



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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QUESTIONS AT LICENTIATE EXAMINATIONS FAIR  
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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT QUESTIONS USED IN LICENTIATE EXAMINATIONS FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS AND DENTISTS HAD REPEATEDLY BEEN CONFIRMED BY EXTERNAL EXAMINERS TO BE +FAIR AND DIRECTED PROPERLY TO PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE TREATMENT AND THE GENERAL PRACTICE OF MEDICINE+.

WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE DENTAL COUNCIL EXAMINATION BOARD WAS ALSO CONSIDERING THE USE OF OVERSEAS EXAMINERS IN FUTURE DENTAL COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS.

THANKING MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP FOR HAVING STUDIED THE BILL AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT, MR CHAMBERS SAID HE AGREED WITH MEMBERS THAT LICENTIATE EXAMINATIONS WERE DESIGNED NOT TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS AND DENTISTS BUT TO ENABLE THEM TO OBTAIN REGISTRABLE QUALIFICATIONS.

+THE EXAMINATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO ASSESS WHETHER THEY POSSESS THE REQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO BE REGISTERED FOR PRACTICE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

REGARDING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS INTENDED TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, MR CHAMBERS CONFIRMED THAT THE BILL WAS NOW IN THE DRAFTING STAGE, AND WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL LATER THIS SESSION.

ON A SUGGESTION TO DEFINE TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL METHODS, OR TO REGISTER THE PRACTITIONERS OF THESE METHODS, MR CHAMBERS SAID THIS WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING, GIVEN THE NATURE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE.

+I DO NOT FEEL THAT AT PRESENT AT ANY RATE THE SITUATION IS SUCH AS TO WARRANT ACTION OF THIS KIND,+ HE SAID.

AS TO THE CONTROL OF PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, MR CHAMBERS SAID PRIORITY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE DRAFTING OF THESE REGULATIONS, BUT EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE RELEVANT BOARDS OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL HAD BEEN NECESSARY.

+BASED ON THE PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS, I EXPECT THAT THE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS REGULATIONS WILL BE ENACTED EARLY NEXT YEAR, FOLLOWED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS BY THE OTHER REGULATIONS WHICH WILL BE DRAFTED ON THE SAME MODEL.+

PUBLIC URGED NOT TO CONSULT ILLEGAL DOCTORS  
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DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED PEOPLE NOT TO SEEK TREATMENT FROM ILLEGAL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986, DR IP SAID: +BY GOING TO ILLEGAL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS, YOU ARE PUTTING YOUR HEALTH IN JEOPARDY.

+YOU ARE ENCOURAGING AN ILLEGAL PRACTICE WHICH IF YOU ARE LUCKY MAY NOT CAUSE YOU DAMAGE, BUT MAY LEAD ON TO CAUSE SOMEBODY ELSE HARM.+

DR IP CALLED ON DOCTORS TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON HARM DONE TO PATIENTS BY ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

+WE CANNOT RESTRICT THE PROSECUTION OF ILLEGAL DOCTORS BASED ONLY ON COMPLAINTS FROM PATIENTS, WE NEED THE VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM DOCTORS WHO TREAT SUCH PATIENTS,+ SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THOSE PRACTITIONERS WHO HAD UNDERGONE ADEQUATE TRAINING IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL LICENTIATESHIP EXAMINATIONS, DR IP SAID THEY SHOULD STUDY HARD FOR THE EXAMINATIONS AND NOT CHOOSE THE EASY WAY OUT.

SHE HAD THIS TO SAY TO THESE PRACTITIONERS: +BEFORE YOU QUALIFY, THERE ARE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN MEDICALLY RELATED FIELDS IN WHICH YOU CAN EARN A DECENT LIVING AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTRIBUTE YOUR EXISTING MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE TO THE SOCIETY OF HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID.

DR IP ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO HASTEN COMPLETION OF THE REGISTRATION AND LICENSING LEGISLATION UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE. +FOR UNTIL THAT IS DONE THE EXEMPTION UNDER THE NEW SECTION 28 (3) (D) IS MEANINGLESS,+ SHE SAID.

WHILE SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF THE RELEVANT BILLS, DR IP SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE FLAWLESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROVISIONS WOULD NOT APPLY TO THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN THAT ANY SELF-PROCLAIMED ACUPUNCTURIST, HERBALIST AND BONE SETTER WHO DIAGNOSED AND TREATED PATIENTS IN THE +TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL METHOD+ WOULD BE EXEMPT.

+CAN ANYONE DEFINE FOR ME IN DEPTH, AND BE QUALIFIED TO ACT AS AN EXPERT WITNESS IN EXPLAINING TO THE COURTS WHERE APPLICABLE, THE DEFINITION AND CONFINES OF +CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICAL METHOD+?+ SHE ASKED.

/SHE SAID .....

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SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPELL OUT CLEARLY, AND ADEQUATE ENOUGH FOR USE IN THE COURTS, EITHER AS A DEPARTMENTAL WORKING REFERENCE OR AS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION WHAT EXACTLY WERE THE RECOGNISED BOUNDARIES OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT USING +TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL METHODS+.

SHE SAID ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS WERE EITHER TO SET UP A REGISTER FOR ACUPUNCTURISTS, BONE SETTERS AND HERBALISTS PRIOR TO PRACTICE, OR TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE TRAINING, STANDARD AND PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

BOTH OF THESE ALTERNATIVES WERE MORE IDEAL BUT THEY HAD MET WITH A RESISTANCE WHICH SHE COULD NOT COMPREHEND, DR IP SAID.

+ALL OTHER MEDICAL RELATED PROFESSIONS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THESE BILLS ARE BOUND BY REGULATIONS AND LICENCING UNDER ANOTHER ORDINANCE. I DO NOT SEE WHY TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SHOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY,+ SHE SAID.

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MEDICAL PRACTICES MUST REACH ACCEPTABLE STANDARD  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICAL PRACTICES UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY ARE ABLE TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD, DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986, DR CHIU SAID THE BILL WOULD REMEDY THE INADEQUACIES AND DEFICIENCIES IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND INCREASE OFFICIAL ATTEMPTS TO CURB ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTICE IN SAFEGUARDING THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

+WHEN THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IS ON THE RISE, THE PENALTIES FOR SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES HAVE TO BECOME MORE SEVERE,+ HE ADDED.

DR CHIU SAID THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION SET UP IN 1977 WAS REGARDED AS AN APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE IN PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE.

/CANDIDATES FOR .....

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CANDIDATES FOR THE EXAMINATION INCLUDED MEDICAL GRADUATES FROM BURMA, CHINA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, TAIWAN, THE UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOT REGISTERABLE WITH THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SUCH AS CANADA AND INDIA, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT 743 CANDIDATES HAD PASSED THE EXAMINATION SINCE 1977, REPRESENTING 16 PER CENT OF THE LOCAL REGISTER.

DR CHIU SAID THAT FROM TIME TO TIME SOME PEOPLE HAD TRIED TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE THEM LICENCES TO PRACTISE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

HE SAID THAT SUCH PEOPLE HAD CLAIMED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING USE OF THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION TO DETER THEM FROM OBTAINING A LICENCE BY RAISING THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH TO AN UNREASONABLY HIGH LEVEL.

DR CHIU ADDED SUCH ALLEGATION WAS GROUNDLESS AND EXPLAINED THAT THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION COMPRISED THREE PARTS.

PART I OF THE EXAMINATION COULD BE CONDUCTED EITHER IN ENGLISH OR CHINESE WHILE THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE ORAL EXAMINATION OF PART III COULD BE CHOSEN FROM ENGLISH, CANTONESE OR MANDARIN BY THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES.

HE SAID PART II WAS TO TEST THE CANDIDATES' ADEQUACY IN COMMAND OF WRITTEN ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES AND THE PASS RATES FOR CANDIDATES FROM CHINA FOR THIS PAPER IN THE TWO EXAMINATIONS HELD IN 1986 WERE 63 PER CENT AND 84 PER CENT.

+IN VIEW OF THESE FIGURES I HOPE THAT NONE OF US WILL BE LED TO BELIEVE ANY LONGER THAT PART II OF THE EXAMINATION POSES TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM FOR CANDIDATES COMING FROM NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

DR CHIU REITERATED THAT THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF THE EXAMINATION WAS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS AND HEALTH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

HE SAID THAT IT ALSO SERVED AS A VENUE FOR CANDIDATES TO HAVE THEIR COMPETENCE ASSESSED SO THAT A BASIC STANDARD COULD BE ACHIEVED.

+SUCH AN ASSESSMENT IS ESSENTIAL IN ANY CIVILISED COMMUNITY AND SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY FACTORS OTHER THAN ENSURING AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD,+ HE ADDED.

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REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS ENSURE HIGH STANDARD

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THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY ARE AIMED AT ENSURING MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PRACTICE WHICH ARE ACCEPTED AS REASONABLY HIGH BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, THE HON ANDREW WONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986, MR WONG SAID THE SYSTEM WAS FAR FROM ONE WHICH DISCRIMINATED AGAINST CHINESE-TRAINED MEDICAL GRADUATES AND CERTAINLY NOT ON ACCOUNT OF THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL ONLY SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES IN THE ORDINANCE CONCERNED.

+THERE ARE NO BASIC CHANGES, EXCEPT FOR THE TIMELY CREATION OF A NEW OFFENCE IN CAUSING INJURY TO PERSONS TREATED WHILE PRACTISING ILLEGALLY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED AND THE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULDERED BY DOCTORS AND DENTISTS WERE INDISPUTABLE. A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE ENSURE THAT THERE SHOULD BE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF ITS OWN WHICH, COMMENSURATE WITH PUBLIC INTEREST, SHOULD BE MINIMUM STANDARDS THAT WERE REASONABLY HIGH AND ACCEPTABLE BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

MR WONG NOTED THAT THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN PROTESTS AGAINST ALL ORDINANCES WHICH AFFECTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THE PRACTICE OF BOTH MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED +DOCTORS+ AND +DENTISTS+.

+PERHAPS IT IS OPPORTUNE TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE PROTESTS HERE IN THIS COUNCIL, NOT ONLY BECAUSE SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE FACTUALLY WRONG, BUT THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE EXISTING STANDARDS OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTICE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT TO BE REGISTERED AS A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, A PERSON MUST EITHER HOLD A HONG KONG DIPLOMA, OR HOLD A RECOGNISED COMMONWEALTH DIPLOMA, OR HOLD A LICENTIATE. BY A RECOGNISED COMMONWEALTH DIPLOMA, IT MEANT A DIPLOMA RECOGNISED BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR WONG SAID HE HAD HEARD ALLEGATIONS THAT THIS WAS AN OUTDATED COLONIAL SYSTEM. +I MUST HOWEVER SAY THAT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION.+

HONG KONG'S OWN STANDARDS ADMITTEDLY HAD BEEN DRAWN UP WITH REFERENCE TO AND IN A SENSE LIKENED TO THAT OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS WAS NOT ONLY A CONVENIENT WAY OF SETTING STANDARDS BUT ALSO ENSURED THAT THE STANDARDS STIPULATED WERE BOTH DEPENDABLE AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED, HE SAID.

OWING TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTERNATIVE CHANNELS FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS TO BECOME REGISTERED HAD INDEED BEEN DEvised, ALL IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO BECOME QUALIFIED SHOULD THEREFORE AVAIL THEMSELVES OF SUCH CHANNELS, BY TAKING THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION FOR MEDICINE AND THE DENTAL COUNCIL EXAMINATION FOR DENTISTRY, MR WONG SAID.

HE NOTED IT HAD BEEN ARGUED THAT THE EXISTING ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION IN GENERAL AND THE DETAILS OF LICENTIATE AND DENTAL COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS IN PARTICULAR WERE SUCH THAT THEY WERE TANTAMOUNT TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GRADUATES FROM CERTAIN TERRITORIES AND COUNTRIES AND FAVOURED GRADUATES FROM CERTAIN OTHER TERRITORIES AND COUNTRIES.

SUCH ACCUSATIONS WERE INDEED GRAVE AND SHOULD BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED TO DETERMINE IF THEY WERE TENABLE AND, IF SO, WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST, HE ADDED.

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LARGE NUMBER OF LAWS TO BE TRANSLATED  
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THE NUMBER OF EXISTING LAWS WHICH WILL NEED TO BE REPRODUCED IN AUTHENTIC CHINESE TEXTS IS VERY LARGE, SO THAT THE DEMANDS ON TIME AS WELL AS EXPERTISE WILL BE ONEROUS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR THOMAS WAS REFERRING TO THE WORK THAT WILL BE DONE BY THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986.

THE BILL, AND ITS COMPANION BILL, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1986, WERE BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR SECOND READINGS.

THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE REFLECTED THE SUGGESTION MADE BY A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP THAT THE BILL SHOULD CONTAIN SUCH AN EXPRESS PROVISION, MR THOMAS SAID.

+THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS PRIMARILY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UPON THE PUBLICATION OF AUTHENTIC CHINESE TEXTS OF EXISTING LAWS,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ENVISAGED AS A WORKING COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF SCRUTINISING TEXTS SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION OF HIS CHAMBERS.

+CAREFUL THOUGHT IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE BEARING IN MIND THE SCOPE OF THE TASK TO BE CARRIED OUT,+ HE SAID.

+MEMBERS WILL OF COURSE HAVE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK THROUGH SUB-COMMITTEES AND TO APPOINT SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONS TO ASSIST THOSE SUB-COMMITTEES.

+IT IS THOUGHT THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE BURDEN OF THE WORK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED MORE EVENLY AND EFFECTIVELY THAN WOULD BE THE CASE WITHOUT THAT KIND OF FLEXIBILITY IN ITS STRUCTURING.+

MR THOMAS SAID THE COMMITTEE NEED NOT COMPRISE A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND CAREFUL THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE OPTIMUM NUMBER.

+THE BASIC REQUIREMENT AS LAID DOWN BY THE BILL IS THAT THERE MUST BE AT LEAST THREE LEGAL MEMBERS AND TWO MEMBERS WITH LANGUAGE SKILLS,+ HE NOTED.

MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT CLAUSE ONE OF THE BILL PROVIDED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WOULD NOT COME INTO OPERATION UNTIL A DATE OR DATES TO BE FIXED BY THE GOVERNOR. +THE INTENTION IS THAT THERE WILL BE PARTICULAR DATES FOR DIFFERENT PROVISIONS,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE REFERRED TO SUPPORTING ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN PLACE, INVOLVING PERSONNEL AND ALSO THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER NEEDED TO ORDER BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF PRODUCING BILINGUAL LEGISLATION IN AN ACCEPTABLE FORMAT.

+IN THE MEANTIME, I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE INTERVENING TIME CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE BY PUTTING IN HAND ONE OR MORE 'DUMMY RUNS', THIS IS, BY PRESENTING NEW SUBSTANTIVE BILLS TO THIS COUNCIL WHICH ARE PRINTED IN A BILINGUAL FORMAT BUT ARE INTENDED FOR ENACTMENT IN ENGLISH ONLY,+ HE SAID.

/+THE OBJECT .....

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+THE OBJECT OF A TRANSITIONAL 'DUMMY-RUN' PHASE IS SIMPLY TO ENSURE THAT MEMBERS WILL HAVE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER EXISTING PROCEDURES NEED TO BE MODIFIED OR ADJUSTED IN ANY WAY, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE USE OF A SECOND TEXT IN BILLS.+

DEALING WITH THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, MR THOMAS SAID IT CONCERNED TECHNICAL LEGAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF LAWS WHICH HAD BEEN ENACTED IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OR FOR WHICH AN AUTHENTIC TEXT WAS PROMULGATED UNDER THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

+THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL IS TO FACILITATE THE LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF BILINGUAL LEGISLATION BY PROVIDING A NUMBER OF GUIDELINES.

+THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE IS IN NEW SECTION 10B WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE TEXTS OF A BILINGUAL ORDINANCE ARE TO BE REGARDED AS EQUALLY AUTHENTIC AND AS HAVING THE SAME LEGAL MEANING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECT AND PURPOSES OF THE ORDINANCE.+

MR THOMAS NOTED THAT BOTH BILLS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE DRAFT BILLS THAT WERE ANNEXED TO THE DISCUSSION PAPER WHICH THE COUNCIL DEBATED IN JULY.

SOME ALTERATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO MEET SOME OF THE POINTS RECEIVED DURING THE PERIOD OF CONSULTATION.

+GENERALLY SPEAKING, GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT AND THE FAVOURABLE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE OF THE MANY AND VARIOUS PERSONS AND BODIES THAT COMMENTED, THE FRAMEWORK AND ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED IN THESE BILLS SEEMS WIDELY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT,+ HE SAID.

+THE COMMUNITY RECOGNISES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE THE WORK OF BILINGUAL LEGISLATION. THESE ARE THE FIRST STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING THAT WORK TO FRUITION.+

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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TECHNICAL ALTERATION TO ORDINANCE

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THE AIM OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1986 IS TO MAKE A TECHNICAL ALTERATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEFINITION OF +FOOD+, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHAMBERS SAID IT CONTAINED A SHORT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1986 TO MAKE MINOR TEXTUAL ALTERATIONS NECESSITATED BY THE ENACTMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1986.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1986 WAS ENACTED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

SECTION 1 PROVIDED THAT THE ORDINANCE SHOULD COME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1987, AND SECTION 2 (B) WOULD THEN AMEND THE DEFINITION OF +FOOD+ IN SECTION 2 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

+HOWEVER, SECTION 2 (A) OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1986, WHICH WAS ENACTED IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, INSERTED A NEW DEFINITION OF +FOOD+ IN SECTION 2 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+THE TEXT OF THE NEW DEFINITION IS SUCH THAT THE TEXTUAL ALTERATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 2 (B) OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1986 IS NOW INAPPROPRIATE.+

THE NEW BILL WOULD DELETE AND REPLACE PARAGRAPH (B) OF SECTION 2 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1986. NO WORD WAS CHANGED, ONLY THE PARAGRAPH NUMBERING, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AMENDMENT PROVIDES CONSISTENCY

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS A SUGGESTION BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP THAT A CLAUSE IN THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 BE AMENDED IN RELATION TO THE CONCEPT OF +JOINT POSSESSION+.

MOVING AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 13 OF THE BILL AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE, MR JACOBS SAID THE AD HOC GROUP WHICH SCRUTINISED THE BILL SUGGESTED THE AMENDMENT SO THAT ITS PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF THE JOINT POSSESSION OF GOODS WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO ALL THE SUB-SECTIONS IN SECTION 17 OF THE ORDINANCE.

+THIS AMENDMENT WILL ALLOW FOR CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF 'JOINT POSSESSION' AND FACILITATE THE ENFORCEMENT OF SECTION 17,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS THANKED MEMBERS FOR SUGGESTING THE AMENDMENT.

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SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS TO CONTINUE

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND AREA COMMITTEES, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LIAO SAID A RECENT IN-DEPTH STUDY ON THEIR FUNCTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT HAD CONFIRMED THE CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR USEFULNESS IN MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN.

THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT THE CURRENT POLICY OF PROVIDING SUPPORT SHOULD CONTINUE.

+HOWEVER, OWING TO BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE ONLY THROUGH REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING RESOURCES.

+THIS IS UNSATISFACTORY AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION,+ HE ADDED.

/MR LIAO .....

MR LIAO SAID THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL, HE ADDED THESE ORGANISATIONS WERE FOUND TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH MUTUAL HELP AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS.

+AT THE TERRITORY-WIDE LEVEL, THEY FORM AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION CHANNELS ESPECIALLY AT THE GRASSROOT LEVEL,+ MR LIAO SAID.

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POINTS SYSTEM ENSURES FACTORY INSPECTION PRIORITY  
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A POINTS SYSTEM ON THE FREQUENCY OF FACTORY INSPECTION HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THOSE FACTORIES WHERE RISKS ARE GREATEST, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEN SHOU-LUM, SAID ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF POINTS AWARDED, THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION WOULD VARY BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND 54 MONTHS.

ELABORATING ON THE SYSTEM, MR BRIDGE SAID: +POINTS ARE AWARDED ACCORDING TO TEN CRITERIA, INCLUDING THE NATURE OF THE INDUSTRY, THE TYPE OF PROCESS USED, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, THE ACCIDENT AND PROSECUTION RECORD AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE MANAGEMENT.

+HOWEVER, FACTORIES WITH BAD SAFETY RECORDS ARE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE NORMAL POINTS SYSTEM AND ARE SUBJECTED, IF APPROPRIATE, TO REPEATED INTENSIVE INSPECTIONS AND PROSECUTIONS.

+CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO, BECAUSE THEY ARE PARTICULARLY HAZARDOUS, CONSTITUTE ANOTHER SEPARATE CATEGORY AND ARE INSPECTED ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS OR MORE FREQUENTLY IF APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF POINTS AWARDED WAS REVIEWED AFTER EACH INSPECTION AND AFTER ANY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE INSPECTIONS WERE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

+IN THIS WAY, AVAILABLE RESOURCES ARE CONCENTRATED WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST,+ HE SAID.

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ALL SERIOUS INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED  
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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON RON BRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE INVESTIGATES EVERY FATAL OR SERIOUS INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT TO TRY TO FIND OUT ITS CAUSE.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RICHARD LAI, MR BRIDGE SAID IN EVERY SUCH INVESTIGATION THE INSPECTORATE ALWAYS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ACCIDENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY LACK OF REASONABLE CARE BY THE EMPLOYER.

ON WHETHER VICTIMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE ADVISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OR OTHER DEPARTMENTS REGARDING THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE COMMON LAW, HE SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DIVISION ADVISED ALL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT VICTIMS THAT THEY HAD A RIGHT TO CLAIM COMMON LAW DAMAGES FROM THEIR EMPLOYER OR ANY ONE ELSE WHO MAY HAVE CAUSED OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCIDENT THROUGH NEGLIGENCE OR BREACH OF STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS.

+ANY EMPLOYEE WISHING TO PURSUE SUCH A CLAIM IS THEN REFERRED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

+THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT THEN CONSIDERS, IN THE LIGHT OF INFORMATION FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE CLAIMANT AND ANY OTHER WITNESS, WHETHER GROUNDS EXIST FOR COURT ACTION,+ HE SAID.

IN FATAL CASES, AND CASES OF DISPUTE, COMPENSATION CLAIMS WERE AUTOMATICALLY REFERRED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AND IN THESE CASES THE QUESTION OF GROUNDS FOR A COMMON LAW ACTION WAS CONSIDERED AT THE SAME TIME.

+WHERE A COMMON LAW ACTION IS PURSUED, STAFF OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT DO OF COURSE APPEAR AS EXPERT WITNESSES AS AND WHEN REQUIRED,+ HE ADDED.

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POLICE GIVEN REMINDER ON USE OF HANDCUFFS  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS WRITTEN TO COMMANDERS OF ALL MAJOR FORMATIONS TO REMIND THE FORCE OF THE POLICE GENERAL ORDERS ON THE USE OF HANDCUFFS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS MOVE FOLLOWED A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A MAN WAS AWARDED DAMAGES FOR BEING WRONGLY HANDCUFFED.

/IN REPLY .....

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT RELEVANT ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY DISTRICT AND DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS WERE BEING RE-EXAMINED TO ENSURE THAT ANY POSSIBILITY OF MISUSE OF HANDCUFFS WAS KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE POLICE GENERAL ORDERS PROVIDED GUIDANCE ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE USE OF HANDCUFFS WAS, OR WAS NOT, CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

+WITHIN THESE GUIDLINES A POLICE OFFICER HAS TO MAKE HIS OWN JUDGEMENT IN EACH CASE,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+LOOKING AT ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE MUST SATISFY HIMSELF THAT THE USE OF HANDCUFFS IS A NECESSARY MEASURE OR A REASONABLE PRECAUTION TO SECURE THE SAFE CUSTODY OF A PERSON UNDER ARREST.+

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DESIGN STUDY TO START ON TUNNEL ALIGNMENT  
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A PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDY WILL BEGIN SHORTLY TO IDENTIFY THE PRECISE ALIGNMENT FOR A PROPOSED FUTURE TUNNEL LINK BETWEEN YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN, ANTICIPATED TO BE REQUIRED BY THE MID TO THE LATTER HALF OF THE 1990'S.

FURTHER STUDIES WILL ALSO BE MADE OF THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THIS LINK AND THE URBAN AREA THROUGH TSING YI AND KWAI CHUNG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON DAVID LAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU ON PLANS TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE BACKBONE TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES ITSELF WOULD BE THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD LINK THE MAJOR BUILT-UP AREAS IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN.

+CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SYSTEM, COMPRISING 23 KILOMETRES OF TRACK, IS WELL UNDER WAY,+ HE SAID. +THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE SERVICE IN 1988.+

MR LAN SAID THE NEXT FEW YEARS WOULD ALSO SEE SIGNIFICANT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN TERMS OF BOTH PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

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+MAJOR HIGHWAYS PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS INCLUDE THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NT CIRCULAR ROUTE FROM FAN KAM ROAD TO AU TAU, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1991.+

HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WITH A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TRUNK ROAD, CONNECTING THE AREA WITH THE EXISTING NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AND THE NEW BORDER CROSSING AT LOK MA CHAU, DUE TO OPEN IN 1988.

IN ADDITION, A NEW DUAL CARRIAGEWAY BYPASS, WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1991, WAS BEING PROVIDED TO RELIEVE INCREASING CONGESTION ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS, MR LAN SAID THE TWO RAILWAY CORPORATIONS WOULD HAVE COMPLETED STUDIES OF A POSSIBLE EXTERNAL RAIL LINK TO THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

+ONCE THESE STUDIES ARE COMPLETED, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ASSESS MORE ACCURATELY WHETHER THE LINE WOULD BE VIABLE AND, IF IT IS, WHEN IT SHOULD BE BUILT,+ HE SAID.

+MEANWHILE, THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF BUS LINKS WITH THE URBAN AREA ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE KMB ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.+

NEW BUS LINKS TO TSUEN WAN AND KOWLOON WERE ADDED TO MATCH ANY INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THE AREA, HE ADDED.

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#### COMPUTERS WILL SIMPLIFY STORAGE OF LAND INFORMATION

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THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPUTERISED LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE URBAN AREA SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS' TIME, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR BARNES SAID THAT AT PRESENT NO PRACTICABLE METHOD EXISTED FOR ASCERTAINING EITHER THE NUMBER OF LOTS OR THE AREA OF LAND NOT YET DEVELOPED TO ITS FULLEST POTENTIAL, WITHOUT A DISPROPORTIONATE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES.

SUCH DETAILS SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE WHEN LAND INFORMATION WAS COMPUTERISED.

/DR IP .....

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DR IP HAD ALSO ASKED HOW MANY CASES OF LEASE MODIFICATION HAD BEEN APPROVED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, BROKEN DOWN INTO THOSE INVOLVING PAYMENT OF PREMIUM AND THOSE WITHOUT.

MR BARNES SAID THAT BETWEEN 1976-77 AND THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, 905 MODIFICATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, RESULTING IN PREMIUM OF \$1 060.78 MILLION BEING PAID.

HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN OF +WITH PREMIUM+ AND +WITHOUT PREMIUM+ MODIFICATIONS PRIOR TO 1985-86. HOWEVER, FROM APRIL 1, 1985 TO OCTOBER 31, 1986, 52 OUT OF 118 APPLICANTS HAD HAD TO PAY PREMIUM.

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PLANT, MACHINERY RETAINED IMPORTS UP 23 PER CENT  
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RETAINED IMPORTS OF PLANT AND MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AMOUNTED TO \$4,079 MILLION IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 23 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON. CONRAD LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO SAID THE VALUE OF SUCH RETAINED IMPORTS WAS \$3,719 MILLION LAST YEAR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF SUCH IMPORTS, IN FACT, VARIED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS.

+IT WAS MINUS 26 PER CENT FOR 1982, 19 PER CENT FOR 1983, 27 PER CENT FOR 1984, AND MINUS 4 PER CENT FOR 1985,+ HE SAID.

+IN RESPECT OF GROSS CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY COVERING THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A WHOLE, IT AMOUNTED TO \$12.5 BILLION IN 1982, \$11.9 BILLION IN 1983, \$14.6 BILLION IN 1984 AND \$14.4 BILLION IN 1985,+ HE ADDED.

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MTR PLATFORM INCIDENT CLASSIFIED AS ACCIDENT  
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THE INCIDENT ON NOVEMBER 19 IN WHICH AN MTR COMMUTER FELL ONTO THE TRACK HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE POLICE AS +PERSON ACCIDENTALLY INJURED+ SINCE THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR AMONG PASSENGERS ON THE PLATFORM, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON DAVID LAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, MR LAN SAID OTHER THAN THE CASE THAT OCCURRED AT THE ADMIRALTY STATION ON APRIL 9, 1986 WHEN A MAN WAS PUSHED INTO THE FRONT OF A TRAIN ENTERING THE PLATFORM BY AN ASSAILANT WHO WAS LATER CONVICTED, THERE HAD BEEN NO CASE OF PASSENGERS BEING PUSHED OFF A PLATFORM.

AS FAR AS THE KCR WAS CONCERNED, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY CASE OF PASSENGERS BEING PUSHED ONTO THE TRACK, HE SAID.

UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ORDINANCE AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ORDINANCE, THE TWO RAILWAY CORPORATIONS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR OPERATION.

+PUBLIC SAFETY IS INDEED THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE TWO RAILWAY CORPORATIONS,+ MR LAN SAID.

AS AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY MEASURE, REPEATED ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE THROUGH THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM AT PEAK PERIODS AND AT TIMES WHEN THERE WERE LARGE CROWDS ON THE PLATFORMS TO ADVISE PEOPLE OF THE DANGER OF STEPPING IN FRONT OF THE YELLOW LINE.

MOREOVER, THE CORPORATIONS ALSO WARNED PASSENGERS WHO TRANSGRESSED IN FRONT OF THE YELLOW LINE EVEN WHEN THERE WAS NO TRAIN APPROACHING, HE SAID.

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RIISING FIGURES OF DIVORCE CASES EXPLAINED  
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INCOMPATIBILITY, THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES ARE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISING FIGURES OF DIVORCE CASES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI ABOUT THE RISING FIGURES OF DIVORCE CASES - FROM 537 IN 1974 TO 5 047 IN 1985 - MR CHAMBERS SAID HE BASED HIS FINDING ON TWO RECENT PIECES OF RESEARCH INTO THE REASONS FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF MARRIAGES.

HE ADDED THAT ONE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON CHILD CUSTODY CASES HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OTHER ON A REPORT ON SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES PREPARED BY A SENIOR LECTURER IN SOCIAL WORK AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY.

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CHILDREN LEFT ALONE AT HOME NOT AN OFFENCE

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THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION OF SOME COUNTRIES MAKING IT AN OFFENCE FOR PARENTS TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN ALONE AT HOME, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS SAID THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAD BEEN STUDIED WITH THE HELP OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS.

+NONE OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE THIS EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAMBERS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS AN OFFENCE BOTH IN THE U.K. AND IN NEW ZEALAND FOR PARENTS TO +WILFULLY ASSAULT, NEGLECT, ABANDON OR EXPOSE ANY CHILD UNDER THEIR CARE+.

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT IN HIS REPLY ON MAY 28 THAT A SIMILAR PROVISION ALREADY EXISTED IN THE LAW OF HONG KONG.

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NO INCREASE IN PRIMARY STUDENT SUICIDE CASES

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FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE CORONER'S COURT DO NOT INDICATE THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASING INCIDENCE OF SUICIDE AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE CASE RECORDED IN 1983 FROM THE 0-9 AGE GROUP, WHILE IN THE 10-19 AGE GROUP THERE WERE 21 CASES IN 1983, NINE IN 1984 AND 14 IN 1985.

AS REGARDS STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, HE SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT HAD 167 SUCH OFFICERS WHICH WAS 17 SHORT OF THE APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT.

/+THE DIRECTOR .....

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+THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ENVISAGES THAT 244 STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS WILL BE IN POST BY 1989, THROUGH A PHASED RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME, TO ACHIEVE FULL COVERAGE OF ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

ON WHETHER CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO RECRUITING SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA HOLDERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN PROVIDING COUNSELLING SERVICE TO HELP EASE THE MANPOWER SHORTAGE, MR CHAMBERS POINTED OUT THAT THE RESPONSE TO THE LATEST RECRUITMENT EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING.

+A TOTAL OF 347 APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN RECEIVED, COMPARED WITH 158 IN 1984 AND 242 IN 1985. THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO NEED TO RECRUIT SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA HOLDERS TO FILL THESE POSTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

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#### MORE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PLACES OFFERED

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THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE EIGHT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES MANAGED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL REACH 66 800 IN ALL MODES OF STUDY WHEN THE CHAI WAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS OPENED NEXT SEPTEMBER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN TABLING THE REPORT OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1986 IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN.

MR CHAN PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRMAN, DR FRANCIS TIEN, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH HE HAD GUIDED THE COUNCIL THROUGH ITS FORMATIVE YEARS AND BROUGHT MANY IMPORTANT PROJECTS TO COMPLETION.

+PROBABLY, THE MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES HOUSED IN THE KOWLOON BAY AND KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEXES,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT ALREADY THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAD COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING THERE AND HAD IMMEDIATELY BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PRECISION TOOLING TRAINING CENTRE AND THE INSURANCE TRAINING CENTRE STARTED OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND ANOTHER CENTRE FOR THE TRAINING OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING PERSONNEL WOULD TAKE IN ITS FIRST TRAINEES IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME.

/A JEWELLERY .....

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A JEWELLERY TRAINING CENTRE WAS IN THE ADVANCED PLANNING STAGE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE HAD STARTED, HE ADDED.

MR CHAN OBSERVED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION ALSO MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES FORWARD IN THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, SAYING THE OPERATION OF THE TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AT SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN IN SEPTEMBER LAST HAD ENABLED THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE 7 000 MORE TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL PLACES AT CRAFT AND TECHNICAL LEVELS.

FINALLY, HE THANKED ALL THE INDUSTRIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL, IN PARTICULAR THOSE FROM THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SECTORS WHO MADE UP THE VARIOUS TRAINING BOARDS AND GENERAL COMMITTEES. HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL'S OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR MORRIS MORGAN, AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR LOYALTY, DILIGENCE AND DRIVE.

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SPORTS CENTRE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS  
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THE MANAGEMENT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IS COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CENTRE AS AN ON-GOING PROJECT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SPORTS, THE HON HU FA-KUANG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 1986, MR HU SAID THE CENTRE HAD COMPLETED ITS FOURTH YEAR OF OPERATION AND HAD CONTINUED TO MAKE STEADY, RATHER THAN STARTLING PROGRESS IN MOST OF THE SPORTS INCLUDED IN ITS PROGRAMME.

+THE CENTRE IS ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW AND EXCITING PHASE, TO ALLOW IT TO FUNCTION AUTONOMOUSLY. A GENEROUS ENDOWMENT OF \$350 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN,+ HE SAID.

MR HU SAID THE CENTRE'S PROGRAMME NOW COVERED MANY SPORTS SUCH AS BADMINTON, FENCING, GYMNASTICS, JUDO, SQUASH, SOCCER, SWIMMING, TABLE TENNIS AND TENNIS. FULL TIME COACHING SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THESE VARIOUS SPORTS, WITH THE TOTAL ANNUAL SUBSIDY OF ABOUT \$10 MILLION.

SUBSIDY TO OTHER SPORTS SUCH AS CYCLING, HANDBALL, SOFTBALL, BASEBALL AND THE SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE DEAF TOTALLED AROUND \$3.5 MILLION.

/MR HU .....

MR HU NOTED THAT A MUCH NEEDED SPORTS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WAS SET UP IN JULY 1986 UNDER THE CENTRE AND THIS WOULD ALLOW THE CENTRE'S COACHES TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS MORE ON THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE, NAMELY, PRODUCING ATHLETES AT ALL LEVELS.

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR WAS THE OPENING OF A SPORTS INJURY CLINIC UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC AND TRAUMATIC SURGERY OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS HOPED THAT SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING AVAILABLE, THIS WILL BECOME A FULL-TIME OPERATION IN 1987, WITH FACILITY FOR HEALTH SCREENING FOR TOP ATHLETES AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE,+ MR HU SAID.

DURING THE YEAR, THE CENTRE HAD BEEN USED AS A VENUE BY SOME GOVERNING SPORTS BODIES FOR A NUMBER OF PRESTIGIOUS INTERESTED EVENTS. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE HAD IMPROVED STEADILY AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN MANY INTERNATIONAL MATCHES, HE ADDED.

+IN SHORT, THIS HAS BEEN A BUSY YEAR AND THE YEAR AHEAD SHOULD BE EQUALLY EXCITING,+ MR HU SAID.

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FOUR BILLS PASSED  
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THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE PENALTIES FOR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986 AND THE ANTIBIOTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE OTHER BILLS - THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1986 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1986 WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO DECEMBER 10.

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HK SEEKING RESULTS FROM GATT TALKS  
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THE FORTHCOMING NEW ROUND OF GATT DISCUSSIONS HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH IN IMPROVING THE DISCIPLINES OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND IN REDUCING BARRIERS.

HONG KONG WILL BE PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEM PRODUCE RESULTS.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, AT THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR OF THE PACIFIC BASIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL 1986.

MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES CONTINUED TO EXIST IN SOME COUNTRIES, AND IN THE UNITED STATES THOSE PRESSURES WERE AT A HISTORIC HIGH AND SHOWED NO SIGN OF ABATING.

+ALTHOUGH THE DECLINING VALUE OF THE U.S. DOLLAR WILL SOON BEGIN TO REDUCE THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT, THE PRESSURES ARE THERE, AND ADDED UNCERTAINTY IS INTRODUCED BY THE FACT THAT IN 1988. THERE WILL BE NOT ONLY CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS BUT THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT,+ HE SAID.

+IF TRADE IS STILL A MAJOR ISSUE THEN, AS IT IS LIKELY TO BE, THEN WE CANNOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AVOIDING FURTHER PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE MATTERS IS ENCOURAGING, AND THE FACT THAT A NEW ROUND IS BEING HELD IS IN ITSELF AN ADDED WEAPON WHICH CAN BE USED BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO RESIST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES.+

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT NO DOUBT MODEST PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON SOME OF THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH -- AND HONG KONG WOULD BE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE THIS.

+WHAT THE GATT TRIES TO DO IS TO ESTABLISH RULES WHEREBY IT CAN BE ASSESSED WHETHER A PARTICULAR BARRIER -- WHICH TRADITIONALLY REFERS TO TARIFFS, QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE THE EFFECT OF UNREASONABLY HINDERING COMPETITION BY GOODS FROM OUTSIDE -- IS REASONABLE OR NOT, AND A MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH CASES WHERE ONE AFFECTED PARTY CONSIDERS THAT THE RULES HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED.

+WHILE IT IS INEVITABLY FAR FROM A PERFECT SYSTEM, THE SYSTEM IS NOT WITHOUT TEETH, IN THAT IN THE LAST RESORT RETALIATION IS ALLOWED,+ HE SAID.

THE GATT ALREADY PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN KEEPING DOWN THE NUMBER OF UNREASONABLE BARRIERS.

MR MACLEOD ADDED THAT AS HONG KONG'S STATUS IN THE GATT HAD BEEN UNAMBIGUOUSLY RESOLVED THIS YEAR, IT WAS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT A TRADING ENTITY WHICH RANKED AROUND 13TH IN THE WORLD TRADE TABLE SHOULD BE SEEN TO PLAY A FULL PART IN THE GATT IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

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RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED  
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER 1986, PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED AT \$6 081 MILLION, WAS 9 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1985 WHILE THEIR VOLUME WAS 5 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1985, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 14 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ WENT UP BY 15 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VALUE, WHILE THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN SALES VOLUME WERE 4 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT.

RETAIL SALES OF FOOTSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO RECORDED ALMOST NO CHANGE IN VALUE BUT AN INCREASE OF 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS WENT DOWN BY 17 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT HAD ALMOST NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY IN VOLUME.

SUPERMARKETS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME, WHILE CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS RECORDED A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN SALES VALUE AND A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED MODERATELY IN SALES VALUE AND SLIGHTLY IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1986 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1985, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS SHOWED INCREASES OF 21 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ ROSE BY 15 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VALUE AND BY 5 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

FUELS DECREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE AND SLIGHTLY IN VOLUME.

SUPERMARKETS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME, WHILE CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY IN SALES VALUE AND MODERATELY IN SALES VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED A MODERATE INCREASE IN SALES VALUE AND A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VOLUME.

/WHEN COMPARED .....

WHEN COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1986, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR SEPTEMBER 1986 HAD AN INCREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT ALMOST NO CHANGE IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VALUE AND THOSE OF +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ BY 2 PER CENT. BOTH RECORDED ALMOST NO CHANGE IN SALES VOLUME.

FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 1 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. FUELS DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME WHILE CONSUMER DURABLES DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND VOLUME RESPECTIVELY. RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS HAD SLIGHT INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS REGISTERED ALMOST NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE BUT A SLIGHT DROP IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN VALUE AND VOLUME WHILE THOSE OF DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR AUGUST 1986 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR SEPTEMBER 1986.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN AUGUST 1986 AND SEPTEMBER 1986 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL SALES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF SEPTEMBER 1986 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF AUGUST 1986 AND WITH THOSE OF SEPTEMBER 1985 AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE THIRD QUARTER 1986 WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1985 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT RESPECTIVELY THE MOVEMENTS OF THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, INCLUDING THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEXES AND TRENDS, FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO AUGUST 1986.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 1986 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 3-7216024.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for September 1986 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$6 081 million  
 for August 1986 (Revised Figure) = HK\$6 030 million

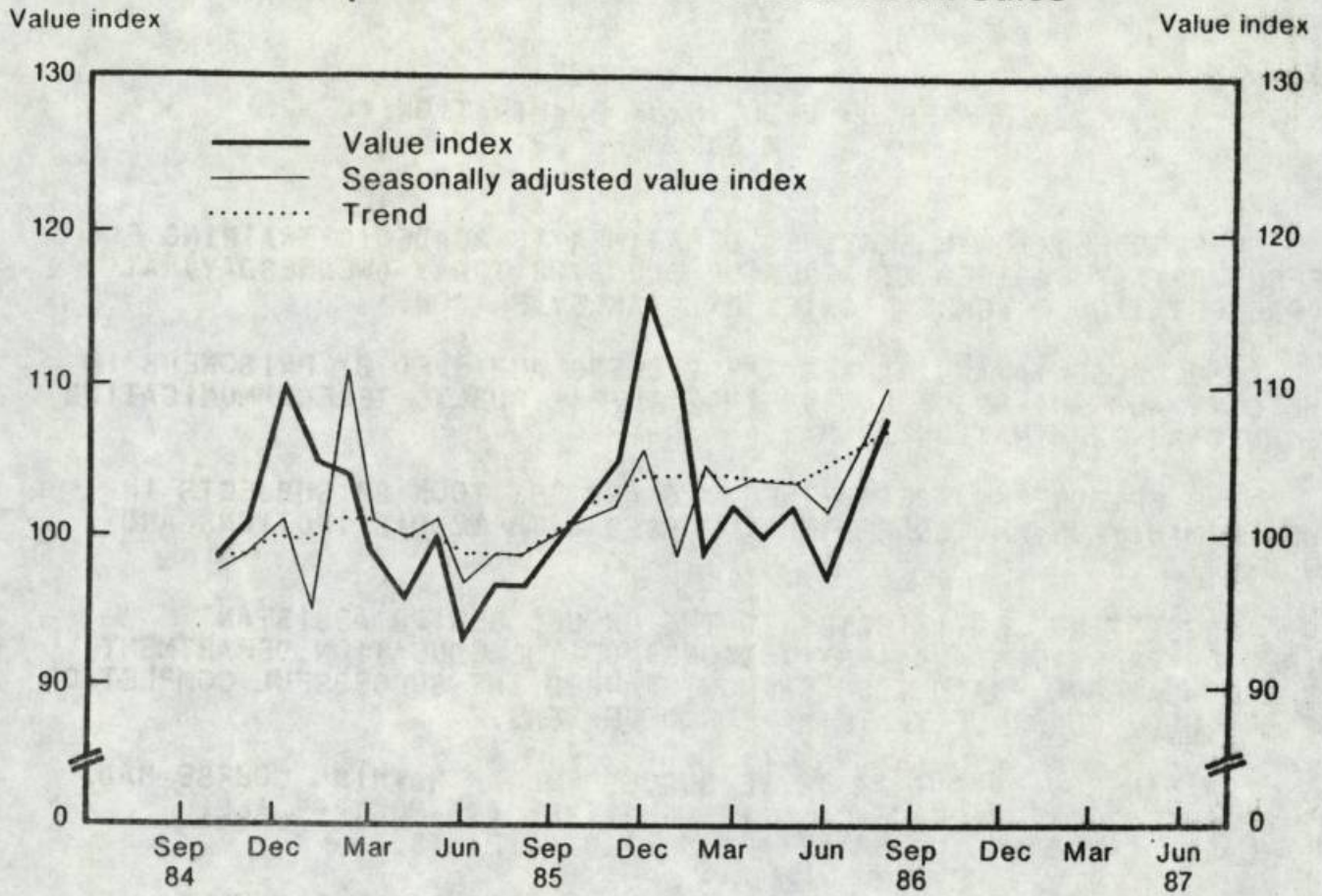
TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES  
FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1986

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

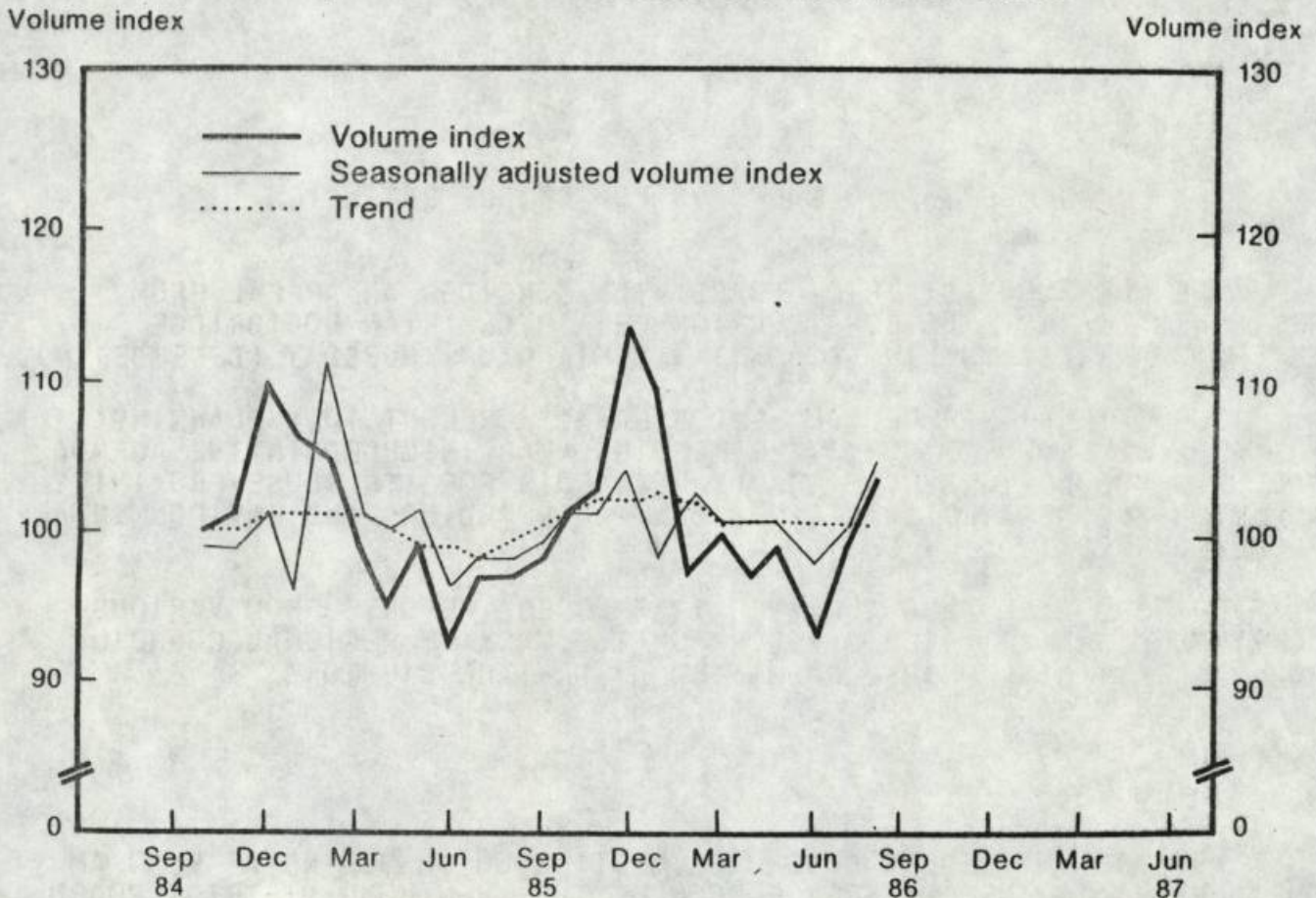
Item	Index of Retail Sales	August 1986	September 1986	September 1986 compared with August 1986		September 1986 compared with September 1985		July - Sept. 86 compared with July - Sept. 85	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES</b>									
	Value	108	109	+ 1	+ 1	+ 9	+ 9	+ 9	+ 9
	Volume	104	103	- 1	*	+ 5	+ 5	+ 5	+ 5
<b>(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	106	107	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1	*	+ 4	+ 4
	Volume	104	105	+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2
Fuels	Value	84	83	- 1	- 1	- 17	- 17	- 16	- 16
	Volume	101	100	- 1	- 1	*	*	+ 1	+ 1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	108	110	+ 3	+ 3	+ 18	+ 19	+ 19	+ 21
	Volume	102	102	+ 1	*	+ 12	+ 14	+ 13	+ 15
Consumer durables	Value	120	117	- 3	- 3	+ 15	+ 15	+ 15	+ 15
	Volume	110	106	- 4	- 4	+ 5	+ 4	+ 5	+ 5
Other consumer goods	Value	106	109	+ 2	+ 2	+ 13	+ 14	+ 11	+ 11
	Volume	101	101	*	*	+ 7	+ 7	+ 5	+ 6
<b>(C) BY SELECTED TRADES</b>									
Supermarkets	Value	122	127	+ 5	+ 4	+ 21	+ 20	+ 15	+ 14
	Volume	118	123	+ 5	+ 4	+ 18	+ 17	+ 13	+ 12
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	134	135	+ 1	*	+ 25	+ 23	+ 26	+ 24
	Volume	111	110	- 1	- 1	+ 2	+ 2	+ 4	+ 4
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	116	111	- 5	- 4	+ 12	+ 12	+ 12	+ 12
	Volume	110	105	- 5	- 4	+ 5	+ 5	+ 6	+ 6
Department stores	Value	118	93	- 25	- 21	+ 7	+ 8	+ 7	+ 8
	Volume	112	86	- 26	- 23	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2

- Notes :
1. "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" includes "supermarkets".
  2. "Consumer durables" includes "motor vehicles and parts".
  3. "Other consumer goods" includes "department stores".
  4. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
  5. \* denotes change of less than 0.5.

Graph 1: Value Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Graph 2: Volume Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Notes: (1) Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100

(2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using the X-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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INMATES DO WELL IN UK EXAMINATION  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ACADEMIC TRAINING FOR OFFENDERS WAS PRAISED BY A SENIOR EDUCATOR TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT A PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AT STANLEY PRISON.

THE PRESENTATION MARKED THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY PRISONERS IN THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE'S PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION IN MAY.

THE PRISONERS, AGED BETWEEN 26 AND 35, TOOK 22 SUBJECTS IN THE EXAMINATION AND SCORED FULL PASSES WITH 12 DISTINCTIONS AND 10 CREDITS.

PRESENTING CERTIFICATES TO THE GROUP, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MR R.M. CAMERON, SAID THE CEREMONY MARKED THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ANOTHER COURSE OF TRAINING FOR OFFENDERS.

MR CAMERON SAID THAT TO BE SUCCESSFUL A TRAINING COURSE HAD TO BE INTERESTING, PRACTICAL, INFORMATIVE, AND MOST OF ALL, PROPERLY GEARED TO THE ABILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS.

+THE TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS' COURSE CLEARLY MEETS ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS, AND I CONGRATULATE THE DEPARTMENT ON ITS WISE CHOICE, AND THE PARTICIPANTS' HERE TODAY FOR HAVING BEEN SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO JOIN THE COURSE,+ HE ADDED.

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MEETING TO FOCUS ON FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER AN APPEAL FROM RESIDENTS AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION ACROSS ON LING ROAD AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 4).

THE EXTENSION PROPOSAL, ENDORSED AT A RECENT TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, WAS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS FROM NEARBY RESIDENTS FOR ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY AND POSSIBLE OBSTRUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CREATED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER 13 PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE WORK OF REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, SUBMITTED BY DR TANG SIU-TONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH BEGINS AT 9.30 AM ON THURSDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, YUEN LONG.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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BRIEFING ON OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL  
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SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR JAMES SO, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF PROPOSALS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AN OBSCENE ARTICLES TRIBUNAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 PM AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM.

ALSO ON HAND TO EXPLAIN THE TRIBUNAL SYSTEM WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR K. F. LEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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RE-OPENING OF ROAD SAFETY TOWN  
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A BRIEF CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT SAU MAU PING ROAD SAFETY TOWN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO MARK ITS RE-OPENING.

THE 16-YEAR-OLD TOWN WAS CLOSED DURING THE SUMMER TO FACILITATE RENOVATION WORK, WHICH INCLUDED THE BUILDING OF A FOOTBRIDGE, REPLACEMENT OF SIGNS AND CHANGES IN ROAD MARKINGS, AS WELL AS RE-SURFACING OF THE ROADS.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (TRAFFIC), ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, MR JOHN CLEMENCE; ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER MOSS; AND CHIEF ENGINEER, ROAD SAFETY AND STANDARDS DIVISION, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR DAVID WILLDAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT SAU MAU PING ROAD SAFETY TOWN, SAU MING ROAD, KOWLOON (NEXT TO BUS TERMINUS OF ROUTES 1A, 13B, 13D AND 13M) TOMORROW AT 2.15 PM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO MEET  
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WILL BE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 PM.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ESTIMATES FOR 1987-88, THE  
APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS BY AREA COMMITTEES AND  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES OF COMMUNITY HALLS AND CENTRES, AND THE REVIEW  
ON USE OF FUNDS BY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT  
OFFICE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN,  
TOMORROW.

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STONE LAYING CEREMONY FOR SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE PERMANENT SEAMEN'S  
TRAINING CENTRE WILL BE HELD AT TAI LAM CHUNG AT NOON THIS FRIDAY  
(DECEMBER 5).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY,  
MR PIERS JACOBS; CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL,  
MR K.C. CHAN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING BOARD,  
MR FRANK CHAO.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE CENTRE'S SITE AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TAI LAM CHUNG EAST.  
ONE COACH WILL LEAVE HARBOUR CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT  
10.15 AM. ANOTHER WILL PICK UP PASSENGERS AT KOWLOON TONG  
KCR STATION AT 10.30 AM.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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GIFT FOR SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD HAS PRINTED 40 000 POCKET-SIZED CALENDAR CARDS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO RESIDENTS AS A CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GIFT.

THE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON, AND ITS FOUR SUB-OFFICES.

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NEW TUEN MUN FERRY PIER OPENS FRIDAY  
\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW FERRY PIER WILL OPEN IN TUEN MUN ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 5).

THE PIER, SITUATED OFF BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WILL ACCOMMODATE TWO SERVICES OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY - THE CENTRAL TO TUEN MUN HOVERFERRY SERVICE AND THE CENTRAL TO TAI O, VIA TUEN MUN AND SHA LO WAN, EXCURSION SERVICE.

AT PRESENT, THESE ROUTES OPERATE FROM A MAKESHIFT FERRY PIER NEAR YAU OI ESTATE.

WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW PIER, THE HOVERFERRY SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO OPERATE FROM 6.30 AM TO 7.30 PM ON MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS AND FROM 6.55 AM TO 7.30 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

AT THE SAME TIME, TWO TAXI STANDS AND A TEMPORARY CAR PARK TO THE WEST OF THE PIER WILL BE OPENED TO PUBLIC USE.

FERRY PASSENGERS SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN INTERCHANGING AS THE NEW PIER IS WITHIN EASY REACH OF THE BUTTERFLY ESTATE BUS TERMINUS, WHICH IS THE TERMINAL POINT FOR FIVE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS ROUTES.

THESE ROUTES -- NO. 59, 59A, 59B, 59M AND 61A -- LINK THE ESTATE WITH TAI HING, SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER, SIU HONG COURT, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND YUEN LONG (EAST), RESPECTIVELY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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GREEN MINIBUS FARE REVISED  
\* \* \* \* \*

FARES FOR NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 12K PLYING BETWEEN FANLING KCR STATION AND LUNG YEUK TAU WILL GO UP FROM \$1 TO \$1.50 FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 5).

AT THE SAME TIME, SERVICES ON THE ROUTE WILL BE STEPPED UP TO OPERATE AT A 10-MINUTE FREQUENCY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FARE RISE APPROVAL WAS GIVEN AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF OPERATING DETAILS AND FINANCIAL RETURNS SUBMITTED BY THE OPERATOR.

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RESTRICTED ZONES ON OCEAN PARK ROAD  
\* \* \* \* \*

FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 6), THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON THE SECTION OF OCEAN PARK ROAD AROUND THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE OUTSIDE OCEAN PARK WILL BE CUT TO OPERATE DAILY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM ONLY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTION WILL BE MADE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS:

- \* THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM OCEAN PARK ROAD TO THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS AND TAXI STAND IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE OUTSIDE OCEAN PARK.
- \* THE SECTION OF THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM OCEAN PARK ROAD TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH OCEAN PARK ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN MONG KOK  
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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATED WALKWAY, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MONG KOK FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 6) FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS:

- \* BUTE STREET BETWEEN SAI YEE STREET AND FA YUEN STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC.
- \* BUTE STREET BETWEEN FA YUEN STREET AND TUNG CHOI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TOWARDS FA YUEN STREET.

VEHICLES LEAVING KCR MONG KOK STATION OR DRIVING ALONG SAI YEE STREET NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR FA YUEN STREET WILL HAVE TO USE SAI YEE STREET, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, TUNG CHOI STREET AND BUTE STREET.

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EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH CLOSURE  
\* \* \* \* \*

TO FACILITATE THE LAUNCHING OF THE HMS TAMAR NAVY DAY, EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND HMS TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 6) AND SUNDAY.

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