



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
STATEMENT ON AIRPORT FINANCING .....	1
BORDER LIAISON TALKS USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE .....	3
LEGCO POWERS AND PRIVILEGES AMENDMENT BILL GAZETTED .....	3
BCCHK ANNOUNCES FOURTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS .....	4
STI VISITS EUROPE .....	5
VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE WITHDRAWN FROM JORDAN ROAD PIER .....	6
NEW WAY TO DISCOURAGE YOUTH DRUG ABUSE .....	7
EDUCATIONAL AIMS IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED .....	7
CAUSEWAY BAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME .....	9
BOOKS ON WELFARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC .....	10
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS ON FRIDAY .....	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	11

STATEMENT ON AIRPORT FINANCING

\* \* \* \* \*

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN:

"WE REGRET THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE (HKMAO).

"WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT IT IS MUCH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN THROUGH PRESS STATEMENTS.

"WE HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES CONCERNING FINANCING FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"WE HAVE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY ABOUT CHINA'S CONCERNS AND ARE NOW AWAITING A REPLY.

"A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO ENABLE US REACH AGREEMENT, SO THAT THESE IMPORTANT PROJECTS CAN PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY.

"THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE HKMAO WILL NOT DO ANYTHING TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE PROJECTS. MEANWHILE WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM.

"WE HAVE \$46 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS UNDER WAY ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, ALL LET WITHIN BUDGET AND PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.

"WE HAVE BUILT OVER 35% OF THE PLATFORM FOR THE AIRPORT SITE AND ARE PROCEEDING WITH DESIGN AND OTHER WORK. WE HAVE RECLAIMED 220 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION. WE HAVE STARTED THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, UNDER A FRANCHISE AGREED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE, AND WE HAVE COMPLETED 37% OF THE TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

"THESE ARE REAL ACHIEVEMENTS. THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT WE HAVE A HIGHLY COST-EFFECTIVE, WELL-MANAGED PROGRAMME. WE WANT TO KEEP THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS GOING.

"ON COSTS, WE HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A \$5.5 BILLION REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL \$163.7 BILLION ACP ESTIMATE. THIS REDUCTION HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY KEEN TENDERING AND RIGOROUS BUDGETARY CONTROL.

"WE HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE STAGE WHERE IT IS RELEVANT TO TALK IN TERMS OF 'REDUCING COSTS'. THE ACHIEVEMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

"THE QUESTION OF DEBT HAS BEEN RAISED BY THE HKMAO. LET US BE CLEAR THAT THE MOU IS REFERRING TO BORROWING BY THE GOVERNMENT BEYOND JUNE 1997, WHICH IT SAYS SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$5 BILLION.

"HOWEVER THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT BORROWING ANYTHING AT ALL. WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE CHINESE IS PAA AND MTRC BORROWING IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY, IN LINE WITH NORMAL PROJECT FINANCING FOR SUCH LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

"UNDER THE FINANCING PROPOSALS WHICH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OUTLINED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 21, THE CORPORATIONS' DEBT WOULD TOTAL \$45 BILLION.

"ON A MATTER OF LAW THE HKMAO SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL CONTRACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW AIRPORT THAT STRADDLE JUNE 30, 1997 THAT HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE CHINESE SIDE WILL BE INVALID AFTER JULY 1, 1997.

"IN REPLY TO A SIMILAR STATEMENT MADE BY A HKMAO SPOKESMAN IN NOVEMBER 1992, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE BASIC LAW, CONTRACTS WHICH ARE VALID UNDER HONG KONG'S EXISTING LAWS WILL CONTINUE TO BE VALID AND RECOGNISED AND PROTECTED AFTER 1997 BY THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT CONTRAVENE THE BASIC LAW.

"THAT REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

"IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ON THE AIRPORT, WE CONSULTED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THE ABSENCE OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE. LEGCO OPTED FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, VOTING OVERWHELMINGLY BY 38 VOTES TO TWO FOR THE \$1.67 BILLION FUNDING.

"THE AIM IS TO KEEP PROGRESS GOING FOR A FURTHER PERIOD SO THAT WE HAVE MORE TIME TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE.

"EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HONG KONG NEEDS A NEW AIRPORT. THE AIRPORT WILL BENEFIT BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINA. HONG KONG PEOPLE NATURALLY LOOK TO CHINA TO CO-OPERATE IN ITS CONSTRUCTION AND IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REST OF THE ACP.

"WE WELCOME THE REITERATION, IN THE HKMAO STATEMENT, OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND THEIR DESIRE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE TALKS.

"THIS WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEY WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY AND RAPIDLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE.

"WE FOR OUR PART ARE READY TO MAKE A RENEWED EFFORT TO WORK FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 3 -

BORDER LIAISON TALKS USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE

\* \* \* \* \*

AT THE INVITATION OF THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBERT PEIRCE, A GUANGDONG GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, MR CHAO ZHENWEI, VISITED HONG KONG FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO FRIDAY (JANUARY 28) FOR THE 14TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW.

THE BORDER LIAISON SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND CONTROL AT THE BORDER.

BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO SMOOTH BORDER LIAISON WHICH IS VITAL FOR THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

AT TALKS HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLICE, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION CO-OPERATION AS WELL AS CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR.

THEY DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF WAYS OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING THESE ARRANGEMENTS. THE TALKS WERE USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LEGCO POWERS AND PRIVILEGES AMENDMENT BILL GAZETTED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO THE GOVERNOR AND PUBLIC OFFICERS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR TO ATTEND SITTINGS OF THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE.

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES PROVISIONS SHOULD ALSO COVER PROCEEDINGS OF LEGCO'S PANELS AND SUB-COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE BECOME FORMAL COMMITTEES OF LEGCO THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS IN OCTOBER 1993.

COMMENTING ON THE POWERS AND PRIVILEGES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 TO BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 28), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING ORDINANCE PROVIDED IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES TO LEGCO MEMBERS TO FACILITATE THEM IN CARRYING OUT THEIR PARLIAMENTARY DUTIES.

THESE INCLUDE IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS FOR WORDS SPOKEN BEFORE, OR WRITTEN IN A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE.

THEY ALSO INCLUDE IMMUNITY FROM ARREST FOR ANY CIVIL DEBT WHILE GOING TO, ATTENDING OR RETURNING FROM A SITTING OF THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE AND FOR ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE WHILE ATTENDING AT A SITTING OF THE COUNCIL OR A COMMITTEE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"THE GOVERNOR .....

"THE GOVERNOR AND BRANCH SECRETARIES DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR TO ATTEND SITTINGS OF LEGCO AND ITS COMMITTEES USED TO ENJOY SUCH IMMUNITIES WHEN THEY WERE LEGCO MEMBERS.

"ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NO LONGER MEMBERS OF LEGCO, THEY STILL NEED TO ATTEND SITTINGS OF LEGCO AND ITS COMMITTEES TO TRANSACT GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

"IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE THAT THE GOVERNOR AND THE DESIGNATED PUBLIC OFFICERS SHOULD BE ACCORDED WITH THE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHEN THEY ATTEND BEFORE A SITTING OF LEGCO OR A COMMITTEE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 2.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BCCHK ANNOUNCES FOURTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND LIQUIDATOR OF BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED AN INTENTION TO DECLARE A FOURTH INTERIM DIVIDEND PAYMENT TO CREDITORS OF 6 PER CENT OF THEIR ADMITTED CLAIMS.

THE DIVIDEND WILL BE DATED JANUARY 28, 1994 AND THE DESPATCH OF DIVIDEND CHEQUES WILL COMMENCE ON THAT DATE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CHEQUE DESPATCH PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 4, 1994.

CREDITORS ARE REQUESTED TO WAIT UNTIL FEBRUARY 15, 1994 BEFORE CONTACTING THE SPECIAL MANAGERS AS NOT ALL CHEQUES DESPATCHED WILL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED UNTIL ABOUT THAT DATE.

THE 6 PER CENT ANNOUNCED TODAY IS THE FOURTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS OWED MORE THAN HK\$100,000, MAKING THE TOTAL PAYMENT TO SUCH LARGE CREDITORS TO DATE TO 64 PER CENT.

BCCHK HAS DESPATCHED ABOUT HK\$4.7 BILLION BY WAY OF DIVIDENDS TO ITS CREDITORS TO DATE. THE LATEST DIVIDEND WILL TAKE TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO ABOUT HK\$5.2 BILLION.

AFTER THE PAYMENT OF THE FOURTH DIVIDEND AND THE DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES WHICH INCLUDE LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL FEES, BCCHK IS LEFT WITH CASH IN HAND TALLING ABOUT HK\$2.7 BILLION.

THIS SUM IS HELD FOR POTENTIAL DIVIDENDS TO KNOWN DEPOSITORS AND TO OTHER CREDITORS AND POTENTIAL CLAIMANTS, PENDING REMAINING TRUST CLAIMS, ADJUDICATION OF PROOFS OF DEBT AND FUTURE EXPENDITURE.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CREDITORS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED OR BEEN PAID THEIR DIVIDEND ENTITLEMENTS TO DATE AS BCCHK HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT THEM DUE TO INSUFFICIENT OR OUT OF DATE ADDRESS DETAILS.

/UNTIL SUCH .....

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS BCCHK IS CONTACTED BY SUCH CREDITORS, IT IS UNABLE TO PAY THESE CREDITORS THEIR ACCUMULATED DIVIDEND ENTITLEMENTS.

ANY CREDITOR WHO HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR DIVIDEND OR WHO HAS CHANGED ADDRESS AND HAS NOT YET NOTIFIED BCCHK IS ASKED TO NOTIFY BCCHK OF THIS IN WRITING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEIR DIVIDEND ENTITLEMENT CAN BE ASSESSED AND, IF APPROPRIATE, PAID.

THE LIQUIDATOR AND THE SPECIAL MANAGERS ARE CONTINUING TO REALISE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS FROM BCCHK'S BORROWERS AND ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS AND LEGAL ACTIONS TO ENHANCE REALISATIONS FROM OTHER BORROWERS.

A SECOND ANNUAL REPORT TO CREDITORS OUTLINING THE CURRENT POSITION OF THE LIQUIDATION AND DETAILS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CREDITORS IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### STI VISITS EUROPE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, WILL LEAVE THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING FOR A VISIT TO EUROPE.

MR CHAU WILL FIRST GO TO DAVOS IN SWITZERLAND WHERE HE WILL LEAD A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO REPRESENT HONG KONG AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF).

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WEF, TO BE HELD FROM JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 1, BRINGS TOGETHER SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ISSUES IN AN INFORMAL SETTING.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE SIR DAVID FORD, HONG KONG'S COMMISSIONER IN LONDON; MR RONALD CARSTAIRS, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DAH SING FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LTD; DR EDGAR CHENG, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF WORLD-WIDE INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD; MR PO CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF DHL INTERNATIONAL LTD; MR MICHAEL CLANCY, CHAIRMAN OF EXXON ENERGY LTD; MR RICHARD LI, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF PACIFIC CENTURY GROUP; AND MR ROBERT NG, CHAIRMAN OF THE SINO GROUP.

DURING THE MEETING, MR CHAU TOGETHER WITH OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS WILL MEET INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LEADERS AT A BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON JANUARY 28 FOR A DIRECT CONVERSATION ON THE LATTER'S QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION.

MR CHAU WILL ALSO SPEAK AT A LUNCH MEETING ON JANUARY 29.

ON JANUARY 31, HE WILL TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNORS MEETING FOR TEXTILE TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND FOR THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 6 -

MR CHAU WILL THEN VISIT COPENHAGEN FOR TWO DAYS FROM FEBRUARY 1.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO SIGN THE HONG KONG-DENMARK INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENT -- THE THIRD OF HONG KONG'S BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE AREA OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION.

THE SIGNING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 2.

MR CHAU WILL BE SPEAKING ON "HONG KONG AND THE EAST ASIAN ECONOMIC MIRACLE" DURING A DINNER WITH DENMARK-HONG KONG ASSOCIATION IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 1.

THE LAST LEG OF MR CHAU'S TRIP WILL BE BRUSSELS WHERE HE WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW PREMISES OF THE BRUSSELS OFFICE ON FEBRUARY 3.

MR CHAU WILL ALSO BE SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON WITH THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES IN BRUSSELS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE WITHDRAWN FROM JORDAN ROAD PIER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE JORDAN ROAD VEHICULAR FERRY PIER WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND THE CENTRAL-JORDAN ROAD DOUBLE-DECKED VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICES WILL CEASE OPERATION FROM FRIDAY (JANUARY 28).

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THIS WAS TO FACILITATE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WORKS.

HOWEVER, THE VEHICULAR PORTION OF THE CENTRAL-JORDAN ROAD PASSENGER/VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE WILL REMAIN IN OPERATION UNTIL JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND JORDAN ROAD WILL BE RE-PROVIDED BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND KWUN TONG VEHICULAR FERRY PIERS.

THOSE VEHICULAR AND DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICES FROM JORDAN ROAD TO MUI WO AND DISCOVERY BAY WILL THEN BE OPERATED FROM KWUN TONG AND NORTH POINT VEHICULAR FERRY PIERS.

THE PASSENGER SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND JORDAN ROAD WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE RECLAMATION WORKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

- 7 -

NEW WAY TO DISCOURAGE YOUTH DRUG ABUSE

\* \* \* \* \*

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN CAN NOW LEARN THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE IN A STIMULATING AND INFORMAL ENVIRONMENT WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE LIFE EDUCATION ACTIVITY PROGRAMME AT THE CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN BRAEMAR HILL.

UNDER THE POSITIVE HEALTH-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME, ELECTRONIC MODULES AND THE BRILLIANT TRANSPARENT ANATOMICAL MANNEQUIN ARE USED TO EDUCATE THE CHILDREN HOW THE HUMAN BODY WORKS, HOW TO TAKE CARE OF IT AND HOW IT WILL BE UPSET BY DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

AT A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE PROGRAMME TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS PATTEN SAID EDUCATING THE YOUNGER GENERATION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE WAS AS IMPORTANT AS SUPPRESSING THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

"THE CHANCES OF SUCCUMBING TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING WILL BE MUCH REDUCED IF CHILDREN GROW UP WITH AN AWARENESS OF HOW SUCH SUBSTANCES CAN DAMAGE THEIR BODIES AND RUIN THEIR FUTURES," SHE SAID.

MRS PATTEN WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE WELL-RECEIVED BY LOCAL SCHOOLS.

IT HAS PROVED POPULAR IN MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

SHE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM AS LATEST FIGURES SHOWED AN ALARMING RISE OF 55 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF TEENAGE DRUG ABUSERS.

"I HOPE THAT WITH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, OUR SIMPLE MESSAGE OF 'CARE FOR YOUR FUTURE, SAY NO TO DRUGS' WILL BE HEARD AND ACTED UPON EVERYWHERE IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EDUCATIONAL AIMS IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR MICHAEL HONG MAN-HOI AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATIONAL AIMS IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL DEVELOP PROCEDURES TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATEMENT OF AIMS OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG AND PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF IT.

ALSO APPOINTED WERE 13 MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:

BOE

MS SANSAN CHING TEH-CHI AND MRS MINNIE LAI WEI KIT-LIN.

/SCHOOL PRINCIPALS .....

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

MR AUYEUNG YING-CHEONG  
MR WOO KWOK-YIN  
MRS JUDY CHUA TIONG HONG-SIENG  
MR CHAN WING-KWONG

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MRS LUN LAI SIU-KAM

TEACHERS

MS HUI SIU-LING  
MISS LAI PUI-MAN

LECTURER

MS SIU LAI-PING (CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY

MR EDDIE NG

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

MR KWAN SHU-TSUN, PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER AND  
MR LAU WAI-KEEN, VICE-PRINCIPAL OF NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF  
EDUCATION

UNDER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL:

- \* PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATEMENT OF AIMS;
- \* ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO OBTAIN FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS AND STUDENTS AND TO ACT ON THEM IN IMPLEMENTING THE STATEMENT OF AIMS;
- \* IDENTIFY, ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE AIMS, USEFUL INDICATORS COVERING BOTH ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC ASPECTS OF EDUCATION; AND
- \* DISSEMINATE GOOD PRACTICES BY SCHOOLS.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 9 -

CAUSEWAY BAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 28) IN PERCIVAL STREET, SHARP STREET EAST, RUSSELL STREET, YIU WAH STREET, CANAL ROAD EAST AND LEIGHTON ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM 10 AM:

- \* THREE JUNCTIONS: PERCIVAL STREET/RUSSELL STREET/MATHESON STREET; PERCIVAL STREET/FOO MING STREET AND MATHESON STREET/SHARP STREET EAST, WILL BE PUT UNDER TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROL. SIGNALISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED AT THESE JUNCTIONS;
- \* THE EXISTING ON-STREET CAR AND MOTORCYCLE PARKING SPACES IN YIU WAH STREET, SHARP STREET EAST AND MATHESON STREET WILL BE CANCELLED;
- \* 7 AM - 7 PM "NO STOPPING RESTRICTION" IS GENERALLY DESIGNATED IN ALL THESE STREETS. FREE ZONES AND PEAK HOURS ONLY "NO STOPPING RESTRICTION" WILL BE PROVIDED AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS TO COPE WITH THE LOADING/UNLOADING DEMAND;
- \* THE SECTION OF MATHESON STREET BETWEEN RUSSELL STREET AND SHARP STREET EAST WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND WHILE THE SECTION OF SHARP STREET EAST BETWEEN MATHESON STREET AND CANAL ROAD EAST WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND;
- \* TUBULAR RAILINGS WILL BE PROVIDED AT APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF FOOTPATH IN THESE STREETS TO CHANNELISE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS; AND
- \* VEHICLES OVER SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH ARE PROHIBITED TO ENTER THE SECTION OF RUSSELL STREET BETWEEN LEE GARDEN ROAD AND PERCIVAL STREET TO GAIN ACCESS TO PERCIVAL STREET. DRIVERS ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA FOO MING STREET TO PERCIVAL STREET.

THE SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE AREA AND WILL ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES 25 AND 25A ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ADMIRALTY STATION WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHARP STREET EAST, MATHESON STREET, RUSSELL STREET AND CANAL ROAD EAST.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

----- 0 -----

/10 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 10 -

BOOKS ON WELFARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC  
\* \* \* \* \*

A SET OF 19 CHINESE BOOKS ON SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE.

COPIES ARE MADE READY AT EACH SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT REGIONAL AND DISTRICT OFFICE AS WELL AS CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE INFORMATION CAN APPROACH ANY OF THESE OFFICES AND ASK TO SEE THE BOOKS THERE," A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SET IS MADE UP OF THREE PARTS: A GLOSSARY ON THE TYPES OF SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES WITH EXPLANATION NOTES ABOUT THE SERVICES PROVIDED; EXISTING WELFARE FACILITIES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE SERVICES SUBVENTED BY SWD AND NON-SUBVENTED SERVICES KNOWN TO SWD; AND FACILITIES PLANNED UP TO AUGUST LAST YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE MOVE TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON ALL SOCIAL SERVICES WAS TO MAKE THE DEPARTMENT MORE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT IN ITS MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND RESPECT RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW.

HE SAID IT HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO SET UP WELFARE FACILITIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

"HOWEVER, WE WELCOME VIEWS FROM RESIDENTS ON HOW WE CAN FURTHER IMPROVE SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS ON FRIDAY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM THIS FRIDAY (JANUARY 28) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 11 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,791
REVERSAL OF LAF	+2,209
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-850
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.0 *-0.3* 26.1.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.70	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.15	3.66
1 MONTH	2.80	19 MONTHS	2508	4.265	101.22	3.85
3 MONTHS	2.97	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.20	4.07
6 MONTHS	3.08	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.19	4.57
12 MONTHS	3.43	36 MONTHS	3701	4.60	100.05	4.63

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,078 MN

CLOSED 26 JANUARY 1994

----- 0 -----



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

## SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

### CONTENTS

### PAGE NO.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

GOVT TO SET UP COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ICAC'S POWER .....	1
SENSIBLE BALANCE NEEDED FOR RENTAL HOUSING AND HOME OWNERSHIP .....	1
INDEPENDENT BOARD TO DEAL WITH ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS .....	3
BILL TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICES INTRODUCED TO LEGCO .....	3
INSIDER DEALING LAW TO BE IMPROVED .....	4
BILL ON HK INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION INTRODUCED .....	5
BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES AND PENALTIES SET TO INCREASE ..	6
NO PLAN TO ISSUE BANK CHARGE GUIDELINES .....	6
GOVT HELPS HK RESIDENTS IN DISTRESS OVERSEAS .....	7
ALL DOGS TO BE IMPLANTED WITH OWNERSHIP DATA .....	7
CODIFICATION OF LAW OF CONTEMPT NOT NECESSARY: AG .....	8
STRICT CONTROL OVER USE OF MID-STREAM OPERATION ZONE .....	9
CODES OF CONDUCT AGAINST MALPRACTICES .....	10
NO FINANCIAL LINK BETWEEN AIRPORT RAILWAY AND MTR SYSTEM ..	10

/ICAC PROMOTES .....

ICAC PROMOTES BUSINESS ETHICS .....	11
BORDER LIAISON CHANNELS CAN BE ACTIVATED QUICKLY .....	12
SHING MUN BUS INTERCHANGE A SUCCESS .....	12
MEDICAL INFLATION HIGHER THAN GENERAL INFLATION .....	13
PLANS TO STEP UP HARBOUR MANAGEMENT .....	14
ACCURACY OF TRADE FIGURES ASSURED .....	14
PLANS TO REVIEW OPERATION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS .....	15
RIVER TRADE TERMINAL PROJECT IN PROGRESS .....	16
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH MANPOWER ON RISE .....	16
IMPROVEMENTS TO AIR QUALITY OF TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES .....	17
BRITAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY IN HK NOT ENCROACHED .....	18
EDUCATION ADVISER FOR NURSING BOARD .....	18
ALL VIET DETENTION CENTRES TO GO IN 1996 .....	18
AMENDED MOTION ON ICAC'S POWERS PASSED .....	19

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 1 -

GOVT TO SET UP COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ICAC'S POWER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A REVIEW COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A FULL AND WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF THE POWERS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND OF ITS PRESENT SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, WHEN SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION AT THE MOTION DEBATE ON THE POWERS OF THE ICAC THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

MRS CHAN SAID THE ICAC COMMISSIONER FULLY SUPPORTED THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A REVIEW COMMITTEE.

"AS THE ICAC ENTERS ITS THIRD DECADE, IT IS TIMELY THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD REVIEW AND REAFFIRM ITS MANDATE.

"I BELIEVE THAT THIS PROCESS WILL STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMISSION, AND THUS REINFORCE HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONSIDER IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE, ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ITS METHOD OF PROCEEDING.

A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE APPOINTED TO CHAIR THE COMMITTEE.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SENSIBLE BALANCE NEEDED FOR RENTAL HOUSING AND HOME OWNERSHIP

\* \* \* \* \*

IN REVIEWING HONG KONG'S LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS TO MAINTAIN A SENSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN ITS EFFORT TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RENTAL HOUSING AND ITS RESPONSE TO THE DEMAND AND ASPIRATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, DURING A MOTION DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY.

HE SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW WAS TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THE TARGETS OF THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY COULD BE MET AS PLANNED, OR WHETHER NEW INITIATIVES ARE NEEDED TO ENABLE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ACHIEVE ITS TARGETS.

"IN CONDUCTING THE REVIEW, THE AUTHORITY HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO INVITE COMMENTS FROM AS WIDE A RANGE OF SOURCES AS POSSIBLE.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THEREFORE THAT THE AUTHORITY IS EARNEST IN ITS INTENTION TO CANVAS VIEWS WIDELY AND I AM EQUALLY SURE THAT IT WILL TAKE PROPER ACCOUNT OF VIEWS OFFERED.

/PUBLIC DISCUSSION .....

PUBLIC DISCUSSION HAS SO FAR FOCUSED ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF LAND. MR EASON ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PRODUCE AND ALLOCATE LAND TO MEET CLEARLY IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL DEMAND JUST AS IT HAD DONE IN THE PAST.

ANOTHER CONCERN EXPRESSED WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT PART OF THE AUTHORITY'S COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR OLD PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS WOULD BE RESCHEDULED.

MR EASON SAID: "THE POSITION ON THIS IS QUITE CLEAR: THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL PRESS AHEAD WITH ITS FIVE-YEAR REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ALREADY ANNOUNCED WITH ONLY LIMITED ADJUSTMENT.

"THE PROPOSAL BEING CONSIDERED IS THAT HOUSING BLOCKS PROVIDING SELF-CONTAINED UNITS AND IN SOUND STRUCTURAL CONDITION SHOULD, AFTER REFURBISHMENT, BE RETAINED FOR A FEW MORE YEARS AFTER THE EXISTING TENANTS HAVE BEEN REHOUSED.

"BY PROVIDING EXTRA HOUSING RESOURCES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THESE BLOCKS COULD HELP MEET THE DEMAND FOR SMALL URBAN REHOUSING UNITS IN THE SHORT TERM,"

MR EASON SAID THERE WAS A MISCONCEPTION THAT TENANTS AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT WOULD BE "FORCED" TO BUY TYPE-II HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS OR BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WHEN BEING OFFERED RENTAL REHOUSING.

"THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS THAT SOME TENANTS WHO ARE KEEN TO BUY HOS FLATS ARE UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE THERE IS NO HOS FLATS SUPPLY IN THEIR DISTRICT AT THE TIME THEY ARE RELOCATED.

"THE HOS TYPE-II PROPOSAL IS, THEREFORE, INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL AVENUE FOR THESE AND OTHER FAMILIES.

"FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF THE HOS TYPE-II SCHEME IS IMPLEMENTED, THE AUTHORITY WILL ENSURE THAT THE PRIORITIES FOR THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

ON THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC RENTAL TENANTS OWNING PRIVATE PROPERTY, MR EASON SAID THERE WAS A BODY OF OPINION THAT THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO BUY PRIVATE PROPERTY SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO OCCUPY RENTAL FLATS WHILE THERE WERE STILL SO MANY PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD NOT TAKEN A VIEW ON THIS COMPLEX ISSUE, AND WOULD WELCOME MORE PUBLIC OPINION.

ON THE PROBLEM OF UNDER-UTILISATION OF PUBLIC RENTAL FLATS, MR EASON SAID IT WAS A WASTE OF VALUABLE RESOURCES.

IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW UP, HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS BROACHED IN THE REVIEW REPORT WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

PUBLIC VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE AUTHORITY WILL THEN RE-EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 3 -

INDEPENDENT BOARD TO DEAL WITH ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

\* \* \* \* \*

AN INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS BOARD WILL BE SET UP TO PROVIDE A MORE STRUCTURED AND UNIFORM SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS BOARD BILL THAT GIVES TO SUCH EFFECT WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE BOARD WILL CONDUCT HEARINGS IN PUBLIC EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE APPELLANT WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND AND BE REPRESENTED AT HEARINGS.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THE BOARD WOULD BE REQUIRED TO STATE IN WRITING THE REASONS FOR ITS DECISIONS.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE DETERMINATION OF APPEALS, BUT WILL ALSO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE."

MRS CHAN SAID THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD WAS TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS, THEREFORE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR IT TO RECOMMEND OR AWARD EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS.

HOWEVER, THE BOARD IS GIVEN THE POWER TO REFER MATTERS BACK TO THE RESPONDENT, THAT IS, THE ORIGINAL DECISION-MAKER, FOR CONSIDERATION.

AS THE BOARD IS INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL APPEALS BOARD WITH SIMPLE PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH MATTERS BEFORE IT EXPEDITIOUSLY AND IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER, THEREFORE IT IS NOT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE A FURTHER RIGHT OF APPEAL.

"THE REMEDY OF JUDICIAL REVIEW SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO CATER FOR ANY ERRORS OF LAW COMMITTED BY THE BOARD," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICES INTRODUCED TO LEGCO

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL SEEKING TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE TEETH TO PENALISE BUS COMPANIES FOR NON-PERFORMANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, SAID WHEN ENCOURAGEMENT AND WARNINGS TO BUS COMPANIES FAILED TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF BUS SERVICES, THE IMPOSITION OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES BECAME NECESSARY.

MR BARMA SAID THE IMPACT OF THE BILL WOULD BECOME MUCH GREATER AS IT SOUGHT TO CHANGE THE MANNER IN WHICH FINES COULD BE LEVIED.

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE BILL, THE EXISTING GRADUATED SCALE OF FINES OF \$10,000 FOR DEFICIENCIES ON THE FIRST OCCASION, \$20,000 ON THE SECOND AND \$50,000 ON THE THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS, WOULD BE RETAINED BUT MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF ROUTES ON WHICH DEFICIENCIES WERE FOUND.

PENALTIES WOULD REMAIN ON RECORD FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF IMPOSITION TO DETERMINE WHAT THE LEVEL OF FINES FOR FUTURE OFFENCES SHOULD BE, HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO EXCLUDE FINANCIAL PENALTIES FROM BEING DEEMED PART OF OPERATING EXPENSES OF A BUS OPERATOR.

"THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT THE OPERATOR DOES NOT PASS SUCH PENALTIES ON TO BUS PASSENGERS IN THE FORM OF HIGHER FARES," HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE DELEGATION OF THE POWERS TO MAKE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO BUS OPERATORS SUCH AS THE DESIGNATION OF BUS STOPS AND THE CONDUCT OF BUS DRIVERS FROM THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INSIDER DEALING LAW TO BE IMPROVED

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL PROPOSING TO REMOVE A LOOPHOLE UNDER WHICH INSIDER DEALING CAN BE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE TRADING OF THIRD-PARTY-ISSUED DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE BURGEONING DERIVATIVE MARKETS WERE NOT USED TO CIRCUMVENT THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

"IT WILL ALSO HELP TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE MARKET FOR STOCK OPTIONS WHICH THE STOCK EXCHANGE INTENDS TO INTRODUCE LATER THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

THIS IS BECAUSE INVESTORS WILL KNOW THAT INSIDER DEALING LEGISLATION COMPARABLE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IS IN PLACE, HE EXPLAINED.

MR CARTLAND SAID RECENT YEARS HAD SEEN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS IN RESPECT OF LOCALLY LISTED SECURITIES.

MANY OF THESE PRODUCTS ARE ISSUED BY A PARTY UNRELATED TO THE CORPORATION WHOSE SHARES FORM THE UNDERLYING SECURITIES.

SOME OF THE PRODUCTS ARE NOT LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID BECAUSE THESE INSTRUMENTS WERE ISSUED BY A THIRD PARTY, THEY WERE NOT CLASSIFIED AS THE SECURITIES OF THE RELEVANT LISTED CORPORATION AND THUS THEIR TRADING FELL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF "INSIDER DEALING".

THE SAME APPLIES WHERE THE PRODUCTS ARE NOT LISTED IN THE TERRITORY, HE ADDED.

THE BILL PROVIDES THAT INSIDER DEALING WILL COVER THIRD-PARTY-ISSUED DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS IN RESPECT OF LISTED SECURITIES IN HONG KONG, WHETHER OR NOT THESE PRODUCTS ARE LISTED HERE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL ON HK INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION INTRODUCED

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL SEEKING TO INCORPORATE THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) AS AN AUTONOMOUS TERTIARY INSTITUTION WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION BILL, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE WAS AIMED TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS IN HONG KONG.

"THE NEW UNITARY INSTITUTE WILL SUBSUME THE EXISTING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY MANAGED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

UNDER THE BILL, A COUNCIL WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE.

IT WILL COMPRISE THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF THE HKIED, PUBLIC OFFICERS, NOMINEES FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD, A STAFF REPRESENTATIVE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY OR A PROFESSION IN HONG KONG, AND OTHERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACADEMIC BOARD TO PLAN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES, REGULATE STUDENT ADMISSION AND CONFER ACADEMIC AWARDS.

MR LAM SAID THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HKIED HAD BEEN MAKING GOOD PROGRESS SINCE ITS APPOINTMENT IN JANUARY 1993.

THE COUNCIL HAS APPOINTED THE DIRECTOR FOR THE INSTITUTE AND IS RECRUITING OTHER KEY ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC STAFF.

IT IS ALSO PLANNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CAMPUS IN TAI PO AND IS ENGAGED IN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTEGRATING QUALIFIED SERVING STAFF INTO THE INSTITUTE, MR LAM SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES AND PENALTIES SET TO INCREASE  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE VARIOUS FEES AND PENALTIES PAYABLE UNDER THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

THE INCREASE WOULD TAKE EFFECT ON MARCH 1.

ADDITIONAL REVENUE IS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN \$1 MILLION A YEAR.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, PROPOSED TO REVISE THE REGISTRATION FEE IN RESPECT OF A BRANCH OF BUSINESS FROM \$60 TO \$66, IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN COSTS.

TO PRESERVE THE DETERRENT EFFECT, MR TSANG ALSO RECOMMENDED THE PENALTIES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES AND BRANCH REGISTRATION FEES BE INCREASED FROM \$150 AND \$60 TO \$165 TO \$66 RESPECTIVELY.

BOTH THE FEES AND PENALTIES WERE LAST REVISED LAST YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO PLAN TO ISSUE BANK CHARGE GUIDELINES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO ISSUE ANY GUIDELINES WITH REGARD TO BANKS' CHARGING OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THE LEVY OF CHARGES RELATING TO MORTGAGE LOANS WAS A COMMERCIAL MATTER FOR THE BANKS.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THERE TO BE A PROBLEM THAT MERITS INTERVENTION, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CARTLAND SAID NOT ALL BANKS CHARGED APPLICATION FEES.

"MORTGAGE APPLICANTS THEREFORE DO HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, APPLICATION FEES FOR MORTGAGE LOANS TYPICALLY VARY BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$2,500 FOR EACH APPLICATION FROM INDIVIDUALS.

SUCH FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO COVER THE BANKS' HANDLING CHARGES.

"WE DO NOT THINK HOWEVER THAT SUCH CHARGES WOULD BY THEMSELVES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT IN DISCOURAGING PROPERTY SPECULATION," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 7 -

GOVT HELPS HK RESIDENTS IN DISTRESS OVERSEAS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT TAKES SERIOUSLY ALL REPORTS OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN DISTRESS OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

"WHERE THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A HONG KONG RESIDENT IS BEING UNLAWFULLY DETAINED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, WE FOLLOW UP WITH THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED," THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED EIGHT APPLICATIONS FROM FAMILIES OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WERE REPORTEDLY DETAINED AS A RESULT OF COMMERCIAL DISPUTES IN CHINA IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

THESE APPLICATIONS INVOLVED 10 DETAINEES, WHO ARE EITHER HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN OR EMPLOYEES OF HONG KONG COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED ALL THESE CASES WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES," MR ASPREY SAID.

"WE HAVE MADE REPEATED REQUESTS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE BASIS ON WHICH THE HONG KONG INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, FOR ASSURANCES THAT THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH CHINESE LAW, AND FOR ACCESS FOR THE INDIVIDUALS' FAMILIES, LEGAL ADVISERS AND COLLEAGUES."

ALL THESE APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE FAMILIES, HE ADDED.

TWO OF THE CASES ARE OUTSTANDING, INVOLVING FOUR DETAINEES WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED AND RETURNED TO HONG KONG.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD WELL-ESTABLISHED CHANNELS FOR RAISING CASES OF THIS KIND WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

HE SAID: "OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG THROUGH THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S OFFICE."

IN SOME CASES, THEY WERE ALSO MADE THROUGH THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON (INCLUDING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL) AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN PEKING, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ALL DOGS TO BE IMPLANTED WITH OWNERSHIP DATA

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL DOGS TO BE IMPLANTED WITH A SMALL MICROCHIP CONTAINING OWNERSHIP DATA LATER THIS YEAR.

"THIS WILL STRENGTHEN CONSIDERABLY THE ABILITY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE TO IDENTIFY OWNERS WHO ALLOW THEIR DOGS TO STRAY," THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/REPLYING TO .....

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG, MR SIU SAID HE BELIEVED THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION SET OUT CLEARLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOG OWNERS IN REGARD TO CONTROL OF THEIR ANIMALS IN PUBLIC PLACES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A REQUIREMENT FOR COMPULSORY USE OF MUZZLES ON ALL DOGS IS NOT WARRANTED, HE SAID.

THE DOGS AND CATS REGULATIONS PROVIDE THAT NO DOG MAY BE ALLOWED OUT ON A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE UNLESS IT IS ON A LEAD OR OTHERWISE UNDER CONTROL.

ANY PERSON BREAKING THIS REQUIREMENT IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

MOREOVER, UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, THERE ARE PENALTIES OF A FINE OF \$500 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS FOR ANY PERSON WHO KEEPS A DOG THAT PERSISTENTLY ANNOYS OR MENACES NEIGHBOURS OR PASSERS-BY OR WHO ALLOWS AN UNMUZZLED FEROCIOUS DOG TO GO AT LARGE, OR URGES ANY DOG TO ATTACK OR WORRY ANY PERSON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CODIFICATION OF LAW OF CONTEMPT NOT NECESSARY: AG

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSIDERED THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S REPORT ON CONTEMPT OF COURT VERY CAREFULLY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE REPORT WAS PUBLISHED, THE ADMINISTRATION DOUBTS THAT CODIFICATION OF THE LAW OF CONTEMPT IS EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.

REPLYING A QUESTION BY THE HON SIMON IP, MR MATHEWS SAID THE ADMINISTRATION, IN REACHING ITS DECISION, HAD NOTED THAT:

- \* THE COMMON LAW RULES RELATING TO CONTEMPT HAVE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP;
- \* THE LAW OF CONTEMPT HAS BECOME SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 16 OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WHICH PROVIDES FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION; AND
- \* THE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR MANY OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS (THE CONTEMPT OF COURT ACT 1981) HAS CREATED GREATER COMPLEXITY AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE LAW AND HAS NOT BEEN COPIED IN ANY OTHER JURISDICTION.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE ADMINISTRATION DOUBTS THAT CODIFICATION OF THE LAW OF CONTEMPT IS EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE," MR MATHEWS SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STRICT CONTROL OVER USE OF MID-STREAM OPERATION ZONE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MONITOR AND CONTROL THE USE OF MID-STREAM OPERATION ZONE IN AREA 16 OF TUEN MUN SO THAT THERE WILL BE AS LITTLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS IS POSSIBLE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TSO SHIU-WAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SIU SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD RIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE LEASE CONDITIONS OF THE SITE, IN THE FACE OF LOCAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE POTENTIALLY ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS OF USING AREA 16.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE SITE WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICES.

"IF THE ADMINISTRATION COULD FIND OTHER SUITABLE SITES IN THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES, WE WOULD NOT HAVE LOOKED TO TUEN MUN FOR HELP.

"IF WE COULD FIND A BETTER SITE IN TUEN MUN FOR TEMPORARY USE WE WOULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN AREA 16," HE SAID.

THERE HAVE BEEN CONCERNS THAT THE TEMPORARY USE OF THE SITE WILL GENERATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ON ALREADY CONGESTED ROADS, CREATE NOISE IN THE AREA AND ADVERSELY AFFECT SAFETY WITHIN THE TYPHOON SHELTER.

MR SIU SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD:

\* PROHIBIT DIRECT LAND ACCESS TO AND FROM THE SITE BY VEHICLES. CARGO WILL ONLY BE TRANSPORTED BY SEA, KEEPING ADDITIONAL LOADS OFF THE EXISTING HIGHWAY;

\* PROHIBIT WORK AT THE SITE OUTSIDE PRESCRIBED HOURS. THERE WILL BE NO NIGHT-TIME NOISE. PATROLLING WATCHMEN WILL BE DEPLOYED TO MONITOR THIS;

\* INSIST THAT THE OPERATOR ADOPTS SPECIFIC NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; AND

\* STEP UP MANAGEMENT OF THE WATERS WITHIN THE TYPHOON SHELTER TO DEAL WITH THE SMALL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL MARINE TRAFFIC.

REGARDING MARINE TRAFFIC, MR SIU SAID THEY ENVISAGED THAT THE OPERATION OF THE SITE WOULD GENERATE ABOUT 10 BARGE TRIPS EACH DAY.

"THIS IS WELL WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS."

HE SAID THE BARGES USING THE SITE WOULD BE CONFINED TO THE WESTERN FAIRWAY AND WESTERN ENTRANCE TO THE TYPHOON SHELTER, THUS MINIMISING CONFLICT WITH OTHER VESSELS.

IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WILL STEP UP TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE TYPHOON SHELTER BY DEMARCATING THE ANCHORAGE AREA TO SEPARATE BARGES AND FISHING VESSELS.

"THIS SHOULD AVOID CONFLICT BOTH DURING NORMAL WEATHER AND DURING TYPHOONS," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 10 -

CODES OF CONDUCT AGAINST MALPRACTICES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE TWO EXCHANGES HAVE SO FAR NOT IDENTIFIED ANY EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MEMBERS INVESTING ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT UPON ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF PENDING TRANSACTIONS.

NEITHER HAVE THEY IDENTIFIED MEMBERS INVESTING ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT ON ANY OTHER NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION THE DISCLOSURE OF WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO AFFECT PRICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CARTLAND SAID THERE WERE PROVISIONS IN THE RESPECTIVE CODES OF CONDUCT OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LTD AND THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE LTD STIPULATING AGAINST SUCH ACTIVITIES.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CODES OF CONDUCT FOR REGISTERED PERSONS IN THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY BEING FINALISED BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, HE SAID.

THE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THE DRAFT CODES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE EFFECTIVE ON FEBRUARY 1.

THE SECRETARY SAID FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUCH REQUIREMENTS WOULD RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS BY THE MARKET REGULATORS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO FINANCIAL LINK BETWEEN AIRPORT RAILWAY AND MTR SYSTEM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE EXISTING MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR) SYSTEM ARE TWO ENTIRELY SEPARATE PROJECTS AND THERE IS NO REASON TO LINK THE FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS, SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEVEN POON KWOK-LIM, MR BARMA SAID THE TWO PROJECTS DID NOT AFFECT OR PRECLUDE EACH OTHER.

"THE AIRPORT RAILWAY WOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH INJECTION OF EQUITY BY GOVERNMENT, BORROWING BY THE MTRC AND PROFITS FROM AIRPORT RAILWAY PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS.

"THE EXPENDITURE OF \$8 BILLION ON THE MTR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME HAS BEEN FULLY ALLOWED FOR IN THE CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL PLANS."

OF THE \$8 BILLION, HE SAID, \$6 BILLION CAN BE MET BY DEPRECIATION CHARGES MADE OVER THE YEARS, WHILE THE REMAINING \$2 BILLION WILL BE FUNDED BY INTERNAL RESERVES AND BORROWINGS.

THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE CORPORATION'S ABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, MR BARMA SAID.

/"IT IS .....

"IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR MTRC TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS EXISTING SYSTEM SO THAT PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY A SAFE, FAST, RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT RAILWAY SERVICE.

"EVEN WITH THIS MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME, THE CORPORATION EXPECTS THAT ANNUAL FARE ADJUSTMENTS CAN CONTINUE TO BE IN LINE WITH INFLATION," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ICAC PROMOTES BUSINESS ETHICS  
\* \* \* \* \*

A SPECIAL TEAM SET UP BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR TO ESTABLISH TIGHTER LINKS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS MADE INITIAL PROGRESS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG YING-YEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PROGRESS WERE MADE ON SEVERAL FRONTS BY THIS TEAM OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS.

FIRST, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF SIX MAJOR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, THE TEAM IS PREPARING A CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS ETHICS THIS MAY. THE CONFERENCE IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG.

"IT AIMS TO GENERATE SUPPORT FROM BUSINESS LEADERS AND TO FORMULATE A SET OF GUIDELINES ON CORPORATE CODES OF CONDUCT FOR REFERENCE BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AT LARGE," MRS CHAN SAID.

INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THE HEADS OF MORE THAN 300 ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, LISTED COMPANIES, LARGE PRIVATE COMPANIES, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND THE TRADE DEPARTMENTS OF CONSULATES.

THE SIX CO-ORGANISING CHAMBERS ARE THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, HONG KONG CHINESE ENTERPRISES ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG.

THE TEAM ALSO HELPS LISTED COMPANIES AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS DESIGN INDIVIDUAL CODES OF CONDUCT, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

"THE TEAM AIMS TO HAVE APPROACHED ALL 480 LISTED COMPANIES BY THE END OF THIS YEAR," MRS CHAN SAID.

IT WILL THEN EXTEND ITS SERVICE TO 2,000 LARGE PRIVATE COMPANIES AND ALL TERTIARY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, SHE SAID.

ALSO, ICAC HAD EARLIER THIS MONTH COMPLETED FIELD WORK ON TWO SURVEYS, TARGETED SEPARATELY AT SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TO OBTAIN AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PERCEPTIONS AND VIEWS ON BUSINESS ETHICS IN HONG KONG.

THE FINDINGS, TO BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH, WILL HELP THE SPECIAL TEAM DEVELOP MORE LONG-TERM SERVICES FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MRS CHAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 12 -

BORDER LIAISON CHANNELS CAN BE ACTIVATED QUICKLY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES HAVE ESTABLISHED BORDER LIAISON CHANNELS WHICH CAN BE ACTIVATED VERY QUICKLY TO DEAL WITH INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE THAT OCCURRED ON JANUARY 2 THIS YEAR INVOLVING HONG KONG CONTAINER TRUCK DRIVERS AND CHINESE SOLDIERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TIEN.

MR BARMA SAID SUCH LIAISON CHANNELS HAD ON THAT OCCASION, FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DRIVERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES AND HAD RESULTED IN THE CANCELLATION OF A PLANNED SLOW-DRIVE PROTEST.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, INVESTIGATION OF THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT IS A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES SINCE IT HAPPENED IN SHENZHEN.

NOTING THAT SMOOTH CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC WAS VITAL TO ECONOMIC WELL-BEING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, MR BARMA SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES THROUGH THE BORDER LIAISON MACHINERY TO TRY TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THE FUTURE.

"IF PROBLEMS DO ARISE ON HONG KONG SIDE THEN, AS IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WILL CONFER AND MEDIATE WITH THE FREIGHT INDUSTRY AND DRIVERS' REPRESENTATIVES WITH A VIEW TO SOLVING SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE QUICKEST AND MOST PRACTICAL MANNER POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SHING MUN BUS INTERCHANGE A SUCCESS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUS INTERCHANGE AT THE TSUEN WAN END OF THE SHING MUN TUNNELS HAS PROVEN TO BE A SUCCESS.

IT HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY PASSENGERS BECAUSE THEY CAN TRANSFER TO DIFFERENT ROUTES AT A BARGAIN FARE.

IT ALSO BENEFITS THE BUS COMPANY CONCERNED BECAUSE IT FACILITATES THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICE TO PASSENGERS THROUGH THE RATIONALISATION OF BUS ROUTES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR HAIDER BARMA, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIK CHI-YUEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARMA NOTED THAT THE SUCCESSFUL WORKING OF A BUS INTERCHANGE AT A TUNNEL DEPENDED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS.

"THESE INCLUDE AN ADEQUATE AREA AT THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF PROPER LAYBYS AND THE NECESSARY WAITING AREAS AND PASSENGER SHELTERS.

/"A SUFFICIENT .....

"A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BUS ROUTES WITH DIFFERENT ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS PASSING THROUGH THE TUNNEL WAS NEEDED."

THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY FREE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE INTERCHANGE TO PREVENT "FREE RIDERS", AND THE BUS ROUTES CONCERNED SHOULD BE RUN BY A SINGLE BUS OPERATOR OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE APPORTIONMENT OF FARES.

UNFORTUNATELY, MR BARMA SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE OR PRACTICAL TO PROVIDE BUS INTERCHANGES AT OTHER TUNNEL LOCATIONS BECAUSE THESE BASIC CRITERIA COULD NOT BE MET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEDICAL INFLATION HIGHER THAN GENERAL INFLATION

\* \* \* \* \*

MEDICAL INFLATION TENDS TO EXCEED GENERAL INFLATION DUE TO ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

IN ADDITION, USE OF NEW TREATMENT MODALITIES AND THE NEED TO MEET RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO MEDICAL INFLATION.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID THE FEES AND CHARGES FOR PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICES WERE REVISED ANNUALLY TO REFLECT RISING COSTS.

SHE SAID: "HISTORICALLY, THE DAILY CHARGE FOR HOSPITAL GENERAL WARDS WAS SET AT A LEVEL TO REFLECT THE CATERING COSTS WHILST THE FEES CHARGED BY PUBLIC OUT-PATIENT CLINICS HAD ALWAYS BEEN BASED ON OPERATING COST."

THE FEE REVISION FOR GENERAL CLINICS FROM \$21 TO \$29 THIS YEAR HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT A PRICE CHANGE OF 11 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND TWO ONE-OFF FACTORS - ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEW COSTING SYSTEM COVERING ALL CLINICS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE INITIAL REDUCTION IN THROUGHPUT CAUSED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF UNIT MEDICAL RECORD SYSTEM IN 15 CLINICS TO ENHANCE PATIENT CARE, SHE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THE EFFECT ON INFLATION OF THE PROPOSED FEE REVISION IN 1993/94, IT WAS ESTIMATED BY THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST TO BE A MINIMAL OF 0.0217 PER CENT.

MRS WONG ALSO NOTED THAT FEES CHARGED FOR MEDICAL SERVICES HAD THEIR ORIGINS IN THE POST-WAR YEARS WHEN THEY WERE SET AT NOMINAL LEVELS.

"THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SUBSIDY FOR HOSPITAL BEDS AT 97 PER CENT AND FOR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AT 81 PER CENT ARE THUS A LEGACY OF THE PAST," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 14 -

PLANS TO STEP UP HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT CONSTANTLY REVIEWS ITS OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT TO ENSURE THAT THEY REMAIN SUFFICIENT AND UP-TO-DATE IN MAINTAINING MAXIMUM SAFETY AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE HONG KONG WATERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ORDER TO STEP UP HARBOUR MANAGEMENT, MR SIU SAID THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAD OBTAINED FUNDING TO:

- \* SET UP A LOCAL MARINE TRAFFIC CONTROL STATION, WITH 26 NEW POSTS, A DEDICATED LAUNCH, RADAR AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AT MA WAN IN 1995;
- \* SET UP A RADAR STATION AT KAU YI CHAU TO ENHANCE RADAR SURVEILLANCE OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR AND PROVIDE FULL RADAR COVERAGE OF KWAI CHUNG AND APPROACHES;
- \* BUY THREE QUICK REACTION PATROL BOATS WHICH WILL COME INTO SERVICE IN MID-1994; AND
- \* REPLACE FIVE OBSOLETE AND COST-INEFFECTIVE PATROL BOATS BY MID-1996.

MR SIU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONSIDER PHASING OUT AND REPLACING A FURTHER OF 11 LOCAL PATROL CRAFT; EXTENDING THE PATROL CAPABILITY IN THE PRINCIPAL FAIRWAYS AND ANCHORAGES; AND SETTING UP FURTHER LOCAL TRAFFIC CONTROL STATIONS AT THE NEW PORT DEVELOPMENTS OF CONTAINER TERMINALS NINE AND 10.

THERE WERE 368 MARITIME ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR, 70 PER CENT OF WHICH WERE MINOR IN NATURE WITH NO CASUALTIES.

THESE ACCIDENTS INVOLVED BOATS RANGING FROM LARGE OCEAN-GOING SHIPS TO SMALL MOTOR SAMPANS AND INCLUDED COLLISIONS, GROUNDINGS AND CAPSIZES OF VESSELS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ACCURACY OF TRADE FIGURES ASSURED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE ACCURACY OF TRADE STATISTICS WAS NOT ONLY MAINTAINED BUT ALSO IMPROVED.

THE ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ROGER LUK KOON-HOO.

/HONG KONG'S .....

HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS ARE COMPILED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION REPORTED ON IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS WHICH ARE MATCHED AGAINST CARGO MANIFESTS TO ENSURE THE COMPLETE COVERAGE OF GOODS IMPORTED AND EXPORTED.

"GOODS REPORTED ON MANIFESTS BUT UNDECLARED WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND EVENTUALLY CAPTURED IN THE TRADE STATISTICS SYSTEM," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"BECAUSE SMUGGLED GOODS ARE NON-MANIFESTED, THEY DO NOT APPEAR IN THE TRADE STATISTICS AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE ACCURATELY THE VALUE OF GOODS SMUGGLED," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLANS TO REVIEW OPERATION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SHELTERED WORKSHOP SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, MRS WONG SAID THE REVIEW WOULD ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS.

"THE AIM IS TO MAKE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS MORE COMMERCIALY ORIENTED, TO IMPROVE VOCATIONAL SKILLS OF SHELTERED WORKERS AND TO ENHANCE THEIR OPEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES," SHE ADDED.

LAST YEAR, OVER 500 DIFFERENT SOURCES OF JOB ORDERS WERE ACQUIRED BY SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, OF WHICH 95 PER CENT WERE FROM THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND THE REST FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

JOB ORDERS WERE OBTAINED EITHER BY WORKSHOP STAFF WHO DIRECTLY APPROACHED POTENTIAL JOB ORDER SUPPLIERS OR THROUGH REFERRAL BY OTHER JOB SUPPLIERS, SHELTER WORKSHOPS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WELFARE AGENCIES.

MAJOR PRODUCTS PLACED BY THESE ORDERS INCLUDED ASSEMBLING LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, TOYS, FAMILY CONSUMABLE AND STATIONERY; PACKAGING EATING UTENSIL SETS FOR FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS AND AIRLINE COMPANIES; TOILETRIES FOR HOTELS; GIFT SETS FOR SUPERMARKETS AND RETAIL SHOPS; PROCESSING MAILING PACKETS; SEWING; PRINTING; AND BOOK-BINDING.

THE MONTHLY INCOME OF WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT-RUN AND SUBVENTED SHELTERED WORKSHOPS RANGE FROM \$500 TO \$1,800, WITH A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF \$700 PER PERSON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 16 -

RIVER TRADE TERMINAL PROJECT IN PROGRESS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL AND VARIOUS TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED WERE BEING EVALUATED WITH A VIEW TO DECIDE ON THE TIMING OF THE PROJECT AND THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG, MR EASON SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND TWO SUBMISSIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION.

HE SAID THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL PROJECT HAD NOT BEEN DEFERRED.

"PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT, IDEALLY, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE RIVER TRADE TERMINAL SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY THE LATTER PART OF 1997, IF POSSIBLE."

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK TO COPE WITH ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC WILL BE REQUIRED.

"THESE INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF LUNG MUN ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BYPASS ALONG THE FOOTHILLS OF CASTLE PEAK," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH MANPOWER ON RISE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO UNDERTAKE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MT T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAU SAID THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF THE MEANS USED TO FACILITATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THE NUMBER OF POST-GRADUATES IN SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES FROM LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ROSE FROM 196 IN 1989 TO 395 LAST YEAR, AND IS PROJECTED TO RISE TO 973 IN 1997.

AS FOR THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES, IT HAS INCREASED FROM 2,128 IN 1989 TO 3,087 LAST YEAR, AND IS PROJECTED TO RISE TO 7,465 BY 1997.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPROVEMENTS TO AIR QUALITY OF TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) IS DEVISING AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR ROAD TUNNELS AND TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES AND HAS ALSO COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO FORMULATE THE DESIGN AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN SUCH FACILITIES.

THE STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRED LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIA) WERE CARRIED OUT ON THE SCENEWAY GARDEN DEVELOPMENT AND THE LAM TIN TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE IN 1988 AT THE PLANNING STAGE.

THE EIA FOR THE SCENEWAY GARDEN DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMED THE NEED FOR A PODIUM DECK STRADDLING LEI YUE MUN ROAD TO PROTECT RESIDENTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT FROM TRAFFIC NOISE AND THIS HAD ACHIEVED THE DESIRED EFFECT.

THE EIA ALSO INDICATED THAT A PROPERLY DESIGNED VENTILATING SYSTEM WOULD BE NEEDED TO MEET AIR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS.

HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NOISE LEVELS AT THE INTERCHANGE WERE HIGH, THEY WERE CONSIDERED TOLERABLE AS THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE AT OTHER ROAD-SIDE LOCATIONS NEAR BUSY ROADS.

HOWEVER, THE AIR QUALITY THERE WAS UNACCEPTABLE EVEN THOUGH PASSENGERS WERE EXPOSED TO AIR POLLUTION FOR SHORT PERIODS ONLY MAINLY BECAUSE THE VENTILATION WAS INADEQUATE OR INEFFECTIVE.

MR EASON SAID IN THE SHORT TERM, IMPROVEMENTS TO AIR QUALITY AT THIS AND SIMILAR FACILITIES WOULD BE SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND THE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PRIVATE FACILITIES THROUGH BETTER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE VENTILATION SYSTEMS.

"THE EPD IS CONSULTING THOSE CONCERNED ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING EXHAUST FANS.

"TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY EMISSIONS, BUS DRIVERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO TURN OFF THEIR ENGINES WHILE WAITING AT THESE FACILITIES," HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID IN THE LONG TERM, THE VENTILATION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING VENTILATING FANS, FRESH AIR IN-TAKES AND EXHAUST AIR DUCTS, MIGHT NEED TO BE UPGRADED TO ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS.

BRITAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY IN HK NOT ENCROACHED

\* \* \* \* \*

THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF AN ENCROACHMENT OF BRITAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY IN HONG KONG REGARDING THE CASE OF HAN DONGFANG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

"WE HAVE ALREADY MADE OUR VIEWS ON THIS EPISODE CLEAR TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES," MR ASPREY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EDUCATION ADVISER FOR NURSING BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NURSING BOARD IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS COMPOSITION AND, IF NECESSARY, A NEW EDUCATION ADVISER WILL BE APPOINTED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID SINCE 1982, THE NURSING BOARD HAD NOT REQUESTED THE SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION ADVISER.

"THE POSITION HAS THEREFORE BEEN LEFT VACANT FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF THE LAST EDUCATION ADVISER IN OCTOBER 1984," SHE SAID.

THE EDUCATION ADVISER IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE NURSING BOARD.

HIS MAIN ROLE IS TO ADVISE THE BOARD ON EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR NURSES TRAINEES AND TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR NURSES TRAINING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ALL VIET DETENTION CENTRES TO GO IN 1996

\* \* \* \* \*

IF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS' PRESENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TRENDS ARE MAINTAINED, ALL DETENTION CENTRES WILL BE CLOSED IN EARLY 1996, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF SOME 27,500 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARE HOUSED IN THREE DETENTION CENTRES.

THOSE FROM THE SOUTH OF VIETNAM ARE IN THE TAI A CHAU AND HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRES, AND THOSE FROM THE NORTH IN WHITEHEAD.

"DEPENDING ON THE PACE OF REPATRIATION, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CLOSE SOME SECTIONS OF WHITEHEAD, AND ONE OF THE CENTRES FOR THE SOUTHERN VIETNAMESE TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR," MR ASPREY SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1994

- 19 -

"THE TIMING OF THE CLOSURE OF THE REMAINING CENTRES WILL PROBABLY COINCIDE WITH THE REPATRIATION OF THE LAST REMAINING VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN THE TERRITORY," HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID NO ALTERNATIVE USE HAD YET BEEN DECIDED FOR THE DETENTION CENTRES THAT MAY BE CLOSED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMENDED MOTION ON ICAC'S POWERS PASSED

\* \* \* \* \*

AN AMENDED MOTION MOVED BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW ON THE POWERS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PROPOSED BY THE HON CHRISTINE LOH.

FOURTEEN MEMBERS SPOKE FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR IN THE DEBATE AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON MRS ANSON CHAN, SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

AN AMENDMENT MOVED BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE TO A MOTION ON MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY WAS ALSO PASSED.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, REPLIED TO THE POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS.

THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PROPOSED BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM.

A TOTAL OF 19 MEMBERS SPOKE FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS IN THE DEBATE.

IN ADDITION, A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, UNDER BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

TWO BILLS - COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 - WERE PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

ANOTHER BILL, ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS BOARD BILL, WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

THREE OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION BILL.

- - - - 0 - - - -