



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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LAND ASSESSMENT TIME EXPLAINED

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SIMPLE CASES OF ASSESSMENT OF NEW TERRITORIES LAND PROPERTY VALUES FOR ESTATE DUTY COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE MONTH, BUT COMPLEX CASES MIGHT TAKE UP TO SIX MONTHS OR MORE TO COMPLETE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ABOUT THE LENGTH OF TIME TAKEN IN ASSESSING SUCH CASES.

WHILE THE COMMISSIONER FOR ESTATE DUTY AND OTHERS INVOLVED DID THEIR BEST TO COMPLETE VALUATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS COULD DO MUCH TO HELP BY FULLY DISCLOSING IN THEIR ESTATE DUTY AFFIDAVITS ALL LANDED PROPERTY WITH REALISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE OPEN MARKET VALUE, MR JACOBS SAID.

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GOVT OFFERS TO PUT +BOAT BRIDES+ CASE TO CHINA

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IF THE 14 +BOAT BRIDES+ REQUIRED BY LAW TO RETURN TO CHINA LEFT VOLUNTARILY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY PUT THEIR CASE TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR THEM TO GET PRIORITY IN THE ISSUE OF ONE-WAY PERMITS TO COME BACK TO HONG KONG LEGALLY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JEAFFRESON WAS REPLYING TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION OVER THE DECISION TO REPATRIATE 14 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES LIVING IN DWELLING BOATS IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER.

HE SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY THESE 14 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES LIVING IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER SHOULD BE TREATED ANY BETTER THAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES LIVING ANYWHERE ELSE.

+ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT HUSBANDS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES FOUND LIVING ON LAND IN HONG KONG ARE RETURNED TO CHINA -- EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES FOR SOME TIME,+ HE SAID.

+THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THESE WIVES IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER ARE IN HONG KONG ILLEGALLY, ARRIVED HERE RELATIVELY RECENTLY, AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF ALL, HAVE JUMPED A LONG QUEUE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO COME HERE LEGALLY USING THE ONE-WAY PERMIT SYSTEM.+

MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT BETWEEN 8 000 AND 9 000 WIVES WERE COMING TO HONG KONG LEGALLY EVERY YEAR BY THIS MEANS.

/+IF THESE

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+IF THESE 14 WIVES WERE ALLOWED TO STAY, TYPHOON SHELTERS -- INSTEAD OF BEING PLACES WHERE LEGITIMATE WORKING BOATS CAN SHELTER IN EMERGENCIES, OR WHEN THEY ARE NOT WORKING -- THESE TYPHOON SHELTERS WILL BECOME A BOAT SQUATTERS' PARADISE AS A LOOPHOLE FOR GETTING WIVES ILLEGALLY INTO HONG KONG.

+THAT THE HUSBANDS OF SOME OF THESE WIVES MAY ONCE HAVE BEEN FISHERMEN IS IRRELEVANT.

+THE FACT THAT WHEN SOME OF THEIR HUSBANDS WERE FISHERMEN, THEY WERE ALLOWED TO STAY ON BOARD THEIR VESSELS CERTAINLY DOES NOT LEAD TO AN ARGUMENT THAT WHEN THEIR HUSBANDS CEASE TO BE FISHERMEN, THE WIVES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LAND,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION OVER THE CHILDREN OF THESE +BOAT BRIDES+, MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT PROVIDED THAT THEIR HUSBANDS WERE HONG KONG RESIDENTS, AND PROVIDED THE CHILDREN WERE BORN IN HONG KONG -- WHICH MEANT IN HONG KONG WATERS AS WELL AS ON HONG KONG LAND -- THEIR RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE FACT THAT THEIR MOTHERS HAVE RETURNED TO CHINA.

+THEY MAY REMAIN IN HONG KONG, OR IF THEIR MOTHERS CHOOSE TO TAKE THEM WITH THEM TO CHINA, THEY WOULD NOT LOSE THEIR RIGHT TO LAND AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD ASSIST THE CHILDREN IN GETTING THEM TO THE BORDER,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD RECALL FROM THE RECORDS THAT HE HAD SEEN, NONE OF THESE CHILDREN WAS YET OF SCHOOL AGE.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR JEAFFRESON SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THESE 14 +BOAT BRIDES+ COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BACK IN THEIR COMMUNITIES IN CHINA BECAUSE THEIR HOUSEHOLD REGISTRATION HAD BEEN CANCELLED.

+THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA IS THAT ONLY THOSE HOLDING ONE-WAY PERMITS CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR SETTLEMENT IN HONG KONG.

+THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE NOT HOLDING ONE-WAY PERMITS WILL HAVE THEIR HOUSEHOLD REGISTRATION IN CHINA CANCELLED.

+EVEN IF SOME MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY CANCELLED THEIR OWN REGISTRATION IN CHINA, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR THEM TO RE-REGISTER WHEN THEY RETURN TO CHINA.+

HE ADDED THAT CHINA HAD BEEN ACCEPTING BACK ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOR YEARS AND THAT SIX BOAT-DWELLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES HAD BEEN REPATRIATED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

+THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT THEY WERE NOT ACCEPTED BACK IN THE PLACE FROM WHICH THEY CAME,+ HE SAID.

/REPLYING TO

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REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR JEAFFRESON SAID AS FAR AS THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE, THERE WERE ABOUT 840 GENUINE FISHERMEN'S WIVES WHO WERE ALLOWED INTO HONG KONG WATERS AND TO REMAIN ON THEIR BOATS WHILE THEY WERE HERE.

+THESE 840 ARE THE WIVES OF GENUINE FISHERMEN, THAT IS, PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON BOATS AND GO OUT AND FISH REGULARLY.

+WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT ANY OF THEIR HUSBANDS ARE TURNING TOWARDS OTHER JOBS AND WE HAVE HAD NO REPRESENTATIONS FROM THEM TO BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR JEAFFRESON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT FOR SOME YEARS, IT HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL RULE IN RESPECT OF FISHERMEN'S WIVES.

+THE GENERAL RULE IS THAT WIVES FROM CHINA WISHING TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS IN HONG KONG PERMANENTLY MUST COME TO HONG KONG BY MEANS OF THE ONE-WAY PERMIT SYSTEM.

+BUT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF FISHERMEN'S WORK, WE ALLOW THEIR WIVES TO ENTER HONG KONG IN THEIR BOATS FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE PERMITTED SYSTEM PROVIDED THAT THE WIVES ARE INCLUDED IN A CHINESE MOBILE FISHERMEN'S CENSUS RECORD, HOLD VALID CHINESE FISHERMEN'S IDENTITY CARDS, AND PROVIDED THEY STAY ON THE BOATS AND LEAVE WHEN THE BOATS LEAVE.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD 14 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WIVES FROM CHINA WHO HAD BEEN FOUND LIVING ON DWELLING BOATS IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER THAT THEY MUST RETURN TO CHINA.

+THEY ARE NOT FISHERMEN'S WIVES. THEY ARE RECENTLY ARRIVED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS,+ HE SAID.

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ACCORD REACHED ON +PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES+
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IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THE CHINESE EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF, AS WELL AS THE CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL ENJOY APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHEN THEY GO TO LONDON FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, THE FIRST OF WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE LATER THIS MONTH, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

SIMILARLY, EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF ON THE BRITISH SIDE, INCLUDING THOSE FROM HONG KONG, WILL ENJOY PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHEN THEY GO TO PEKING FOR MEETINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD THERE.

MR THOMAS WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

/HE RECALLED

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HE RECALLED THAT WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) ORDINANCE 1985, WHICH WAS PASSED ON MAY 1, HE HAD STATED THAT SOME FURTHER PROVISION MIGHT LATER HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THE EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, AS WELL AS FOR THE CHINESE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE LAND COMMISSION.

AGREEMENT HAD LATER BEEN REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE WORK OF THE TWO BODIES WOULD BE FACILITATED IF APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WERE PROVIDED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES.

+THIS IS IN LINE WITH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS MEET,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND THE LAND COMMISSION IN HONG KONG. IT DID THAT BY EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) ORDINANCE 1985 TO EXPERTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF ON THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND TO THE CHINESE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF OF THE LAND COMMISSION, MR THOMAS SAID.

TWO FURTHER PROVISIONS MADE IN THE BILL WERE THE PRIVILEGE OF FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION, AND A MINOR TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 5(3) OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AMPLE NOTICE GIVEN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS
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EIGHTEEN MONTHS' NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO EACH OF THE 17 PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CEASE TO BUY FORM 1 PLACES FROM THEM AS FROM SEPTEMBER 1986, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO THE HON RITA FAN ON HOW MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE WAS GIVEN TO THE 17 SCHOOLS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME FROM NEXT SEPTEMBER, MR LEUNG SAID THAT THE AMOUNT OF ADVANCE NOTICE WAS THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS ADVISORY BOARD AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1982.

ALL AGREED THAT 18 MONTHS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

THE 17 PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE INFORMED IN MARCH THIS YEAR AND THE MATTER WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS ADVISORY BOARD THE SAME MONTH.

/IN REPLY

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IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MRS FAN CONCERNING THE CRITERIA USED FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A PRIVATE SCHOOL WAS FIT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME, MR LEUNG SAID THEY WERE THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, THE TEACHING STAFF, THE PREMISES, THE FACILITIES, ITS PROVISION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ITS POPULARITY AMONG PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

+IT IS FROM AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOOL IN ALL THESE AREAS THAT DECISIONS ARE MADE ON WHETHER PLACES SHOULD BE BOUGHT FROM THE SCHOOL. THIS ASSESSMENT IS MADE THROUGH INSPECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL AND IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY TO SEE IF CONTINUED BUYING IS JUSTIFIED,+ HE SAID.

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MORE MALARIA CASES REPORTED

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IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 72 IMPORTED CASES AND ONE INDIGENOUS CASE OF MALARIA REPORTED, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ON WHETHER MALARIA CASES WERE ON THE INCREASE AND WHAT CONTROL MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN, DR KHOO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MALARIA CASES IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT THIS INCREASE CORRESPONDED WITH THE GLOBAL SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AMONG ASIAN COUNTRIES.

IN 1981, 1982, 1983 AND 1984, THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED CASES WERE 61, 77, 94 AND 101, WHILE THE NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS CASES WERE 1, 1, 30 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY IN IMPORTED CASES WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FIGURE.

ON THE WORK OF MONITORING AND CONTROLLING MALARIA, HE SAID THAT AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON MALARIA HAD BEEN SET UP TO CO-ORDINATE MATTERS SINCE OCTOBER 1983.

THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO PREPARED AN +OPERATIONAL MANUAL ON THE INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MALARIA+ FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE MEDICAL AND OTHER STAFF, DR KHOO SAID.

+IT ALSO MADE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MALARIA,+ HE ADDED.

BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE, VARIOUS MEASURES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THESE INCLUDE A SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL, HEALTH EDUCATION, LABORATORY FACILITIES AND STAFF TRAINING.

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THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM CONSISTS OF A NETWORK OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETECTION, REPORTING, INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT OF ALL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, INCLUDING MALARIA.

UNDER THE VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAMME OPERATED BY STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, POTENTIAL BREEDING SITES ARE OILED WEEKLY TO DESTROY MOSQUITO LARVAE. IN AREAS WHERE CONDITIONS ARE CONDUCIVE TO MOSQUITO BREEDING, INSECTICIDES ARE SPRAYED.

TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY ON MALARIA THROUGH THE PRESS, TELEVISION AND RADIO NETWORKS IS BEING CARRIED OUT. SPECIAL PAMPHLETS, POSTERS, HEALTH TALKS, SLIDE SHOWS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES INCLUDING SEMINARS FOR MEDICAL AND LABORATORY STAFF HAVE BEEN HELD TO KEEP THEM ABREAST OF THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD.

A CENTRAL REFERENCE LABORATORY WAS ESTABLISHED AT SAI YING PUN INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY TO PROVIDE CONSULTATIVE SERVICES TO OTHER LABORATORIES. IT ALSO SERVES AS A REFERENCE AND MONITORING CENTRE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF MALARIA.

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AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES 'WITHIN TARGET'
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AN ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT LAST MONTH BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT IN 90 PER CENT OF THE EMERGENCY CALLS IT TOOK AN AMBULANCE 10 MINUTES TO REACH THE SCENE OF A CALL IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 20 MINUTES TO REACH THE SCENE IN THE RURAL AREAS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

THE TIMES, HE SAID, WERE WITHIN THE TARGET ATTENDANCE TIMES THE GOVERNMENT USED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

AND THE RESULT WAS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY, AS IT WOULD NEVER BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET TIMES IN 100 PER CENT OF CASES, GIVEN SUCH UNCONTROLLABLE FACTORS IN HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION, HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ABOUT THE AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR AN AMBULANCE TO REACH THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT.

HE SAID HE DID NOT HAVE A FIGURE FOR THE AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR AN AMBULANCE TO REACH THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT, BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT HAVE THE STAFF NECESSARY TO ANALYSE THE 850 CALLS A DAY WHICH THE AMBULANCE SERVICE RECEIVED.

/+BUT FROM

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+BUT FROM TIME TO TIME THE DEPARTMENT ANALYSED SAMPLES OF CALLS IN ORDER TO CHECK ON OPERATING PERFORMANCE,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD CARRIED OUT AN ANALYSIS LAST MONTH ON A SAMPLE OF 850 EMERGENCY CALLS ANSWERED, COMPRISING 50 CALLS FROM EACH OF 17 DEPOTS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE WHOLE TERRITORY.

WITH REGARD TO THE NUMBER OF AMBULANCES IN HONG KONG, HE SAID THE AMBULANCE SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT HAD A FLEET OF 198 AMBULANCES -- STATIONED AT 18 DEPOTS AND 17 FIRE STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. FORTY-THREE AMBULANCES WERE DEPLOYED IN THE HONG KONG REGION, 77 IN THE KOWLOON REGION AND 72 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION. SIX AMBULANCES WERE IN THE AMBULANCE TRAINING DIVISION.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE HAD SIX AMBULANCES, LARGELY USED FOR MOVING PATIENTS TO AND FROM HOSPITALS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

+THE ASSOCIATION HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER FAVOURABLY ANY REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE USE OF THE AMBULANCES IN AN EMERGENCY.

+A FEW PRIVATE HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG HAVE THEIR OWN AMBULANCES. THESE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR THE MOTORCYCLE AMBULANCE SUPPORT SCHEME WHICH MR CHEUNG ALSO ASKED ABOUT, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE ISSUE WOULD BE REVIVED AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL SITUATION IMPROVED.

+FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, BUT BASICALLY BECAUSE THE MOTORCYCLES CAN GET TO THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT MINUTES AHEAD OF AMBULANCES OFTEN IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE SECONDS MAY COUNT IN SAVING A PERSON'S LIFE, WE BELIEVE THE SCHEME TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.

+BUT PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE POLICY OF ZERO GROWTH IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, FUNDS COULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CAPITAL AND RECURRENT COSTS OF CONTINUING OR EXPANDING THE SCHEME FOR THE TIME BEING,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID, THE MOTORCYCLE AMBULANCE SUPPORT SCHEME WAS BEING LOOKED AT AGAIN IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AS A WHOLE.

THE TRIAL PERIOD OF THE SCHEME BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1982 AND ENDED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

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TWO MORE EVENING CLINICS THIS YEAR
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PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO START EVENING CLINIC SERVICE AT WU YORK YU CLINIC IN WONG TAI SIN AND LEK YUEN HEALTH CENTRE IN SHA TIN LATER THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON RUDY KHOO, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAULINE NG.

DR KHOO SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD MONITORED THE UTILISATION PATTERN OF ALL GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND DECIDED THAT EVENING CLINIC SESSIONS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE TWO DENSELY-POPULATED AREAS - WONG TAI SIN AND SHA TIN.

EXPLAINING THE FUNCTION OF EVENING CLINICS, HE SAID THAT THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF RELIEVING EXCESSIVE PRESSURE ON DAY CLINICS OR ON THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS.

+WITH THE MOVEMENT OF POPULATION TO NEW AREAS, ADDITIONAL DAY CLINICS WILL BE DEVELOPED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WHICH ARE SUFFICIENT FOR THE LOCAL NEED IN MOST CASES,+ DR KHOO SAID.

+IN AREAS WHERE SUCH CLINICS ARE OVER-SUBSCRIBED, EVENING CLINIC SERVICE WILL BE CONSIDERED SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCE AND STAFF RESOURCES.+

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 15 GOVERNMENT CLINICS PROVIDING 44 DOCTOR SESSIONS IN THE EVENING. THESE INCLUDE FIVE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WITH 15 SESSIONS PER EVENING, SIX IN KOWLOON WITH 19 SESSIONS AND FOUR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH 10 SESSIONS.

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FURTHER CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS NEEDED
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FURTHER CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ENLARGED AND PARTLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH WOULD COME INTO BEING ON OCTOBER 30 THIS YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

AND SOME THOUGHT HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO THESE CHANGES, AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF ALL THE LEGISLATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AFFECTING THE COUNCIL, HE SAID.

+BUT IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME LEFT THIS SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO COME TO ANY DECISIONS.

+ACCORDINGLY, SIR, LATER THIS YEAR I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL CONSULT MEMBERS OF THE NEW COUNCIL UPON THE PROCEDURES THAT THEY WISH TO ADOPT FOR REVIEWING STANDING ORDERS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A SELECT COMMITTEE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

/MEANWHILE,

MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAD ANY COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE EXISTING STANDING ORDERS OR ON THE NEED FOR AMENDMENT WERE INVITED TO WRITE TO THE CLERK OF COUNCILS IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

THE ORDERS WERE INCLUDED IN THE LAWS OF HONG KONG AND WERE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, HE SAID.

MR THOMAS WAS SPEAKING WHEN MOVING THE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION, WAS TWOFOLD:

+FIRST, IT PROVIDES FOR AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS 1, 6 AND 11 IN ORDER TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO TAKE THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF OATH PROVIDED FOR IN THE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE RECENTLY ENACTED BY THIS COUNCIL AND WHICH WAS BROUGHT INTO FORCE BY A NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE FOR JULY 5. THIS AMENDMENT IS DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS AT THE FIRST SITTING OF THE NEW SESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED PROCEDURES.

+SECOND, THE RESOLUTION PROVIDES FOR AN AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 63, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN SITTINGS OF A SELECT COMMITTEE ARE HELD IN PUBLIC, EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTS MAY BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE HAS PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL.

+THIS AMENDMENT, WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TRIAL OF COMMERCIAL CRIME AT ITS MEETING ON JUNE 4 THIS YEAR, WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ITS WORK WHEN IT WISHES TO TAKE EVIDENCE IN PUBLIC.

+IT WILL REMOVE THE RESTRICTION THAT EXISTS PRESENTLY UPON THE REPORTING OF SUCH EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE HAS PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL.+

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CHAN ABSTAINS FROM VOTING ON MOTION
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THE HON K.C. CHAN ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON THE MOTION TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID WHEN THE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS DEBATED IN THE COUNCIL IN MAY THIS YEAR, HE HAD ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

+THE REASONS FOR MY ABSTENTION WERE SET OUT IN MY SPEECH DELIVERED IN THIS COUNCIL ON MAY 15.

+AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, I SHALL ALSO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON THIS MOTION,+ HE ADDED.

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'NO NET INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE'

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THERE WAS NO NET INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE RESULTING FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE 1984-85 FINANCIAL YEAR, COVERED BY THE SUMMARY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

TABLING THE SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION, MR JACOBS SAID THAT OF THE \$1.5 BILLION APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION, \$1.1 BILLION AROSE FROM THE 1984 CIVIL SERVICE AND SUBVENTED SECTOR PAY ADJUSTMENTS.

+I AM PLEASED TO RECORD THAT THERE IS NO NET INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE RESULTING FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION COVERED BY THE SUMMARY.

+THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION UNDER EACH HEAD WAS OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME HEAD OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES,+ HE SAID.

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BILL PROTECTS REOCCUPATION RIGHTS

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THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 SOUGHT TO REINFORCE THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF REOCCUPATION BY TENANTS TEMPORARILY DISPLACED BY A CLOSURE ORDER, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHAN SAID: +IT SEEKS TO AMEND SECTION 40 OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A SANCTION AGAINST FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 27(10) OF THE ORDINANCE.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS SECTION RELATED TO THE NOTICE OF EXPIRY OF A CLOSURE ORDER AND REQUIRED THE OWNER TO SERVE COPIES OF THE NOTICE ON ALL FORMER OCCUPIERS AND TO CERTIFY TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY THAT SUCH COPIES HAD BEEN SERVED.

THIS WAS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF REOCCUPATION OF TEMPORARILY DISPLACED TENANTS.

MR CHAN SAID THAT BEFORE 1979, A TABLE OF OFFENCES FOR FAILURE TO GIVE THE REQUIRED NOTICE HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN SECTION 40. IN A MAJOR AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE IN THAT YEAR, THE GENERAL OFFENCE WAS OMITTED, LEAVING SECTION 27(10) WITHOUT ANY SANCTION.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL: +FOR SECTION 27(10) TO BE EFFECTIVE, THERE MUST BE A SANCTION.

+CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL AMENDS SECTION 40 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR AN OWNER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SUCH REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 27(10) TO BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$10 000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.+

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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MORE POWER SOUGHT FOR BUS INSURANCE CHECKS

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THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WOULD GIVE GOVERNMENT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN MONITORING THE INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (1933) LIMITED AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY LIMITED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR MACPHERSON SAID THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) ORDINANCE HAD BEEN ENACTED IN NOVEMBER 1951 TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THIRD PARTIES AGAINST RISKS ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE PRESENT BILL HAD TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES.

+FIRST, IT INCREASES THE AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT OR SECURITY THAT MUST BE LODGED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES BY AN OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OR A FLEET OF VEHICLES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO OBTAINING A POLICY OF MOTOR INSURANCE AGAINST THIRD PARTY RISKS.

+SECOND, IT EMPOWERS THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO PROVIDE BY ORDER THAT SPECIFIED PERSONS SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE A DEPOSIT INSTEAD OF OBTAINING A POLICY OF MOTOR INSURANCE,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

THE TWO COMPANIES WERE THE ONLY +PERSONS+ WHO HAD MADE SUCH A DEPOSIT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO OBTAINING A POLICY OF MOTOR INSURANCE AGAINST THIRD PARTY RISKS.

CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL AMENDED SECTION 4 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE DEPOSIT LIMIT FROM \$400 000 TO \$2 MILLION.

THE \$400 000 LIMIT HAD BEEN PRESCRIBED IN 1968 AND THE INCREASE WAS TO REFLECT INFLATION OVER THE YEARS,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

SIMILARLY, HE SAID, THE SECURITY LIMIT AND UNDERTAKING LIMITS AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 7 WERE ALSO INCREASED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION.

AMENDMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO PREVENT A SPECIFIED PERSON FROM OPTING FOR A DEPOSIT IN LIEU OF OBTAINING A POLICY OF MOTOR INSURANCE AGAINST THIRD PARTY RISKS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE RETURN OF THE DEPOSIT TO THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IF HE WAS A PERSON AS SPECIFIED IN CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET WELCOMED

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THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF A FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON GERRY HIGGINSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, HE SAID THIS WAS BASED ON THE GROWING MATURITY OF THE FUTURES INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM DEVELOPING HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE, AND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF FINANCIAL FUTURES TRADING IN THE USA, SYDNEY, TORONTO, LONDON AND SINGAPORE.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RAPIDLY CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FUTURES INDUSTRY AND FURTHER AMENDING LEGISLATION WOULD BE PRESENTED AFTER COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, HE SAID.

THE BILL, MR HIGGINSON SAID, HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES.

+FIRST, TO FACILITATE THE REORGANISATION OF THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE= SECOND, TO MAKE PROVISION FOR TRADING FINANCIAL FUTURES= AND THIRD, TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF AND THE PROTECTION TO BE AFFORDED BY THE EXCHANGE COMPANY'S COMPENSATION FUND.

+NEW DEFINITIONS OF 'COMMODITY' AND 'FUTURES CONTRACTS' ARE PROVIDED IN ORDER TO ALLOW FINANCIAL FUTURES CONTRACTS, IN GENERAL, TO BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE ORDINANCE.+

MR HIGGINSON SAID THAT THE BILL PROPOSED CERTAIN IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXCHANGE COMPANY.

+THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EXCHANGE WILL BE VESTED IN A PROPERLY CONSTITUTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

+IN ADDITION, THE EXCHANGE WILL BE ABLE TO USE MORE THAN ONE CLEARING HOUSE AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION IN RESPECT OF DIFFERENT MARKETS IN THE FUTURE, IF IT SO WISHES.

+HOWEVER, THE CLEARING HOUSES AND THE GUARANTEE CORPORATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO REMOVED THE PRESENT DISQUALIFICATION AGAINST LICENSED BANKS AND DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES OR THEIR DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES, PRACTISING SOLICITORS AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS FROM BECOMING SHAREHOLDERS OF THE EXCHANGE COMPANY, MR HIGGINSON SAID.

/CORPORATIONS

CORPORATIONS INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG AND ENGAGED IN TRADING IN COMMODITY FUTURES CONTRACTS ON THE FUTURES EXCHANGE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP AND BANKS AND DTCS WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE THROUGH SUBSIDIARIES INCORPORATED FOR THE PURPOSE, HE SAID.

TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF INVESTORS, HE SAID, THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A NEW AND SELF-SUSTAINING COMPENSATION FUND AND FOR STREAMLINING THE PROCEDURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE LODGING, DETERMINING AND SETTLING OF CLAIMS.

HE SAID THAT THE EXCHANGE WOULD CONTRIBUTE A MAXIMUM OF \$100 000 TO THE FUND ON BEHALF OF EACH OF ITS MEMBERS.

+TO PROVIDE REGULAR INJECTIONS INTO THE FUND, A LEVY, THE RATE OF WHICH WILL BE FIXED BY THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION, WILL BE CHARGED ON EVERY CONTRACT TRADED ON THE EXCHANGE,+ MR HIGGINSON SAID.

THE MAXIMUM PAYOUT FROM THE COMPENSATION FUND PER DEFAULTING SHAREHOLDER, HE SAID, WAS TO BE RAISED FROM THE EXISTING \$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION.

+CLAIMS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE EXCHANGE, BUT PERSONS AGGRIEVED BY THE EXCHANGE'S DECISIONS WILL HAVE A RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE APPEALS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION, IN ADDITION TO THEIR EXISTING RIGHT TO ESTABLISHING THEIR CLAIMS IN COURT.

+THE NEW COMPENSATION FUND WILL BE ESTABLISHED WHEN THE EXCHANGE COMPANY HAS COMPLETED ITS INTERNAL REORGANISATION AND IS READY TO ADMIT NEW MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

THE CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE SCOPE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES HAD GIVEN RISE TO THE NEED TO BE ABLE TO ENLARGE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION.

CLAUSE 3, THEREFORE, PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN SEVEN MEMBERS, MR HIGGINSON SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIVE-MEMBER COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION APPEALS COMMITTEE FOR HEARING ANY APPEALS UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THAT TRADING IN HANG SENG INDEX FUTURES CONTRACTS, THE FIRST NEW CONTRACT PROPOSED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE EXCHANGE WOULD NOT COMMENCE UNTIL THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WAS ADVISED BY THE SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSIONS THAT TWO IMPORTANT CONDITIONS HAD BEEN MET.

+FIRST, THAT THE EXCHANGE HAS BEEN PROPERLY REORGANISED; SECOND, THAT THE COMMISSIONS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SAFEGUARDS INTRODUCED TO DETER, DETECT AND PREVENT MANIPULATION IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN THE HANG SENG INDEX AND TO PROTECT THE INVESTING PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

+IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR POLICY TO PERMIT ONLY ONE FUTURES EXCHANGE TO OPERATE IN HONG KONG IN WHICH MAJOR INTERESTED PARTIES BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE AND BE REPRESENTED IN ITS MANAGEMENT.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO WISH TO BE REASSURED THAT THE EXCHANGE IS PROPERLY MANAGED AND OPERATED AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC ARE FULLY SAFEGUARDED,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO PROTECT HK WORKERS OVERSEAS
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THE CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL SOUGHT TO PROVIDE FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A FINE OF \$50 000 FOR AN EMPLOYER OR HIS AGENT WHO EITHER FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE HIMSELF OR SOLICITED OR INDUCED A WORKER TO LEAVE HONG KONG TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH THE ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON DARWIN CHEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE WERE THE RESULT OF A REVIEW OF THE ORDINANCE FOLLOWING A DISPUTE AFFECTING HONG KONG WORKERS IN SRI LANKA LAST YEAR, HE SAID.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEN SAID THE MAIN WEAKNESS OF THE PRESENT ORDINANCE WAS THAT IT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.

HE SAID BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO WERE NOT RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, THE BILL PROPOSED THAT THE ORDINANCE SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO EMPLOYERS' AGENTS IN HONG KONG, AND THEIR LIABILITY TO PROSECUTION HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR IN THE BILL.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT PERSONS RESPONDING TO ADVERTISEMENTS AND OTHER PUBLICITY REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG SHOULD IN THEIR OWN INTEREST CHECK WHETHER THE EMPLOYER IS LOCALLY BASED, OR REPRESENTED BY A LOCAL AGENT.

IF NEITHER WAS THE CASE, THE JOB-SEEKER SHOULD CHECK WITH THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE AMENDMENT OF A NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS WHICH WERE EITHER OUT-OF-DATE OR MISLEADING, INCLUDING RETITLING THE ORDINANCE AS +THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE+ IN ORDER TO REMOVE ANY POSSIBLE AMBIGUITY IN THE EXPRESSION +OVERSEAS+.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL OFFERS CLARIFICATION OF PRINCIPLES
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PROPOSALS IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1985 ARE INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMPENSATION ASSESSMENT BOARDS AND SHOULD NOT LEAD TO ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN THEIR CURRENT PRACTICE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON DARWIN CHEN, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHEN ALSO SAID THAT THE AMENDMENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE RATES OF PREMIA FOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POINTS WHERE THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE NEEDED FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

HE SAID SECTION 9 OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN SPECIFIC INJURIES WERE CONSIDERED TO RESULT IN A SPECIFIC DEGREE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AS LISTED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

IF AN INJURY WAS NOT LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE, THE DEGREE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY HAD TO BE DECIDED BY AN APPOINTED ASSESSMENT BOARD.

+DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED BY THE BOARDS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN NON-SCHEDULED INJURIES AND THE BILL SEEKS TO SPELL OUT MORE CLEARLY THE PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE BOARDS IN SUCH CASES,+ MR CHEN SAID.

HE SAID THAT FOR SCHEDULED INJURIES, COMPENSATION WAS BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, WHETHER OR NOT THE INJURED PERSON HAD MANAGED TO FIND A JOB AT A SALARY EQUIVALENT TO WHAT HE WAS EARNING BEFORE THE INJURY.

HOWEVER, IT APPEARED FROM A RECENT APPEAL COURT CASE THAT UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, IF AN INJURY WAS NOT LISTED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, THE INJURED PERSON MIGHT LOSE HIS ENTITLEMENT TO COMPENSATION IF HE OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT AT A SALARY EQUIVALENT TO WHAT HE WAS EARNING BEFORE HE WAS INJURED.

+THIS IS FELT TO BE UNFAIR, SINCE THERE IS STILL THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE INJURED PERSON'S ABILITY TO KEEP HIS JOB HAS BEEN REDUCED. THUS IN THE LONG RUN HIS EARNING CAPACITY IS LIKELY TO BE REDUCED.+

TO DEAL WITH THIS ANOMALY, MR CHEN SAID, THE BILL PROVIDED THAT THE BOARD MIGHT, BUT WAS NOT OBLIGED TO, GIVE WEIGHT TO ANY ACTUAL EARNINGS AFTER THE INJURY.

IT ALSO SOUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT COMPENSATION COULD COVER LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY, PRESENT OR FUTURE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT FOR INJURIES SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, THE ORDINANCE ALREADY PROVIDED THAT WHERE LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY FROM A COMBINATION OF INJURIES AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN 100 PER CENT, THE INCAPACITY WAS DEEMED TO BE TOTAL.

+THE PRESENT BILL SEEKS TO APPLY THE SAME PRINCIPLE TO A COMBINATION OF INJURIES NOT SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, AND TO A COMBINATION OF SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED INJURIES,+ HE ADDED.

+THE BILL FURTHER SEEKS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT PARTIAL LOSS OF A MEMBER OR ITS USE SHOULD BE ASSESSED IN PROPORTION TO THE TOTAL LOSS OF THAT MEMBER AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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'SIMPLER' SYSTEM OF FACTORY NOTIFICATION PROPOSED
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON DARWIN CHEN, TODAY SAID THE NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM PROPOSED UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 WOULD BE SIMPLER THAN THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION AND WOULD REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PAPER WORK FOR BOTH PROPRIETORS OF WORKPLACES AND THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR CHEN SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF WORKPLACES BY A NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.

+UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE PERSON HAVING MANAGEMENT OR CONTROL OF A NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACE IS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR BEFORE THE WORKPLACE BEGINS OPERATION. THE DEFINITION OF 'NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACE' IS THE SAME AS THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF 'REGISTRABLE WORKPLACE',+ MR CHEN SAID.

IF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR CONSIDERED THAT A NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACE COULD NOT BE OPERATED WITH DUE REGARD TO HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE STANDARDS, HE MIGHT ISSUE A NOTICE TO PROHIBIT ITS OPERATION.

THE COMMISSIONER MIGHT CANCEL A PROHIBITION NOTICE BUT IN DOING SO MIGHT GIVE DIRECTIONS AS TO THE OPERATION OF THE WORKPLACE CONCERNED. A PROPRIETOR MIGHT APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER TO LIFT A PROHIBITION NOTICE. HE MIGHT ALSO APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AGAINST THE COMMISSIONER'S DECISION.

THE BILL PROPOSED THAT ALL WORKPLACES WHICH HAVE BEEN REGISTERED OR PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

/IT FURTHER

IT FURTHER PROPOSES THAT ALL OTHER NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACES WHICH WERE ALREADY ON THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE'S RECORDS BEFORE THE NEW BILL CAME INTO EFFECT WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM NOTIFICATION AND THE PROPRIETORS WOULD BE SO INFORMED INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

MR CHEN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE EXISTING REGISTRATION SYSTEM, FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1955, WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORKPLACE WAS INSPECTED AND THAT ADEQUATE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE STANDARDS WERE MAINTAINED.

+DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THEN HAVE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE USEFULNESS OF THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM. DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES 21 SETS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ENACTED UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, AND IT IS NOW NO LONGER NECESSARY TO RELY ON ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE STANDARDS IN WORKPLACES,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID THE NEW SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM OF NOTIFICATION WOULD DO AWAY WITH SOME TIME-CONSUMING PROCEDURES AND ENABLE THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE TO CONCENTRATE ON MORE IMPORTANT WORK SUCH AS ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION, FACTORY INSPECTION AND SAFETY AND HEALTH PROMOTION.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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DELETION OF CLAUSE 60 IN BILL PROPOSED

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IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT SOME DISTRICT BOARDS WERE NOT ADVISED OF THE INTENTION THAT THE NINE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM DBS TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UPON ITS INCEPTION.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE HON F.K. HU DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF DBS WERE ADVISED OF THIS INTENTION BEFORE THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL.

SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE BILL, THERE HAD BEEN REPRESENTATIONS FROM SOME DB MEMBERS WHO OBJECTED TO CLAUSE 60, WHICH DEALT WITH THE AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TENURE OF OFFICE FOR THE NINE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS ON THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS ON THE NEW COUNCIL, ON THE GROUND THAT IT DEPRIVED DB MEMBERS OF THEIR RIGHT TO ELECT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

+THESE DB MEMBERS EMPHASISED THAT THEIR OBJECTION WAS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND NOT DIRECTED AT THEIR OWN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS SERVING ON THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL AT PRESENT,+ MR HU SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DEALING WITH THIS BILL CONSIDERED THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH OBJECTION FROM THOSE DBS WHICH WERE ADVISED OF THE INTENTION OF EXTENSION BEFORE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL, BUT THE OBJECTION FROM THOSE DBS WHICH WERE NOT ADVISED WAS UNDERSTANDABLE.

+THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AGREE THAT DBS WITH NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION SHOULD NOT BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO ELECT THEIR FIRST REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS TO THE NEW COUNCIL, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF DBS WHICH WERE FULLY BRIEFED OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY ALLOW THEIR REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS IN THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL TO CONTINUE SERVICE IN THE NEW COUNCIL FOR TWO YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

+FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINUITY AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE NEW COUNCIL, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THOSE DBS WHICH OPTED FOR NEW ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE RE-ELECTION OF THE SAME REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS, AND NATURALLY IT WILL BE UP TO THE DBS CONCERNED TO DECIDE,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ACCEPTED THIS POINT OF VIEW AND HE WOULD PROPOSE DELETION OF CLAUSE 60 AND INTRODUCE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO ACHIEVE THIS ARRANGEMENT.

TURNING TO THE REQUEST FROM THE HEUNG YEE KUK THAT CLAUSE 6(C) BE AMENDED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE 12 APPOINTED MEMBERS SHOULD INCLUDE THREE MEMBERS FROM THE KUK, MR HU SAID THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD TO PERFORM MANY FUNCTIONS VESTED IN IT BY THIS BILL.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BALANCED COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN ORDER TO ENSURE THERE WILL BE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEDICATED MEMBERS TO LOOK AFTER EVERY FUNCTION,+ HE SAID.

ONE OF THE MAIN ADVANTAGES OF THE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WAS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD DECIDE AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE OF APPOINTED MEMBERS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE BALANCED COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL TO COVER EVENLY EVERY ASPECT OF THE FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED BY THE COUNCIL, HE OBSERVED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK COULD BE ELECTED TO THE NEW COUNCIL THROUGH DIRECT ELECTION OR ELECTION THROUGH DISTRICT BOARDS, AND THE NEW COUNCIL MIGHT ALREADY HAVE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF RURAL INTEREST.

HE WAS THEREFORE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE VIEW OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH ON JUNE 26 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT OUT OF 12 APPOINTED MEMBERS THREE MEMBERS WOULD, AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED, BE MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK ESPECIALLY CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE THREE CONSTITUENCIES OF THE KUK.

+SUCH FLEXIBILITY IS PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC,+ HE SAID.

HE SUPPORTED THE MOTION SUBJECT TO THE AGREED AMENDMENTS.

FLEXIBILITY SUPPORTED

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD RETAIN AN ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY, THE HON YEUNG PO-KWAN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985, MR YEUNG SAID THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD SUGGESTED THAT CLAUSE 6(C) BE AMENDED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE THREE APPOINTMENTS FROM THE HEUNG YEE KUK SHOULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE LAW.

+WHILE I FULLY APPRECIATE THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE HEUNG YEE KUK HAS MADE OVER THE YEARS AND HAVE NO INTENTION TO UNDERMINE ITS ROLE IN THE FUTURE, I AGREE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD RETAIN AN ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY,+ HE SAID.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASSURED THAT THE THREE APPOINTMENTS FROM THE HEUNG YEE KUK WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS 'CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE'; I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS UNDERTAKING WILL ENSURE THAT THE INTEREST OF THE KUK BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

+I SUPPORT CLAUSE 6(C) IN ITS PRESENT FORM.+

MR YEUNG SAID HE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO REPEAL CLAUSE 60 WHICH STIPULATED THAT DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY SERVE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNTIL MARCH 31, 1988.

CERTAIN DISTRICT BOARDS HAD EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION TOWARDS THIS PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT AND ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD ELECTED THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE WOULD EXPIRE IN ONE YEAR'S TIME.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SUPPORTED THE ADDITION OF PART IX WHICH GAVE A DISTRICT BOARD AN OPTION TO ELECT AT A MEETING TO BE HELD NOT EARLIER THAN MARCH 1, 1986, OR LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1986, ONE OF ITS MEMBERS TO BE THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

+THIS OPTION WILL GIVE THOSE DISTRICT BOARDS WHICH SO WISH TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

DISTRICT BOARDS WHICH WISHED TO LET THEIR PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES STAY IN OFFICE MAY CHOOSE NOT TO HOLD ELECTIONS, THEREBY ENABLING THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUE THEIR SERVICE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNTIL MARCH 31 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THE NEXT ORDINARY ELECTION WAS HELD FOR DISTRICTS.

/+THE SUCCESS

+THE SUCCESS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL DEPENDS HEAVILY UPON THE SUPPORT RENDERED BY DISTRICT BOARDS TOWARDS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

THE SELECTION OF DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER FOR DISTRICT BOARDS, AND SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS THEMSELVES.

CLAUSE 60 LIMITED THE CHOICE OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE REPEALED.

+IN MAKING THEIR DECISION, HOWEVER, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT BOTH THE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE AND THE EXPERIENCE OF THE INCUMBENT DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

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IMMUNITY FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS CALLED FOR
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SOME KIND OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY MUST BE GRANTED TO MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, WAS SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985.

HE SAID ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE AGAINST SLANDER AND LIBEL SHOULD BE GRANTED HE THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE RECOGNISED THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CONDUCTED OPEN MEETINGS AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE RECOGNISED SPEAKERS FOR LOCAL INTERESTS.

+THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO SPEAK UP AND TO ENCOURAGE GENUINE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IN ITS DELIBERATION, SOME KIND OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY MUST BE GRANTED TO THEM,+ HE SAID.

IF MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WERE PROVIDED WITH QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE UNDER SECTION 51 OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE WHICH GAVE PROTECTION TO MEMBERS FROM PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR +ANY MATTER OR THING DONE+ BY THEM BONA FIDE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL, IT SHOULD BE LOGICAL AND REASONABLE THAT MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD BE +PRIVILEGED+ ACCORDINGLY.

+IT IS AMPLY UNDERSTOOD THAT QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE DOES NOT EXEMPT MEMBERS FROM MALICIOUS DEFAMATION OR ILL-WILL STATEMENTS WHICH I THINK EMINENT PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD NOT INDULGE IN, AND I BELIEVE THAT WHEN THEY SPEAK ON A MATTER OF INTEREST IN THE LOCALITY THEY DO HONESTLY BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

/ON THE

ON THE SUBJECT OF HEUNG YEE KUK MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID THERE HAD BEEN A +CONTROVERSY+ ON WHETHER OR NOT THE THREE APPOINTED SEATS WHICH WERE ONCE UNDERSTOOD TO BE DESIGNATED FOR KUK MEMBERS SHOULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE BILL. SOME MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD SUGGESTED THAT THESE THREE APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE LAW.

+AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL,+ MR CHEUNG SAID, +I AGREE THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WILL GIVE THE HEUNG YEE KUK POSITIVE RECOGNITION OF ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES (REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS), NOT ONLY IN PREVIOUS YEARS BUT IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.+

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL COULD THEN SUFFICIENTLY REFLECT THE WEIGHT OF THE VIEWS OF THE KUK.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THE NECESSITY OF APPOINTING THREE KUK MEMBERS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT PRESENT, IT SHOULD NOT PRESUME THAT THIS NECESSITY WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO EXIST IN 1987 AND MR CHEUNG BELIEVED AN ACCESS FOR THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL.

+HENCE, A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT CAN ASCERTAIN THE LINK BETWEEN THE KUK AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IS ALWAYS DESIRABLE,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR, THERE WAS A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE ADDRESSED TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK WHICH INDICATED THAT SUFFICIENT WEIGHT AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE KUK IN THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL.

+RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG RESTS PARTLY ON TRUST AND CONTINUITY OF POLICIES, WHETHER THEY ARE MADE ORALLY OR COMMITTED IN WRITING BY PREDECESSORS,+ HE SAID.

+THEREFORE, I PERSONALLY CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KUK MEMBERS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL A LEGAL FOOTING NOW, AND AMEND SUCH PROVISION AT A TIME WHEN THE NECESSITY CEASES TO EXIST.+

ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG SAID HE HAD LITTLE OPTIMISM IN EXPECTING EXPENDITURE TO BE ADEQUATELY MET FROM REVENUE GENERATED FROM RATES LEVIED ON COUNCIL AREAS, AND ADJUSTMENT OF RATES TO A HIGHER LEVEL WOULD BRING ABOUT MUCH CONTROVERSY.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PREPARE FOR ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO AFFORD THE COUNCIL A HEALTHY AUTONOMY WHEN IT IS ESTABLISHED,+ HE SAID.

AS TO THE FUNCTION AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL, HE APPRECIATED THAT THE BILL DID NOT SEEK TO LIMIT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S POWER TO THE +REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS+ AND HE HOPED A SIMILAR AMENDMENT WOULD BE MADE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE. THIS PROVISION WOULD ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY AND ENABLE AMICABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNCILS AND FOR THEM TO WORK TOGETHER UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES.

ON THE NAME OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN CHINESE, MR CHEUNG SAID THAT THE SUGGESTION BY A MEMBER, DR HO MAN-WUI, HAD THE BLESSING OF THE COUNCIL.

+WE APPRECIATE THAT 'NON-URBAN AREAS' HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 'REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS'.

+WE WOULD FURTHER APPRECIATE IF THE NAMES IN CHINESE CAN BE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY.+

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WORK OF COUNCILS SHOULD COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COUNCIL SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS TO ENRICH THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL LIFE OF RESIDENTS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA, DR THE HON KIM CHAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985, DR CHAM SAID, HOWEVER, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COUNCIL WITH FUNCTIONS AND POWERS SIMILAR TO THE URBAN COUNCIL DID HAVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR BOTH COUNCILS.

WHILE THIS BILL WOULD IN THE MAIN FOLLOW THE FORMAT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE IT DID DIFFER FROM THE EXISTING ORDINANCE IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS, HE SAID.

AS THE URBAN COUNCIL WAS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ITS OWN ORDINANCE THIS MIGHT RESULT IN THE NEED FOR AMENDMENTS TO RESOLVE ANY INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE TWO ORDINANCES.

+AMENDMENTS MAY ALSO BE SUGGESTED TO ENABLE THE TWO COUNCILS TO WORK TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY, FOR IT IS SURELY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT THE TWO COUNCILS CAN WORK TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO RECOGNISE THE POSSIBLE NEED TO FURTHER AMEND THIS BILL EVEN AFTER ENACTMENT,+ HE ADDED.

+I DO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE FOR THIS BILL TO BE PASSED TODAY TO SET IN MOTION THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY WHICH WILL CULMINATE IN ELECTIONS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL NEXT MARCH.+

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+DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE ELECTION OPTION+
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DISTRICT BOARDS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF HOLDING ANOTHER ELECTION IN MARCH 1986, IF THEY SO WISH, TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, EMPHASISED TODAY THAT SUCH AN ELECTION WAS NOT MANDATORY AND THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY DECIDE THAT THE CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES THEY ELECTED LAST APRIL TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE.

MR LIAO WAS SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING DEBATE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS.

ONE AMENDMENT DELETED CLAUSE 60 WHICH PROVIDED FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TENURE FOR DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

MR LIAO EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS SET UP TO ALLOW SOME WORKING EXPERIENCE TO BE GAINED BEFORE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL COMES INTO BEING IN 1986.

IT WAS INTENDED, HE SAID, THAT SUCH VALUABLE EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND CLAUSE 60 OF THE BILL WAS A TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN SUCH CONTINUITY.

+I SHOULD STRESS THAT THIS INTENTION WAS AND STILL IS BASED ON LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE GROUNDS,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO NOTED THAT THE CONTINUITY CLAUSE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE MAJORITY OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, BUT SOME HAD ARGUED THAT DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.

+HAVING CAREFULLY BALANCED THIS ARGUMENT AGAINST THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUITY, THE ADMINISTRATION AGREES THAT PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO GIVE THE NINE DISTRICT BOARDS CONCERNED THE OPTION OF HOLDING ANOTHER ELECTION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IN MARCH 1986,+ HE SAID.

ON ANOTHER PROPOSAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE STATUTORY PROVISION FOR THREE APPOINTED REGIONAL COUNCILLORS TO BE MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK IN ADDITION TO THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS FROM THE KUK, MR LIAO REITERATED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT AGREED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KUK WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE INTEREST OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY IS BEING ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

+AS LONG AS THIS UNDERSTANDING IS OBSERVED IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT A DOGMATIC APPROACH DURING THE FORMATIVE PERIOD OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO ASSURED THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

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FINE-TUNING OF ELECTIONS BILL NEEDED

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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL WERE BOTH NECESSARY AND JUSTIFIED, BUT SOME FINE-TUNING WAS NEEDED, THE HON PETER WONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, HE OUTLINED THE AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE:

ON CLAUSE 9 WHICH AMENDED SECTION 12 OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE AND PROVIDED FOR NOTICE OF RESIGNATION BY A MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TO BE GIVEN TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICER INSTEAD OF TO THE CHAIRMAN AS PRESENTLY STIPULATED IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, HE SAID THIS CHANGE WAS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE DISTRICT BOARDS WERE NOW CHAIRED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+TO MEET THE ADMINISTRATION'S ARGUMENT THAT PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR CONTINGENCIES WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, NO CHAIRMAN HAS YET BEEN ELECTED, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT SUCH NOTICE MAY BE GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OR THE DESIGNATED OFFICER,+ MR WONG EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT CLAUSE 11(B) WHICH AMENDED SECTION 14 OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE WOULD BE SUITABLY AMENDED ALONG THE LINES AS AGREED FOR CLAUSE 9.

IN CLAUSE 19(A)(II) WHICH AMENDED SECTION 14 OF THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, THE WORD +NEXT+ IN THE PHRASE +THE NEXT FOLLOWING YEAR+ WOULD BE DELETED BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE REDUNDANT.

ON CLAUSE 26 WHICH AMENDED SECTION 3 OF THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE, MR WONG SAID, UNWITTINGLY, A RELEVANT PROVISION IN THIS SECTION HAD BEEN OMITTED AND FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AN AMENDMENT TO RECTIFY THE OMISSION WOULD BE IN ORDER.

HE POINTED OUT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES 9 AND 11(B) WOULD ENTAIL CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES 16 AND 20 OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985 AND AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THAT BILL, HE WOULD BE MOVING THE RELEVANT AMENDMENTS AS WELL AS A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 8(1)(D).

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE BILL BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THOUGH NOT INVOLVING IMPORTANT POINTS OF PRINCIPLE, WAS NEVERTHELESS FAIRLY COMPLEX, CONTAINING NO LESS THAN 28 CLAUSES AND 6 SCHEDULES, AND AMENDED A NUMBER OF ORDINANCES AND ITEMS OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

+THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WILL CLEAR THE WAY FOR ELECTIONS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL RECEIVES ITS THIRD READING THIS AFTERNOON,+ HE SAID.

MOVING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE BILL, SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, THANKED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THE CAREFUL STUDY OF THE BILL AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE ON THEIR BEHALF BY MR PETER WONG.

+THE AMENDMENTS TO WHICH MR WONG HAS REFERRED WILL SERVE TO IMPROVE THE BILL, NOT LEAST BY MINIMISING THE POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING, AND I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION,+ MR TSAO SAID.

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REACTION TO DRAFT REGULATIONS 'DISAPPOINTING'
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A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN STUDYING THE DRAFT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (GENERAL) REGULATIONS HAD RECEIVED ONLY THREE REPRESENTATIONS SO FAR AND CONSIDERED THE RESPONSE +DISAPPOINTING+.

DR THE HON HARRY FANG, CONVENOR OF THE GROUP, WHICH IS ALSO STUDYING THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MEMBERS FELT THE DRAFT REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE WIDE-RANGING IMPLICATIONS AND THEY HAD +GREAT RESERVATIONS+ ABOUT ITS INTRODUCTION.

THEY HAD INVITED INDUSTRIALISTS, FACTORY OWNERS AND THE PUBLIC TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS BUT SO FAR ONLY THREE REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE HONG KONG PRINTERS' AND DYERS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED AND THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION.

THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES MAINTAINED THAT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1985 SHOULD BE FURTHER CLARIFIED AND REFINED SO THAT, WHILE THE OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WERE ACHIEVED, SUCH REGULATIONS SHOULD NOT DAMAGE THE FLEXIBILITY OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY OR INHIBIT INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND RE-INVESTMENT, DR FANG SAID.

HE SAID THE FEDERATION ALSO PRESSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY PRIOR TO THE DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL WATER CONTROL ZONES AS THE COST IMPACT VARIED FROM ONE ZONE TO ANOTHER.

THE HONG KONG PRINTERS' AND DYERS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE DRAFT REGULATIONS WERE IMPRACTICAL= IT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SCHEME TO OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG AND REQUESTED THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE DRAFT REGULATIONS BE DEFERRED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED THE DRAFT REGULATIONS AND URGED THAT THEY BE PASSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF WATER QUALITY IN THE TERRITORY.

+THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERS THE PRESENT RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT REGULATIONS DISAPPOINTING,+ DR FANG TOLD THE COUNCIL.

+WE ATTRIBUTE THE UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO THE COMPLICATED PROCEDURES AND TECHNICAL TERMS IN THE DRAFT REGULATIONS, WHICH MOST PEOPLE FIND DIFFICULT TO GRASP.

+WE ARE ALSO GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT MANY INDUSTRIALISTS AND FACTORY OWNERS HAVE THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE REGULATIONS WOULD ONLY APPLY TO TOLO HARBOUR.+

SINCE POLLUTION CONTROL IN TOLO HARBOUR ON INDUSTRY WOULD NOT BE SUBSTANTIAL, SOME INDUSTRIALISTS DID NOT TAKE THE TROUBLE TO RESPOND WHEN CONSULTED.

DR FANG REQUESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CARRY OUT WIDER CONSULTATION AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE THE DEFINITIVE REGULATIONS WERE TABLED.

+SUCH CONSULTATION SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS BUT SHOULD INCLUDE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO SHOULD BE ASKED TO STUDY AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT REGULATIONS,+ HE SAID.

+IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT CLEARLY THAT WHILE THE DRAFT REGULATIONS WILL ONLY APPLY TO TOLO HARBOUR AND THE CHANNEL WATER CONTROL ZONE INITIALLY, THE ONLY ZONE SO FAR DECLARED UNDER THE ORDINANCE, IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO DECLARE WATER CONTROL ZONES IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

DEPENDING ON THE RESPONSE TO THE WIDER CONSULTATION UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE REGULATIONS AT A FUTURE DAVF, HE SAID.

DR FANG SAID HAVING SCRUTINISED THE AMENDMENT BILL AND THE DRAFT REGULATIONS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE BILL ITSELF APPEARED TO BE A STRAIGHTFORWARD, TIDYING-UP EXERCISE, WHICH SOUGHT TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, AND THEY AGREED THAT THE BILL SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

+THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES HAS, NEVERTHELESS, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL HAVE ON THE OIL INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF OIL SPILLAGE,+ DR FANG SAID.

+WE HAVE CONSULTED THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH CONFIRMS THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL WILL NOT HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THE OIL INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

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NO INTENTION TO REPLACE EXISTING CONTROLS
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IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION TO REPLACE EXISTING CONTROLS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION UNDER THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE BY THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WILL REMAIN THE CONTROL AUTHORITY UNDER THE FORMER ORDINANCE, UNDER WHICH ALL DISCHARGES CONTAINING OIL ARE SUBJECT TO CONTROL REGARDLESS OF THEIR CONCENTRATION AND SOURCE.

HOWEVER, THE CONTROLS UNDER THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE WERE ONLY EFFECTIVE IN PRACTICAL TERMS IN RELATION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE SEA FROM DISCHARGES FROM SHIPS, OIL TERMINALS, OIL STORAGE TANKS, MARINE OIL TRANSFER OPERATIONS, OIL SPILLS AND SO ON, HE SAID, MOVING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

+THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AIMS TO SEAL A LOOPHOLE WHICH MAKES THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE INCAPABLE OF CONTROLLING INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES CONTAINING SMALL CONCENTRATIONS OF OIL THROUGH THE EXEMPTION AND LICENSING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO DR FANG'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, HE REITERATED THAT EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL FIRMS WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE REGULATIONS.

+HOWEVER IN VIEW OF THE AD HOC GROUP'S COMMENTS I PROPOSE TO ARRANGE FOR FURTHER PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSALS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THOSE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED ABOUT WHAT IS INTENDED BOTH IN THE TOLO AREA AND ELSEWHERE,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO WEIGH VERY CAREFULLY THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES AND ACCEPTED THAT A BALANCED APPROACH WAS NECESSARY.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE DRAFT REGULATIONS MEET THIS REQUIREMENT,+ HE SAID.

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AMENDMENTS TO LLOYDS BANK (MERGER) BILL DESIRABLE
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IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THE LLOYDS BANK (MERGER) BILL 1985 BE AMENDED TO REMOVE ANY POSSIBLE DOUBTS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE UNINTENTIONAL EXTRA-TERRITORIAL APPLICATION, THE HON W.C.L. BROWN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR BROWN SAID: +IN ORDER TO ENABLE THIS TO BE ACHIEVED, I SHALL MOVE AMENDMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO RECOMMEND, INTER ALIA, THE EFFECT OF THE UK LLOYDS BANK (MERGER) ACT.+

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE AMENDMENTS DID LITTLE MORE THAN ALTER THE WAY IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE ACHIEVED, ALTHOUGH AT FIRST SIGHT THEY MIGHT SEEM RATHER RADICAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT LEFT ONLY SIX OF THE ORIGINAL CLAUSES UNTOUCHED.

+THE AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFINITION OF 'APPOINTED DAY' AND TO SECTION 3 SIMPLY ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WILL NEVER BE OUT OF STEP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+IN OTHER WORDS, IF LLOYDS BANK APPOINTS A DAY FOR PURPOSES OF THE UK LLOYDS BANK (MERGER) ACT, THEN THAT DATE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE APPOINTED FOR PURPOSES OF THE HONG KONG ORDINANCE,+ MR BROWN SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW CLAUSE 4 GAVE EFFECT TO THE VESTING PURSUANT TO THE UK ACT.

+IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHALL ADD THAT THERE ARE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSITION THAT THE UK ACT IS IN ITSELF SUFFICIENT FOR PURPOSES OF HONG KONG TO EFFECT THE VESTING.

+HOWEVER, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THESE ARGUMENTS ARE CORRECT AND THIS IS OF COURSE THE REASON FOR INTRODUCING THE BILL INTO THIS COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+OTHER AMENDMENTS, WHICH I SHALL PROPOSE LATER ON IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE, ARE ALL MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL,+ MR BROWN ADDED.

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FIVE BILLS PASSED
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FIVE BILLS, INCLUDING ONE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1985, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE ELECTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985, THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 AND THE LLOYDS BANK (MERGER) BILL 1985.

/SEVEN BILLS

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

THEY ARE THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1985 AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO JULY 24.

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RENT REIMBURSEMENT FOR ESF
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO REIMBURSE THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION (ESF) A SUM OF \$11 218 000 AS RENT ALLOWANCES FOR FORMER GOVERNMENT TEACHERS AND THEIR REPLACEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1979-80 TO 1985-86.

THE REIMBURSEMENT WAS APPROVED THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

IN 1979 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ENGLISH SCHOOLS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE ESF, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT STAFF OF THESE SCHOOLS WOULD REMAIN GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON THEIR EXISTING TERMS OF SERVICE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

AT THE SAME TIME GOVERNMENT WOULD FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 85 FLATS FOR THE ESF TO HOUSE TEACHERS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

UNTIL THE NEW QUARTERS WERE COMPLETED THE FORMER GOVERNMENT TEACHERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THEIR QUARTERS, OR BE PAID A RENT ALLOWANCE (BASED ON PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE RATES), AND REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE TEACHERS WOULD BE PAID A SIMILAR ALLOWANCE.

THE 85 FLATS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1985/86 AND NO RENT ALLOWANCES WILL BE PAYABLE BY GOVERNMENT AFTER THAT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WILL ARRANGE TO RECOVER FROM THE ESF A SUM OF \$8 675 032 BEING THE COSTS OF SALARIES, PASSAGES, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES, CONTRACT GRATUITIES AND MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR THE FORMER GOVERNMENT TEACHERS DURING THE TWO-YEAR TRANSITIONAL TRANSFER PERIOD.

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\$5 MILLION MORE FOR BUILDING KWAI CHUNG SCHOOL
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AN ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT OF NEARLY \$5.3 MILLION TO BUILD AND EQUIP A PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT KWAI CHUNG WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE COMMITTEE HAD ORIGINALLY APPROVED IN 1981 A CAPITAL SUBSIDY OF \$15 363 000 TOWARDS THE PROJECT WITH THE SPONSOR, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA, CONTRIBUTING \$1 707 000.

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE DIFFICULT SITE CONDITION, AN EXTRA \$3.75 MILLION IS NEEDED FOR ADDITIONAL BELOW-GROUND-LEVEL SLAB WORKS AND THE BALANCE TO MEET THE STANDARD PROVISION OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN EXPANDED AND IMPROVED.

THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT THE SPONSOR WAS UNABLE TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION OF \$1 707 000 BECAUSE OF ITS HEAVY COMMITMENT IN TWO OTHER PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECTS AT TAI PO AND TUEN MUN. THIS WAS ACCEPTED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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FIRST MEETING HELD

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THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (JULY 10), AS AGREED BY THE TWO SIDES.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE BRITISH SIDE AND THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE COMMISSION EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE WORKING PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE.

THE MEETING WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW.

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MEET THE MEDIA

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR WILFRED WONG, WILL MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE REGULATION OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY.

THESE PROPOSALS ARE CONTAINED IN A TRAVEL AGENTS BILL 1985 WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (JULY 12).

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BRIEFING ON LAW AND ORDER IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE DISTRICT AT THEIR BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY (JULY 12).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE PROPOSED REVISED STANDING ORDERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD (1985-88). AT THE SAME TIME, QUESTIONS WILL BE RAISED ON FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BOARD'S CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, BETTER UTILISATION OF NOTICE BOARDS, AND THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH COUNCIL IN THE DISTRICT.

DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING INCLUDE THE COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE FOR FRANCHISED AND LICENSED FERRY SERVICES, THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE ABERDEEN CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY, THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT AP LEI CHAU MAIN STREET, AND THE REVISED PROPOSAL FOR A BUS TERMINUS AT REPULSE BAY.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED INCLUDE AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE DEATH OF A CHILD AT THE AP LEI CHAU ESTATE, THE MONITORING OF MAINTENANCE WORK OF CMB BUSES, AND INCREASES IN LICENCE FEES FOR FISHING BOATS AND SMALL CRAFT.

A PAPER ON THE +I LOVE AP LEI CHAU+ CAMPAIGN AND ANOTHER ON FAMILIARISATION VISITS FOR DB MEMBERS WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

/AN APPLICATION

AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO HOLD A MINI-SOCCER TOURNAMENT AT TIN WAN ESTATE WILL BE SCREENED BY THE BOARD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, VARIOUS BOARD COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITIES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE DB FUNDS FOR MINOR IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

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OVER 11 000 CHILDREN RECEIVING FEE ASSISTANCE
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MORE THAN 22 600 CHILD CARE CENTRE PLACES ARE BEING PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX - COMPRISING 14 500 IN THE AIDED SECTOR AND 8 100 IN THE NON-PROFIT-MAKING OR PRIVATE SECTOR, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL'S SHAN KING CHILD CARE CENTRE, MRS CHAN SAID PARENTS OR GUARDIANS COULD APPLY FOR FEE ASSISTANCE IF THEY COULD NOT AFFORD THE FULL FEE CHARGED BY THESE CENTRES AND PROVE THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME DURING THE DAY.

+FAMILIES NEEDING SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD APPLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,+ SHE SAID.

AT THE END OF MAY, 11 328 CHILDREN WERE RECEIVING FEE ASSISTANCE.

ON THE NEW CENTRE ITSELF, MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS AN IMPORTANT WELFARE PROVISION FOR RESIDENTS OF SHAN KING ESTATE WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 34 000.

+I AM SURE THIS CENTRE WILL BE A HAPPY AND SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE AT WORK, AND THAT IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A STIMULATING AND IMAGINATIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY CAN DEVELOP THEIR ABILITIES,+ SHE SAID.

APART FROM A LOTTERIES FUND GRANT OF \$378 000, THE CENTRE WAS PROVIDED WITH REFUNDS OF RENT AND RATE, AND FEE SUBSIDIES.

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RETURNED HOS FLATS ON SALE TOMORROW

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SALES WILL BEGIN FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF 104 RETURNED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR APPLICANTS.

LOCATED AT 17 ESTATES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE URBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE RETURNED FLATS WILL BE PUT ON OPEN SALE AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

+AS BEFORE, TWO-PERSON FAMILIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH A MONTHLY INCOME NOT EXCEEDING \$7 500 ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

+PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS OCCUPYING MORE THAN ONE RENTAL FLAT WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED TO SURRENDER ONE OF THEIR FLATS ON ACQUIRING AN HOS FLAT,+ HE ADDED.

+APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, COPIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS' IDENTITY CARDS, HOUSEHOLD INCOME PROOF AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH THEIR ELIGIBILITY.

+PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE THEIR TENANCY CARDS AS WELL.+

THE RETURNED FLATS ARE PRICED FROM \$103 300 TO \$365 500 AND HAVE GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 41.9 AND 64.6 SQUARE METRES.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF RETURNED FLATS AT THE MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING PROJECT AT MELODY GARDEN IN TUEN MUN WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT PRICES RANGING FROM \$220 200 TO \$327 600, WITH GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 63.1 AND 88.2 SQUARE METRES.

+THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE INCOME, HOUSEHOLD SIZE, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND PERIOD OF HONG KONG RESIDENCE FOR MELODY GARDEN APPLICANTS, BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR OWN MORTGAGE FACILITIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DETAILS OF THE RETURNED FLATS, INCLUDING APPLICATION FORMS AND AN HOS GUIDE, ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE WHERE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS WILL BE REGISTERED FROM 11 AM TODAY TO SAVE THEM FROM WAITING UNTIL THE COMMENCEMENT OF SALES TOMORROW.

APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR FORMS IN PERSON TO THE CENTRE FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WHEN THEY WILL BE INVITED TO SELECT THEIR FLATS AND COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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RATEPAYERS PROPOSALS DEALT WITH
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ALL PROPOSALS LODGED BY RATEPAYERS IN MARCH THIS YEAR FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE VALUATION LIST FOR THE YEAR 1985-86 HAD BEEN DEALT WITH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

HE URGED ANY PERSON WHO HAD SERVED SUCH A PROPOSAL AND HAD NOT RECEIVED A NOTICE OF DECISION YET, TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT MR YEUNG CHE-KEUNG OF THE DEPARTMENT AT TEL: 5-7957629.

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URBCO AGREES TO HOVERFERRY SERVICE TRIAL
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THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY AGREED TO A PROPOSAL BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO OPERATE A HOVERFERRY SERVICE BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI PROMENADE ON TRIAL FOR THREE MONTHS.

THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING A LENGTHY DISCUSSION AT A MEETING OF THE RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR HOWARD YOUNG.

MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED THAT THE SETTING UP OF A HOVERFERRY LANDING POINT AT THE PROMENADE WOULD SPOIL THE AREA AS A PUBLIC AMENITY. FURTHERMORE, ITS USE AS A THOROUGHFARE FOR PASSENGERS AND THEIR EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION COULD CREATE SUCH PROBLEMS AS LITTERING, CONCENTRATION OF HAWKERS, QUEUING AND PEDESTRIAN OBSTRUCTION.

HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED FERRY SERVICE BY VARIOUS BODIES CONCERNED, MEMBERS AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE PUT ON TRIAL FOR THREE MONTHS DURING WHICH TIME THE COUNCIL WOULD CLOSELY ASSESS THE EFFECT ON THE PROMENADE, ITS USE AS A PLEASURE GROUND AND THE STAFF REQUIREMENT OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO KEEP THE AREA IN ORDER.

THE COUNCIL RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TERMINATION OF THE TRIAL IF THE PUBLIC USE OF THE PROMENADE WAS UNDULY INCONVENIENCED OR ITS USE AS A GENERAL AMENITY WAS PREJUDICED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985

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YOUTHS TO ENTERTAIN THE PUBLIC

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YOUTHS FROM SCHOOLS IN YAU MA TEI, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE Y.M.C.A. WILL ENTERTAIN THE PUBLIC AT A VARIETY SHOW IN THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, THIS SATURDAY (JULY 13) TO LAUNCH THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE POLYTECHNIC CHOIR WILL PERFORM DURING THE THREE-HOUR SHOW STARTING AT 2 PM. THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY THE YMCA DANCE GROUP AND THE LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE GROUP.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SUSAN LOK, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD, MR YIP WAH, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL END ON SEPTEMBER 15, COMPRISES NUMEROUS EVENTS INCLUDING CAMPING, TRAINING COURSES, MUSIC CAMPS, PICNICS, RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES.

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CHANCE FOR RESIDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY

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RESIDENTS OF TUNG TAU, LOK FU AND WANG TAU HOM AREAS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THEIR AREA COMMITTEES AND THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AT A SPECIAL EVENT TO BE LAUNCHED ON SUNDAY (JULY 14).

THE WONG TAI SIN WEST SUB-DISTRICT FORTNIGHT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE AREA COMMITTEES OF TUNG TAU, LOK FU AND WANG TAU HOM, IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

EVENTS ORGANISED IN THE FORTNIGHT INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW, AN EXHIBITION, A CHILDREN DRAWING COMPETITION, AND A CROSSWORD PUZZLE COMPETITION.

THE OPENING CEREMONY AND A VARIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THE MORSE PARK OPEN-AIR THEATRE. THERE WILL BE DANCING AND SINGING PERFORMANCES BY WELL-KNOWN ARTISTES AND A LUCKY DRAW.

THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS PRINTED INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ABOUT THE TUNG TAU, LOK FU AND WANG TAU HOM AREA COMMITTEES, WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS DURING THE FORTNIGHT.

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CENTRAL, NORTH POINT TRAFFIC CHANGES
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THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF MURRAY ROAD BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 13) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

MOTORISTS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL ARE ADVISED TO USE JACKSON ROAD TO REJOIN CHATER ROAD.

IN NORTH POINT, THE EXISTING TRAM-ONLY LANE AT KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH JAVA ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE OPENED TO ALL VEHICLES FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (JULY 13) TO MIDNIGHT ON AUGUST 20, TO ALLOW ROAD RESURFACING WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE KERBSIDE LANE OF THE ROAD SECTION.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN LAI CHI KOK
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THE SLIP ROAD LINKING THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE AND MEI LAI ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 13) TO 6 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 14), TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

- * KMB ROUTES 30, 33, 33A, 35A, 36A, 37, 40, 42, 45, 46, 52, 59A, 59S, 60, 66, 68 AND 848 ON EASTBOUND JOURNEYS WILL PROCEED VIA LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD.
- * KMB ROUTE 44 HEADING FOR MEI FOO BUS TERMINUS WILL PROCEED VIA LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE, KWAI CHUNG ROAD, LAI CHI KOK ROAD, CHEUNG MOU STREET, CHEUNG SHUN STREET, CHEUNG LAI STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WESTBOUND, THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD TO LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND.
- * TRAFFIC ON LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE EASTBOUND HEADING FOR MEI FOO SUN CHUEN AREA WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA KWAI CHUNG ROAD, LAI CHI KOK ROAD, CHEUNG MOU STREET, CHEUNG SHUN STREET, CHEUNG LAI STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WESTBOUND, FLYOVER LEADING FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD TO LAI CHI KOK ROAD, AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD WESTBOUND.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1935

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BUS ONLY LANE IN TUEN MUN CLOSED
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THE SECTION OF BUS ONLY LANE ON PUI TO ROAD BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 13) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUI TO ROAD INTERCHANGE.

KMB ROUTE 53 TO YUEN LONG WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES
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SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN SAN WAI AND KWAN TEI WILL BE CLOSED TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK FROM 11 PM TO MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY (JULY 12).

TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE THE ROAD AT GALLIPOLI LINES WHICH IS PARALLEL TO SHA TAU KOK ROAD.

BUS STOPS ALONG THIS SECTION OF ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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ROUTE TWISK BAN
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ROUTE TWISK WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE TO ALL VEHICLES, EXCEEDING 10 METRES IN LENGTH FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 13).

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