



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ALTERNATIVE OATH PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF A BILL TO AMEND THE OATHS AND DECLARATIONS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 11) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE OATH FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON TAKING UP THEIR SEATS.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSTITUTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ANYONE WHO HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS CAN BE A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL WHETHER HE OR SHE IS A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN (BDTC) OR NOT. NEARLY HALF THE POPULATION DOES NOT HAVE THAT STATUS.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE AS WIDE A FIELD OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS POSSIBLE, TWO OATHS WILL IN FUTURE BE AVAILABLE FOR USE, THE PRESENT ONE AND THE ALTERNATIVE, WHICH MAY BE PREFERRED BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT BDTC'S AND WHICH DOES NOT CONTAIN AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN.

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FURTHER EASING OF RENT CONTROL PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO FURTHER RELAX RENT CONTROL - BUT THE MAJORITY OF DOMESTIC TENANTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY SECURITY OF TENURE AND CONTROL AGAINST LARGE RENT INCREASES.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE:

- * THE EXTENSION BY TWO YEARS OF THE LIFE OF PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE FROM DECEMBER 19, 1985 TO DECEMBER 18, 1987;
- * THE EXCLUSION, WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 19, 1985, FROM PART II CONTROLS OF +LUXURY+ PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF OR ABOVE \$30 000 (AS AT JUNE 10, 1983);
- * THE RAISING, WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 19, 1985, OF THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT IN THE RENT INCREASE MECHANISM IN PART II FROM 45 PER CENT TO 55 PER CENT OF PREVAILING MARKET RENT, TO BE REACHED BY ALL CONTROLLED RENTS; AND
- * THE RAISING FROM 21 TO 27 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT FOR THE PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES.

IN ANNOUNCING THE MEASURES TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE DRAWN UP FOLLOWING ANOTHER REVIEW OF THE WORKING OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, AN ASSESSMENT OF MARKET CONDITIONS IN 1984 AND HAVING REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

/THEY WERE

THEY WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PREVIOUSLY STATED INTENTION THAT AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, EVERY EFFORT CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO AVOID ADVERSE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCELERATE THE PHASING OUT OF RENT CONTROL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO STRESSED THAT THE MAJORITY OF PROTECTED TENANTS WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF SECURITY OF TENURE AND THE CONTROL OF RENT INCREASES.

THE PROPOSED MEASURES ARE CONTAINED IN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 TO BE GAZETTED ON APRIL 26. THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 15 WHILE THE RESUMED SECOND READING WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL JUNE 12, GIVING AMPLE TIME FOR PUBLIC VIEWS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE DATE FOR THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE BILL WILL BE NOTIFIED LATER.

EXTENSION OF PART II

PART II OF THE ORDINANCE IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 18, 1985.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF PART II BY TWO YEARS WILL CONTINUE THE DUAL PROTECTION OF RENT CONTROL AND SECURITY OF TENURE TO ABOUT 107 000 TENANCIES OF WHOLLY-LET DOMESTIC UNITS AFFECTING ABOUT 220 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR SOME 850 000 PERSONS.

DESPITE A SERIES OF ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RENT INCREASE SYSTEM WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN CONTROLLED RENTS AND PREVAILING MARKET RENTS AND A CURRENT STABLE MARKET, THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONTROLLED AND PREVAILING MARKET RENTS CONTINUES, HE NOTED.

FURTHER EXCLUSION OF LUXURY PREMISES

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT EXCLUSION OF LUXURY PREMISES FROM RENT CONTROL UNDER PART II WAS DONE IN PHASES BEGINNING IN DECEMBER, 1981 TO EXCLUDE PREMISES WHICH HAD A RATEABLE VALUE OF OR ABOVE \$80 000. THIS EXCLUSION POINT WAS FURTHER LOWERED TO \$60 000 IN 1982 AND \$50 000 IN 1983. LAST YEAR IT WAS LOWERED TO \$35 000.

TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS, IT IS NOW PROPOSED THAT FROM DECEMBER 19 THIS YEAR, PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF OR ABOVE \$30 000 AS AT JUNE 10, 1983 (I.E. THE OLD RATEABLE VALUE BEFORE THE 1984 REVALUATION) SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PART II OF THE ORDINANCE. HOWEVER, TENANCIES AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE PROTECTED UNDER PART IV WHICH AFFORDS SECURITY OF TENURE AT THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT.

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AT PRESENT, SOME 107 000 WHOLLY-LET DOMESTIC UNITS ARE SUBJECT TO PART II CONTROLS. OF THESE, NEARLY 1 400 WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL AND TWO-THIRDS OF THEM ARE CORPORATE TENANCIES.

+THEIR RENTS ARE ALREADY CLOSE TO THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT (PMR),+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +AND RENT CONTROL IS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THEM.+

RAISING OF MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT

THE BILL PROPOSES TO RAISE, WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 19 THIS YEAR, THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE COMPONENT IN THE RENT INCREASE MECHANISM IN PART II FROM 45 PER CENT TO 55 PER CENT OF PMR, TO BE REACHED BY ALL CONTROLLED RENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS PART OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED STRATEGY OF PROGRESSIVE DECONTROL IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, THE PROPOSAL IS THAT THE COMPONENT BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO BRING EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RENTS UP TO THE GENERAL LEVELS OF CONTROLLED RENTS SO THAT RENT CONTROL CAN BE PHASED OUT WITHIN A REASONABLE SPAN OF TIME.

THIS INCREASE WOULD AFFECT THOSE TENANTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY PAYING VERY LOW CONTROLLED RENTS (BELOW 43 PER CENT OF PMR) AND HAVE IN FACT BEEN PROTECTED FOR A LONG TIME. EVEN THEN, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PAY SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN NEW TENANTS FOR COMPARABLE PREMISES.

INCREASE IN PERMITTED RENT OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES

ANOTHER PROVISION IN THE BILL IS THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE PERMITTED RENTS OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT RENTS OF PRE-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES ARE CONTROLLED BY REFERENCE TO THOSE PAYABLE AS AT DECEMBER 25, 1941 TERMED THE +STANDARD RENT+. WHEN MULTIPLIED BY A FACTOR THIS GIVES THE PERMITTED RENT, PROVIDED IT DOES NOT EXCEED THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT. THE BILL SEEKS TO RAISE THE FACTOR FROM LAST YEAR'S FIGURE OF 21 TO 27.

EXCLUDING RURAL VILLAGE HOUSES, THERE ARE SOME 2 500 PRE-WAR DOMESTIC UNITS EFFECTIVELY UNDER CONTROL AS AT JANUARY 1, 1985. RAISING THE FACTOR FROM 21 TO 27 WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ABOUT 29 PER CENT, OR \$234 PER MONTH, ON CURRENT PERMITTED RENTS, BRINGING SUCH RENTS TO ABOUT 55 PER CENT OF PMR.

IF APPROVED, THIS PROPOSAL WOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1985.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

IN ADDITION TO SOME MINOR TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS, THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES OTHER AMENDMENTS INCLUDING SEVERAL PROVISIONS FOR FEES TO BE PAYABLE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION FOR PROCESSING CERTAIN APPLICATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THAT THE FEES BE PAYABLE WHEN MAKING APPLICATION AND THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REFUNDABLE EXCEPT IN SPECIAL AND JUSTIFIABLE CASES.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES PROVISIONS TO CLARIFY THE JURISDICTIONAL POWERS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE HIGH COURT IN CERTAIN LANDLORD AND TENANT MATTERS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE PROPOSALS CAN SEEK HELP FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

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OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE
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NINE OFFICIALS WILL BE SPEAKING WHEN DEBATE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1985 RESUMES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), AND FOUR OTHER BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED BUDGET DEBATE TOMORROW WILL BE THE SECRETARIES FOR:

EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON= HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS= HOUSING, THE HON DAVID FORD= TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO= ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS= SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON= AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, AS WELL AS THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE.

THE FOUR NEW BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED ARE:

- * THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985
- * THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP) BILL 1985
- * THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985

THE BILLS WILL BE READ A SECOND TIME ON THURSDAY (APRIL 18), PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT. ALSO ON THURSDAY, DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE THREE STATEMENTS - ONE BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, ON THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1985-86= ONE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1984, AND ONE BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON S.L. CHEN, ON THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL REPORT 1983-84.

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EPCOM STUDIES DRAFT RULES FOR WATER QUALITY
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM), TODAY EXAMINED A SET OF DRAFT REGULATIONS WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER QUALITY PROTECTION MEASURES UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE PASSED IN 1980.

THE ORDINANCE ITSELF IS AN ENABLING ORDINANCE AND IT PROVIDES THAT REGULATIONS (FOR DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION) MAY BE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EPCOM.

THE MAIN LEGISLATION EMBODIES THREE PRINCIPLES IN ITS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF WATER POLLUTION:

- * IN THE SHORT TERM, IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONTAIN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND TO EXEMPT EXISTING POLLUTING EMISSIONS FROM CONTROLS WITHOUT REQUIRING ABATEMENT, EXCEPT WHERE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC OR TO THE DRAINAGE OR SEWERAGE SYSTEM ARE INVOLVED;
- * IN THE MEDIUM TERM, IT IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION BY INTRODUCING CONTROLS ON NEW EMISSIONS, HAVING REGARD TO THE STATE OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND ITS CAPACITY TO ABSORB OR DISPERSE THE NEW EMISSIONS; AND
- * IN THE LONGER TERM, IT IS DESIRABLE TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF THE WATERS OF HONG KONG THROUGH THE NORMAL PROCESS OF INDUSTRIAL RENEWAL AND REDEVELOPMENT.

THE PROPOSED CONTROLS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP ON THE BASIS THAT FLEXIBILITY - BOTH IN APPLICATION AND IN IMPLEMENTATION - IS ESSENTIAL IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES: LEGISLATION PRODUCED SHOULD NOT MERELY COPY CONTROLS IN FORCE ELSEWHERE.

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ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSALS ARE FOR TERRITORY-WIDE APPLICATION, THEY WILL ONLY HAVE EFFECT IN DECLARED WATER CONTROL ZONES. FOR THE MOMENT, ONLY ONE ZONE HAS BEEN DECLARED - IN TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL - AND A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SAID THAT THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROLS IN TOLO WOULD BE DRAWN UPON WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE ORDINANCE IN OTHER WATER CONTROL ZONES.

ALL EXISTING DISCHARGES OR DEPOSITS IN A WATER CONTROL ZONE WOULD HAVE TO BE DECLARED TO THE AUTHORITY BEFORE A DAY TO BE APPOINTED. THESE EXISTING DISCHARGES WOULD THEN BE EXEMPT FROM THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD APPLY TO NEW DISCHARGES.

CONTROLS ON THE STANDARD AND QUALITY OF DISCHARGES WOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE PUBLISHED WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR ANY GIVEN ZONE. THUS, DIFFERENT DISCHARGES COULD ATTRACT DIFFERENT CONTROLS DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE OVERALL POLLUTION LOAD IN THE ZONE.

EXISTING DISCHARGES WOULD CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM EXEMPTION SO LONG AS THEY DID NOT CHANGE EITHER IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY BY MORE THAN THIRTY PER CENT OVER THEIR ORIGINALLY DECLARED LEVEL AND DO NOT REPRESENT A HEALTH HAZARD.

AT THEIR MEETING, EPCOM ALSO CONSIDERED AND ADVISED ON VARIOUS PRACTICAL MEASURES PROPOSED FOR REDUCING LEVELS OF NOISE NUISANCE IN SCHOOLS. THESE MEASURES FORM PART OF A WIDER REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED LATER THIS MONTH BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

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BALANCED REPRESENTATION ON DISTRICT BOARDS STRESSED

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THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS AIMS AT ENSURING THAT DB MEMBERS CAN FULLY REPRESENT THE OPINIONS OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL STRATA SO AS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED REPRESENTATION IN THE BOARDS.

THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID THIS TODAY AT A JOINT LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST AND LIONS CLUB OF THE PEAK.

IN FACT, MR LAM STRESSED, BOTH APPOINTED AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS SHARED THE SAME DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

+THEIR PERFORMANCES ARE SUBJECT TO THE CONCERN, APPRECIATION OR CRITICISMS OF THE VOTERS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

/+IN ORDER

+IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF STRIKING A PROPER BALANCE, THE APPOINTEES' AGE, OCCUPATION, SEX, CONSTITUENCY, PAST EXPERIENCES AND PERFORMANCE IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERTAIN DISTRICTS HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE.

+SUCH AN APPOINTMENT SYSTEM ENSURES THE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS SO THAT THEY CAN INHERIT THE PAST AND USHER IN THE FUTURE AND MAKE A BIG STRIDE FORWARD IN A STABLE MANNER,+ HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID THAT THE PAST THREE YEARS SAW MOST OF THE DB MEMBERS DARING TO SPEAK OUT AND TO PUT FORTH NEW IDEAS.

ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW DBS IS TO FORM AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE TO ELECT 10 MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS LINK BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND THE COUNCIL WILL, ON ONE HAND, ENHANCE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE GRASSROOTS IN LEGCO AND, ON THE OTHER, SET UP A POLITICAL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE AUTHORITY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN HONG KONG, FULLY AUTHORITATIVE AND DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

MR LAM ALSO SPOKE ON THE BACKGROUND OF DB ELECTIONS, VOTER TURNOUT RATE, AN ANALYSIS OF THE ELECTED DB MEMBERS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW BOARDS.

+GENERALLY SPEAKING, THERE HAVE BEEN MARKED IMPROVEMENTS OF THE NEW DB MEMBERS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED ALIKE, IN BOTH QUALITY AND QUANTITY,+ HE SAID.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE BOARDS ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.+

MR LAM NOTED THAT LAST MONTH'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HAD ATTRACTED 501 PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO STAND AS CANDIDATES, AND THE VOTER TURNOUT OF MORE THAN 476 000 WAS SATISFACTORY.

SIX EXPATRIATES STOOD FOR THE ELECTIONS, AND THEIR PARTICIPATION REFLECTED THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO HONG KONG AND THEIR DESIRE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE DISTRICT BOARDS, MR LAM SAID.

+IT CAN THUS BE SEEN THAT ON THE PREMISE OF IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY, THE DISTRICT BOARD SYSTEM HAS BROKEN THE DEMARCATION LINE OF CLASSES AND RACES, AND HAS ATTRACTED THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE PART IN POLITICS,+ HE ADDED.

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HK, GUANGDONG CUSTOMS MATTERS REVIEWED

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EXISTING LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG WERE REVIEWED AT A MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY) BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND A SEVEN-MEMBER DELEGATION OF SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FROM GUANGDONG.

HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG BRANCH OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS, MR QIAN HAI LIN, THE GUANGDONG DELEGATES HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG YESTERDAY FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT.

TODAY'S MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR HARNAM GREWAL; THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MR JAMES PRISK; THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS, MR WALTER NEIL, MR P.L. WONG AND MR K.S. TONG, AND OTHER SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY'S MEETING WAS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF REVIEW MEETINGS HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 1983.

+THE BASIC AIM IS TO REVIEW EXISTING LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE, CROSS-BORDER CUSTOMS CONTROLS AND ANTI-SMUGGLING MEASURES MAY BE FURTHER IMPROVED,+ HE SAID.

DURING THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG, THE GUANGDONG DELEGATES WILL FURTHER FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE WORK OF THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, AND WILL ALSO BE VISITING THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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WINDING-UP ORDER SOUGHT

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TODAY APPLIED TO THE HIGH COURT FOR A WINDING-UP ORDER AGAINST DOMINICAN FINANCE LIMITED, A DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANY REGISTERED IN 1979 AND OF WHICH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ARE MESSRS YIP CHUN-LING, SIMON-CHOI ON-ON, WILLIAM-AND CHAN KWOK-KEUNG, EDDIE.

THIS ACTION FOLLOWED THE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF MR D.L. PAWSON OF PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL AND CO., APPOINTED AS AN INSPECTOR INTO THE AFFAIRS OF DOMINICAN FINANCE LIMITED UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE ON APRIL 4, 1985.

THIS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS TO THE COMMISSIONER ABOUT THE NON-PAYMENT BY THE COMPANY OF MATURED DEPOSITS. FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS, THE COMPANY HAS BEEN SUSPENDED ON JANUARY 29, 1985.

THE HIGH COURT WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON MAY 20, 1985. IN THE MEANTIME, THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR. ENQUIRIES ARE PROCEEDING INTO VARIOUS RELATED MATTERS.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1985

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PROBE INTO COMPANY ORDERED
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS APPOINTED INSPECTORS UNDER THE TERMS OF SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF PLESSEY INVESTMENT LTD. AND REPORT TO HIM THEREON.

THE INSPECTORS APPOINTED ARE MR WILLIAM WAUNG, BARRISTER-AT-LAW AND MR PAUL FREDERICK MARTEN SHEWELL, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT OF MESSRS. COOPERS AND LYBRAND, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ALSO UNDER APPOINTMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF PERAK PIONEER LIMITED.

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HAZARDOUS NEON SIGNS TO GO
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SIXTEEN NEON SIGNBOARDS VIOLATING FIRE SERVICES REGULATIONS INSIDE A BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE TORN DOWN TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LUEN TAK BUILDING AT 40-44 JORDAN ROAD, ONE OF EIGHT BUILDINGS SELECTED BY THE ACTION GROUP ON MULTI-STOREY BUILDING PROBLEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

THE ACTION GROUP COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING LANDS, HOUSING, URBAN SERVICES, FIRE SERVICES, BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, POLICE AND LABOUR.

THE EXERCISE, TO BE CARRIED OUT BY A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR, IS THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE BUILDING'S OWNERS CORPORATION.

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DISTRICT BOARDS ELECT CHAIRMEN
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MR NG CHAN LAM WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD AT A MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

AT THE SAME MEETING, MR WAI HON LEUNG WAS ELECTED THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

MEANWHILE, MRS PEGGY LAM WAS ELECTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

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FISHERFOLK PRAISED FOR EFFORTS

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THE HONG KONG FISHING INDUSTRY HAD GREATLY INCREASED ITS EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, DR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, SAID THIS EVENING.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 11TH TERM OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON FLOATING FISHERMEN'S WELFARE PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

+THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS DUE, IN NO SMALL MEASURE, TO THE HARD WORK AND EXPERTISE OF THE LOCAL FISHERMEN, HELPED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE IMPROVED FISHING TECHNOLOGY THROUGH EFFICIENT ADVISORY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT LOANS AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST,+ HE SAID.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN PRAISED THE GOOD WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE FISHERFOLK AND IN SERVING AS A LINK BETWEEN THE FISHING INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND MARINE DEPARTMENTS.

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PUBLIC SESSION RESUMES IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS DECIDED TO RESUME ITS +MEET THE PUBLIC SCHEME+ FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED THREE YEARS AGO AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE BOARD MEMBERS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THERE WILL BE ONE SESSION A WEEK, TO BE HELD EVERY FRIDAY AT 2.30 PM IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF FOU WAH CENTRE, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO MEET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT TELEPHONE 0-445509 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN URGED RESIDENTS HAVING COMPLAINTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF DISTRICT MATTERS TO RAISE THEM AT THE MEETINGS. LAST YEAR, THE BOARD DEALT WITH 316 CASES.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1985

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PICNIC PRIZE FOR SCHEME WINNERS

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TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY WINNERS OF THE +1984-85 CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+ WILL BE ENTITLED TO A FREE PICNIC AT CHEUNG SHEUNG IN SAI KUNG ON APRIL 28.

THE WINNERS WERE DRAWN FROM AMONG 732 PERSONS WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED STAGE I AND II OF THE SCHEME, AT A LUCKY DRAW HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES PROMOTIONS SUB-DIVISION TODAY.

STAGE I OF THE SCHEME INVOLVED LITTER-PICKING IN 12 DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS BETWEEN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, WHILE STAGE II, WHICH ENDED LAST SUNDAY, INVOLVED PLANTING A TREE IN ANOTHER SIX DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS.

THE WINNERS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE DETAILS BY POST.

SPEAKING AT THE LUCKY DRAW, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME WORKING GROUP, MR HOWARD YOUNG, SAID THAT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WET WEATHER DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, HE WAS QUITE PLEASED WITH THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO TOOK PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME.

+FOR THOSE WHO WERE NOT CHOSEN IN THE LUCKY DRAW, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HOPE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

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WORK STARTS ON SCREENING PLANT

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WORK HAS STARTED ON THE SHAM SHUI PO SCREENING PLANT, TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN THE NORTH-WESTERN SECTION OF VICTORIA HARBOUR.

A \$13.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE JOB WAS RECENTLY AWARDED BY THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE SCREENING PLANT, LOCATED IN YEN CHOW STREET, IS THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL PROJECT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 19 MONTHS.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1985

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SPECIAL PUPILS' ART WORKS SHOWN
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MORE THAN 1 000 ITEMS OF ART, CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK PRODUCED BY SPECIAL SCHOOL PUPILS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE PERTH STREET SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, KOWLOON FROM SATURDAY (APRIL 20).

FIFTY SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARE TAKING PART IN THE SEVEN-DAY EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 4.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAYS.

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RESTRICTED ZONES
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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 19), THE SECTION OF UN CHAU STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH PRATAS STREET TO ABOUT 25 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS.

FROM THE SAME DAY AND TIME, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING SHUN ON ROAD NEAR SAU MAU PING.

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STREET REDUCED TO TWO-LANE OPERATION
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FROM THURSDAY (APRIL 18), TRAFFIC ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WUHU STREET BETWEEN WALKER ROAD AND DOCK STREET WILL BE REDUCED FROM THREE LANES TO TWO LANES FOR ABOUT FOUR NIGHTS FROM 8 PM TO 5.30 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THIS IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, MOTORISTS GOING TO MA TAU WAI ROAD NORTHBOUND VIA WUHU STREET ARE ADVISED TO USE STATION LANE.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1985

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN TUEN MUN
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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 19), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF MING OI STREET IN TUEN MUN WILL BE DESIGNATED RESTRICTED ZONES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7 AM AND 10 AM AND 4 PM AND 7 PM DAILY:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE SECTION BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND ABOUT 20 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE SECTION BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND ABOUT 40 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, MOTORISTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

FROM THE SAME DAY, TUEN LEE STREET IN TUEN MUN WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

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