



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM WORKING WELL
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THE SYSTEM OF HANDLING PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE IS FAIR, WORKABLE AND EFFECTIVE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE 1979 REPORT OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP, TABLED IN THE COUNCIL TODAY, MR DAVIES SAID IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE ARRANGEMENTS THOUGH THOSE OPERATING THEM WERE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

THE SYSTEM WAS ROUGHLY PARALLEL WITH THAT FOLLOWED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE SAID, EXCEPT THAT THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE WIDER THAN ITS UK COUNTERPART.

+THE GROUP REVIEWS EVERY SINGLE CASE AND IN ADDITION OPERATES A SYSTEM OF RANDOM SPOT CHECKS ON COMPLAINT CASE FILES,+ HE NOTED. +THESE CHECKS INVOLVE A DETAILED REVIEW OF ALL STATEMENTS AND OF THE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THEM.+

WHERE UMELCO REQUIRED CLARIFICATION OF ANY POINT THE CASE WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE OFFICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION, HE SAID.

MR DAVIES ADDED: +TO PROVIDE A RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE UNIT WITHIN THE POLICE FORCE FULLY FAMILIAR WITH POLICE PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CONTINUES TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE STAFFING OF CAPO WITH OFFICERS OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE.

THE REPORT SHOWS HOW ACTIVE THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN DURING THE YEAR.+

NOTING THAT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS MADE DIRECT TO CAPO OR OTHER POLICE FORMATIONS HAD INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN 1979 AS COMPARED WITH 1978, MR DAVIES SAID THIS INDICATES THAT THE PUBLIC IS MAKING USE OF THIS PROCEDURE AND WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN IT.

+IT SAYS MUCH FOR THE MUTUAL RESPECT IN WHICH THE PROCEDURE IS HELD THAT THE UMELCO GROUP ACKNOWLEDGES THE ESSENTIAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE POLICE,+ HE SAID.

MR DAVIES SAID THE UMELCO GROUP'S REPORT PROVIDES A BODY OF EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THE GROUP CONTINUES TO PLAY A MOST EFFECTIVE AND INCREASINGLY EXPERIENCED ROLE IN MONITORING THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE.

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DURING THE YEAR, 2 298 INVESTIGATION REPORTS, COVERING 2 881 SEPARATE POINTS OF COMPLAINT, WERE EXAMINED. A TOTAL OF 370 POINTS WERE FOUND +SUBSTANTIATED+, AND A FURTHER 212 WERE CLASSIFIED AS +NOT PROVEN+ MEANING THAT CAREFUL INVESTIGATION HAD FAILED TO ADDUCE FACTS TO WARRANT CLASSIFICATION AS +SUBSTANTIATED+ OR +UNSUBSTANTIATED.+

+POSITIVE ACTION, RANGING FROM THE INSTITUTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION, TO ADVICE AND WARNINGS, WAS TAKEN IN RESPECT OF 312 POLICE OFFICERS - HARD EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BOTH THE GROUP AND CAPO,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF 1 779 POINTS OF COMPLAINT WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNSUBSTANTIATED, A FURTHER 22 WERE MALICIOUS AND 498 WERE WITHDRAWN.

+IN PONDERING THESE FIGURES AND ESPECIALLY THE NUMBER CLASSIFIED AS UNSUBSTANTIATED,+ MR DAVIES SAID, +ONE MUST REMEMBER THAT BEFORE ANY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN IT IS NECESSARY TO PROVE THAT THE COMPLAINT IS WELL FOUNDED.+

+WHERE, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, IT IS ONE MAN'S WORD AGAINST ANOTHER'S THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO DO. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE TASK OF ANY INVESTIGATOR TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH IS NOT EASY.

+THIS PROBLEM OCCURS REGARDLESS OF WHO THE INVESTIGATOR MAY BE, OR OF THE SERVICE OR FORCE FROM WHICH HE IS DRAWN. IN COMING TO HIS CONCLUSION, ANY INVESTIGATOR CAN ONLY SIFT THE EVIDENCE AND MEASURE IT AGAINST THE CREDIBILITY OF THOSE INVOLVED,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW UPDATED

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HONG KONG'S ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW IS BEING AMENDED TO GIVE IT MORE DETERRENT EFFECTS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, MR GRIFFITHS SAID: +IT IS NOW SOME FOUR YEARS SINCE THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE WAS LAST SUBJECT TO A MAJOR REVIEW.

+IN THAT TIME THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION HAS FOUND THAT SOME OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE HAVE LIMITATIONS WHICH MILITATE AGAINST THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL PROPOSES TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES SUBSTANTIALLY FOR THE MORE SERIOUS CORRUPTION OFFENCES IN VIEW OF THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION AND THE VERY CONSIDERABLE REWARDS THAT CORRUPTION BRINGS.

/IT ALSO

IT ALSO PROPOSES TO GIVE STATUTORY PROTECTION TO INFORMERS AND TO GIVE THE COURTS POWERS TO PROHIBIT THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF SERIOUS CORRUPTION OFFENCES AS A DIRECTOR, PARTNER OR MANAGER OR SOME OTHER MANAGERIAL POSITION FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN YEARS, HE EXPLAINED.

UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, NEW DEFINITIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO BANKER'S AND COMPANY'S BOOKS TO BRING THEM AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING COMPUTER RECORDS, IN THE POSSESSION OF A BANK OR COMPANY, UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE ICAC.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT MAKES IT AN OFFENCE FOR A PUBLIC SERVANT TO SOLICIT AND ACCEPT WITHOUT AUTHORITY ANY ADVANTAGE EVEN OUTSIDE HONG KONG, AS AN INDUCEMENT TO ABUSE HIS OFFICIAL POSITION.

HOWEVER, UNDER THE BILL, THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC BODIES WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE APPROPRIATE LIMITED PERMISSION IN WRITING TO THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ACCEPT ADVANTAGES WHICH RELATE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT, WHEN IN THEIR JUDGEMENT IT IS RIGHT TO DO SO.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO CREATES A NEW SECTION IN THE LAW SO THAT ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT A SERIOUS CORRUPTION OFFENCE SHALL BE DEALT WITH AND PUNISHED AS IF HE WERE CONVICTED OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE. THE NEW SECTION WILL ALSO ENABLE OFFICERS OF THE ICAC WHEN INVESTIGATING A CONSPIRACY TO USE POWERS OF INVESTIGATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

A FURTHER AMENDMENT EXTENDS FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS THE PRESENT PERIOD OF LIMITATION FOR A SUSPECT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS DIRECTED AT HIM BY A WRITTEN NOTICE.

AT THE SAME TIME THE ICAC IS TO BE GIVEN POWER TO SEEK INFORMATION WHICH IS NOT ONLY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE PERSON FROM WHOM IT IS SOUGHT BUT TO WHICH HE ALSO HAS ACCESS.

OTHER CHANGES TO THE LAW INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF ANY DOUBT AS TO WHETHER A SUSPECT CAN DRAW MONEY FROM HIS BANK ACCOUNT WHEN HE IS SUBJECT TO A RESTRICTION UNDER THE LAW- THE MAKING OF NOTICES AND COURT ORDERS REGISTRABLE IN THE LAND OFFICE SO AS TO ALERT PERSONS PROPOSING TO BUY A FLAT OR A HOUSE FROM A SUSPECT OR FROM A THIRD PARTY WHO IS HOLDING PROPERTY FOR A SUSPECT- AND THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLICATION BY THE ICAC TO THE COURT FOR EXTENSIONS OF AN INVESTIGATION ORDER TO BEYOND THE PRESENT NINE MONTHS WITHOUT BRINGING ON A PROSECUTION.

ICAC OFFICERS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO DETAIN PERSONS FOUND IN PLACES BEING SEARCHED, FOR AS LONG AS TWO TO THREE HOURS.

ALSO INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WAS THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, WHICH PROPOSES TO ADD TO THE CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES IN WHICH ICAC OFFICERS MAY EXERCISE THEIR POWERS OF ARREST, CASES INVOLVING THEFT OR FALSE ACCOUNTING, OR INVOLVING BLACKMAIL COMMITTED BY A CROWN SERVANT BY OR THROUGH THE MISUSE OF HIS OFFICE. OTHER FORMS OF BLACKMAIL WILL REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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NEW MONEY LENDING LAWS LONG OVERDUE

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UPDATING OF LEGISLATIONS GOVERNING MONEY LENDING IN HONG KONG IS LONG OVERDUE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT ARISE FROM LOANSHARKING, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MONEY LENDERS BILL 1980, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THAT THE PRESENT MONEY LENDER ORDINANCE PROVIDES NO CONTROL WHATSOEVER OVER THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN MONEY LENDING.

+IT IS WELL-KNOWN FOR INSTANCE THAT A NUMBER OF LOANSHARKS ARE IN FACT RUN BY TRIADS AND THAT GROSSLY EXCESSIVE INTEREST RATES ARE VERY FREQUENTLY CHARGED... UP TO 1 400 PER CENT NOT UNKNOWN,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS ALSO NOTED THAT UNACCEPTABLE AND OFTEN CRIMINAL METHODS OF ENFORCING PAYMENT BY PHYSICAL FORCE ARE COMMON.

THE PRESENT LAW, THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE A REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER WITH THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES WHO HAS NO POWER TO REFUSE REGISTRATION, IS NOT CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM, HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO SAW THE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE - A \$1 000 FINE ON FIRST OFFENCE AND A FINE OF \$2 000 OR THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES - AS WHOLLY INADEQUATE.

UNDER THE NEW BILL, MR GRIFFITHS SAID, A TRANSACTION WILL BE PRESUMED PRIMA FACIE TO BE EXTORTIONATE WHERE THE EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED BY THE MONEY LENDER EXCEEDS 48 PER CENT.

+BUT IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER THE TRANSACTION IS IN FACT EXTORTIONATE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICULAR CASE THE COURT WILL HAVE REGARD TO ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE NOTED.

IN THE CASE OF A LOAN MADE BY ANY PERSON, WHETHER OR NOT A LICENSED MONEY LENDER, WHERE THE EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST EXCEEDS 60 PER CENT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE UNENFORCEABLE AND THE LOAN IRRECOVERABLE IN LAW.

FURTHERMORE, THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THAT TO MAKE A LOAN AT A RATE OF INTEREST EXCEEDING 60 PER CENT WILL CONSTITUTE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT, HE ADDED.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPLAINED THAT THE QUESTION AS TO THE LEVEL AT WHICH INTEREST RATES BECOME UNACCEPTABLE WAS DECIDED BY REFERENCE TO THE REPUTABLE COMMERCIAL PRACTICE IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS TO ATTITUDES TAKEN IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

/+A RATE

+A RATE OF INTEREST IN EXCESS OF 60 PER CENT PER ANNUM IS CONSIDERED WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE AND HENCE THAT IS THE RATE CHOSEN ABOVE WHICH THE MORE STRINGENT SANCTIONS IN RESPECT OF SUCH TRANSACTIONS WILL APPLY,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THESE RATES MAY BE ALTERED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IF FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WERE TO CHANGE OR THE RATES SHOULD APPEAR NO LONGER APPROPRIATE FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO OUTLINED IN DETAIL PROVISIONS IN THE BILL REGARDING THE LICENSING OF MONEY LENDERS, REQUIREMENT FOR SUPPLY OF INFORMATION BY MONEY LENDERS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF THE LOAN BY THE BORROWER.

TURNING TO THE PENALTIES PROPOSED TO BE IMPOSED FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$100 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

+THE PROVISIONS WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IN COMBATING LOAN-SHARKING IF ADEQUATE PENALTIES ARE IMPOSED FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THEM,+ HE SAID.

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HIGHER RENT INCREASES FOR PREWAR PREMISES ALLOWED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO RAISE THE CEILING OF PERMITTED RENT INCREASES IN PREWAR PREMISES PROVIDED THAT THE PERMITTED RENT DID NOT EXCEED THE FAIR MARKET RENT.

FOR PREWAR DOMESTIC PREMISES, THE CEILING IS RAISED FROM FOUR TIMES TO SIX TIMES THE STANDARD RENT (I.E. THE RENT PASSING IN 1941) AND FOR NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES, THE CEILING IS RAISED FROM EIGHT TIMES TO 12 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT.

LANDLORDS ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OF THE INCREASED RENTS TO THEIR TENANTS.

MOVING THE MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 12 000 UNITS IN PREWAR BUILDINGS, 60 PER CENT (OR 7 100 UNITS) OF WHICH WERE EFFECTIVELY SUBJECT TO THE PART 1 CONTROLS PROVIDED IN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE.

THE BALANCE (4 900 UNITS) IS EITHER OCCUPIED BY OWNERS, SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM CONTROLS OR LET AT RENTS AT OR APPROACHING THE MARKET LEVELS.

MR LIAO SAID DESPITE ANNUAL INCREASES SINCE 1976, AVERAGE PERMITTED RENTS OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO PART 1 CONTROLS STILL STOOD AT ABOUT 15 TO 20 PER CENT OF FAIR MARKET RENTS.

+THIS IS DUE TO THE VERY LOW BASE ON WHICH RENT INCREASES ARE CALCULATED AND TO INCREASED MARKET RENTAL LEVELS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. UNLESS FURTHER INCREASES ARE ALLOWED, THE GAP BETWEEN EXISTING RENTS AND MARKET RENTS IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REDUCED,+ HE SAID.

ABOUT 4 900 DOMESTIC UNITS IN PREWAR BUILDINGS ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS ADJUSTMENT. FOR A TYPICAL UPPER TENEMENT FLOOR SHARED USUALLY BY ABOUT THREE FAMILIES, IT WILL RESULT IN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF LESS THAN \$70 A MONTH, BRINGING THE RENT FROM ABOUT 15 PER CENT TO 22 PER CENT OF ITS MARKET RENT.

FOR A TYPICAL PREWAR COMMERCIAL GROUND TENEMENT FLOOR, THE AVERAGE INCREASE WILL BE UNDER \$300 A MONTH, BRINGING THE RENT FROM ABOUT 20 PER CENT TO 30 PER CENT OF ITS FAIR MARKET RENT. ABOUT 2 200 NON-DOMESTIC UNITS ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

MR LIAO SAID THE INCREASES WERE SMALL IN ACTUAL CASH TERMS AND REPRESENTED ANOTHER SMALL STEP IN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF LOOSENING THESE RIGID AND OUTDATED CONTROLS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN FORCE FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

+IN THE CASE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, ANY INCREASE IN RENT WILL BE MATCHED BY REFUNDS FROM GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

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POLLUTION PROBLEM REQUIRES JOINT SOLUTION

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, TODAY CALLED FOR JOINT EFFORT BY FACTORY OPERATORS AND THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO COMBAT INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION.

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON S.L. CHEN AND THE HON ANDREW SO CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, MR JONES SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS SOLELY BY GOVERNMENT ACTION BECAUSE MUCH OF THE PROBLEM AROSE SIMPLY FROM BAD HOUSE-KEEPING BY FACTORY OPERATORS AND OTHERS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND HE WAS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THEM.

HE SAID: +FOR ITS PART GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AREAS THROUGH ENFORCEMENT OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE.

+THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE SMOKE INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS LEGISLATION. THE STAFF CONCERNED CARRY OUT MEASUREMENTS OF AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN FACTORY ENVIRONMENTS TO ENSURE THAT LEVELS ARE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS AS WELL AS PURSUING A PROGRAMME OF ADVICE AND EDUCATION TO REDUCE NOISE LEVELS WITHIN FACTORIES.+

/REGARDING INDUSTRIAL ...

REGARDING INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN AREAS SUCH AS KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN, MR JONES SAID THAT THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF SCIENTIFIC MONITORING THAT WAS CARRIED OUT AT PRESENT SHOWED THAT POLLUTION BY SULPHATE COMPOUNDS THERE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HIGH FOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A REALLY SOUND ASSESSMENT OF AIR POLLUTION IN THESE AREAS AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEREFORE RECRUITING STAFF AND ORDERING THE SCIENTIFIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO CARRY OUT MORE COMPREHENSIVE MEASUREMENTS.

AS FOR KWUN TONG, IN PARTICULAR, MR JONES ADDED THAT FOLLOWING A RECENT REPORT BY THE CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON THE AREAS'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THE ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAD FORMULATED AN ACTION PLAN INVOLVING SELF-HELP MEASURES TO IMPROVE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NEW LAW ON AIR POLLUTANTS * * * * *

A NEW AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL SEEKING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING DETAILED MONITORING OF AIR QUALITY AND THE STEPPING UP OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNACCEPTABLE POLLUTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE LONG.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPABILITY TO IDENTIFY AND COUNTER TOXIC GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

MR JONES SAID THAT INCIDENTS IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE TAKEN ILL AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO CERTAIN GASES ARE INVESTIGATED BY THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT. IT CAN CALL ON THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, WHICH HAS THE EXPERTISE TO ANALYSE ANY AIR SAMPLES TAKEN, TO IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE GAS OR GASES IN QUESTION.

+THE PROBLEM IS THAT VERY OFTEN THE AIR POLLUTANTS INVOLVED HAVE DISPERSED BY THE TIME THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER IS ABLE TO TAKE A SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

REFERRING TO RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH SCHOOLCHILDREN IN KWAI CHUNG WERE TAKEN ILL AFTER APPARENTLY BEING EXPOSED TO A NOXIOUS GAS, MR JONES SAID HE HAD ALREADY ARRANGED A MEETING YESTERDAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED AND A PRESS RELEASE ON THEIR CONCLUSIONS WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY.

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PRIVATE CAR SERVICE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE OF CONTRACT HIRE CAR PERMITS TO OWNERS OF PRIVATE CARS WHO MEET CERTAIN CONDITIONS WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL THIS SUMMER AND AMENDING LEGISLATION IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG IN THE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THE AIM WILL ESSENTIALLY BE TO REGULARISE PAK PAI OPERATIONS OF GOOD AND ESTABLISHED STANDING AND ONE OF THE CATEGORIES TO BE PROVIDED FOR WILL BE SCHOOL SERVICES,+ MR JONES SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR CHEUNG, THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES WERE NOT LICENSED TO CARRY CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS.

+IF THESE VEHICLES ARE RUN BY SCHOOLS OR KINDERGARTENS TO CARRY CHILDREN THEN THEY ARE NOT ILLEGAL. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE RUN BY PRIVATE OPERATORS AND CHARGE A FARE THEY BECOME PAK PAIS AND ARE ILLEGAL,+ HE SAID.

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VISITING MP SEES SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE

A VISITING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DR KEITH HAMPSON TODAY DESCRIBED AS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE SYSTEM THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S +SHORT SHARP SHOCK+ DETENTION CENTRE PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS.

HE SAID THERE WAS MUCH UK COULD LEARN FROM HONG KONG AND THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE HOME OFFICE TO SEND A PARTY HERE TO STUDY IN DEPTH THE SYSTEM.

DR HAMPSON MADE THIS COMMENT AFTER A VISIT TO THE SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR TOM GARNER AND THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (YOUNG OFFENDERS), MR I.K. BHAGAT.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES PROVIDED AND TALKED TO SOME INMATES. HE WAS IMPRESSED THAT THEY HAD RESPONDED WELL TO THE PROGRAMME.

THE SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE, SITUATED ON THE SOUTHWEST SHORE OF LANTAU ISLAND, IS A MEDIUM SECURITY FACILITY WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR 220 DETAINEES.

THE PERIOD OF DETENTION IS A MINIMUM OF ONE MONTH AND A MAXIMUM OF SIX MONTHS FOR OFFENDERS AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 21, AND THREE MONTHS AND UP TO 12 MONTHS FOR THOSE AGED UP TO 25.

THEIR DETENTION IS FOLLOWED IN EACH CASE BY 12 MONTHS AFTERCARE SUPERVISION. NONE OF THOSE ADMITTED TO THE CENTRE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DETAINED IN A PRISON OR A TRAINING CENTRE.

THE SUCCESS RATE FOR ALL THE YOUNG OFFENDERS AT THE END OF ONE YEAR AFTER RELEASE FROM THE CENTRE IS OVER 95 PER CENT AND AT THE END OF THREE YEARS, THE RATE IS 77 PER CENT FOR THOSE AGED UNDER 21.

HOWEVER THE THREE-YEAR SUCCESS RATE FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED BETWEEN 21 AND 25 HAS YET TO BE ASSESSED AS THE FIRST DETAINEE WAS ONLY RELEASED IN MARCH 1978.

THE BASIS OF THE DETENTION CENTRE PROGRAMME IS AN ORDERLY, REGULAR AND DEMANDING ROUTINE COMBINED WITH THE PERSONAL INFLUENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

THE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO INDUCE IN YOUNG OFFENDERS A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND TO TEACH THEM HOW TO LIVE WITH PEOPLE AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON STRICT DISCIPLINE, HARD MANUAL WORK, PHYSICAL TRAINING AND FOOTDRILL. THE RIGOROUS TRAINING IS SUPPLEMENTED BY REMEDIAL EDUCATION AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELLING. A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST IS ON THE STAFF OF THE CENTRE.

PROGRESS OF A DETAINEE IS CLOSELY WATCHED AND ASSESSED DAILY BY THE STAFF. A DETAINEE IS RECOMMENDED FOR RELEASE WHEN HE REACHES HIS PEAK IN EFFORT AND PERFORMANCE AND WHEN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT OR SCHOOL PLACEMENT IS SECURED FOR HIM EITHER BY HIS FAMILY OR THE AFTERCARE STAFF.

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TWO-PRONGED ATTACK ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION RACKETS
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THE SECURITY FORCES ARE IDENTIFYING AND TAKING PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION IN ADDITION TO INTERCEPTING AND ARRESTING HIGH-SPEED BOATS BRINGING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INTO HONG KONG.

THESE TWO MEASURES WERE DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR DAVIES SAID INTELLIGENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OPERATORS WERE BEING ACCUMULATED AND SEVERAL CASES WERE BEFORE THE COURTS.

+THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS DEPLOYED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE MARINE POLICE FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE NOTED.

IN RESPECT OF THE INTERCEPTION AND ARREST OPERATION MR DAVIES SAID COUNTER MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE MARINE POLICE, ROYAL NAVY PATROL VESSELS, INCLUDING HOVERCRAFT, WITH THE HELP OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS AND THE ARMY.

+TWENTY SPEEDBOATS HAVE SO FAR BEEN SEIZED AND 84 PERSONS FROM 13 BOATS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE REACTED WITH THEIR USUAL INGENUITY AND VIGOUR TO THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT,+ MR DAVIES SAID, ADDING THAT OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS WERE BEING REFINED AND TESTED AND ADDITIONAL SPEEDBOATS WERE BEING OPERATED TO ENSURE THE INTERCEPTION AND ARREST OF SUSPECT SPEEDBOATS ONCE THEY HAD BEEN DETECTED.

MR DAVIES SAID IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO DISCLOSE THE METHODS NOR THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO GAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE SYNDICATES INVOLVED.

HE SAID HOWEVER THAT SOME SUCCESS WAS BEING ACHIEVED AND ALREADY THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT ILLICIT AND HAZARDOUS TRAFFIC WAS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE OPERATORS.

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IRD FORGING AHEAD WITH COMPUTERISATION

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY EMBARKS ON A \$5 MILLION COMPUTER PROJECT WITH A CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM, THE PTS 6000, BY PHILIPS HONG KONG LTD.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING BY THE IRD COMMISSIONER, MR VICTOR LADD AND MR T. MEYER, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PHILIPS.

THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL HELP RELIEVE THE HEAVY WORKLOAD ON THE DEPARTMENT RESULTING FROM THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TAX-PAYERS. BY REDUCING PAPER-HANDLING AND EXCESSIVE MANUAL INVOLVEMENT, IT WILL ALSO HELP PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

INITIALLY, 36 COMPUTERISED CASH RECEIPTING MACHINES WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE COLLECTING COUNTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT AT WINDSOR HOUSE, AT ITS HEADQUARTERS, AS WELL AS ITS KOWLOON AND TSUEN WAN BRANCHES. NINETEEN ADDITIONAL COMPUTERISED MACHINES WILL BE INSTALLED BY 1983-84.

ALL RECEIPTING INFORMATION AT EACH WORK STATION WILL BE INSTANTLY TRANSMITTED TO THE TREASURY THROUGH A DIRECT COMMUNICATION LINE FOR STORAGE IN COMPUTER MEDIA. AT THE END OF THE DAY, MAGNETIC TAPES WILL BE PRODUCED FOR UPDATING THE MAIN COMPUTER RECORD AT THE GOVERNMENT'S DATA PROCESSING DIVISION.

THE PROJECT IS NOT A STAND-ALONE SYSTEM OR AN ISOLATED DEVELOPMENT. THE SYSTEM WILL IN DUE COURSE BE INTEGRATED WITH THE DATA BASE SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1981 WHEN MOST OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE COMPUTERISED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN USING ELECTRO-MECHANICAL CASH REGISTERS AT ITS TSUEN WAN, KOWLOON AND HONG KONG REGIONAL COLLECTION COUNTERS.

THESE REQUIRE MANUAL EFFORT IN PREPARING RECEIPTING INFORMATION BEFORE UPDATING THE COMPUTER RECORDS FOR SALARIES TAX-PAYERS AND BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS. MANAGEMENT REPORTS CANNOT BE READY FOR USE UNTIL 24 TO 48 HOURS LATER.

THE TIME CONSUMING PROCEDURES LEAD TO SURCHARGE NOTICES BEING ISSUED TO TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE SETTLED THEIR TAX ON THE SAME DAY. THIS TIME LAPSE WILL BE ELIMINATED ONCE THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM COMES INTO OPERATION.

OTHER THAN SUPPLYING TERMINAL COMPUTERS AND COMPUTERISED WORK STATIONS FROM THE PTS 6000 SYSTEM, PHILIPS WILL ALSO BE SUPPLYING SOFTWARE PACKAGES SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1980

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HARBOUR TUNNEL CONGESTION UNDER STUDY
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THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY IS CONSIDERING WAYS OF INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING TUNNEL AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL HARBOUR CROSSINGS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR JONES SAID THE FIRST PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STUDY WAS RELATED TO THE COMPANY'S INVESTIGATIONS AND WAS CONCERNED PARTICULARLY WITH THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD SYSTEM AT BOTH ENDS OF THE TUNNEL TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC.

+THE LONG TERM GOVERNMENT STUDY WILL BE CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS, INCLUDING A WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, A LEI YUE MUN BRIDGE AND THE EAST KOWLOON LINE OF THE MTR.

+ALL OF THEM WILL BE EVALUATED IN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS TO DETERMINE THE OPTIMUM LOCATION FOR, AND THE FORM OF, ANY ADDITIONAL CROSSING,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE CONGESTION AT THE TUNNEL HAD SOMEWHAT IMPROVED SINCE THE OPENING OF THE MTR ACROSS THE HARBOUR.

+BEYOND THAT, IN THE SHORT TERM, THE ONLY WAY TO EASE THE CONGESTION IS TO INCREASE THE TUNNEL TOLLS AND THUS REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR ITS USE, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS IDEA,+ HE ADDED.

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HOME OWNERSHIP FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

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TWO SCHEMES HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP TO ASSIST CIVIL SERVANTS TO ACHIEVE HOME OWNERSHIP, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON T.S. LO, MR ROWLANDS SAID IT WAS NOW JUST ONE YEAR SINCE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED IN DRAWING UP SUCH SCHEMES.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE FIRST SCHEME, ELIGIBLE CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD RECEIVE BOTH A DOWN-PAYMENT LOAN AND A MONTHLY HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE TOWARDS THE COST OF A PRIVATE SECTOR FLAT IN HONG KONG.

UNDER THE SECOND SCHEME, WHICH WOULD BE PRIMARILY FOR OVERSEAS OFFICERS WISHING TO RETIRE OUTSIDE HONG KONG, PRE-RETIREMENT LOANS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY OVERSEAS, HE SAID.

+SINCE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL IN MAY LAST YEAR, EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE CIVIL SERVICE ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEMES,+ MR ROWLANDS SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND STAFF GROUPS HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND THAT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH THE THREE MAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS MAKING UP THE STAFF SIDE OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL.

+CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW ALMOST FINISHED AND I HOPE TO RECEIVE THE FINAL VIEWS OF THE MAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS,+ MR ROWLANDS SAID.

+THE CONSULTATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE PRODUCED A WIDE MEASURE OF SUPPORT FOR SCHEMES ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE PROPOSED.

+STAFF ASSOCIATIONS HAVE MADE VARIOUS USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AND I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE MOST OF THESE IN THE SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WHICH I EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO PUT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

1979 INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SURVEY

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 1979 WHICH REPRESENTS PART OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME TO COLLECT ECONOMIC STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH IS REQUIRED BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES IN ARRIVING AT DECISIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES.

THE DATA WILL HELP TO UPDATE THE INDUSTRY'S SHARE OF CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, REVIEW CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF OUTPUT AND TYPE OF GOODS MANUFACTURED, AND MAKE INTER-INDUSTRY COMPARISONS.

SOME 8 500 ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE MINING AND QUARRYING, MANUFACTURING, AND ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SECTORS WILL BE ENUMERATED. THEY INCLUDE ALL INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 100 OR MORE PERSONS, AND A RANDOMLY SELECTED SAMPLE OF THOSE ENGAGING FEWER THAN THIS NUMBER.

INFORMATION BEING SOUGHT INCLUDES TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, EMPLOYMENT, MAN-HOURS WORKED, LABOUR COST, CONTRACT AND COMMISSION WORK, MATERIAL PURCHASES, OPERATING EXPENSES, SALES AND WORK DONE, OTHER RECEIPTS, STOCKS, AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

THE SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION) ORDER 1980, WHICH WAS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE AND ISSUED AS A LEGAL NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 11.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING SENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED. MANAGERMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH (JUNE 30). CENSUS OFFICERS MAY VISIT ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSIST IN FILLING THE QUESTIONNAIRES UPON REQUEST.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS TODAY APPEALED TO MANAGERMENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES PROMPTLY AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH CENSUS OFFICERS CARRYING OUT ENUMERATION.

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD ONLY BE USED IN AN AGGREGATE FORM FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TRADE MISSION RETURNS FROM GUANGZHOU

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THE TRADE MISSION TO GUANGZHOU, LED BY SIR Y.K. KAN, WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG BY TRAIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTER A FIVE-DAY VISIT.

MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WILL ARRIVE AT KOWLOON STATION AT 5.13 PM AND WILL MEET THE PRESS AT 5.30 PM IN THE STATION VIP ROOM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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EASIER WAY TO TRANSCRIBE COURT PROCEEDINGS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE WHETHER A COMPUTER AIDED TRANSCRIPTION SYSTEM SHOULD BE OBTAINED FOR THE COURTS AFTER IT HAS JUDGED ITS EFFECTIVENESS AT FIRST HAND.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID ONLY TWO COMPANIES, BOTH AMERICAN, HAD DESIGNED SUCH SYSTEMS.

DOCUMENTATIONS OF THEIR METHODS ARE BEING STUDIED BY THE DATA PROCESSING DIVISION, HE SAID.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE TWO SYSTEMS, IT IS PROPOSED THAT A VISIT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEE EACH OF THEM IN ACTUAL USER OPERATION.

+A DECISION CAN THEN BE TAKEN WHETHER EITHER OF THE SYSTEMS ARE SUITABLE OR SHOULD BE OBTAINED FOR HONG KONG,+ MR GRIFFITHS SAID.

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CONCESSIONARY STAMP DUTY ON CONVEYANCES

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THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WHICH RAISES THE LIMIT FOR THE CONCESSIONARY AD VALOREM RATE OF DUTY OF ONE PER CENT IN RESPECT OF CONVEYANCES ON SALE AND VOLUNTARY DISPOSITIONS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PROPOSAL, TO RAISE THE LIMIT FROM \$175 000 TO \$250 000, HAS ALREADY BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE FEBRUARY 28 BY AN ORDER UNDER THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDINANCE, AND WAS MADE IN RECOGNITION OF THE MUCH HIGHER PRICES OF DOMESTIC FLATS AT PRESENT.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL TODAY, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THE ESTIMATED COST TO THE REVENUE IN 1980-81 WOULD BE \$67 MILLION. DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FACILITIES FOR CAR USERS AT MTR STATIONS

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FACILITIES FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS TO SET DOWN OR PICK UP PASSENGERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED AT THREE MTR STATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES DISCLOSED IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE FACILITIES ARE AT ADMIRALTY, KOWLOON TONG AND CHOI HUNG STATIONS AND THEY ARE ALSO BEING PLANNED AT KWAI FONG AND TSUEN WAN STATIONS ON THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION, HE SAID.

+A SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE EFFECT OF THE MTR ON TAXI OPERATIONS AND, IF THIS SHOWS A DEMAND FOR PICK-UP AND SET-DOWN POINTS AT MORE STATIONS, THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WHERE SPACE IS AVAILABLE, + MR JONES ADDED.

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HIGHER DOCUMENTS COPYING FEE

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THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, WHICH SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT THE BUDGET PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FROM \$15 TO \$30 THE FEE PRESCRIBED FOR THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFIED COPY OR CERTIFIED EXTRACTS OF DOCUMENTS, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AN ORDER HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDINANCE, GIVING EFFECT TO THIS PROPOSAL FROM FEBRUARY 28.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON ESTIMATED THAT ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE REVISED FEE WOULD BE \$1.5 MILLION FOR 1980-81.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATE MUSIC TEACHERS

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GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE NOT SPECIALISED IN MUSICAL EDUCATION TO THE DEGREE THAT WOULD WARRANT THE APPOINTMENT OF GRADUATE MUSIC TEACHERS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, MR TOPLEY POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT A GRADUATE TEACHER OF MUSIC COULD BE APPOINTED TO ANY GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL WHICH WISHED TO DEVELOP MUSIC TO A FURTHER EXTENT.

+A WIDE RANGING PLAN FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC IS BEING PREPARED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THIS WILL INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUSICAL EDUCATION BOTH IN GOVERNMENT AND IN AIDED SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1980

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CHARGES FOR CONFERENCE CALL TELEPHONE SERVICE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED A MOTION TO INCLUDE IN PART IV OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE CHARGES FOR A NEW +CONFERENCE CALL SERVICE+.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE POSTMASTER GENERAL HAD ASSESSED THE CHARGES PROPOSED BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND CONSIDERED THEM FAIR AND REASONABLE.

THE SERVICE WILL ENABLE A SUBSCRIBER TO SPEAK SIMULTANEOUSLY TO AS MANY AS SEVEN DIFFERENT PARTIES IN HONG KONG OR ABROAD.

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BILLS PASSED

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE FIRE INVESTIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 COMPLETED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND PASSED THEIR THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA IN SAU MAU PING WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SIX HOURS ENDING AT 6 AM THIS FRIDAY (MAY 30) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY SAU MAU PING ROAD, HIU KWONG STREET, SAU MING ROAD AND SAU MAU PATH. SUPPLY TO BLOCKS 19 TO 31 AND 42 TO 45, SAU MAU PING ESTATE WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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