



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WHITE BILL REPRESENTS A CONCERTED APPROACH TO TACKLE ORGANISED CRIME  
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THE WHITE BILL ON ORGANISED CRIME REPRESENTED A CONCERTED APPROACH BY THE GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM BY INCLUDING PENAL PROVISIONS OF GREAT SEVERITY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN A MOTION DEBATE ON THE WHITE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY, CONSISTENTLY AND IN AN ORGANISED WAY, SHOULD BE PUNISHED HEAVILY.

"THE BILL PROVIDES POWER FOR THE COURTS TO DEPRIVE AN OFFENDER OF HIS PROFITS. THE MESSAGE TO CRIMINALS WILL BE SIMPLE AND UNCOMPROMISING - CRIME DOES NOT PAY," HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS NOTED THAT THE ORGANISED CRIME WHITE BILL WAS PUBLISHED AFTER A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE METHODS ADOPTED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN PREPARING THE BILL, THE NEED TO CONFORM WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AS MIRRORED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

"THAT SAID," MR MATHEWS SAID, "IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CASE LAW ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BOTH AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND IN HONG KONG, IS STILL DEVELOPING.

"IN MANY AREAS THE LAW ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS YET TO BE SETTLED. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN HONG KONG, WHERE THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE HAS ONLY BEEN IN FORCE FOR SIX MONTHS AND THE COURTS HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN BUILDING A BODY OF JURISPRUDENCE AROUND IT."

HE SAID IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR HIM TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE VIEW AS TO WHICH OF THE CLAUSES IN THE WHITE BILL MIGHT NEED TO BE AMENDED OR REPLACED BY REASON OF INCONSISTENCY WITH THE COVENANT AS MIRRORED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND AS TO THE MANNER OF ANY AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

"THAT IS A MATTER THAT WE ARE EXAMINING AT PRESENT. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE LOOKING CAREFULLY AND ANXIOUSLY AT THOSE AREAS WHERE THE COURT HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED A VIEW IN RELATION TO SIMILAR LEGISLATION, AND WHERE LEGAL COMMENTATORS HAVE IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE ISSUES OF INCOMPATIBILITY," HE SAID.

HE SAID SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS HAD BEEN FORMED.

MR MATHEWS SAID CONCERNS ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WHITE BILL AGAINST CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES, ITS EFFECT ON AN ACCUSED'S RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING, AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF PREJUDICE AGGRAVATED BY THE LACK OF ANY REQUIREMENT TO PROVE A LINK BETWEEN THE ORGANISED CRIME GROUP AND AN ORGANISED CRIME OFFENCE, WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED.

HE SAID NO VIEW HAD BEEN FORMED ON THESE CONCERNS, WHICH WERE IN RELATION TO CLAUSES 3, 4, 5 AND 32.

MANY OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR THE BILL CONCERNED CLAUSE 5 DEALING WITH REPEATED COMMISSION OF ORGANISED CRIME OFFENCES.

THERE WERE CRITICISMS THAT A CHARGE UNDER THIS CLAUSE COULD BE BASED IN PART ON OFFENCES WHICH THE DEFENDANT COMMITTED BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LEGISLATION.

"FOR THE BILL TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE DETERRENT EFFECT UPON ENACTMENT," MR MATHEWS SAID, "WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVIDENCE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE ADMISSIBLE AT TRIAL.

ON CONCERNS ABOUT THE RETROSPECTIVE ELEMENT IN SOME PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, MR MATHEWS POINTED OUT THAT A LAW WAS NOT RETROSPECTIVE MERELY BECAUSE IT HAD REGARDS TO EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE MAKING OF THAT LAW.

"RETROSPECTIVITY, IN THE LEGAL SENSE, MEANS IN EFFECT BACKDATING A CHANGE IN THE LAW SO THAT THE LEGAL RULES APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN EVENTS ARE CHANGED AFTER THE EVENTS HAD OCCURRED.

"THIS CONCEPT IS REFLECTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT WHICH PROHIBITS A PERSON BEING CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE ON ACCOUNT OF ANY ACT WHICH DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFENCE WHEN IT WAS COMMITTED.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROHIBITS A PERSON, WHEN BEING DEALT WITH FOR AN OFFENCE, FROM RECEIVING A HEAVIER PENALTY THAN THE ONE THAT WAS APPLICABLE WHEN THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE BILL IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THESE PRINCIPLES. BUT I HAVE HEARD CRITICISMS THAT HAVE BEEN VOICED THIS AFTERNOON BY COMMENTATORS AND I AM LOOKING AT IT AGAIN," MR MATHEWS SAID.

ANOTHER CRITICISM THAT HAD BEEN RAISED WAS THAT CLAUSES 3, 4 AND 5, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY WOULD RELY ON OFFENCES OF WHICH A DEFENDANT HAD ALREADY BEEN CONVICTED, MIGHT VIOLATE THE COVENANT PROHIBITION AGAINST DOUBLE JEOPARDY AND DOUBLE PUNISHMENT.

"OUR PRESENT VIEW IS THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE BUT ONCE AGAIN WE SHALL GIVE THIS ASPECT CLOSE AND ANXIOUS CONSIDERATION," HE SAID.

"CLAUSE 33, WHICH CONTAINED A PRESUMPTION AS TO MEMBERSHIP OF AN ORGANISED CRIME GROUP, DREW MANY COMMENTS.

"THIS CLAUSE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE IN ORDER WHEN WE PUBLISHED THE WHITE BILL FOR CONSULTATION IN AUGUST THIS YEAR."

HOWEVER, HE SAID, AS A RESULT OF A RECENT COURT OF APPEAL RULING, IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THIS CLAUSE, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WOULD NOT SURVIVE A CHALLENGE BASED ON ARTICLE VII OF THE LETTERS PATENT, WHICH REQUIRED CONSISTENCY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

"WE ARE CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THIS QUESTION. WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DELETE THIS CLAUSE ALTOGETHER OR WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED."

APART FROM THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING CONSISTENCY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT, MANY COMMENTATORS HAD RAISED OTHER ISSUES OF A LEGAL NATURE, SUCH AS THE POWER OF CONFISCATION, INVESTIGATIVE POWERS, THE USE OF ACCOMPLICE EVIDENCE AND THE DEFINITION OF "ORGANISED CRIME GROUP".

THESE ISSUES RAISED COMPLEX LEGAL QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

MR MATHEWS ADDRESSED A CONCERN RELATING TO THE EXERCISE OF HIS DISCRETION TO PROSECUTE.

SOME MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO WERE LOOSELY ASSOCIATED TOGETHER TO COMMIT PETTY OFFENCES MIGHT BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND HARSH PUNISHMENT UNDER THE BILL.

"LET ME ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE WHITE BILL IS TARGETTED AT ORGANISED CRIME AND ORGANISED CRIME ONLY. MY CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY PROSECUTION UNDER THE BILL AND IT WILL ONLY BE GIVEN AFTER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A CASE HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY AND MOST CAREFULLY EXAMINED," HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN FULLY ALIVE TO THE NEED FOR A BALANCE TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE AND WORKABLE BILL.

"BEFORE THE BLUE BILL IS INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL, WE WILL OF COURSE ENSURE, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY AND KNOWLEDGE, THAT IT COMPLIES WITH THE LETTERS PATENT AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AS MIRRORED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE BILL IS ONE WHICH IS TRULY EFFECTIVE AND WORKABLE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

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PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT TRIADS 'REAL AND VALID'

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ORGANISED CRIME IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, AND PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE THREAT FROM TRIADS IS BOTH REAL AND VALID, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE ORGANISED CRIME WHITE BILL, MR STRACHAN NOTED THAT SOME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT THE DEFINITION OF "ORGANISED CRIME GROUP" IN THE BILL WAS TOO WIDE AND POTENTIALLY OPEN TO ABUSE.

THE BILL DEFINED AN "ORGANISED CRIME GROUP" AS A TRIAD SOCIETY OR TWO OR MORE INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED TOGETHER TO REPEATEDLY COMMIT THE OFFENCES SET OUT IN SCHEDULE I OF THE BILL, WHICH INCLUDED DRUG TRAFFICKING, OPERATING ILLEGAL GAMBLING, ROBBERY AND BLACKMAIL.

"MY RESPONSE TO THIS IS THAT WE BELIEVE THE DEFINITION REFLECTS THE REALITY OF ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

BUT THERE WAS MERIT IN THE SUGGESTION THAT WHAT "REPEATEDLY COMMIT" MEANS SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. "WE WILL BEAR IT IN MIND," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION SUGGESTIONS THAT SCHEDULE I OF THE BILL BE EXPANDED TO COVER OTHER CRIMES SUCH AS BURGLARY AND ILLEGAL IMPORT AND SALES OF FIREARMS.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INCLUDE IN THE ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION ANY PROVISION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE DEFENDANT BEING PUNISHED TWICE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES APPROPRIATE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE OFFENCE, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE MONEY LAUNDERING AND CONFISCATION PROVISIONS IN THE BILL, MR STRACHAN SAID THE MAIN COMMENT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED WAS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR EMPLOYEES OF BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO IDENTIFY WHETHER THEIR CLIENTS ARE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANISED CRIME GROUP.

"SOME BELIEVE THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO REPORT WOULD CREATE AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

HE CLARIFIED THAT THE BILL CREATED A NEW MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENCE, NOT A NEW REPORTING DUTY.

"IF A PERSON FAILS TO REPORT A SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, HE DOES NOT COMMIT AN OFFENCE. IN FACT, THE REPORTING SYSTEM IN THE BILL SEEKS TO SAFEGUARD FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FROM INCURRING LEGAL LIABILITIES SHOULD THEY REPORT A SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION."

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF DRAWING UP GENERAL MONEY LAUNDERING AND CONFISCATION LEGISLATION IN RESPECT OF ALL CRIMES.

REFERRING TO CONCERNS THAT THE BILL WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH THE "GODFATHERS" OF CRIMINAL SYNDICATES, MR STRACHAN SAID THE PROPOSAL ON CORROBORATION WOULD HELP TO ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF "GODFATHERS".

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL IN THE BILL TO AMEND THE RULES ON JOINDER OF CHARGES TO ENABLE THE PROSECUTION TO PRESENT A FULL PICTURE OF THE CRIMINALITY CHARGED, HE SAID THERE WERE CONCERNS THAT THE PROPOSAL MIGHT HAVE A PREJUDICIAL EFFECT ON THE DEFENDANT AND COULD LEAD TO LONGER AND MORE COMPLEX TRIALS.

"THESE ARE VALID CONCERNS," HE SAID.

ON CONCERNS ABOUT THE BILL'S IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICE MORALE AND RESOURCES, MR STRACHAN SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN MOTIVATED BY THE POLICE THEMSELVES AND COURT PROSECUTORS, WHO SEE THE GAP IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATION AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THE ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION WILL HELP POLICE MORALE," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO MEMBERS' CONCERNS ABOUT REPORT PROCEDURES AND THE PROTECTION OF WITNESSES, HE SAID THESE WERE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AND WERE BEING EXAMINED BY THE SECURITY BRANCH, THE POLICE AND THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

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COMMUNITY HOLDS DIFFERENT VIEWS AND APPROACHES TO UNATTENDED CHILDREN

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COMMUNITY VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE LEGISLATION TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME ARE SHARPLY DIVIDED AND DIFFERENT APPROACHES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID THIS DURING AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID SOME PEOPLE URGED THAT CHILD CARE PROVISION SHOULD BE STEPPED UP, WHILE OTHERS SUPPORTED MUTUAL HELP SERVICES AND CALLED FOR THE PROMOTION OF BETTER EDUCATION FOR PARENTS.

SINCE THE THREE-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD BEGAN ON OCTOBER 1, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD GIVEN 77 BRIEFINGS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND RECEIVED 15 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, MRS WONG SAID.

"MORE SUBMISSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO COME IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, ALL VIEWS RECEIVED WILL BE ASSESSED AND THE ADVICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE OPTION IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC REACTION," SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID CHILD CARE WAS AND WOULD ALWAYS BE THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"THIS YEAR THE RECURRENT MONEY FOR NURSERY AND CRECHE SERVICES IS \$119.6 MILLION. NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE BY \$10.5 MILLION TO \$130.1 MILLION FOR SUCH SERVICES, INCLUDING PROVISION FOR 1,400 ADDITIONAL DAY NURSERY PLACES.

"ADDITIONAL DAY NURSERY PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED EACH AND EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE DEMAND IS MET IN FULL," MRS WONG SAID.

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BILL RECOGNISES CITY POLYTECHNIC LAW QUALIFICATIONS

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THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 WILL ENABLE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CITY POLYTECHNIC LAW STUDENTS TO BE RECOGNISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING ADMITTED AS BARRISTERS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID AT PRESENT ONLY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S LAW DEGREE AND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS WERE RECOGNISED AS QUALIFICATIONS FOR A PERSON TO BECOME A LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

HE TOLD COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC STARTED ITS LAW DEGREE COURSES IN SEPTEMBER 1988 AND BEGAN ITS POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS PROGRAMME IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

BOTH THE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE COURSES HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND BAR ASSOCIATION. THE FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS FROM THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS PROGRAMME WOULD GRADUATE IN JUNE NEXT YEAR, MR MATHEWS SAID.

"THIS BILL WILL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMISSION AS BARRISTERS, EXTEND SUCH RECOGNITION TO THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG'S LAW DEGREE AND POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR ADMISSION AS A SOLICITOR WOULD BE SIMILARLY AMENDED AND WOULD BE CONTAINED IN THE TRAINEE SOLICITORS RULES TO BE MADE BY THE LAW SOCIETY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL TO APPOINT AN ACTING DIRECTOR WHEN THE DIRECTOR IS ABSENT FROM HONG KONG OR IS UNABLE TO PERFORM HIS FUNCTIONS, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER THE ORDINANCE FOR SUCH AN ACTING APPOINTMENT TO BE MADE.

THE PRACTICE HITHERTO HAS BEEN FOR THE COMPTROLLER TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF DE FACTO DIRECTOR DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE DIRECTOR. THE COMPTROLLER, HOWEVER, NEED NOT BE QUALIFIED IN DENTISTRY.

/"THE BOARD .....

"THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS CONSIDERS THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST ARRANGEMENT ESPECIALLY WHEN URGENT DECISIONS REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE DIRECTOR.

"THE BILL THEREFORE SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO APPOINT AN ACTING DIRECTOR DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE DIRECTOR," MRS WONG SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH INTENDS TO GIVE EFFECT TO PROVISIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (IN SHORT, THE TORTURE CONVENTION), WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE CONVENTION TO BE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TORTURE CONVENTION WAS TO ELABORATE AND STRENGTHEN THE GUARANTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR), WHICH WAS ALREADY APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONVENTION SPECIFIED: "NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. IN PARTICULAR, NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED WITHOUT HIS FREE CONSENT TO MEDICAL OR SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION".

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION, THAT IS, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1988, THE UNITED KINGDOM RATIFIED THE CONVENTION IN DECEMBER 1988.

MR SZE SAID THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HONG KONG'S DETERMINATION TO CONDEMN ACTS OF TORTURE AND OTHER INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT, THE TERRITORY SHOULD SEEK TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UK'S RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION.

"THIS IS A LOGICAL STEP AFTER THE APPLICATION OF THE ICCPR TO HONG KONG UPON ENACTMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE EARLIER THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE BILL BROADLY FOLLOWED THE APPROACH TAKEN IN SECTIONS 134 TO 138 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1988.

"THE REASON FOR THIS IS SIMPLE: THESE SECTIONS OF THE ACT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET EFFECTIVELY THE UK'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION AND THEREFORE PROVIDE A GOOD MODEL FOR OUR DRAFTING PURPOSE," HE SAID.

MR SZE EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL PROVIDED THAT, IF ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR PERSON ACTING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY INTENTIONALLY INFLICTED SEVERE PAIN OR SUFFERING ON ANOTHER, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL, IN THE PERFORMANCE OR PURPORTED PERFORMANCE OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES, HE COMMITTED THE OFFENCE OF TORTURE.

ANY OTHER PERSON WHO INFLICTED SEVERE PAIN OR SUFFERING ON ANOTHER AT THE INSTIGATION OF OR WITH THE CONSENT OR ACQUIESCENCE OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR PERSON ACTING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY, EITHER OF WHOM WAS IN THE PERFORMANCE OR PURPORTED PERFORMANCE OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES, WOULD ALSO BE CAUGHT BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

MR SZE SAID AS STIPULATED IN THE TORTURE CONVENTION, PAIN AND SUFFERING INFLICTED BY THE USE OF REASONABLE FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE COURSE OF MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER SHOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS TORTURE.

"HENCE, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A DEFENCE BASED ON 'LAWFUL AUTHORITY, JUSTIFICATION, OR EXCUSE' AGAINST THE CHARGE OF TORTURE.

"THE SAME DEFENCE IS PROVIDED IN THE 1988 ACT IN THE UK," HE ADDED.

MR SZE SAID TO CONFORM WITH THE CONVENTION AND FOLLOWING THE APPROACH OF THE 1988 ACT, THE BILL MADE AN OFFENCE OF TORTURE COMMITTED OUTSIDE HONG KONG AN OFFENCE UNDER THE BILL.

"THE BILL ALSO PERMITS EXTRADITION TO BE GRANTED TO STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, WHETHER HAVING AN EXTRADITION RELATIONSHIP WITH HONG KONG OR NOT, FOR OFFENCES CREATED BY THE BILL.

"THIS IS NECESSARY TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF THE TORTURE CONVENTION.

"THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT FOR THE OFFENCE OF TORTURE IS IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MOTION ON NEW TELEPHONE SERVICES PASSED

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED A MOTION UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ALLOW THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY TO CHARGE FOR THREE NEW SERVICES.

THE SERVICES ARE AN INTEGRATED DIGITAL ACCESS SERVICE, A FREE INFOLINE SERVICE, AND A BARRING SERVICE.

MOVING A MOTION TO AMEND A SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE, MRS CHAN SAID: "THE ADMINISTRATION HAS EXAMINED THE PROPOSED CHARGES, AND CONSIDERS THEM TO BE A REASONABLE REFLECTION OF THE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES."

UNDER SECTION 26 (1) OF THE ORDINANCE, THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY MAY LEVY CHARGES FOR ITS SERVICES ONLY AT LEVELS WHICH DO NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS SHOWN IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAXIMUM CHARGES FOR THESE SERVICES NEEDED TO BE ADDED TO THE SCHEDULE TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO CHARGE FOR THE SERVICES.

SHE SAID THE INTEGRATED DIGITAL ACCESS SERVICE WOULD ENHANCE THE LINK BETWEEN THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK AND CELLULAR TELEPHONE AND VALUE ADDED SERVICE NETWORKS.

"IT WOULD PROVIDE A DIGITAL CONNECTION OFFERING BETTER QUALITY LINKS BETWEEN NETWORKS.

"IT WOULD ALSO OFFER GREATER VOICE SECURITY FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE USERS," MRS CHAN SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE FREE INFOLINE SERVICE WOULD ALLOW CALLERS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FREE OF CHARGE FROM INFORMATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.

THE COMPANY WOULD CHARGE THE SERVICE PROVIDERS 30 CENTS PER MINUTE FOR THE CALLS, BUT THE LATTER COULD RECOVER COSTS THROUGH SPONSORSHIP BY SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTS ABOUT WHICH INFORMATION WOULD BE GIVEN.

THE BARRING SERVICE WOULD ALLOW SUBSCRIBERS TO HAVE THEIR TELEPHONE LINES BARRED TO UNAUTHORISED OUTGOING IDD CALLS, INFOLINE CALLS AND INCOMING COLLECT CALLS, SHE ADDED.

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GIBRALTAR ADDED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDER

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THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE, ENACTED ON JULY 12, 1989, HAS STRENGTHENED HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO COMBAT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING BY PROVIDING THE MEANS TO TRACE, RESTRAIN AND CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) (DESIGNATED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1991, HE SAID THE AMENDMENT ORDER, MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 3, WOULD ADD GIBRALTAR TO A DESIGNATION ORDER MADE LAST JANUARY.

THE DESIGNATION ORDER APPLIES THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS, TO ORDERS MADE BY COURTS OR OTHER PROCEEDINGS IN THE DESIGNATED JURISDICTIONS, ENABLING COURTS IN HONG KONG TO CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, HE SAID.

"IN PARTICULAR IT ENABLES THE HIGH COURT TO ORDER THE RESTRAINT IN HONG KONG OF PROPERTY REQUIRED TO ENFORCE A CONFISCATION ORDER MADE IN ONE OF THE DESIGNATED JURISDICTIONS; AND REGISTER AND ENFORCE A CONFISCATION ORDER MADE BY A COURT IN ONE OF THE DESIGNATED JURISDICTIONS," HE ADDED.

MR STRACHAN SAID HONG KONG HAD CONCLUDED ARRANGEMENTS WITH GIBRALTAR BY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.

"THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT WHEN BOTH HONG KONG AND GIBRALTAR HAVE NOTIFIED EACH OTHER THAT ALL OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. GIBRALTAR HAS ALREADY DESIGNATED HONG KONG UNDER ITS LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

SECTION 28(1) OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO DESIGNATE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG TO ENABLE THEIR CONFISCATION AND RELATED ORDERS TO BE ENFORCED HERE, AND ALLOWS ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED IN RELATION TO THEIR DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

MR STRACHAN SAID HONG KONG CONCLUDED NINE ARRANGEMENTS WITH AUSTRALIA, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM JURISDICTIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, JERSEY, GUERNSEY AND THE ISLE OF MAN LATE LAST YEAR.

"THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY RESOLUTION, DESIGNATED THESE NINE JURISDICTIONS BY A DESIGNATION ORDER UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

"EIGHT OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GUERNSEY WHICH HAS YET TO DESIGNATE HONG KONG UNDER ITS LEGISLATION, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPERATION.

"AS A RESULT, ABOUT \$290 MILLION WORTH OF ASSETS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN HONG KONG, WITH ALMOST \$250 MILLION, OR 86 PER CENT, ARISING FROM ORDERS MADE IN THESE JURISDICTIONS," HE ADDED.

PROVISIONS EXTENDED TO TACKLE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS PROBLEM

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED A MOTION UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE MOTION SEEKS TO EXTEND SECTION 18(3) AND PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH HAVE BEEN RE-ENACTED ANNUALLY AND WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR, FOR A FURTHER YEAR.

MOVING THE MOTION, MR STRACHAN EXPLAINED THAT SECTION 18(3) OF THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JANUARY 1979 TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE ASYLUM-SEEKERS.

"IT REMOVES THE LIMIT OF TWO MONTHS DURING WHICH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER MAY REMOVE A PERSON REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND IN HONG KONG, IF IT APPEARS TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION THAT THAT PERSON WAS PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN VIETNAM," HE SAID.

REGARDING PARTS VIIA AND VIIB OF THE ORDINANCE, HE SAID THEY WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST 1979 TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, ANY PERSON WHO AIDS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO ENTER HONG KONG COMMITS AN OFFENCE.

OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO \$5 MILLION AND IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE, WHILE THE SHIPS AND OTHER PROPERTY INVOLVED ARE LIABLE TO FORFEITURE.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE CONCLUSION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH VIETNAM WHICH ALLOWED THE REPATRIATION OF SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HAD PUT IN PLACE THE FINAL PIECE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM VIETNAM.

"WE CAN AT LAST SEE A CLEAR WAY AHEAD TO SOLVING THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM.

"BY SCREENING NEW ARRIVALS AS SOON AS THEY COME TO HONG KONG AND IMMEDIATELY RETURNING THE SCREENED-OUT TO VIETNAM, WE HOPE TO DISCOURAGE AND STOP THE OUTFLOW OF NON-REFUGEES.

"HOWEVER, THIS PROCESS TAKES TIME. EVEN ASSUMING NO OR VERY FEW NEW ARRIVALS, IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE SOME THREE YEARS TO REPATRIATE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NON-REFUGEES.

"WE, THEREFORE, NEED TO RETAIN SECTION 18(3) TO GIVE OURSELVES AND THE UNHCR TIME TO MAKE REPATRIATION WORK," MR STRACHAN SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CHINESE TO RETURN AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ALL THOSE VIETNAMESE, OF WHOM THERE WERE NOW 145 IN HONG KONG, WHO HAD COME HERE AFTER PREVIOUSLY BEING SETTLED IN CHINA.

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"WE AIM TO SECURE THEIR REPATRIATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT THIS PROCESS TOO WILL TAKE TIME," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA REMAINED A PROBLEM, HE SAID THE TOUGH LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR PROVED EFFECTIVE AT FIRST.

UP TO THE END OF JULY THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS FELL BY 22 PER CENT AGAINST THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"BUT, SINCE AUGUST, THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN BEGAN TO INCREASE, MATCHING - AND IN SOME MONTHS OVERTAKING - THE 1990 LEVELS.

"THE MAIN CAUSE HAS BEEN THE ILLUSION OF JOBS ON THE NEW AIRPORT SITE AND OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS, ENCOURAGED AS ALWAYS BY DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION AND THE SPREADING OF FALSE RUMOURS BY THE "SNAKEHEADS" WHO TRAFFICK IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS," HE SAID.

IT IS NECESSARY TO RETAIN STRONG SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN THIS ILLICIT TRADE, MR STRACHAN SAID.

THEREFORE, THESE POSITIONS IN THE ORDINANCE NEED TO BE RETAINED FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE YEAR AND THE SITUATION WILL BE REVIEWED AGAIN IN LATE 1992, HE SAID.

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INFORMATION PROVIDED TO FACILITATE SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION

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THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS CAN PROPERLY BE PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE IT, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SZE SAID HE TRUSTED MEMBERS WOULD RECOGNISE THAT IN DOING THIS THE PROVISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP LAID DOWN IN ANNEX II TO THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WOULD HAVE TO BE OBSERVED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ARTICLE VII(I) OF THE LETTERS PATENT PROVIDED FOR THE GOVERNOR TO MAKE LAWS IN HONG KONG WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WHENEVER DRAFT LEGISLATION IS PUT BEFORE IT, THE COUNCIL DECIDES WHETHER TO APPROVE OR OTHERWISE.

"THIS COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THOROUGH AND CONSCIENTIOUS AND, I HAVE NO DOUBT, WILL REMAIN SO," HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS  
COVERS ALSO FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS, CONDUCT A ROOT AND BRANCH REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ELECTIONS IN THESE CONSTITUENCIES TAKE PLACE, AS IN THE CASE OF ALL OTHER ELECTIONS, IN A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL MANNER.

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON J.D. MCGREGOR, MR SZE ADDED THAT, IN DOING SO, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ELECTIONS IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS WITH CHINA EXPLAINED

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THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA ON THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN, MR STRACHAN SAID IF A DECISION WAS TAKEN TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS, THEY WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE NORMAL SAFEGAURDS WOULD BE PRESERVED.

AS REGARDS WHETHER THERE WERE ANY EXISTING PROVISIONS FORBIDDING THE EXTRADITION OF PEOPLE FOR POLITICAL REASONS TO CHINA, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY RELEVANT HONG KONG LEGISLATION WAS THE CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE.

"THIS IS NOT IN USE. IT PROVIDES THAT A PERSON SHALL NOT BE SURRENDERED FOR OFFENCES OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER," HE SAID.

"IF THIS ORDINANCE WAS TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND 1997, THEN WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THIS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," MR STRACHAN ADDED.

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NEW LEGISLATION ON LAND DRAINAGE TO TACKLE SILTING PROBLEM

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A NEW LEGISLATION ON LAND DRAINAGE AS PART OF ITS LONG TERM MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF SILTING, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN NG MING-YUM, MR LEUNG SAID AS MOST OF THE WATERCOURSES IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WERE IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, ATTEMPTS BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO GAIN ACCESS TO MAINTAIN THESE WATERCOURSES HAD OFTEN BEEN FRUSTRATED BECAUSE OF THE RELUCTANCE OF THE OWNERS TO PERMIT ACCESS.

"THE NEW BILL WILL SEEK TO EMPOWER THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO GAIN ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND FOR WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE.

"WE HOPE TO INTRODUCE THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECKONED THAT THE LONG TERM STRUCTURAL SOLUTION TO THE SILTING PROBLEM WAS TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT AND FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES IN AFFECTED AREAS.

"SOME \$580 MILLION HAVE THEREFORE BEEN SPENT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS IN MAJOR FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS IN TIN SHUI WAI AND YUEN LONG AREAS," HE SAID.

THESE INCLUDED TAI RIVER DIVERSION CULVERT, IMPROVEMENT TO WESTERN DRAINAGE CHANNEL AND EASTERN CULVERT, FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES FOR KIU TAU WAI, SIK KONG TSUEN, SIK KONG WAI, LO UK TSUEN, HA MEI SAN TSUEN AND SHEUNG CHEUNG WAI.

MR LEUNG SAID A \$125.3 MILLION FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE DRAINAGE CHANNELS NEAR HUNG UK TSUEN, FU SHA WAI, TAI TO TSUEN, TIN SAM, SIK KONG WAI, TSEUNG KONG WAI, HUNG SHUI KIU AND TAN KWAI TSUEN WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY MID-1992.

"IN ADDITION, THERE ARE LONG TERM PLANS, COSTING SOME \$1,233 MILLION, TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING MAJOR RIVERS AND TO CONSTRUCT MORE CHANNELS TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF SILTING AND FLOODING IN YUEN LONG, KAM TIN, NGAU TAM MEI AND SAN TIN AREAS.

"WORKS WILL START PROGRESSIVELY FROM AUGUST 1992 FOR COMPLETION BY 1998. DETAILED PLANNING AND DESIGN ARE ALSO IN HAND FOR VILLAGE FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS AT HA MEI SAN TSUEN, SHEUNG CHEUNG WAI AND AT YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN AREAS, COSTING ALTOGETHER SOME \$412 MILLION," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ALSO OUTLINED THE THREE MAIN MEASURES THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF SILTING. THEY ARE:

/\* STRICTER CONTROLS .....

- \* STRICTER CONTROLS INTRODUCED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT ON PRIVATE DEVELOPERS THROUGH RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE WHEREBY DEVELOPERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO SUBMIT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR APPROVAL BEFORE CARRYING OUT FILLING WORKS;
- \* ENVIORNMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT IS PROGRESSIVELY INTRODUCING LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL MEASURES UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE WHEREBY THE YUEN LONG ENVIRONS BECAME PART OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREAS ON JUNE 1 THIS YEAR; AND
- \* DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD INTRODUCED DRAINAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AS FROM DECEMBER LAST YEAR AS A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

OTHER WORKS INCLUDED REGULAR PROGRAMMES OF DESILTING RIVERS AND STREAMS IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$8 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, 68 DESILTING/DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COSTING \$134 MILLION CARRIED OUT BY THE TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICES SINCE APRIL 1989, AND \$12 MILLION WORKS TO REMOVE THE POLLUTANTS AND CONTAMINATED SILT IN THE TUEN MUN NULLAH.

MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE MANY CAUSES OF SILTING, SOME BEING A NATURAL PROCESS WHILE SOME HAD BEEN CAUSED OR EXACERBATED BY MAN.

"THE PROBLEM IS NOTABLY SERIOUS IN SAN TIN, YUEN LONG AND IS GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL IN TUEN MUN," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID TYPHOONS WARREN AND BRENDA IN 1988 AND 1989 RESPECTIVELY HAD CAUSED SERIOUS FLOODING IN SILT UP AREAS IN HA TSUEN.

"THE TOTAL DAMAGE IN THE YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN DISTRICTS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE REGION OF \$29 MILLION (\$16 MILLION TO AGRICULTURE AND \$13 MILLION TO PROPERTY) AND ABOUT \$2 MILLION WAS PAID OUT TO FARMERS IN THE YUEN LONG AREA," HE SAID.

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SOCIAL CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY TO BE STUDIED

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THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG OFFENDERS PLANS TO COMMISSION A STUDY ON THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM PROFESSOR THE HON FELICE LIEH-MAK, MR STRACHAN SAID THE STUDY WHICH WOULD START EARLY NEXT YEAR WOULD GIVE FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEM SO THAT BETTER PREVENTIVE MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN.

/NOTING THAT .....

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NOTING THAT SHOP OR MISCELLANEOUS THEFTS ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 43 PER CENT OF JUVENILE CRIME, HE SAID THERE WERE VARIOUS POLICE ADVISORY PROGRAMMES IN MAJOR SHOPPING OUTLETS TO WARN YOUNGSTERS OF THE RISKS OF BEING PROSECUTED SHOULD THEY ENGAGE IN SHOP THEFT.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERING THE PRODUCTION OF CARDBOARD CUT-OUT POLICEMAN FIGURES TO BE DISPLAYED IN MAJOR STORES.

"THIS MEASURE HAS BEEN USED IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND HAS RESULTED IN A DRASTIC DECREASE IN SHOP THEFT IN PREMISES WHERE THEY ARE DISPLAYED," HE ADDED.

WHILE THE PREDOMINANT CATEGORY OF JUVENILES INVOLVED IN CRIME ARE STUDENTS, ALL POLICE DISTRICTS HAVE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS WHO REGULARLY VISIT SCHOOLS TO ADVISE ON JUVENILE PROBLEMS.

"A WORKING PARTY ON JUVENILE CRIME WAS SET UP WITHIN THE POLICE IN 1988 TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT MEANS TO COUNTER JUVENILE CRIMES THROUGH IMPROVED PUBLICITY, AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND DETECTION," MR STRACHAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE IN SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT THE EDUCATION PROVIDED WAS POSITIVE AND REWARDING SO THAT STUDENTS WERE LESS VULNERABLE TO BAD INFLUENCES.

"GUIDANCE IS GIVEN TO STUDENTS AT RISK. SUCH GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING WORK HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS," HE ADDED.

EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT PERSONS FROM BROKEN HOMES, FAMILIES OF DRUG ADDICTS OR CONVICTED CRIMINALS, OR PERSONS BROUGHT UP IN AN OVERCROWDED AND SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED ENVIRONMENT HAVE A GREATER TENDENCY TO BECOME YOUTHS AT RISK.

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NO PLANS FOR LEGISLATION ON EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION ON EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN FOR EQUAL WORK, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EMILY LAU, MR CHAN SAID THE RELEVANT ARTICLE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS (ARTICLE 22) WAS CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY IN ITS CONTENT OR APPLICATION.

"LEGAL ADVICE IS THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO COMPLY WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS," MR CHAN SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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PROMPT ACTION AGAINST NON-OCCUPANCY OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

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MORE THAN 8,100 UNITS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAVE BEEN LEFT VACANT FOR THREE MONTHS OR MORE AS A RESULT OF THEIR HAVING BEEN REJECTED BY PROSPECTIVE TENANTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WHERE THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROVE NON-OCCUPANCY OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS, PROMPT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO TERMINATE THE TENANCY WITH A VIEW TO RECOVERING THE UNIT FOR RE-ALLOCATION, MR LEUNG SAID.

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT CASES OF NON-OCCUPATION OF PUBLIC RENTAL UNITS WERE DETECTED BY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ESTATE MANAGEMENT STAFF DURING THEIR REGULAR VISITS AND FLAT INSPECTIONS.

THEY ALSO CAME TO LIGHT WHEN THERE WERE UNREASONABLY LOW UTILITY METER READINGS, DISCONNECTED TELEPHONE LINES, AND REPORTS OR FEEDBACK FROM CLEANSING WORKERS AND NEIGHBOURS.

MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 27,381 VACANT PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

OF THESE, 5,965 WERE NOT IN A SUITABLE STATE FOR LETTING, 10,127 WERE BEING OFFERED OR PROCESSED FOR LETTING, AND THE REMAINING 11,289 RESERVED FOR REDEVELOPMENT, MAJOR REPAIRS AND CLEARANCE USE.

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POLICE DEPLOYMENT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW

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POLICE COMMANDERS REVIEW REGULARLY THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS IN THEIR DISTRICTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF MANPOWER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR STRACHAN SAID POLICE WERE NOT DEPLOYED ROUND THE CLOCK IN SOK KWU WAN AT PRESENT AS IT HAD A LOW CRIME RATE, WITH ONLY NINE CRIMES REPORTED THIS YEAR UP TO NOVEMBER.

AS A RESULT, THE PREVIOUS 24-HOUR COVERAGE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO TWO MEN FROM NOON TO 10 PM DAILY WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

/"SOK KWU .....

"SOK KWU WAN IS HOWEVER FREQUENTLY VISITED BY POLICE LAUNCHES AND PATROLS ARE PUT ASHORE," MR STRACHAN SAID.

HE SAID THE NEARBY YUNG SHUE WAN CONTINUED TO BE COVERED 24 HOURS A DAY.

"IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY, POLICE LAUNCHES ON PATROL IN THE VICINITY OR LAUNCHES FROM THE ABERDEEN MARINE POLICE BASE, JUST 15 MINUTES CRUISING TIME AWAY, WILL BE DIRECTED TO SOK KWU WAN.

"POLICE COVERAGE AT SOK KWU WAN WILL BE MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THE LOCAL REQUIREMENTS. IF THE SITUATION THERE WARRANTS GREATER POLICE ATTENTION IN FUTURE, POLICE PRESENCE WILL BE INCREASED," HE SAID.

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SERIOUSNESS OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS PUBLICISED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE WIDE PUBLICITY TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR TO DISCOURAGE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION AND USE OF BOTH FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR STRACHAN SAID THE POLICE MAINTAINED CLOSE LIAISON WITH ALL SCHOOLS THROUGH SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS BASED IN EVERY DISTRICT POLICE STATION.

"DURING THEIR FREQUENT VISITS TO SCHOOLS, THESE OFFICERS EMPHASISE THE DANGERS OF INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME AND ASSOCIATION WITH UNRULY ELEMENTS.

"BY AND LARGE THIS LIAISON IS SUCCESSFUL," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN ADDED THAT WHILST THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CRIME OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAD BEEN BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE THOUSAND ANNUALLY, THIS REPRESENTED A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL JUVENILE POPULATION.

AS FOR THE PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID THEY WERE FAIRLY WELL KNOWN AND WERE FREQUENTLY REINFORCED BY WELL PUBLICISED SENTENCES HANDED DOWN BY THE COURTS.

POSSESSION WITHOUT A LICENCE CAN RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO 14 YEARS, WHILST POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO ENDANGER LIFE, CARRYING ARMS OR AMMUNITION WITH CRIMINAL INTENT OR RESISTING ARREST OR COMMITTING AN OFFENCE WHILST IN POSSESSION CAN RESULT IN LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

"IT IS CLEAR THEREFORE THAT THE COURTS TAKE A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION AND USE OF FIREARMS," MR STRACHAN SAID.

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CONSUMERS ASSURED OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT REASONABLE COST

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ALL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND ITS ASSOCIATED GENERATING COMPANIES WILL BE RIGOROUSLY SCRUTINISED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS, TO ENSURE THAT CONSUMERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AN EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT A REASONABLE COST.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW POWER STATION AT BLACK POINT, MRS CHAN SAID NO FINANCING REVIEW HAD YET BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE COMPANIES FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF BLACK POINT, THEREFORE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE TARIFF LEVELS.

TARIFF LEVELS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE CAPITAL COSTS OF THE GENERATING PLANTS, THE TYPE AND COST OF FUEL USED, PREVAILING INTEREST RATES, INFLATION AND UNIT SALES.

SHE SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK POINT WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED TARIFFS AND IF SO BY HOW MUCH.

"HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE COMPANIES' AVERAGE BASIC TARIFFS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR A FURTHER EIGHT YEARS AS THEY HAVE DONE SINCE 1983," SHE SAID.

UNDER THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENT (SCA) WITH THE COMPANIES, THE SHAREHOLDERS RECEIVE A NET RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS :

- \* 13.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF THEIR AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS, AND
- \* 1.5 PER CENT OF THE SHAREHOLDERS' INVESTMENTS MADE AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1978
- \* LESS INTEREST ON LONG TERM BORROWED CAPITAL OF UP TO 8 PER CENT ON EACH LOAN, AND
- \* INTEREST AT 8 PER CENT ON THE AVERAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE FOR THAT YEAR.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THE ONLY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE COMPANIES COULD RECEIVE 15 PER CENT NET RETURN WOULD BE IF 100 PER CENT OF THE ASSETS WERE FINANCED FROM SHAREHOLDERS' INVESTMENTS (THAT IS, THERE WERE NO LOANS) AND THE DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE WAS ZERO.

"OVER THE PERIOD OF THE CURRENT SCA, THE ACTUAL RETURN RECEIVED BY THE COMPANIES HAS AVERAGED ONLY 11 PER CENT," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THE TOTAL ESTIMATED GENERATING CAPACITY OF THE PROPOSED BLACK POINT POWER STATION WAS ABOUT 6,000MW, WHICH WAS ALMOST THE SAME AS THE COMPANIES' EXISTING CAPACITY.

/SHE ADDED .....

SHE ADDED THAT THE COST OF \$60 BILLION QUOTED BY THE COMPANIES REPRESENTED THE ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST BASED ON COAL FIRED GENERATING UNITS, IN MONEY OF THE DAY TERMS, AFTER ALLOWING FOR FUTURE INFLATION.

THE PROJECT WILL BE PHASED OVER A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF YEARS (AT LEAST 10) ACCORDING TO THE GROWTH IN DEMAND.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE SCA'S TERMS, WHEN PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR ADDITIONS TO THE COMPANIES SYSTEM HAD BEEN FINALISED THE COMPANIES MUST SUBMIT THEM BY WAY OF A FINANCING REVIEW FOR GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL.

THIS REVIEW SETS OUT DETAILS OF THE COMPANIES' DEMAND FORECASTS, PROPOSALS TO MEET THAT DEMAND, SALES FORECASTS, ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND REVENUE, AND THE RESULTING TARIFF IMPLICATIONS.

SHE NOTED THAT IN THE CASE OF A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS BLACK POINT EACH PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD REQUIRE JUSTIFICATION THROUGH A SEPARATE FINANCING REVIEW.

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#### TERTIARY PLACES SET TO MEET FUTURE DEMAND OF ECONOMY

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THE GOVERNMENT SETS THE TARGET OF TERTIARY PLACES MAINLY IN RELATION TO ESTIMATES OF THE ECONOMY'S FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATE MANPOWER, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, MR CHAN SAID ACCOUNT WAS ALSO TAKEN OF A NUMBER OF OTHER FACTORS.

THEY INCLUDED THE COMMUNITY'S ASPIRATIONS, THE LEVEL OF ABILITY OF THE LOCAL STUDENT POPULATION TO BENEFIT FROM TERTIARY EDUCATION AS INDICATED BY THE SUPPLY OF MATRICULANTS, AND THE LEVEL OF TERTIARY PROVISION IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AT A BROADLY SIMILAR STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO HONG KONG.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE 1990 PROJECTION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR, AND THE SUPPLY OF, MANPOWER AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EDUCATION IN THE 1990'S HAD JUST BEEN UPDATED.

"THE REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN PROJECTED IN RESPECT OF DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, AND THE PROJECTIONS OF SUPPLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EMIGRATION AND NATURAL ATTRITION AS WELL AS THE NEW SUPPLY OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS GRADUATES," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID NO ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN MADE OF THE DEMAND FOR TERTIARY PLACES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, SINCE THE PROVISION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION WAS DETERMINED WITH REFERENCE TO THE FUTURE MANPOWER NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY, AND THE PLANNING TARGET WAS NOT TO MEET THE YEAR TO YEAR DEMAND FOR TERTIARY PLACES.

"RATHER, OUR PLAN IS TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF FIRST YEAR FIRST DEGREE PLACES FROM 10,570 IN 1991/92 TO 15,000 BY THE 1994/95 ACADEMIC YEAR.

"EVEN WITH THIS EXPANSION PROGRAMME, WE ESTIMATE THAT THE OUTPUT FROM LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WILL ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 41 PER CENT OF THE NEW SUPPLY OF GRADUATE WORKERS REQUIRED FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1996," HE ADDED.

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FLUSHING WATER MAINS BURST EXPLAINED

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THE SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER TO THREE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE WESTERN REGION OF HONG KONG ISLAND WAS SUSPENDED SIX TIMES LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA, MR BLAKE SAID THIS COMPARED WITH 150 CASES IN ALL THE OTHER 168 ESTATES IN THE TERRITORY DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

OF THE SIX SUSPENSIONS RECORDED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, FIVE WERE DUE TO EMERGENCY REPAIRS AS A RESULT OF MAINS BURSTS OR LEAKS AND ONCE FOR SCHEDULED MAINLAYING WORK.

FOR INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO FAULTS IN THE INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF THE ESTATES, MR BLAKE SAID WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND NO RECORDS WERE KEPT BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

MR BLAKE SAID MEASURES CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRESH WATER MAIN BURSTS OR LEAKS APPLIED EQUALLY TO FLUSHING WATER MAINS SINCE BOTH POTABLE WATER AND FLUSHING WATER MAINS WERE LAID IN THE SAME CONDITIONS UNDERGROUND.

"AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE MAINS BURSTS AND LEAKS WERE EXPLAINED TO MEMBERS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13 THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

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MEASURES BY UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF TEACHING

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THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS HAVE IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF MEASURES AS PART OF THEIR ONGOING EFFORT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, DURING THE PAST TWO ACADEMIC YEARS (1989-90 AND 1990-91), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RITA FAN, MR CHAN SAID THESE MEASURES INCLUDED:

- \* REGULAR EVALUATIONS ON A COURSE/DEPARTMENT/FACULTY BASIS;
- \* INCLUSION OF STUDENT FEEDBACK AS PART OF THE REGULAR EVALUATION PROCESS, IN ADDITION TO THE LONG-STANDING SYSTEM OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS;
- \* PROVISION OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES; AND
- \* SETTING UP OF STAFF RESOURCE CENTRES AND PROMOTION OF A VARIETY OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAD ALWAYS STRESSED TO THE INSTITUTIONS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN GENERAL, AND TEACHING STANDARDS IN PARTICULAR.

TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITY IN TEACHING, THE COMMITTEE EMPHASISED THAT THE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD RECRUIT STAFF OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE, PROVIDE THEM WITH APPROPRIATE INTELLECTUAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND FULLY INVOLVE EXTERNAL ADVISERS, ASSESSORS OR EXAMINERS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY COULD HAVE AN EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON THE SYSTEM.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT AMONG THE PROMOTION CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS, SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE IN TEACHING WAS EMPHASISED, AS WELL AS RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY.

"THE INSTITUTIONS ATTACH WEIGHT TO EACH OF THESE ATTRIBUTES ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS."

THE SECRETARY SAID THE INSTITUTIONS WERE AWARE OF THE CHALLENGE TO TEACHERS POSED BY THE WIDENING OF THE CATCHMENT AREA OF THEIR STUDENT INTAKE.

"WHILE THEY WILL CONTINUE WITH A VARIETY OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, GREATER EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON MEETING THE DEMANDS OF NEW STUDENTS.

"THE INSTITUTIONS ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING POSSIBLE MEANS TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING ABILITY OF STUDENTS.

"THE PRIORITY AREAS ARE THE INTRODUCTION OF LEARNING TECHNIQUES, LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF COUNSELLING RESOURCES," HE SAID.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO ENSURE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF  
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAS SET UP A MANAGEMENT GROUP TO REVIEW THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MRS WONG SAID THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS REVIEW COMPRISED AN URGENT EXAMINATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PROVISION AND UTILISATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS CT SCANNERS.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS," SHE SAID.

"THE GROUP WILL THEN PROCEED TO EXAMINE OTHER KEY ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, AND WILL RECOMMEND AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION."

MRS WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH AIMED AT ENSURING THAT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN HOSPITALS WERE FUNCTIONING OPTIMALLY AND THAT THERE WAS A PLANNED PROGRAMME FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.

EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT WITHIN A PUBLIC HOSPITAL SHALL COVER THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS STARTING RIGHT FROM THE INITIATION OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASE TO ITS FINAL DISPOSAL:

- \* IDENTIFICATION OF CLINICAL NEED AND URGENCY;
- \* EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS PREPARATION AND JUSTIFICATION;
- \* BUDGETARY ESTIMATE PREPARATION AND JUSTIFICATION;
- \* "VALUE FOR MONEY" PURCHASE THROUGH APPROPRIATE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE;
- \* EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION/COMMISSIONING SUPERVISION AND CO-ORDINATION;
- \* EQUIPMENT UTILISATION AND COST OF OPERATION MONITORING;
- \* QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULING;
- \* EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULING;
- \* ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS SCREENING AND JUSTIFICATION;
- \* SAFE-KEEPING OF EQUIPMENT STOCK;
- \* DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT AT THE END OF THE LIFE CYCLE.

EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT AT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS COMPLY WITH THE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES DETAILED ABOVE, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES SHALL ALSO BE MET:

- \* CONSISTENT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AMONG ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS;
- \* OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE ENTIRE HONG KONG COMMUNITY;
- \* RATIONAL AND OPTIMAL ALLOCATION AND UTILISATION OF RESOURCES;
- \* QUALITY AND SAFE OPERATION THROUGHOUT ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS;
- \* MORE EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT UTILISATION SUCH AS REDEVELOPMENT OF EQUIPMENT ON AN INTER- AND/OR INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL/HOSPITAL BASIS; AND
- \* OVERALL EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT COSTS BUDGETING, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT.

THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ASSISTED THE CLINICAL STAFF TO BE FULLY AWARE OF THE KIND AND QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS AVAILABLE FOR USE WITHIN A WARD, A CLINICAL UNIT OR A DEPARTMENT; TO BE FULLY INFORMED OF THE EQUIPMENT CONDITION AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE WITHIN A WARD, A CLINICAL UNIT OR A DEPARTMENT; AND TO BE PROMPTLY ALERTED OF ANY EQUIPMENT HAZARD OR INCIDENT RELATING TO THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN USE.

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NO AGREEMENTS GOVERNING EXTRADITION BETWEEN HK AND CHINA

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THERE ARE NO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR ANY UNWRITTEN AGREEMENTS GOVERNING EXTRADITION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN, MR STRACHAN SAID THE CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE OF 1889 PROVIDED FOR THE EXTRADITION TO CHINA OF CHINESE CRIMINALS WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN HONG KONG.

/IT REFERRED .....

IT REFERRED TO THE TREATY OF TIENTSIN OF 1858 AND HAD FALLEN INTO DISUSE SINCE 1949, HE SAID.

HONG KONG ALSO HAD NO ARRANGEMENTS WITH TAIWAN IN RELATION TO EXTRADITION, THE SECRETARY ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE NUMBER OF EXTRADITION CASES, MR STRACHAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUESTS FOR EXTRADITION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA OR BETWEEN HONG KONG AND TAIWAN IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

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STATISTICS ON DEGREE COURSES ENTRANCE APPLICATIONS

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IN 1990-91 THERE WERE 18,629 UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 23,056 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FROM CANDIDATES WHO MET THE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THEIR DEGREE COURSES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, STATED THAT THE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE COURSES AT THE SEVEN UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS WERE SET BY THE GOVERNING COUNCILS OF THE INSTITUTIONS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN DOING SO, AN INSTITUTION NORMALLY TOOK INTO ACCOUNT:

- \* THE MINIMUM STANDARD REQUIRED OF A NEW ENTRANT TO ENSURE THAT HE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE COURSE OF STUDY IN QUESTION AND WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS STUDIES SUCCESSFULLY;
- \* THE CURRICULUM STRUCTURE IN LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION SYSTEMS IN HONG KONG;
- \* THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF UNIVERSITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE UK WHERE THE PUBLIC EXAMINATION SYSTEMS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN HONG KONG; AND
- \* CURRENT EDUCATION POLICIES AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

THE SECRETARY SAID IN THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL AND TOTAL APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, BOTH OF WHICH WERE ALSO OFFERING FIRST YEAR FIRST DEGREE PLACES IN 1990-91.

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THREE-HOUR MOTION DEBATE ON ORGANISED CRIME WHITE BILL

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A MOTION ON THE WHITE BILL ON ORGANISED CRIME MOVED BY THE HON RITA FAN WAS PASSED AFTER A THREE-HOUR DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT ORGANISED CRIME AND URGES THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC ON THE WHITE BILL ON ORGANISED CRIME PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 9, 1991, AND TO ENSURE THAT ITS FINAL PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF BILL OF RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS SO THAT THE LEGISLATION ACHIEVES MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS".

A TOTAL OF 14 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE MOTION DEBATE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS AND THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MEANWHILE, 14 LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE RAISED BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL.

A MOTION, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE WAS PASSED.

TWO OTHER MOTIONS, MOVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE AND THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, WERE ALSO PASSED.

A FOURTH MOTION UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WAS PASSED.

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GOVERNOR SEES NEW FARMING TECHNOLOGY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, VISITED TWO EXPERIMENTAL FARMS RUN BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SHOWN SOME OF THE NEW TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY BEING DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID BEGAN HIS VISIT BY TOURING THE TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE.

HE WAS SHOWN A METHOD OF RAISING PIGS ON DEEP LAYERS OF SAWDUST LITTER IN WHICH THE PIG MANURE DECOMPOSES NATURALLY.

THE METHOD AVOIDS PROBLEMS OF SMELL AND POLLUTING EFFLUENT SO OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH PIG REARING AND HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED BY SOME OF HONG KONG'S PIG FARMERS.

SIR DAVID THEN VISITED THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TAI LUNG FARM. HE WAS SHOWN SOME OF THE HORTICULTURAL TECHNIQUES BEING DEVELOPED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONSTRAINTS ON BOTH LAND AND LABOUR.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN HELPING FARMERS TO GROW HIGH-YIELDING AND SPECIALISED CROPS INCLUDING EXOTIC VEGETABLES.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO SHOWN THE STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY SAFE, LOW TOXICITY OR NON-CHEMICAL WAYS OF PEST CONTROL.

HE VISITED THE PESTICIDE RESIDUE LABORATORY TO SEE A COMPUTERISED METHOD OF QUICKLY DETECTING PESTICIDE RESIDUE ON VEGETABLES.

"IT IS GOOD TO SEE HOW SOPHISTICATED FOOD-PRODUCTION IN HONG KONG IS BECOMING," SIR DAVID SAID.

"AGRICULTURE LAND IS LIMITED IN HONG KONG SO GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH THE FARMERS TO HELP THEM MAKE THE VERY BEST USE OF IT."

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AGRICULTURE), MR RICHARD YIP.

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LADY WILSON OPENS HK SHOWCASE

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THE HONG KONG SHOWCASE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO SEE, ADMIRE AND BUY FROM A WIDE RANGE OF THE EXCELLENT PRODUCTS WHICH THE TERRITORY SUPPLIES TO THE WORLD'S MARKET, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG SHOWCASE AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, LADY WILSON SAID AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, WHEN WE WERE ALL SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS, THAT OPPORTUNITY WAS PARTICULARLY APPEALING.

SHE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FOURTH YEAR THAT THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAD ORGANISED THE SHOWCASE.

"THE PAST THREE EXHIBITIONS ATTRACTED OVER 180,000 VISITORS FROM ALL PARTS OF HONG KONG.

"AND THE SHOWCASE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR - THERE ARE 500 EXHIBITION AND RETAIL BOOTHS THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 350 LAST YEAR," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID SHE WAS ENCOURAGED TO SEE THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS WERE SHOWING BRAND-NAME PRODUCTS.

"HAVING OUR OWN BRAND NAMES IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PROMOTING TRADE AND PROMOTING HONG KONG'S IMAGE OVERSEAS," SHE SAID.

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EXCO ENDORSED CONCEPT OF SUBSCRIPTION TV

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED THE WAY FORWARD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING AND HAS ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF INTRODUCING SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION IN HONG KONG.

BEFORE MAKING FIRM DECISIONS ON THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SUCH A SERVICE SHOULD OPERATE, THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT A FULL REVIEW OF THE BROAD TELEVISION BROADCASTING ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN SIX MONTHS ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES.

THESE INCLUDE:

- \* THE INTERFACE BETWEEN EXISTING TELEVISION BROADCASTERS AND THE FUTURE SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG;
- \* WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE CHANGES TO THE LICENCES CURRENTLY HELD BY ATV AND TVB TO REFLECT THE CHANGING BROADCASTING ENVIRONMENT; AND

/\* WHETHER SATELLITE .....

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\* WHETHER SATELLITE BASED CANTONESE BROADCASTING SHOULD BE PERMITTED IN HONG KONG AND IF SO, WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

THE REVIEW WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR JAMES SO. MR SO WILL BE HOLDING MEETINGS WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

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JOINT HK-GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP MEETING

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) LED A DELEGATION OF 10 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE JOINT HONG KONG-GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP IN CANTON.

THE DELEGATION COMPRISES THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MR PETER PUN; THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN; AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE FOUR-DAY MEETING WHICH STARTS TODAY, IS THE LIAISON GROUP'S SECOND MEETING. ITS FIRST MEETING WAS HELD IN HONG KONG IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND BENEFICIAL USES FOR DEEP BAY AND ITS CATCHMENT.

THE SUB-GROUP IS LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING ON THE HONG KONG SIDE.

THE LIAISON GROUP WILL ALSO DISCUSS ITS WORK PLAN FOR 1992 AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 21).

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GOVT STATEMENT ON NIM WAN INCIDENT

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES WITH REGARD TO AN INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN HONG KONG WATERS ON NOVEMBER 19, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"CHINA HAS RESPONDED OFFICIALLY, ON DECEMBER 16 THROUGH THE NCNA, TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE NIM WAN INCIDENT. THERE REMAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES' UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENED. THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM HAD BEEN STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ON DECEMBER 4. THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

"THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR CO-OPERATION AGAINST SMUGGLING AND TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT DANGEROUS INCIDENTS DO NOT OCCUR. WE ARE GLAD THAT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WISH TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CO-OPERATION WITH US."

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NEW TSUEN WAN POLICE DISTRICT HQS AND STATION OPENS

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THE OPENING OF THE NEW TSUEN WAN POLICE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND DIVISIONAL STATION IS PART OF THE EXPANSION OF THE POLICE PLANNED FOR LANTAU.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE POLICE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (OPERATIONS), MR JOHN SHEPPARD, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW COMPLEX TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE DEVELOPMENTS ON LANTAU, AND THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEMS WHICH LINK WITH THE REST OF HONG KONG, AND INDEED CHINA, WILL PLACE TSUEN WAN MORE THAN EVER BEFORE AT THE HUB OF NEW TERRITORIES LIFE.

"THIS IN TURN WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN IMPORTANCE AND IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT FURTHER INDUSTRY, HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO YOUR DISTRICT.

"I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THEREFORE WITH THE TIMELY OPENING OF THIS NEW STATION, WHICH IS WELL-EQUIPPED TO MEET THESE NEW CHALLENGES," MR SHEPPARD SAID.

MR SHEPPARD ALSO TOLD THE LARGE GATHERING WHO MAINLY CAME FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT THAT THE OLD TSUEN WAN POLICE STATION WOULD NOT BE DEMOLISHED.

"IT HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN INTO SERVICE IN ITS NEW ROLE AS AN OPERATIONAL BASE FOR THE SOUTHERN NEW TERRITORIES; IT HOUSES THE NEW TERRITORIES EMERGENCY UNIT, AND A COMPANY OF THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT--THE BLUE BERETS.

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"SO YOU WILL SEE THAT THE AREA OF TSUEN WAN IS BEING POLICED, AND PROTECTED, IN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE MANNER THAN EVER BEFORE," MR SHEPPARD ADDED.

HE ASSURED THE RESIDENTS THAT THE CUTBACKS IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE SERVICES.

"REST ASSURED THAT THESE CUTBACKS ARE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO COMPRISE THAT MOST IMPORTANT OF SERVICES: THE ON-THE-GROUND POLICING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS WE HAVE HERE IN TSUEN WAN, AND I COMMEND TODAY'S OPENING TO YOU AS A TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE FORCE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING SUCH A SERVICE," HE ADDED.

LATER, MR SHEPPARD UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO DECLARE THE NEW COMPLEX OPENED.

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CAPO INVESTIGATION COMPLETED

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THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE HAS COMPLETED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGATION OF MISTREATMENT BY THE POLICE RAISED BY MR TAI CHIN-WAH THROUGH HIS SOLICITOR ON THE OCTOBER 26, 1991.

THE ENQUIRY HAS TAKEN PLACE DESPITE MR TAI'S PUBLICLY STATING THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO PURSUE A FORMAL COMPLIANT.

IN RESPECT OF THE USE OF HANDCUFFS AND TRANSPORT BELT TO RESTRAIN MR TAI DURING HIS ESCORT TO COURT AND THE SUBSEQUENT HANDLING OF MR TAI AT THE COURT PREMISES, AN ERROR OF JUDGEMENT ON BOTH COUNTS HAS BEEN ADMITTED AND SUITABLE APOLOGIES OFFERED.

THE ALLEGATION THAT MR TAI WAS STRIP SEARCHED AND MADE TO PERFORM A "FROG JUMP" CANNOT BE SUBSTANTIATED ON THE BASIS OF THE EVIDENCE OF AVAILABLE WITNESSES.

IN THE ABSENCE OF A STATEMENT FROM MR TAI AND THE PROVISION OF FULL AND PRECISE DETAILS OF THE LATTER INCIDENT, THE MATTER CANNOT BE TAKEN FURTHER.

THE CAPO'S REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 18. AT ITS METTING HELD ON DECEMBER 16, THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE RESULTS OF CAPO'S INVESTIGATION.

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CONTRACT AWARDED FOR MEDICAL GAS STUDY

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL PRACTICE IN THE SUPPLY AND HANDLING OF MEDICAL GASES IS FULLY UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THE \$200,000-STUDY, AWARDED TO TECHNICA LTD. (CONSULTING SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS), WILL START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR. IT IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE IN TWO MONTHS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN AND THE SOUTH EAST ASIA MANAGER OF TECHNICA, MR STEPHEN SHAW AT THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT THE STUDY AFTER AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY AND A SEPARATE POLICE INVESTIGATION COULD NOT DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A NITROUS OXIDE CYLINDER AT THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE:

\* TO REVIEW:

- THE SAFETY SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES PRESENTLY PRACTISED IN THE MEDICAL GAS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL EXISTING CONTROLLING LEGISLATION AND THE RESULTANT EFFECTIVENESS;
- THE SAFETY MEASURES AT THE END-USERS' PREMISES;
- THE CONTROL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY ASPECTS IN THE MANUFACTURE, FILLING, DELIVERY AND HANDLING OF SUCH GASES IN BULK OR PORTABLE CONTAINERS FROM THE POINT OF PRODUCTION RIGHT UP UNTIL THEIR ADMINISTRATION TO PATIENTS;
- THE MEDICAL GAS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS AND SAFE SUPPLY TO THE LOCAL MARKET; AND

- \* TO RECOMMEND PRACTICABLE MEASURES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LEGISLATION, ENACTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION OR ADOPTION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS TO ENHANCE, WHERE NECESSARY, THE CURRENT STANDARD OF SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES ON THE CONTROL OF SAFETY AND QUALITY ASPECTS IN THE MANUFACTURE, FILLING, DELIVERY AND HANDLING OF SUCH GASES.

ONE MORE NOMINATION FOR DB BY-ELECTION

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED ONE MORE NOMINATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S YUEN WO CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION.

SO FAR A TOTAL OF THREE NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE BY-ELECTION. THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 30.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DETAILS OF THE CANDIDATE WHOSE NOMINATION WAS RECEIVED TODAY:

NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
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LEE YORK-FAI	MALE	24	DOCTOR	553 8776

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ENJOY CHRISTMAS WITHOUT DRUGS

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ADVISED NOT TO EXPERIMENT WITH OR ABUSE DRUGS WHILE CELEBRATING THE FESTIVE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS, OTHERWISE THE CONSEQUENCE MAY BE DISASTROUS.

A MEMBER OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), MR PAO PING-WING, GAVE THIS ADVICE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE 'SAY YES TO LIFE' VARIETY SHOW TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"DRUG ABUSE CAN EASILY LEAD TO ADDICTION AND DAMAGES TO THE ORGANIC AND NERVOUS SYSTEMS. THIS WILL RUIN MANY YOUNGSTERS' FUTURE AND EVEN THEIR LIVES.

"YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP ON ALERT WHEN ATTENDING CHRISTMAS PARTIES OR OTHER GATHERINGS AND DON'T TRY TO TAKE ANY DRUGS BECAUSE OF CURIOSITY OR PEER GROUP PRESSURE," MR PAO SAID.

AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE, TO 'SAY YES TO LIFE AND SAY NO TO DRUGS', THE SHOW WILL BE HELD FROM 3 PM TO 5 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 24) AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE II, KOWLOON.

IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (RTHK) AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH ACAN, AND WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK RADIO 1.

ADMISSION TO THE SHOW IS FREE.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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SEMINAR ON WONG CHUK HANG ISSUES TOMORROW  
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SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON ISSUES CONCERNING THE WONG CHUK HANG AREA AT A SEMINAR TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SEMINAR IS PART OF A CONSULTATION EXERCISE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES TO COLLECT VIEWS ON ISSUES THAT ARE OF CONCERN TO RESIDENTS.

IT WILL BEGIN AT 8.15 PM IN THE TANG SHIU KIN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR, STRESSING THAT THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND THAT THE RESULTS OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS WOULD BE MADE KNOWN AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

THE ASSISTANT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHARLES CHAN, WILL SPEAK ON HOW RESIDENTS, AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS OFFICE-BEARERS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

HE WILL ALSO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS, AREA COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH ARE THE "THREE PILLARS" OF THE SCHEME.

ANOTHER PANELIST, CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG CHUK HANG AREA COMMITTEE MR KO KAM-CHEUNG, WILL UPDATE PARTICIPANTS ON THE AREA COMMITTEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE PROBLEMS IT HAS ENCOUNTERED IN THE PAST YEAR.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A 15-MINUTE SLIDE PRESENTATION COVERING THE MAJOR ISSUES IN WONG CHUK HANG, TO BE FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSIONS DURING WHICH RESIDENTS, AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AS WELL AS COMMUNITY BUILDING MATTER.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT WONG CHUK HANG IS A MAJOR RESIDENTIAL AREA IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 23,000 PEOPLE.

IT IS ALSO AN INDUSTRIAL HUB WITH VARIOUS MANUFACTURING AND SHIP REPAIRING INDUSTRIES EMPLOYING OVER 27,000 WORKERS, HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT TERM TENANCIES ON THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE, LOCATED ON FUNG SHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN, KOWLOON, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 16,500 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND/OR FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED) CURRENTLY LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND SITE ON KWAI FUK ROAD, AREA 38, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,750 SQUARE METRES.

THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR A FEE - PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK (INCLUDING TRACTOR UNITS BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH TRAILERS WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT CONTAINERS).

THE REMAINING SITE IS ALSO LOCATED ON KWAI FUK ROAD, AREA 38, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,700 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR A GODOWN (EXCLUDING THE STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND SCRAP METAL).

THE TENANCY FOR BOTH KWAI CHUNG SITES IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON JANUARY 3, NEXT YEAR.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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11 ARRESTED FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED EIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, ONE PRC PASSPORT HOLDER AND TWO TWO-WAY PERMIT VISITORS FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY DURING A SERIES OF OPERATIONS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

THIRTEEN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WERE VISITED. IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ALSO CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON 193 PERSONS.

THE EIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - FIVE MEN AND THREE WOMEN - AGED BETWEEN 21 AND 47, CLAIMED TO HAVE SNEAKED INTO HONG KONG FOR ONE WEEK TO 10 MONTHS. SOME OF THEM WERE LOCATED AT THEIR PLACES OF WORK.

THE TWO TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS, BOTH MEN AND AGED 24 AND 30, WERE FOUND WORKING IN A RESTAURANT AND A RIBBON COMPANY RESPECTIVELY. ONE OF THEM HAS OVERSTAYED HERE SINCE JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE MALE PRC PASSPORT HOLDER, AGED 32, WAS FOUND WORKING IN A RESTAURANT. HE HAS OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG SINCE AUGUST THIS YEAR.

FOUR HONG KONG RESIDENTS ARE ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT VISITORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE UP ANY EMPLOYMENT, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

"THOSE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

"PEOPLE WHO AID AND ABET OTHERS TO COMMIT THESE OFFENCES ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.12.91	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.12.91	-20
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-180
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+200*

\* LATE O/N ASSISTANCE  
TO BE REVERSED ON 19.12.91

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.2 \*\*0.0\* 18.12.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.41 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.59	5.44
1 MONTH	4.54 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.40 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.39 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.72 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 6,469 MN, BONDS 35 MN

CLOSED 18 DECEMBER 1991

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