



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985

- 1 -

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY
ON
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985
* * * * *

Sir,

I move that the Legislative Council (Electoral Provisions) Bill 1985 be read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the election of 24 members to the Legislative Council in September as envisaged in the White Paper on the Further Development of Representative Government in Hong Kong which was laid on the table on 21 November last year. The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of twelve electoral college constituencies and nine functional constituencies which will return, between them, a total of 24 members to the Legislative Council. The Bill also prescribes the relevant electoral procedures, which are based, as far as possible, on those already well tried procedures, recently tested again with success, contained in existing legislation applicable to the Urban Council and District Board elections.

I think it would be helpful to remind Members, at this stage, of the objectives of the plans for more representative government set out in the White Paper. As I said in my speech to this Council on 9 January this year, these objectives can be stated quite simply: the first objective is that the future system of representative government in Hong Kong should be rooted firmly in the community and thereby be directly

/accountable to

accountable to the people of Hong Kong. The second objective is to provide for changes in the composition and method of selection of the Legislative Council which will ensure that it is broadly based, and which will minimise any tendency to factional politics and divisiveness. The third objective is to provide a foundation for further developments in the composition and method of selection of the membership of the Legislative Council, in the light of experience gained. Of course, the ultimate objective of our present plans and any later extensions and modifications of those plans is, to ensure that a system of government is firmly established during the next twelve years which will preserve and enhance the essential features of our present society. If this is achieved then we can be hopeful of a smooth transition for Hong Kong from its present status as a British Dependent Territory to that of a Special Administrative Region of China, with a high degree of autonomy. With effect from the 1985-86 Session, the total membership of the Legislative Council will comprise 56 members: 12 will be drawn from the electoral college constituencies (i.e. 10, from the district board level and two from the regional council level), 12 from functional constituencies, 22 will be appointed by the Governor and 10 will be selected civil servants.

The Bill is structured in eight parts with two separate schedules which set out details of the various constituencies, the categories of persons who are eligible to be registered as electors in each of them, and the number of members to be elected in each constituency.

Part I of the Bill is largely preliminary and calls for little elaboration. However, it does introduce two new concepts in the context of functional constituencies: that of an "electoral division" and of a "substantial connexion".

/The concept

The concept of an "electoral division" has been adopted as a means of providing for the electors from each of the nominated representative organizations within the commercial and industrial constituencies to return their own representative, rather than to elect jointly, two representatives which could result in both coming from one organization. It is also designed, as in the case of the labour constituency, to enable the result of an election to be determined on the basis of absolute majority, a procedure about which I shall be saying more in a few moments.

The concept of a "substantial connexion" has been introduced to help achieve one of the main purposes of having functional constituencies, namely, that candidates for election to the Legislative Council are properly qualified, that is to say, competent by virtue of their own personal experience, to represent the interests of the particular constituencies in which they stand but with the ultimate purpose, of course, of serving the interests of the community as a whole.

Part II of the Bill sets out the general provisions relating to the holding of elections and the establishment of constituencies. It provides for the first elections to be held in 1985 and in every third year thereafter, or otherwise within three months of a dissolution of the Legislative Council; for the actual establishment of electoral college and functional constituencies and the number of seats; for the tenure of office of members; for the circumstances in which an elected member's seat shall become vacant; and for the declaration of casual vacancies and the holding of elections to fill casual vacancies. In Part II it is also provided that an elected member who fails to attend sittings of the Legislative Council for a period of three consecutive months shall cease to hold office unless his absence has been excused by the Governor. This is similar to a provision already contained in the Urban

Council and District Boards Ordinances. There is a special provision in Clause 5(b) for the tenure of office of the member elected by the members of the Provisional Regional Council in 1985 to end when the Provisional Regional Council ceases to exist in 1986. A new member will be elected by the members of the full Regional Council when it has been established.

Part III of the Bill deals with the electoral franchise and with the question of eligibility to register as an elector. In the case of the twelve electoral college constituencies, eligible electors are the members of the District Boards and the Urban Council and Regional Council. As a result of views expressed by a number of representative organisations making up certain functional constituencies, there is one important exception to the rule announced in the White Paper, namely, that in order to qualify as an elector in a functional constituency a person must also be registered as an elector on the general electoral roll under the Electoral Provisions Ordinance. Clause 13(3) provides, for the purpose of the 1985 elections only, that a person shall be eligible for registration as a functional constituency elector whether or not he is registered on the general electoral roll, provided he is duly qualified and eligible to be so registered. This will enable those persons who failed to register on the general electoral roll last year, despite the intensive publicity which was devoted to this point at that time, to apply for registration on their functional constituency electoral roll. This special provision has been introduced to enable as many members of the various functional constituencies as possible to register as electors for these first elections to the Legislative Council, so that the representative quality, as it were, of elected members of functional constituencies is not suspect. Thus we have met the views of those who petitioned us on this point. But we have done so having regard to the public

interest, not out of sympathy for those who failed to register on the general electoral roll. The public interest clearly requires that we must do what we reasonably can to avoid putting at risk the whole concept of functional constituencies, which concept the Government regards as an important element in the process of producing a blend of membership which is appropriate to Hong Kong's circumstances. I do hope that those concerned will take full advantage of the opportunity now open to them.

There are two further provisions in Part III to which I would also invite the attention of Members. Clause 14 provides that no person shall be eligible to register as an elector in more than one electoral college constituency. Nor may he register, in his own right, in more than one functional constituency of his choice. Clause 15 provides that those who have been so registered shall be disqualified from voting in the event of their ceasing to be a member of the constituency in question. In practice, this means that a person who is qualified will be able to vote once in an electoral college constituency, that is to say, in his capacity as a member of a District Board, the Urban Council or the Provisional Regional Council and once in a functional constituency in his own right as an individual. In addition, that person will be able to cast a vote on behalf of a corporate elector in a functional constituency if he is appointed as the authorised representative of that corporate elector. However, he would cast that vote in accordance with the instructions of the corporate elector and not on his own behalf.

Part IV contains the conventional provisions for the registration of electors for both the electoral college constituencies and the functional constituencies. It provides for the appointment of a registration officer by notice in the Gazette; for the final register of electors to be published

and to remain in force until the publication of the next register; and for the Chief Justice to appoint a magistrate or other legal officer to act as a revising officer. And Clause 19 confers, for the purpose of Parts III and IV of the Bill certain regulation making powers upon the Governor in Council. There will be two sets of regulations: one covering the detailed procedures for the registration of electors and the other the detailed arrangements for the nomination of candidates and supervision of the elections. These regulations will be published as soon as possible after this Bill has been enacted.

Part V of the Bill sets out the qualifications for candidature. It requires that a candidate must have been ordinarily resident in Hong Kong for the 10 years immediately preceding the date of his nomination and must have been registered as an elector on the general electoral roll under the Electoral Provisions Ordinance. There is, however, an exception to this latter qualification which matches the compromise solution proposed for 1985 only in respect of electors. In the case of a functional constituency for the 1985 elections only, it shall be sufficient for a candidate to show, if he is not so registered, that he is duly qualified and eligible to be registered as an elector and, of course, he must have a substantial connexion with that constituency. In Clause 22, it is provided that no candidate may be nominated or stand for election in more than one constituency. Finally, in Clause 21, are prescribed the grounds for disqualification from being nominated as a candidate, which include the holding of any public office and membership of any parliament, assembly or council of any place outside Hong Kong.

/Parts VI

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Parts VI and VII deal respectively with the appointment of returning officers, the supervision of elections and with election petitions. They repeat, generally, the provisions already contained in the legislation dealing with Urban Council and District Board elections. Finally, Part VIII covers a number of miscellaneous matters, including the very important requirement that voting shall be in secret.

Sir, I mentioned earlier the intention to use the absolute majority system in the determination of election results. This system is proposed, rather than the simple majority procedure currently used in the Urban Council and District Board elections and certainly will be used for the Regional Council elections. An absolute majority system is a more effective way of ensuring the election of candidates with a large degree of consensus support in the electoral college and functional constituencies. The detailed procedures will be spelt out in the subsidiary regulations to be made under the Bill, but, in essence, the system is designed to provide that no candidate may be declared elected until he has secured more than 50% of the votes cast in the election.

In the case of the electoral college constituencies, where the numbers of voters will be relatively small, it is proposed to adopt a system of repeated ballots, whereby voting is continued through a series of ballots until one candidate secures an absolute majority of the votes cast. In the case of functional constituencies, where there will be greater numbers of voters, it is proposed to adopt a preferential voting system under which electors record their votes for the candidates in order of preference. This system calls for repeated counts of the votes, with lower preference votes being added at each count to the first preference votes. The candidate securing the lowest number of votes on each count is eliminated, until a single candidate emerges with the support of more than 50% of the voters. It is to accommodate this procedure that the labour functional constituency has been divided into two electoral divisions.

As I mentioned in a reply to a question by Mr CHAN Ying-lun in this Council on 6 February, consultations have been held with the representative organisations making up the various functional constituencies on the principles now embodied in this Bill. Meetings have been held with the principal officers of each of these organisations, and careful and detailed consideration has been given to their views. It has been possible to meet some of these views, but not all of them. However, as was stated in the White Paper, a review of the arrangements will be conducted in 1987 to identify any desirable improvements in present arrangements; and, of course, to decide whether any further constitutional changes are indicated at that time to be effective from the 1988-89 session or later. I have no doubt that any improvements which may be identified ad interim will be fully considered in the course of that review and that ideas as to further constitutional developments will be floated and debated in readiness for the review. Meanwhile, Sir, may I suggest that we should all concentrate on the immensely important task of assembling the new style Legislative Council for the next three years, 1985-88, and here time is of the essence if we are to complete all the necessary practical arrangements in time for the 1985 elections to be held in September of this year.

Sir, this Bill, which implements the plans in the White Paper, represents an extremely significant development in the constitutional history of Hong Kong. For the first time, elections are to be held for seats in the Legislative Council. We are experimenting with a unique mix of systems designed to assemble a Legislative Council consisting of (1) what one might describe as populist elected members, (2) representatives elected by interest groups, (3) appointed members carefully selected on the basis of their track record in public life and their invaluable experience of government and to cover elements in our society which may not otherwise be satisfactorily

catered for and (4) a few civil servants to provide, for the time being at least, that necessary link with the Administration. I have not listed these four groups in any particular order of importance, obviously, for I have mentioned civil servants last. So we are about to embark on a major step in the process of developing, through this mix of systems, our own unique legislature, one which has a diversity of roots in the community and one which will be seen to be directly accountable to the people of Hong Kong.

I sincerely hope that all those people who will be enfranchised by this Bill will take the opportunity to register as electors or establish their claim to be electors for mere membership even of a District Board, let alone a functional constituency will not obviate the necessity to do this. I sincerely hope that they realise that, by the act of registering, they will demonstrate their understanding of the need to develop mechanisms to assemble the membership of the Legislative Council and that they will express their confidence in the future of Hong Kong by casting their votes, and standing as candidates, when the elections are held.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE COMMENTS NOTED

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE OBSERVATIONS SET OUT IN THE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7 TABLED ON JANUARY 23, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT MINUTE IN RESPONSE TO REPORT NO. 7 OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND SECRETARIAT BRANCHES HAD BEEN REMINDED OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS AND STEERING COMMITTEES, WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THE CO-ORDINATION PROBLEMS REFERRED TO BY THE COMMITTEE, WERE CAREFULLY DRAFTED AND PROPERLY APPROVED TO ESTABLISH CLEAR LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY, SIR PHILIP SAID.

MOREOVER, SIR PHILIP SAID, CONTROLLING OFFICERS HAD ALSO BEEN REMINDED THAT THEY REMAINED AT ALL TIMES FULLY RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE PROPER DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

SIR PHILIP SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT MINUTE WAS TWOFOLD: FIRST, TO COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE ON THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND, SECOND, TO INDICATE WHAT ACTION THE ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN, OR PROPOSED TO TAKE, TO REMEDY IRREGULARITIES AND TO IMPROVE PROCEDURES AND, IF NECESSARY, TO EXPLAIN WHY IT INTENDED THAT NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

ON THE SUGGESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN FOR A COURSE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR DIRECTORATE OFFICERS, SIR PHILIP SAID STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING DIRECTOR TO DEVELOP A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR SENIOR OFFICERS.

+THE COURSE WILL BE IN THE FORM OF REGULAR SEMINARS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE AWARENESS OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND OTHER DIRECTORATE OFFICERS AS TO CURRENT BUDGETARY STRATEGY AND THE POLICY DECISIONS AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THAT STRATEGY,+ HE SAID.

+WHILE THE TIMING OF THE COURSE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, WE CERTAINLY HOPE TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE FIRST ONE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE SENIOR STAFF COURSE, WHICH COMMENCED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, HAD ON ITS PROGRAMME A FULL SESSION DEDICATED TO FINANCIAL POLICY AND BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT.

/THESE COURSES,

THESE COURSES, TOGETHER WITH THE RESPONSE CONTAINED IN THE GOVERNMENT MINUTE, DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONVICTION THAT, ALTHOUGH STEPS WERE CONTINUALLY BEING TAKEN TO DEVELOP BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE AIM.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE INTEND TO TURN ALL OUR CONTROLLING OFFICERS INTO COST OR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS AS THEY HAVE BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES.

+THE OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE THEM MORE AWARE OF THEIR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE ROLE THEY ARE MEANT TO PLAY AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH AN IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO MONITOR EXPENDITURE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF IMPROVED FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND BETTER PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

TO THIS END, SIR PHILIP SAID, THE LEDGER ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM WAS BEING EXTENDED WITH THE AIM, EVENTUALLY, OF COVERING ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ECHOING MR CHEN'S REMARKS, SIR PHILIP SAID THE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

+I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PLACE ON RECORD THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

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MONITORING SCHEME ACHIEVES AIM, CONSULTANTS SAY
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THE GOVERNMENT'S MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE POWER COMPANIES HAVE BEEN SUITABLE AND HAVE ACHIEVED THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE DESIGNED.

THIS IS THE CONCLUSION DRAWN BY INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS FOLLOWING A DETAILED 13-MONTH EXAMINATION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE REPORT OF CONSULTANTS, MESSRS ERNST AND WHINNEY, WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC.

IN A STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE CONSULTANTS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN SUITABLE, GIVEN THE EMPHASIS ON ENSURING A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AT A COST THAT WAS COMPARABLE WITH, OR LESS THAN, THE COST OF ELECTRICITY IN OTHER PLACES IN THE REGION.

/MR JACOBS

MR JACOBS ADDED THAT THE ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS WAS ALSO FOUND TO BE COMPREHENSIVE AND HAD FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS SET DOWN IN THE SCHEME OF CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS.

+TO THIS END I BELIEVE THAT THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE ASSURANCES TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE MONITORING PROCESS SO FAR HAS BEEN PROPER AND ADEQUATE,+ HE SAID.

BUT WHILE THIS WAS SO, MR JACOBS SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED THE CONSULTANTS FOR SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED IN FUTURE.

IT HAD AS A RESULT BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT EXISTING PROCEDURES SHOULD BE PLACED ON A MORE FORMAL BASIS AND THAT A TASK FORCE BE SET UP TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION. A TASK FORCE WILL BE FORMED AND WILL BE CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP THE RECOMMENDED FORMAL PROCEDURES.

MR JACOBS SAID ERNST AND WHINNEY HAD COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME FOR MONITORING IN THE FIELD OF SYSTEM PLANNING AND LOAD FORECASTING, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS COMMISSIONED FOR SYSTEM PLANNING BE RETAINED TO EXAMINE THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF FUTURE FINANCING PLAN SUBMISSIONS.

+WE WELCOME THESE RECOMMENDATIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE REPORT ALSO EXAMINED THE MONITORING OF THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE POWER COMPANIES' ACTIVITIES. THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES SAID THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD RESULT IN +A MUCH GREATER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE POWER COMPANIES THAN AT PRESENT.+

IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO DRAW A LINE BETWEEN THE MONITORING PROCESS ITSELF AND INTERFERENCE IN THE COMPANIES' INTERNAL MANAGEMENT, HE SAID.

MR JACOBS GAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 12 MONTHS OF THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE REVIEW THE CONSULTANTS EXAMINED LONGER TERM CONSIDERATIONS AND THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT VIS A VIS THE COMPANIES. WHILE NO FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS WERE PUT FORWARD, IT WAS INTENDED TO GIVE THE VARIOUS POINTS MADE FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

MR JACOBS SAID: +WE CONSIDER THAT OUR MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE PROVIDED PROPER AND ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS. BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT TO IMPROVE OUR PROCEDURES, AND THE CONSULTANTS' RECOMMENDATIONS WILL ASSIST US IN THIS PROCESS.+

NEVERTHELESS, HE CAUTIONED THAT THE BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS MUST BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE COST OF MAKING THE IMPROVEMENTS.

BILL PROVIDES ADDITIONAL MODE OF TRIAL
* * * * *

THE TRIAL OF COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1985 WOULD PROVIDE THE COURTS WITH AN ADDITIONAL MODE OF TRIAL SPECIFICALLY FOR THE CASES OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR THOMAS SAID IT WAS AN INEVITABLE PART OF THE ON-GOING PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING OUR CRIMINAL PROCEDURES TO SERVICE NEW DEMANDS.

EXPLAINING THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, MR THOMAS SAID ANY COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIME MIGHT PRESENTLY GO TO THE HIGH COURT FOR TRIAL BY HIGH COURT JUDGE AND JURY OR TO THE DISTRICT COURT FOR TRIAL BY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE ALONE.

UNDER THIS BILL, MR THOMAS SAID, THE PROSECUTION OR THE DEFENCE WOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO HAVE THE CASE TRIED INSTEAD BEFORE THREE COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS SITTING WITH THE JUDGE.

+IN THE HIGH COURT THIS WOULD RELIEVE THE ORDINARY JURY OF THE HEAVY BURDEN OF ADJUDICATION. IN THE DISTRICT COURT, THIS WOULD ASSIST THE JUDGE IN HIS BURDEN OF ADJUDICATION,+ HE SAID.

+IN BOTH COURTS, THE JUDGE WOULD ENJOY THE ADVANTAGE OF SHARING IN THE SPECIAL EXPERTISE AND SKILLS OF THE ADJUDICATORS TO UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE THE EVIDENCE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID HE DID NOT SUPPOSE THAT MORE THAN TEN CASES A YEAR WOULD QUALIFY AS COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES, LONG AND HEAVY THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE.

+ONLY WHERE THE CHIEF JUSTICE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE EVIDENCE WAS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND OR APPRECIATE BECAUSE OF ITS TECHNICALITY OR QUANTITY, AND THAT THE JUSTICE OF THE MATTER WOULD BE BEST SERVED BEFORE A TRIAL BY COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS WOULD THIS PROPOSED MODE OF TRIAL TAKE EFFECT,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS STRESSED THAT THE BILL DID NOTHING TO ABOLISH ANY MODE OF TRIAL, STILL LESS TO ABOLISH TRIAL BY JURY. +IT PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL MODE OF TRIAL FOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO USE WHEN APPROPRIATE,+ HE SAID.

BOTH THE PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENCE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ENTITLED TO BE HEARD ON THE MATTER AND TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO THE PARTICULAR ADJUDICATORS PROPOSED FOR APPOINTMENT.

JUST AS WITH JURORS, MR THOMAS SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY AXE TO GRIND, NOR SHOULD THEY BE PREJUDICED BY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRANSACTION.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS LARGE ENOUGH TO ENABLE ADJUDICATORS TO BE SELECTED WHO HAVE NO PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE,+ HE SAID.

OUTLINING THE MERITS OF THIS PROPOSAL, MR THOMAS SAID IT PROVIDED AN ELEMENT OF LAY PARTICIPATION IN JUSTICE WHICH TRIAL BY JUDGE ALONE DID NOT.

+IT ALSO ENABLES THE JUDGE TO SHARE WITH THE ADJUDICATORS THEIR SKILL AND EXPERTISE WHICH IS NOT POSSIBLE IN A TRIAL BY JURY.

+THE PROPOSAL INDEED HAS ALL THE FEATURES OF A SPECIALIST JURY, AND IN ADDITION GIVES THE LAY ADJUDICATORS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE JUDGE'S GUIDANCE IN ALL MATTERS OF LAW, PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE.

+IT ALSO HAS THE ADVANTAGE OVER THE SPECIAL JURY THAT ONLY THREE RATHER THAN SEVEN BUSINESSMEN ARE REQUIRED TO DEVOTE THEIR VALUABLE TIME TO ASSISTING IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

REFERRING TO CRITICISMS THAT THE BILL WAS AN ATTACK ON THE JURY, WHICH WAS SEEN AS ONE OF THE BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, MR THOMAS SAID: +I CANNOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS MODEST PROPOSAL TO GIVE THE CHIEF JUSTICE THE POWER TO ORDER THE TRIAL OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CRIMES BEFORE A TRIBUNAL MORE SUITABLE FOR THE PURPOSE THAN THE ORDINARY JURY, REPRESENTS A THREAT TO THE TRADITIONAL AND WELL-ESTABLISHED ROLE OF THE JURY.

+WE SHOULD NOT BE CLINGING TO JURY TRIAL FOR ITS OWN SAKE WHERE THE JURY IS NOT THOUGHT SUITABLE.+

IT COULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY REPRESENTED THAT THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WAS THREATENED BY PERMITTING A NEW MODE OF TRIAL FOR THIS HANDFUL OF COMPLEX CASES.

+ON THE CONTRARY,+ HE SAID, +IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE DOING NO MORE THAN ENSURING THAT THE COURTS ARE DEVELOPED TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF A MORE COMPLEX SOCIETY.

+BY ADAPTING TO CHANGE, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE LAW AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE WILL SURELY BE ENHANCED,+ HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THERE HAD BEEN OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS.

WHERE BOTH PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENCE AGREED THAT THE CASE WAS SUITABLE FOR TRIAL BY ADJUDICATORS, THE BILL AVOIDED THE NEED FOR A REFERENCE TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

THERE WERE SOME WHO THOUGHT THAT THE PROVISION FOR A JUDGE SITTING WITH TWO COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS REACHING A UNANIMOUS VERDICT WAS UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE A SINGLE ADJUDICATOR COULD EASILY FRUSTRATE A LONG AND EXPENSIVE TRIAL.

+I AGREE WITH THIS AND SO THE BILL NOW PROVIDES FOR A JUDGE TO SIT WITH THREE COMMERCIAL ADJUDICATORS AND FOR THE VERDICT TO BE REACHED, IF NECESSARY, BY A MAJORITY OF THREE TO ONE.

+THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS ALLOWED THE ADJUDICATORS TO ASK QUESTIONS WITHOUT RESTRICTION. THIS WAS THOUGHT BY SOME TO BE UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE IGNORANT OF LEGAL CONSTRAINTS.

+I ACCEPT THIS TOO AND SO THE BILL NOW GIVES A DISCRETION TO THE JUDGE TO STOP LEGALLY IMPROPER QUESTIONS FROM BEING ASKED,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL BY MAKING AVAILABLE THE SERVICES OF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SUITABLE ADJUDICATORS, MR THOMAS SAID A NUMBER OF LEADING COMPANIES AND BANKS HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD SUPPORT THE EFFICIENT PROSECUTION OF COMMERCIAL CRIMES BY MAKING THEIR EXPERTISE AVAILABLE AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC DUTY.

+ONE INDUCEMENT TO THEM WILL BE AN EXEMPTION FROM JURY SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO ALLOW THEIR NAMES TO BE PUT UPON A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS WHICH WILL BE DRAWN UP UNDER THIS BILL BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT,+ HE SAID.

IN PRACTICE, HE SAID, THEIR CONVENIENCE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE. SUITABLE FEES WOULD BE PAID FOR THEIR SERVICES ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT THEY WERE BEING CALLED UPON TO PERFORM A PUBLIC DUTY.

GIVEN THE LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES EACH YEAR, HE DOUBTED IF ANY ADJUDICATOR WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO SIT MORE THAN ONCE IN A DECADE.

+IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN HONG KONG TO HAVE 150-200 NAMES ON A LIST OF ADJUDICATORS FROM WHICH THE CHIEF JUSTICE CAN DRAW WHENEVER HE DECIDES THAT A CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROPOSED MODE OF TRIAL,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE BILL HAD GIVEN RISE TO A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC INTEREST. FROM THE BUSINESS SECTOR THE RESPONSE HAD BEEN GENERALLY FAVOURABLE. THE REACTION AMONG THE LAWYERS HAD BEEN MIXED. THE LAW SOCIETY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS. SOME MEMBERS OF THE BAR HAD RAISED THEIR VOICES AGAINST IT ALTHOUGH SOME HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT.

+I SHALL BE CAREFUL TO NOTE ANY FRESH VIEWS WHICH COME FORWARD,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE BILL AND FORMULATE THEIR VIEWS, BECAUSE IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE REMAINING STAGES OF THE BILL IN THE COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON MAY 15.

BILL TO PROTECT WORKERS' WAGES
* * * *

THE MAIN EFFECT OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY BILL IS TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS OF COMPANIES THAT BECOME INSOLVENT RECEIVE WAGES DUE TO THEM AND RECEIVE THEM MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN UNDER EXISTING PROCEDURES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IF THE BILL IS ENACTED IT IS INTENDED TO START MAKING PAYMENTS WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1985 AND THAT PAYMENTS WILL NORMALLY BE MADE WITHIN ONE MONTH OF APPLICATION,+ HE ADDED.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT MANY WORKERS HAD TO WAIT SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE RECEIVING WAGES OWED TO THEM BECAUSE OF THE COMPLICATED AND TIME-CONSUMING NATURE OF INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS, AND MIGHT NEVER RECEIVE THE FULL WAGES IF THEIR EMPLOYER'S ASSETS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THEM.

THE BILL, HE SAID, PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND BOARD WITH POWER TO ADMINISTER THE FUND AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE RATE OF LEVY.

IT ALSO EMPOWERED THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO INVESTIGATE WAGE CLAIMS AND MAKE PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND.

WHEREAS THE FUND IS FINANCED BY A LEVY OF \$100 ON ALL BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES WHICH HAD BECOME PAYABLE ON OCTOBER 1, 1984 AS A RESULT OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984.

MR BRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT TO ACCUMULATE FUNDS BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE MAIN LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE FUND BOARD WOULD AVOID DELAY IN MEETING DEMANDS FOR PAYMENT.

THE FUND STOOD AT ABOUT \$10 MILLION AT THE END OF JANUARY AND WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE INCREASED TO ABOUT \$16 MILLION BY THE TIME PAYMENTS START BEING MADE IN APRIL.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY WORKERS OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP, THE PRESENTATION OF A WINDING UP OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION WOULD NORMALLY BE A PRECONDITION FOR PAYMENTS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THIS REQUIREMENT MIGHT BE WAIVED FOR SMALL CONCERNS EMPLOYING LESS THAN 20 PEOPLE, IF THE AMOUNT OF WAGES CLAIMED OR THE VALUE OF UNSECURED ASSETS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST INVOLVED.

+ONCE A WORKER HAS BEEN PAID WAGES FROM THE FUND, HIS RIGHTS IN RELATION TO THOSE WAGES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND, BUT HIS OTHER RIGHTS TO PRIORITY PAYMENT OF OTHER DEBTS, SUCH AS SEVERANCE PAY, WILL NOT BE AFFECTED,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE AND THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AUTONOMY FOR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS URGED

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WITHIN NORMAL BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, AND SAFEGUARDS AS TO THE EFFICIENT EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS, LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE FREE TO DEVELOP AND TO MANAGE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, THE HON JOHN SWAINE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THIS WILL HELP TO PROVIDE THE UNDERPINNING OF THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THAT IS THE AGREED AIM FOR HONG KONG ITSELF,+ MR SWAINE SAID WHEN TABLING THE REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE FOR 1983 AND 1984 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION, WITH THE INCREASING DEPENDENCE OF THE INSTITUTIONS ON PUBLIC FUNDS, TO ENCROACH ON THE AUTONOMY OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

+SELF-REGULATION IN THIS FIELD AS IN OTHER FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR IS THE HALL-MARK OF THE HONG KONG SYSTEM.

+BUT WHERE PUBLIC FUNDING IS INVOLVED, OF COURSE, THERE LIES A POSITIVE DUTY ON THE PART OF THE INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT SELF-REGULATION WORKS,+ HE SAID.

REVIEWING THE WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) IN 1983 AND 1984, MR SWAINE NOTED THAT TWO EVENTS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE COMMITTEE WERE: THE DECISION THAT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE SHOULD BECOME A PUBLICLY FUNDED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM NOVEMBER 1983; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC IN JANUARY 1984.

THE COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, NOW ADVISED ON THE FUNDING OF FIVE INSTITUTIONS -- THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, MR SWAINE SAID.

/THIS FUNDING

THIS FUNDING TOOK THE FORM OF BOTH RECURRENT AND CAPITAL GRANTS, AND TOTAL GRANTS IN THE LAST COMPLETE FINANCIAL YEAR, ENDING MARCH 31, 1984, AMOUNTED TO \$1 009 272 938 FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND \$159 168 703 FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, HE SAID.

THE ESTIMATED STUDENT POPULATION AT THE FIVE INSTITUTIONS AT DECEMBER 31, 1984, THE END OF THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT, NUMBERED APPROXIMATELY 27 460.

THIS WAS MADE UP OF 6 550 STUDENTS AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, 5 850 AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, 12 200 AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, 760 AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND 2 100 AT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE.

FIRST YEAR DEGREE PLACES PROVIDED REPRESENTED 3.1 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP (THE MEAN OF THE 17 TO 20 YEAR OLDS) AND THE PRESENT TARGETTED GROWTH WAS FOR THE PROVISION OF FULL TIME FIRST YEAR PLACES FOR SIX PER CENT OF THAT AGE GROUP BY 1989-90 AND FOR EIGHT PER CENT BY 1994-95.

+AS THE AGE GROUP STARTS TO RISE TOWARDS THE END OF THE CENTURY, A FURTHER INSTITUTION WILL BE REQUIRED AND THE UPGC HAS ALREADY RECOMMENDED THAT THIS BE A NEW UNIVERSITY, CENTRED ON PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, AND WITH A STRONG POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH EMPHASIS,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE OVERSEAS MEMBERS OF THE UPGC. THEY WERE DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC PERSONALITIES DRAWN FROM THE U.K., AUSTRALIA AND, UNTIL A RECENT RETIREMENT, FROM CANADA.

MR SWAINE SAID WITH THE INCREASING PACE OF LOCALISATION, THERE WOULD BE GROWING LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE UPGC, BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT AN OVERSEAS ELEMENT SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR THE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE THAT THIS BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE, AND IN ORDER THAT A CORRECT BALANCE COULD BE MAINTAINED.

+A STRONG UPGC IS ESSENTIAL IF THE AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ARTICLE FIVE OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND ITS ELABORATION AT SECTION X ARE TO BE ACHIEVED,+ HE SAID.

+THIS PROVIDES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR AUTONOMY OF DECISION IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, THE SYSTEM OF ACADEMIC AWARDS AND THE RECOGNITION OF EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALIFICATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

MR SWAINE SAID THE MOVE TOWARDS LOCALISATION WAS REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSALS NOW UNDER STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF NON-UNIVERSITY DEGREE COURSE.

SUCH ACCREDITATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED UP TO NOW, BY THE U.K. COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS, WITH A MEASURE OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION.

+THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW LOCAL BODY WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITH SOME PROVISION FOR OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY STAGES,+ HE SAID.

MR SWAINE SAID THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR GROWTH IN PARTICULAR IN THE FIELD OF POSTGRADUATE WORK REQUIRED THAT DUE RECOGNITION BE GIVEN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH WITHIN THESE INSTITUTIONS.

THE UPGC RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY LORD FLOWERS FOR A PHASED INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR RESEARCH WERE ALREADY WITH GOVERNMENT.

A START HAD BEEN MADE BY THE UPGC WITH A MODEST PROVISION OF FUNDS IN THE BLOCK GRANTS FOR 1984-85 FOR RESEARCH, AND A FURTHER ALLOCATION HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR THE 1985-88 TRIENNIUM.

IN CONCLUSION, MR SWAINE SAID THE EMPHASIS IN RECENT TIMES HAD BEEN ON EDUCATION, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

ONE PARTICULAR TOPIC THAT WOULD NEED TO BE FURTHER ADDRESSED WAS THAT OF OPEN EDUCATION, HE SAID.

+THE UPGC HAS ALREADY FORWARDED ITS VIEWS TO GOVERNMENT AND ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE INSTITUTIONS IS CONTINUING,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

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**CHARGES FOR MOBILE TELEPHONES APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION FOR THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED TO LEVY INTERCONNECTION CHARGES FOR PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES.

THE MOTION WAS THAT THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE BE AMENDED BY ADDING AFTER PART VII THE FOLLOWING:

/+PART VIII

+PART VIII

PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK (PSTN) AND
PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES (PMRS)
INTERCONNECTION CHARGES

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF CHARGE</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF CHARGE</u>
(1)	FOR AN INTERCONNECTION LINE BETWEEN PMRS AND PSTN	\$60 PER MONTH (SEE NOTE 1)
(2)	ASSOCIATED CHARGE FOR ITEM 1 -	
	(A) INSTALLATION OR REMOVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION LINE BETWEEN PMRS AND PSTN	\$525 (SEE NOTE 1)
	(B) REMOVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION LINE WITHIN THE SAME BUILDING	\$200 (SEE NOTE 1)
(3)	FOR USAGE OF AN INTERCONNECTION LINE BETWEEN PMRS AND PSTN	7 CENTS PER MINUTE SUBJECT TO NOTES 1 AND 2

- NOTE: 1. ALL CHARGES ARE RAISED AGAINST THE PROVIDER OF PMRS AND NOT CUSTOMERS OF PMRS.
2. IN ITEM 3, THE USAGE CHARGE IS CALCULATED MONTHLY ON THE ACCUMULATED NUMBER OF MINUTES FOR WHICH THE INTERCONNECTION LINE IS USED, ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST MINUTE.+

IN MOVING THE MOTION EARLIER, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, EXPLAINED THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE DETERMINATION OF THE NEW CHARGES. HE SAID THAT INTERCONNECTION CHARGES SHOULD BE LEVIED ON THE BASIS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT CROSS-SUBSIDISATION BETWEEN THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S VARIOUS SERVICES, AND THE CHARGES SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE REFLECT THE COST OF PROVIDING THE USE OF THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO EACH TYPE OF SUBSCRIBER.

THUS, MR JACOBS SAID, THE INTERCONNECTION CHARGES SHOULD COMPRISE FIRST, A FIXED RENTAL COMPONENT TO COVER THE CAPITAL COST OF THE INTERCONNECTION LINE, AND ITS INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, AND SECOND, A USAGE CHARGE COMPONENT TO COVER THE AVERAGE COST OF SWITCHING AND JUNCTION CIRCUITS.

+THERE IS INCLUDED THE APPROPRIATE PERMITTED RETURN UNDER THE SCHEME OF CONTROL,+ HE SAID.

/MR JACOBS

MR JACOBS SAID THESE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES HAD BEEN APPLIED IN DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF CHARGES SET OUT IN THE RESOLUTION, WHICH SOUGHT TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE BY ADDING AFTER PART VII A NEW PART VIII.

THIS NEW PART CONTAINED THE PARTICULARS AND AMOUNTS OF INTERCONNECTION CHARGES BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK AND PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES, HE SAID.

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT THE USAGE CHARGE AMOUNTED TO SEVEN CENTS A MINUTE.

IN NOVEMBER 1982, CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED, INCLUDING PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES, WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPANY'S SCHEME OF CONTROL.

AMONG THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON THAT OCCASION WAS ONE REQUIRING THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO PROVIDE A CONNECTION FOR THESE DEREGULATED SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE NETWORK, SUBJECT TO A FEE OR CHARGE TO COVER THE COST AND THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PERMITTED RETURN.

FOLLOWING DEREGULATION, MR JACOBS SAID, LICENCES FOR OPERATING PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES WERE GRANTED TO COMMUNICATION SERVICES LIMITED, HUTCHISON RADIO TELEPHONE LIMITED, AND CHINA TELECOM SYSTEMS LIMITED.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE WAS NEW TO HONG KONG, IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT A REVIEW OF CHARGES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED 12 MONTHS AFTER THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE THREE LICENSES HAD COME INTO OPERATION.

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PLAN TO REVIEW CHARGES WELCOMED

GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO CONDUCT A REVIEW ON THE PRICING STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE INTERCONNECTION CHARGES ONE YEAR AFTER THE SERVICE HAS COME INTO OPERATION WAS WELCOMED BY LEGCO UNOFFICIALS.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE HON ALLEN LEE SAID THAT AFTER DETAILED DELIBERATIONS, THE UNOFFICIALS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT THE PRINCIPLES APPLIED IN DETERMINING THE PRICING STRUCTURE WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES ON CHARGES LEVIED BY UTILITIES.

+WE ARE, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THAT WITHOUT PAST EXPERIENCE TO GUIDE US, THE IMPLICATIONS AND EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED LEVEL OF CHARGES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY APPRECIATED AT THIS STAGE,+ HE ADDED.

THEREFORE, MR LEE SAID, IT WAS FELT THAT A REVIEW ON THE PRICING STRUCTURE AT A LATER STAGE WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE AND HE WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE PLAN TO CONDUCT SUCH A REVIEW.

MR LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY SCRUTINISED BY THE LEGCO ECONOMIC SERVICES WORKING GROUP.

THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION HAD BEEN TWICE DEFERRED TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE, INTER ALIA, THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY.

+WE ALSO MET ON TWO OCCASIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION TO STUDY THE PRINCIPLES EMPLOYED IN DETERMINING THE PRICING STRUCTURE,+ MR LEE ADDED.

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KCR BY-LAWS APPROVED
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION BY-LAWS 1985, MADE BY THE CORPORATION ON JANUARY 25, 1985, WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE MOTION EARLIER, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID THAT SECTION 31 OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION ORDINANCE CAP. 372 EMPOWERED THE CORPORATION TO MAKE BY-LAWS AND PROVIDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE NEW BY-LAWS REPLACED THOSE MADE IN PRE-ELECTRIFICATION DAYS, AND SET OUT THE CONDITIONS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS, LUGGAGE AND GOODS, FOR THE ISSUE OF PASSENGER TICKETS, AND FOR VEHICLES ON RAILWAY PREMISES, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

THEY PRESCRIBED THE AUTHORITY OF CORPORATION STAFF, THE CONDUCT OF PERSONS ON THE RAILWAY PREMISES, RESTRICTED AREAS, AND THE PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE BY-LAWS, MR MACPHERSON ADDED.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS EXAMINED THEM CAREFULLY AND CONSIDERS THEM ACCEPTABLE,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985

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PHASING IN OF NT GENERAL RATE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE GENERAL RATE PERCENTAGE CHARGES FOR THE RATING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED POLICY, THE FULL GENERAL RATE CHARGE FOR NEWLY ASSESSED AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ASSESSMENT THE ACTUAL CHARGE APPLIED WAS 50 PER CENT OF THE FULL CHARGE, IN THE SECOND 60 PER CENT, AND SO ON UNTIL THE FULL CHARGE WAS LEVIED IN THE SIXTH YEAR.

SIR JOHN SAID THE FULL GENERAL RATE CHARGE OF 5.5 PER CENT ALREADY APPLIED TO ALL BUT FOUR RATING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN 1985-86 THESE FOUR AREAS (AREAS P, Q, R AND S COMPRISING CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LANTAU AND MA WAN, AND LAMMA ISLANDS) WOULD BE IN THEIR SIXTH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT; THE FULL CHARGE OF 5.5 PER CENT SHOULD THEREFORE BE APPLIED TO THEM.

THE PERCENTAGE CHARGES FOR THE OTHER RATING AREAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AT THIS YEAR'S LEVEL, SIR JOHN SAID.

+IN ORDER THAT THE PERCENTAGE CHARGES FOR APRIL 1, 1985 ONWARDS MAY TAKE EFFECT, A RESOLUTION IS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 18 (1) OF THE RATING ORDINANCE, WHICH IS THE SOLE OBJECT OF THIS MOTION,+ HE ADDED.

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UNOFFICIALS BACK EXPANSION OF TAX REVIEW BOARD

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WOULD HOPEFULLY EXPEDITE THE LARGE BACK-LOG OF OUTSTANDING CASES BEFORE THE BOARD OF REVIEW, THE HON PETER POON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR POON SAID THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DEPUTY CHAIRMEN ON THE BOARD FROM TWO TO SIX AND THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF THE PANEL FROM 75 TO 100 MEMBERS WOULD RESULT IN THE EARLIER SETTLEMENT OF REVIEW CASES.

+EARLIER SETTLEMENT OF SUCH CASES, AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE USUALLY DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, WILL MEAN QUICKER COLLECTION OF REVENUE FROM TAX UNDER DISPUTE,+ HE SAID.

/AS THE

AS THE ENACTMENT OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1985 ENABLED THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, IN OBJECTION CASES, TO REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES OR IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES TO CHARGE INTEREST IF THE DECISION WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, TAXPAYERS WOULD ALSO WELCOME SPEEDY SETTLEMENT, MR POON SAID.

HE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THE GRANTING OF THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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FUNDS ON ACCOUNT APPROVED

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A MOTION BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SEEKING FUNDS ON ACCOUNT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, WAS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

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PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE MEETS

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THE PAY TREND SURVEY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR GORDON MACWHINNIE OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, MET ON MARCH 8 AND 13 TO CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE 1984-85 PAY TREND SURVEY. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL, AND OF THE STAFF SIDES OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL AND THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SURVEY, WHICH IS CARRIED OUT BY THE PAY SURVEY AND RESEARCH UNIT MEASURED PAY TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DURING THE YEAR FEBRUARY 1, 1984 TO JANUARY 31, 1985. IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ONLY THOSE INCREASES WHICH RELATE TO COST OF LIVING, COMPANY PERFORMANCE AND GENERAL CHANGES IN MARKET RATES. THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY WHICH INDICATED THAT THE FOLLOWING AVERAGE PAY INCREASE WERE AWARDED BY THE COMPANIES INCLUDED IN IT:

/10.77% FOR

10.77% FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING LESS THAN
\$4 000 PER MONTH;

9.12% FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING BETWEEN
\$4 000 AND \$12 999 PER MONTH;
AND

8.77% FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING BETWEEN
\$13 000 AND \$23 555 PER MONTH.

AS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE CONCERN OF
THE STAFF SIDE REPRESENTATIVES OVER THE MERIT ELEMENT IDENTIFIED
IN SOME OF THE REPORTED PAY INCREASES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE EMPHASISED THAT THESE FIGURES
ARE ONLY THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF PAY TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE
SECTOR. THE LEVEL OF THE CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT, IF ANY,
IS A SEPARATE MATTER AND WILL BE DECIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN
DUE COURSE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE THREE STAFF CONSULTATIVE
COUNCILS.

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'U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO INSPECT FACTORIES'
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD NO AUTHORITY UNDER
HONG KONG LAW TO ENTER ANY FACTORY OR OFFICE IN HONG KONG WITHOUT
ITS OWNER'S PERMISSION OR TO DEMAND TO INSPECT ITS DOCUMENTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY,
THE HON E.P. HO, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA
DUNN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT A MEMBER OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS
SERVICE HAS RECENTLY VISITED SOME HONG KONG FACTORIES, BY
APPOINTMENT, REQUESTING TO SEE DOCUMENTS AND PRODUCTION RECORDS
RELATING TO CERTAIN APPAREL CONSIGNMENTS FOR THE U.S.A., + MR HO
SAID.

+MANAGEMENTS ARE NOT OBLIGED TO RECEIVE SUCH VISITORS OR
TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION AGAINST THEIR WILL.

+HOWEVER, IN THE CASES WHICH HAVE COME TO NOTICE THE
MANAGEMENTS CONCERNED WILLINGLY RECEIVED THE VISITORS AND
VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED THE INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION SOUGHT.+

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ASSURANCE GIVEN ON DB WORK
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO TODAY ASSURED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT DISTRICT BOARDS CONTINUED TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY.

+DISTRICT OFFICERS HAVE A DUTY TO PROVIDE UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WITH ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ON ANY MATTER THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD,+ MR LIAO SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, ON THE DISCLOSURE OF BOTH CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TO UNOFFICIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR LIAO SAID: +IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IN GENERAL, SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE PROVIDED WHERE IT WAS NECESSARY, AND WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED.+

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ACTION TAKEN AGAINST FIRMS FOR ACCOUNTS OFFENCE
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EIGHT PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES AND THEIR DIRECTORS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED BY THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES DURING THE PRESENT FINANCIAL YEAR FOR NOT SUBMITTING THEIR ACCOUNTS OR REPORTS IN TIME, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY.

THERE HAD BEEN CONVICTIONS IN FIVE CASES, COMPRISING 104 SUMMONSES. ONE CASE HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN, AND TWO CASES WHICH WERE BEING DEFENDED, HAD BEEN ADJOURNED, HE SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON KEITH LAM AS TO WHAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO SANCTION PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES THAT DID NOT SUBMIT THEIR ACCOUNTS OR REPORTS, AND WHETHER ANY COMPANY OFFICIALS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED OR ANY COMPANY HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FROM TRADING FOR THE OFFENCE.

THE SANCTIONS AVAILABLE, MR JACOBS SAID, WERE CONTAINED IN THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND ENFORCED BY A PROSECUTION SECTION IN THE COMPANIES REGISTRY OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

+IN THE EVENT OF A COMPANY'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS BOTH THE COMPANY ITSELF AND THE DIRECTORS ARE PROSECUTED.

+THE MAXIMUM PENALTY NOW PROVIDED BY THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE IS A FINE OF \$10 000 OR SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

+THE SANCTION OF SUSPENSION FROM TRADING IS NOT AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

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MINIMISING NOISE LEVEL ON ROAD WORKS

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THE INTRODUCTION OF NOISE BARRIERS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A PRACTICAL NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BY ERECTING NOISE BARRIERS AT THE EDGES OF AN ELEVATED ROAD, A MEASURE OF NOISE ALLEVIATION COULD BE ACHIEVED AT FLOOR LEVELS CLOSE TO THE LEVEL OF THE ROAD, ALTHOUGH THE NOISE AT THE HIGHER FLOORS MIGHT BE INCREASED, MR CHAN SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON KIM CHAM.

+IN THIS CONTEXT, THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE IS EXAMINING VARIOUS TYPES OF ACOUSTIC BARRIERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RECENTLY USED IN JAPAN WHICH APPEAR TO BE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE AND VISUALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE, TO SEE WHETHER THEY CAN BE APPLIED IN HONG KONG,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+OTHER MEASURES INCLUDE TUNNELLING OR COMPLETE ENCLOSURE OF ELEVATED ROADS, BUT THESE MEASURES ARE VERY EXPENSIVE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

REFERRING TO A QUESTION FROM MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG CONCERNING THE RECENTLY OPENED SHA TAU KOK VEHICULAR CROSSING LINK, MR CHAN SAID THERE WERE TWO ITEMS OF CAPITAL WORKS IN CATEGORY A FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FROM FANLING TO SHA TAU KOK.

THEY ARE:

- * CONSTRUCTION OF A \$10 MILLION DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY FROM FANLING ROUNDABOUT TO LUNG YEUK TAU TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1986;
- * IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD FROM LUNG YEUK TAU TO SHA TAU KOK. COSTING \$12.3 MILLION, THE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1986.

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EFFORTS TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS GO ON

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN ALL SECTORS OF INDUSTRY, BY INSPECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BY ENCOURAGING SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, WHO ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN PLASTICS FACTORIES.

/MR BRIDGE

MR BRIDGE SAID FROM 1980 TO 1983, THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT AT ABOUT 1 500 A YEAR; IN 1984 IT INCREASED FROM 1 518 TO 2 196.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASE WAS DUE PARTLY TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY LAST YEAR AND PARTLY TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM FOR SETTLING MINOR INJURY CLAIMS.

HE SAID 1984 WAS +A BUSY YEAR FOR THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY+, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS.

+UNFORTUNATELY ECONOMIC RECOVERY ALWAYS SEEMS TO BRING WITH IT AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK.

+THIS IS PARTLY A DIRECT RESULT OF THE INCREASED VOLUME OF WORK, PARTLY BECAUSE THE URGENT NEED TO COMPLETE ORDERS ON TIME PUTS PRESSURE ON BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO SKIMP ON SAFETY AND PARTLY BECAUSE NEW WORKERS ARE TAKEN ON AND THESE ARE LACKING IN EXPERIENCE AND THEREFORE PARTICULARLY ACCIDENT PRONE.+

MR BRIDGE SAID ANOTHER POSSIBLE REASON FOR THE SHARP INCREASE IN REPORTED ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR WAS THE INTRODUCTION IN JULY 1983 OF A NEW SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF MINOR EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION CASES AND THE ENFORCEMENT IN JANUARY 1984 OF THE NEW LAW ON COMPULSORY COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES.

+THESE CHANGES HAVE LED TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MINOR ACCIDENTS BEING REPORTED,+ HE SAID.

IN 1984, HE POINTED OUT, THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THE CATEGORY ASSESSED UNDER THE NEW SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE INCREASED BY ABOUT 30 PER CENT AND MUCH OF THE INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY CONSISTED OF COMPARATIVELY MINOR ACCIDENTS.

+IN PREVIOUS YEARS THESE MAY WELL HAVE GONE UNREPORTED BECAUSE THE COMPLICATED ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AT THAT TIME MADE THEM NOT WORTH REPORTING,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAD BEEN REVIEWING ITS PRIORITY SO AS TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO THE MORE HAZARDOUS WORKPLACES AND MORE INSPECTORS HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO ACTIVITIES LIKELY TO HAVE A DIRECT AND EFFECTIVE IMPACT IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, HE ADDED, WERE NOW BEING DRAFTED WHICH, IF ENACTED, WOULD ENABLE THE INSPECTORATE TO SPEND LESS TIME ON COMPARATIVELY UNPRODUCTIVE WORK.

ON SAFETY EDUCATION, MR BRIDGE SAID OVER 24 000 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN COURSES AND TALKS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH BEGAN SIX YEARS AGO WOULD CONTINUE NEXT YEAR AND THE FULLEST POSSIBLE USE OF TELEVISION, RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS WOULD BE MADE.

+WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG JOINT PLANS TO ORGANISE A SERIES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION AND RADIO. OTHER PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE SAFETY EXHIBITIONS, POSTERS AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS.+

MR BRIDGE ALSO SAID THAT THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND ITS FIVE INDUSTRY-BASED SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEES PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN BRINGING TOGETHER ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SUB-COMMITTEE, HE ADDED, HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MORE ACTIVE AND ITS PROGRAMME LAST YEAR INCLUDED A VERY SUCCESSFUL SAFETY SEMINAR AND THE PRODUCTION OF A CODE OF SAFETY PRACTICE FOR THE INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS NOW MAKING ITS PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

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PLAN DEVISED TO IMPROVE RADIO RECEPTION - TSAO
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A PLAN HAD BEEN DEVISED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RADIO RECEPTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TOWNS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TSAO SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSALS WOULD SHORTLY BE SOUGHT.

HOWEVER, MR TSAO SAID THAT IMPLEMENTATION HAD TO BE PHASED OVER SEVERAL YEARS AND, AT LEAST AS REGARDS RTHK, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

DETAILED PROPOSALS WERE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION WITH FINANCE BRANCH AND IT WAS HOPED TO PLACE THESE BEFORE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION, MR TSAO SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR TSAO SAID, UNDER THE NEW FREQUENCY ALLOCATION PLAN A NUMBER OF INTERIM IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND HE HAD DIRECTED THAT THESE BE PUT IN HAND.

BY USING MODEST STANDBY FACILITIES, RTHK WOULD BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE ITS RADIO 1 SERVICE IN FM TO COVER WHAT BROADCASTERS CALLED THE +GOLDEN BOWL+, THAT IS THE NORTH OF HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN, AS WELL AS SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, AND THE NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE EXISTING RTHK RADIO 2 FM SERVICE WOULD BE SIMILARLY EXTENDED AND SOME IMPROVEMENT WOULD BE PROVIDED IN FM FOR RADIO 3 LISTENERS LIVING ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE MADE BY THE COMING SUMMER, MR TSAO SAID.

+DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO AIMED AT FACILITATING SIMILAR INTERIM IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR SERVICES - IMPROVEMENTS WHICH COMMERCIAL RADIO ARE, I KNOW, MOST ANXIOUS TO MAKE,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID AS EARLY AS 1979 THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAD INSTRUCTED THAT PLANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RADIO RECEPTION FOR BOTH RTHK AND COMMERCIAL RADIO BE DEVELOPED.

THAT THESE HAD NOT SO FAR REACHED FRUITION RESULTED FROM THREE PRINCIPAL CONSTRAINTS.

FIRST, THE FREQUENCY SPECTRUM AVAILABLE FOR HONG KONG'S USE WAS NARROWER THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED. IN DRAWING UP A FREQUENCY ALLOCATION PLAN THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE PARTICULAR CARE TO ENSURE BOTH THAT THIS LIMITED RESOURCE WAS USED EFFICIENTLY AND THAT OUR PLAN DID NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PLANS OF NEIGHBOURING TERRITORIES. THIS HAD PROVED COMPLICATED.

SECONDLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO ENSURE THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEW TRANSMITTERS AND FREQUENCIES REQUIRED WOULD IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH THE CRITICAL AERONAUTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

THIRDLY, IT WAS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT ANY PLAN DEvised SHOULD MINIMISE EXPENSIVE REPLACEMENT OR MODIFICATION TO EXISTING INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT.

+A PLAN HAS NOW BEEN DEVISED WHICH MEETS THESE CONSTRAINTS AND WE WILL SHORTLY SEEK THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSALS,+ HE ADDED.

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FEE RISE, TAX BRING DOWN CAR NUMBERS
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THE 1982 INCREASES IN LICENCE FEES AND FIRST REGISTRATION TAX WERE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO A FALL OF OVER 17 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE CARS FROM 217 945 IN MAY 1982 TO 180 084 IN FEBRUARY 1985, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY.

THE DROP IN THIS CATEGORY WAS THE MAIN ELEMENT IN A DECREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES FROM 338 571 TO 308 864 OVER THE SAME PERIOD, MR MACPHERSON SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+TRAFFIC CONDITIONS HAVE EASED PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THIS DROP IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED AND PARTLY AS A RESULT OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, SUCH AS THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, AND THE CORNWALL STREET FLYOVER, AND TO TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE THE EXTENSION OF AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL TO THE ISLAND,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

WITH REGARD TO MR CHEN'S SECOND QUESTION ON THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES AT THE END OF EACH OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS, MR MACPHERSON PROVIDED A STATISTICAL TABLE SHOWING THE BREAKDOWN FIGURES AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL VEHICLES.

AT THE END OF 1984, THERE WERE 311 850 VEHICLES, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: MOTOR CYCLES (22 417), PRIVATE CARS (182 985), TAXIS (15 984), PUBLIC BUSES (5 787), PRIVATE BUSES (186), PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES (4 350), PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES (1 886), GOODS VEHICLES (72 469), AND CROWN VEHICLES (5 186).

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OVER MILLION USE KOWLOON-MACAU FERRY IN YEAR
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LAST YEAR, 1.1 MILLION PASSENGERS USED THE KOWLOON TO MACAU FERRY TERMINAL, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU, MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT SEALINK FERRIES LTD., WHICH WAS MANAGED BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY, HAD A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, EXPIRING IN SEPTEMBER 1986, TO OPERATE KOWLOON-MACAU FERRY SERVICES.

WHETHER THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WOULD CONTINUE IN OPERATION WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD BE A MATTER FOR REVIEW TOWARDS THE END OF THE CURRENT THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

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ROAD DEFINITION - A MOOT POINT
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING MAKING IT COMPULSORY FOR MOTOR VEHICLES TO BE COVERED BY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE ON PRIVATE AS WELL AS ON PUBLIC ROADS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THAT DOUBTS AROSE ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD PARTY INSURANCE ON PRIVATE ROADS BECAUSE THE DEFINITION OF +ROAD+ IN THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) ORDINANCE RELATED TO A ROAD TO WHICH THE PUBLIC HAD ACCESS, AND THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN INTERPRETING THIS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION WHICH RELATED TO SAFETY (INCLUDING INSURANCE, LICENSING, AND CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) SHOULD APPLY TO ALL ROADS IN THE TERRITORY, OTHER THAN INDUSTRIAL AND WORK SITES.

+A WORKING GROUP IS NOW CONSIDERING LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS DECISION IN PRINCIPLE,+ HE SAID.

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MORE THOUGHT GIVEN TO BANYAN TREE REQUEST
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IT WAS DECIDED THAT A FURTHER INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE LIGHT OF EXPRESSED PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE FATE OF A BANYAN TREE IN STANLEY MARKET ROAD, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY.

MR CHAN WHO WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, SAID THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED THE LOT ON WHICH THE TREE IS PERCHED WAS INCLUDED IN THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME AND WAS SCHEDULED FOR AUCTION ON MARCH 1.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, PETITIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE TREE WERE RECEIVED WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT MEAN THE LOT COULD NOT BE SOLD,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE BACKGROUND HAD BEEN CAREFULLY LOOKED INTO, IT WAS DECIDED A FURTHER INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE LIGHT OF EXPRESSED PUBLIC CONCERN.

+TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR THIS REVIEW, SALE OF THE LOT HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO APRIL 18,+ MR CHAN SAID.

/IN REPLY

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IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR SO, CONCERNING THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY CONSTANT ROAD REPAIR WORK, MR CHAN SAID THAT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ROAD OPENINGS TO A MINIMUM AND TO MINIMISE DISRUPTIONS, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VARIOUS UTILITY COMPANIES WERE CO-ORDINATED THROUGH MONTHLY ROAD OPENING COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON WHICH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND THE UTILITY COMPANIES WERE REPRESENTED.

HE SAID THERE WAS ONE SUCH COMMITTEE FOR EACH HIGHWAY REGION, NAMELY, HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+BEFORE NEW ROADS ARE CONSTRUCTED AND EXISTING ROADS RECONSTRUCTED, ALL THE UTILITY COMPANIES ARE NOTIFIED OF THE IMPENDING ROADWORKS SO THAT THEY MAY PUT IN NEW SERVICES OR MAINTAIN EXISTING SERVICES IN PHASE WITH THE ROADWORKS,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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TWO BILLS, THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)(CUSTOMS OFFICERS) BILL 1985 AND THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

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

THEY ARE: THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985, THE TRIAL OF COMMERCIAL CRIMES BILL 1985 AND THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY BILL 1985.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985.

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SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDIES
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A NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEING OFFERED TO HONG KONG STUDENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE AT THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGES LEADING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE.

DONATED BY LEADING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TENABLE AT ATLANTIC COLLEGE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, PEARSON COLLEGE IN CANADA, AMERICAN WEST COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADRIATIC COLLEGE IN ITALY.

THESE FOUR COLLEGES TOGETHER MAKE UP THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE IS RECOGNISED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADA.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE COLLEGES IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, AND WILL TAKE THE FULL TWO-YEAR COURSE.

THE ACADEMIC AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMES IN THE COLLEGES ARE INTERWOVEN AND FORM JOINTLY THE BASIS FOR STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND AESTHETIC IN NATURE.

EACH SCHOLARSHIP WILL NORMALLY COVER PART OF THE TUITION AND BOARDING FEES DURING THE TWO YEARS. HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE ADEQUATE TO COVER OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES SUCH AS AIR FARES TO AND FROM THE COLLEGE, MAINTENANCE DURING LONG VACATIONS AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCE.

INTENDING APPLICANTS ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MEET THESE EXPENSES.

APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER 16 AND UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1985. THEY SHOULD ALSO POSSESS A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE, INCLUDING GOOD RESULTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, OR ITS GCE EQUIVALENT; OR HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING SUCH RESULTS IN THE 1985 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

SELECTION CRITERIA WILL INCLUDE PAST ACADEMIC RECORDS, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRINCIPALS, PERSONALITY AND PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH.

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS. SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW.

/SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SECTION ON OR BEFORE APRIL 13.

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STUDENTS PLANTS ON SHOW

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A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION OF HORTICULTURE WILL BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 1985 NEW TERRITORIES STUDENTS POTTED PLANT COMPETITION.

THE COMPETITION AND THE EXHIBITION, SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES, ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE POTTED PLANT COMPETITION IS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT PLANTS, AND TO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD.

SIXTY-FIVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE ENTERED THE COMPETITION, PROVIDING 600 POTTED PLANTS FOR THE EXHIBITION.

BOOK TOKENS AND PRIZES WORTH ABOUT \$14 500 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE BEST THREE WINNERS OF EACH GROUP. MERIT PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO SOME OTHERS.

THE NTSD WILL BE DISPLAYING A WIDE VARIETY OF SEASONAL FLOWERS IN THE EXHIBITION UNDER THE THEME OF +SEASONAL FLOWERS IN SPRING+, AS WELL AS PHOTOGRAPHS INTRODUCING PROPAGATION METHODS BY SEEDS.

TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENTS, CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD TO MARK THE PRIZE-GIVING FOR THE COMPETITION AND THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION AT TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL AT 11.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR PETER NG, THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG, THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MR POON CHUN-PONG, AND THE PRESIDENT OF NEW TERRITORIES ROTARY CLUB, MR WONG TAK-YAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FUNCTIONS.

CULTURE, ARTS FORTNIGHT ORGANISED
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A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE FIRST CULTURE AND ARTS FORTNIGHT FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE HELD AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE UNITED CENTRE RESTAURANT IN ADMIRALTY.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE FORTNIGHT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, AND THE COUNCIL OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SCHOOL HEADS.

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CULTURE AND ARTS FORTNIGHT ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR YUEN BUN-KEUNG; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (CENTRAL AND WESTERN), MR WU CHOR-NAM.

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YOUTHS' LEISURE ACTIVITIES STUDIED
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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY), TO GIVE DETAILS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY A WORKING GROUP ON HOW YOUTHS SPEND THEIR LEISURE IN THE DISTRICT.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE BOARD TO COINCIDE WITH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR WILL ALSO BE REVEALED AT THE CONFERENCE.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HOSTED BY MR LAM KWOK-KWONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON +HOW YOUTHS SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME+, AND MR PAUL YOUNG, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE IYY.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN YUEN LONG

FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 16), THE FOLLOWING ROADS IN YUEN LONG WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONES:-

- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE OF TUNG LOK STREET BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND SAU FU STREET.
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE OF SAU FU STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG LOK STREET AND A POINT APPROXIMATELY 70 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF SAU FU STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG LOK STREET AND A POINT APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, DRIVERS OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS- OR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

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NOTE TO TV NEWS EDITORS:

PLEASE BROADCAST THE ABOVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YOUR MORNING TRAFFIC BULLETINS.

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TUEN MUN WATER WORKS

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM NOON ON SATURDAY (MARCH 16) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD, FROM TUEN MUN KAU HUI TO TAP SHEK KOK, INCLUDING: PAK KOK AND WU KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WU KING ESTATE, SIU SHAN COURT, MELODY GARDEN, AREA 44, TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION, CHINA CEMENT COMPANY AND ALL CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE AREA.

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MEET THE MEDIA

THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 10.30 AM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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