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, THE U.S.A., MEXICO, AFRICA, JAPAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST,+ HE SAID.

/MR WONG

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MR WONG ALSO REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS STEADILY EXPANDING INTO MARKETS WHICH SHOWED A GOOD GROWTH POTENTIAL.

THREE NEW OFFICES WERE OPENED IN OSAKA, MARSEILLE AND NAIROBI LAST YEAR, BRINGING TO 24 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS TRADE REPRESENTATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL'S FIRST LOCAL BRANCH OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN TSUEN WAN LAST YEAR TO SERVICE THE RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL ZONES THERE, MR WONG SAID.

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THREE BILLS PASSED

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THREE BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL 1982 AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO CHECK ON CLEAN UP

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL BE LOOKING OVER CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 13).

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

THE GOVERNOR WILL ARRIVE AT THE ENTRANCE OF WANG TOI SHAN TSUEN IN YUEN LONG AT 10.30 AM.

THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY UNIT WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CAR PARK AT 8.30 AM ON SATURDAY, AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO USE THIS TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT MRS EVA LAM BY FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AT 5-217121 EXT. 43.

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THE WEATHER IN JANUARY

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JANUARY WAS WARMER AND DRIER THAN USUAL, ACCORDING TO THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 16.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS 1.3 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL, WHILE THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 15.1 DEGREES IS THE 10TH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JANUARY.

THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL WAS 16 MM, WHICH WAS 10.9 MM BELOW NORMAL.

THE WEATHER FOR THE FIRST 10 DAYS WAS MAINLY FINE. HOWEVER WINDS TURNED NORTHERLY ON JANUARY 4 AND IT BECAME SLIGHTLY COOLER THE NEXT DAY. THERE WERE NORTHERLY WINDS AND COOLER WEATHER AGAIN ON JANUARY 7 TO 9.

IT BECAME CLOUDY WITH TRACES OF RAIN ON JANUARY 11 AND 12. AS A COLD FRONT APPROACHED FROM THE NORTH, THERE WAS RAIN ALL DAY ON JANUARY 13 AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

WINDS TURNED NORTHERLY IN THE EVENING OF JANUARY 14 AND THE WEATHER BECAME COOLER IN THE FOLLOWING FIVE DAYS.

APART FROM A CLOUDY DAY ON JANUARY 17 AND A TRACE OF RAIN DURING THE NIGHT, WEATHER BETWEEN JANUARY 15 AND 20 WAS FINE.

/WEATHER CONDITIONS

WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE VERY DRY ON JANUARY 18 AND 19. THE TEMPERATURE ON JANUARY 19 FELL TO 11.5 DEGREES WHICH WAS THE LOWEST OF THE MONTH.

A DISTURBANCE IN THE EASTERLIES CAUSED RAIN BETWEEN JANUARY 21 AND 23 AND THERE WAS SOME COASTAL FOG ON JANUARY 23.

THE WEATHER BECAME FINE AND SUNNY ON JANUARY 24 AND 25 APART FROM SOME MORE COASTAL FOG IN THE MORNING OF JANUARY 25. THE MONTH'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 24.6 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 25.

ON JANUARY 26, A WEAK COLD FRONT PASSED SOUTH ACROSS HONG KONG AND BROUGHT TRACES OF RAIN. IT BECAME CLOUDY AND COOLER UNTIL JANUARY 29 WHEN EASTERLY WINDS STRENGTHENED OFFSHORE EARLY IN THE MORNING. HOWEVER, THE WEATHER BECAME FINE AND SUNNY AGAIN ON JANUARY 30 AND 31.

DURING THE MONTH NO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND NO THUNDERSTORM OR HEAVY RAIN WARNINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED ON JANUARY 3, 5-10, 11, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 24-28 AND 30-31 WHILE THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 10-11, 16-17 AND 18-20.

THE ONLY SIGNAL HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WAS THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WHICH WAS RAISED AT 12.05 AM ON JANUARY 29 BUT IT WAS LOWERED AT 6 AM THE SAME MORNING.

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| SUNSHINE | 169.7 HOURS= | 16.2 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL |
| RAINFALL | 16.0 MM | = 10.9 MM BELOW NORMAL |
| CLOUDINESS | 57 PER CENT= | 2 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL |
| RELATIVE HUMIDITY | 70 PER CENT= | 1 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL |
| MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE | 19.3 DEGREES CELSIUS= | 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN TEMPERATURE | 16.9 DEGREES CELSIUS= | 1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE | 15.1 DEGREES CELSIUS= | 1.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| MEAN DEW POINT | 11.2 DEGREES CELSIUS= | 1.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL |
| TOTAL EVAPORATION | 100.0 MM | = 6.9 MM BELOW NORMAL |

THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 24.6 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 25 AND THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 11.5 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 19.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF PRIVATE CARS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED OWNERS OF CARS MANUFACTURED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1971, THAT A VALID CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS MUST ACCOMPANY ANY APPLICATION FOR A VEHICLE LICENCE IF THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE NEW LICENCE IS ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 1982.

A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS WILL BE VALID IF IT HAS BEEN ISSUED DURING THE FOUR MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW LICENCE.

AN EXPLANATORY BOOKLET AND APPLICATION FORMS FOR APPOINTMENT CAN BE OBTAINED AT ANY OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES OR VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE.

+OWNERS ARE ADVISED TO MAKE AN EARLY APPOINTMENT AS BOOKINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE HEAVY AS THE DEADLINE APPROACHES,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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DISTRICT BOARD TO DISCUSS CULTURAL FACILITIES
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WAYS OF RELIEVING THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CULTURAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE DENSELY-POPULATED SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT IN THE SHORT-TERM WILL BE SOUGHT DURING THE THIRD SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT THE CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON (FEBRUARY 12).

BOARD MEMBERS WILL GIVE ADVICE ON THE SITE AND FACILITIES FOR A CULTURAL COMPLEX, THE UPGRADING OF FACILITIES IN SCHOOL HALLS AND THE PROVISION OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN SPECIFIC PLACES.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE BUILDING OF A PERMANENT CONCRETE STAIRCASE AT PAK WAN STREET, THE PROVISION OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR SQUATTER AREAS AND THE EXISTING POSTAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

THERE WILL ALSO BE THE MEMBERS' FINAL VETTING OF THE WINNING ENTRIES FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE AN OPEN MEETING AND THE PRESS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL, 298 NAM CHEONG STREET, SHAM SHUI PO ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AT 2.30 PM. STAFF OF THE SHAM SHUI PO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ASSIST THE PRESS.

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ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT

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A PACKED GATHERING OF 2 000 DANCED TO THE TUNE OF AN ANTI-NARCOTICS POP CONCERT HELD THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY) AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, WAN CHAI.

THE CONCERT ENTITLED +TREASURE THE PRIME YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, EASTERN - 82 ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT+ WAS ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AS PART OF ITS PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME FOR THIS YEAR AND PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO II. IT WAS SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONCERT WERE TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EXPERIMENTING WITH NARCOTIC DRUGS, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

POP CONCERTS HAD PROVED TO BE AMONG THE MOST EFFECTIVE VEHICLES FOR REACHING THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PERFORMING AT THE TWO-HOUR CONCERT WERE SEVERAL OF HONG KONG'S YOUNG POP SINGERS, INCLUDING DANNY CHAN, LESLIE CHEUNG, RUTH CHEN, TERENCE CHOI AND FOUR POPULAR COMMERCIAL RADIO DISC-JOCKEYS. MISS WINNIE YU, SERVED AS COMPERE AT THE CONCERT.

THE CONCERT WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON COMMERCIAL RADIO II.

AN ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITION WAS HELD AT THE LOBBY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM BEFORE THE CONCERT BEGAN.

ADMISSION WAS BY FREE TICKETS, EARLIER DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) AND THE TOM LEE PIANO CO., WHO SUPPLIED THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.

MR CHARLES GATELY, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (EASTERN) PERFORMED A +SWITCH-ON+ CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE CONCERT.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR C.M. LEUNG, ALSO ATTENDED THE CONCERT AND PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO PERFORMING ARTISTS AND SPONSORS.

GUESTS ATTENDING THE CONCERT INCLUDED THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

MISS MARIA TAM AND MISS DEBRA CHOW, NEWLY-APPOINTED ACAN MEMBERS, ALSO ATTENDED.

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WORK BEGINS ON NEW ARMY BARRACKS

WORK HAS BEGUN ON SITE FORMATION FOR THE NEW ARMY BARRACKS ON THE CLEARWATER BAY PENINSULA.

KOHIMA BARRACKS WILL ACCOMMODATE THE FIFTH BATTALION OF THE HONG KONG GARRISON FOR WHICH PROVISION WAS MADE IN THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN OCTOBER, 1980.

IT WILL PROVIDE QUARTERING FOR 700 MEN AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AS WELL AS OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, A TRANSPORT DEPOT AND OTHER BARRACKS FACILITIES.

THE SITE OF THE BARRACKS, SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1986, IS LOCATED OFF CLEARWATER BAY ROAD.

THE 41-HECTARE SITE OF MAINLY CROWN LAND CONSISTS OF BROKEN, SLOPING GROUND BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF TAI PO TSAI AND THE SEA.

IT INCLUDES SOME PLOTS OF PRIVATE LAND WHICH WILL BE RESUMED, AND ANCESTRAL GRAVES OF THE VILLAGE.

AS ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BUILD A NEW BURIAL GROUND TO ACCOMMODATE THE GRAVES AND WILL FORM A NEW RIDGE TO REPLACE AN EXISTING ONE WHICH WILL BE LEVELLED DURING THE SITE FORMATION WORKS.

ALSO LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE VILLAGE AT PRESENT IS ERSKINE TRAINING CAMP.

THE CAMP WILL BE CLOSED IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS' TIME AS CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BARRACKS NEARS COMPLETION.

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE YET ON THE USE OF THE LAND WHEN IT IS VACATED BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT COMMUNITY FACILITIES SUCH AS A SCHOOL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, WHICH ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE DEVELOPING SAI KUNG DISTRICT, WILL BE PROVIDED.

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