



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SHW ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

INTRODUCTION

IN PREPARING TO ATTEND THIS DEBATE I'VE CALLED UPON MY COLLEAGUES TO COME TO THIS CHAMBER TO LEND THEIR EARS, TO KEEP ME COMPANY AND GIVE ME COURAGE AND JOINTLY WE THANK ALL THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR VIEWS, THEIR ADVICE AND THEIR MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS THAT WE WILL TAKE ON BOARD. HONOURABLE MEMBERS MAY ALSO BE AWARE, OR MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT IN LOOKING BACK TO THE HANSARD REPORT OF A SIMILAR DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL IN 1971, ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND NOT SO LONG AGO EITHER, THE CONCERNS OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS THEN WERE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY HONG KONG'S YOUNG POPULATION.

JUST AS 20 YEARS AGO THE GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATED AND MET THE CHALLENGE OF A YOUNG POPULATION THEN, SO TODAY IT IS RIGHT THAT WE ARE ANTICIPATING AND FORMULATING RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGE POSED BY AN AGING POPULATION. IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE PROBLEMS NOW, THAN TO EVADE THE INEVITABLE ISSUE LATER.

I'D LIKE TO START BY REINFORCING SOME STATISTICS REFERRED TO BY MEMBERS. I'D LIKE TO MENTION THESE STATISTICS FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE BECAUSE A COIN MUST ALWAYS BE LOOKED AT FROM TWO ANGLES.

LET ME START BY REFERRING TO SOME FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED 1991 HONG KONG POPULATION CENSUS. THE MEDIAN AGE ROSE FROM 22 IN 1971 TO 26 IN 1981 TO 32 TODAY. THIS IS IN PART BECAUSE ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER. AND DO YOU KNOW, TEN YEARS AGO, THEORETICALLY AT LEAST, EACH SENIOR MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY COULD RELY ON ELEVEN PEOPLE FOR SUPPORT. CURRENTLY, THIS ELEVEN HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONLY EIGHT. IT WILL BE FURTHER REDUCED TO SIX IN TWENTY YEARS' TIME. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? IT MEANS THAT FROM THE FROM THE WORKING PERSON'S POINT OF VIEW, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, HE WILL BE SHOULDERING 66% MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN TEN YEARS AGO AND TO PUT IT, IN ANOTHER WAY, THE SAME PERSON WILL HAVE TO WORK THAT MUCH HARDER AND BE THAT MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE JUST TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARD OF TODAY.

SOME OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY REMINDED US I THINK THAT SOME OF US HERE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATISTICS AND BE PART OF THIS "RESPONSIBILITY", ALTHOUGH WE MIGHT STILL THINK OURSELVES TO BE YOUNG AT HEART. SO, THERE WILL BE MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY FEWER WORKING PEOPLE. THIS IS A SOBERING THOUGHT! THIS IS THE REALITY WE HAVE TO FACE! AND I AM SO GLAD THAT THE HONOURABLE MR HOWARD YOUNG IS HERE.

/AT PRESENT,

AT PRESENT, THE THRUST OF OUR GENERAL POLICY TOWARDS ELDERLY PEOPLE IS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN THE CARE OF THE FAMILY AND AS SUGGESTED BY MANY MEMBERS HERE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICE TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO. TO THIS END, THESE SERVICES INCLUDE HOME HELP, DAY CARE CENTRE, SOCIAL CENTRE, SHELTERED HOUSING AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES. HOWEVER, WHAT IS SMALL PROPORTION OF ABOUT FOUR PER CENT OF THOSE OVER THE AGE OF 60. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL CARE. THIS WE DO TOO. IN VARIOUS FORMS FROM HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION, OLD-AGE HOMES TO MEAL PLACES, CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, INFIRMARIES AND HOSPITAL CARE AND SO ON.

I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT OUR POLICIES NEED TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN TO SEE IF THEY ARE INDEED APPROPRIATE TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN. TO REVIEW THE OLD IS TO DISCOVER THE NEW. I SHALL INDEED CONVENE A REVAMPED CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND I AM OF COURSE TEMPTED TO PUT MYSELF AS THE CHAIRPERSON PURELY BECAUSE I AM OLD ENOUGH I THINK TO CHAIR THIS VERY IMPORTANT COMMITTEE.

NOW CONTRARY TO SOME OF MEMBERS' MISCONCEPTION THE FORMER COMMITTEE DID NOT MEET FOR SOMETIME BECAUSE IT DID NOT WANT TO CONFLICT WITH THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE WHICH WAS CONSTITUTED TWO YEARS AGO TO LOOK AT THE OVERALL POLICY. BUT THE COMMITTEE AS I SAID WILL BE RECONVENED AND MEMBERS' VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN ON BOARD. I WILL ALSO FURTHER WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE RESPECTED OMELCO PANELS ON THIS BECAUSE MEMBERS HAVE QUITE RIGHTLY SAID, WE'VE GOT TO GET IT RIGHT.

I WOULD LIKE TO TURN TO A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC POINTS MENTIONED. LET ME START BY DISPELLING THE IMPRESSION CREATED BY A REFERENCE TO THE NEW HOSTEL IN THE URBAN AREA FOR CAGED MEN. URBAN HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY SINGLE PEOPLE WERE NOT STARTED YESTERDAY. NOR WERE THEY STARTED WITH THE SO-CALLED GAMBLING MONEY. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION, THE PATCHES OF URBAN HOSTELS FOR THE AGED PEOPLE, SINGLE FAMILY, SINGLE PERSON, STARTED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO. THEY INCLUDED SHELTERED HOUSING FOR ABLE-BODIED ELDERLY PERSONS, NOT TO MENTION SHELTERED HOUSING BUILT BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

FURTHERMORE, BACK IN 1988, A WORKING GROUP MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT THE NEEDS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE. THIS IS A REPORT OF THE CRYSTALLISATION OF THE VIEWS OF EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE. THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS EAGERLY AWAITED.

THE HONOURABLE MR NG MING-YUM HAS STRONG ATTENTION TO THE LACK OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY IN YUEN LONG. HE WILL BE PLEASE TO KNOW, MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THAT A HOME PROVIDING FOR A HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO ELDERLY PEOPLE WAS OPENED ONLY THIS MORNING IN LONG PING ESTATE, YUEN LONG BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE SITTING NEXT TO ME.

IT IS THE THIRD SUCH HOME THAT HE HAS OPENED THIS MONTH ALONE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE I THINK A LOT TO ACHIEVE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR OUR GOAL BUT WE ARE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS.

AS REGARDS PROVISIONS OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES STARTED MANY YEARS AGO, I CAN JUST RACK ALONG. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE 919 INFIRMARY BEDS. THERE ARE 3,657 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, THERE ARE 7,489 PLACES IN THE HOME FOR THE AGED, THERE ARE 2,026 PLACES IN HOSTEL PLACES, THERE ARE 3,131 PLACES IN SHELTERED HOUSING ESTABLISHED AS I'VE SAID MANY YEARS AGO AND WE ARE BUILDING ON EVERY YEAR. THERE ARE 17 MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES, TEN DAY CARE CENTRES, 161 SOCIAL CENTRES DOTTED ALL OVER HONG KONG AND KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. I CAN ADD AND COUNT AD NAUSEAM. BUT, IT STILL NOT ENOUGH. THERE WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH. THERE WILL STILL SHORTAGE. SO WE ARE BUILDING MORE. AND WE WILL BE BUILDING MORE.

FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE HOSPITAL SIDE, INFIRMARY SIDE BECAUSE IT TAKES A LONG LEAD TIME. WE'VE GOT THE RUTTONJEE SANATORIUM REDEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL INCLUDE 152 ADDITIONAL INFIRMARY PLACES, THE WONG CHUK HANG COMPLEX FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE COMPLETED TWO YEARS FROM NOW TO PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF CARE, SPARING ELDERLY PEOPLE THE TRAUMA OF BEING MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE BECAUSE OF FACILITY WILL INCLUDE AN INFIRMARY, A CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME, LONG-STAY CARE HOME, EACH WITH THE CAPACITY OF SOME 200 PLACES. THERE WILL BE THE SHA TIN INFIRMARY AND CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL WITH 700 BEDS AIMED TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE INFIRMED AS WELL AS REHABILITATION, REHABILITATING THEM BACK INTO SOCIETY.

THE FIRST PHASE CONSISTING OF 50 BEDS IS DUE TO COME INTO OPERATION NEXT MONTH ACTUALLY. OTHER NEW MODES OF SERVICE LIKE HOSPICE CARE WILL BE LAUNCHED. AND THESE ARE DEVISED, I MUST ADMIT, BY VARIOUS PEOPLE NOT THE GOVERNMENT, BY THE SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS. NOW, THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING AND DESERVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

I'D LIKE TO MENTION ALSO, THAT CARE-AND-ATTENTION AND INFIRMARY WAITING LIST HAS BEEN CO-ORDINATED AND REDUCED. PRIORITY ON ONE CARRIES THE SAME PRIORITY ON THE OTHER AND THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHICH TYPE OF INSTITUTION AN ELDERLY PERSON GOES TO IS MAKE BY THE DOCTOR AFTER MEDICAL ASSESSMENT. THIS RECENT IMPROVEMENT HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO REMOVING THE POSSIBILITY OF ELDERLY PEOPLE FALLING BETWEEN TWO STOOLS. ASSESSMENT TEAMS INVOLVING BOTH MEDICAL AND WELFARE STAFF ARE BEING ESTABLISHED ON A DISTRICT BASIS. THE FIRST BEING IN SHA TIN. AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR CARE-AND-ATTENTION ADMISSION IS TWENTY MONTHS. IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE. BUT IT'S STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

NOW TURNING TO MEMBERS' CONCERN OVER THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE. IT IS TRUE THAT THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE INDIVIDUALLY IS VERY SMALL. BUT COLLECTIVELY IT MEANS GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE OF SOME \$2,000 MILLION A YEAR BASED ON THE CURRENT TAKE-UP RATE OF ELIGIBLE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHICH MEANS 89 PER CENT OF THOSE OVER THE AGE OF 70 THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE WHICH IS NOT MEANS-TESTED. AS AGAIN 55 PER CENT OF THOSE ARE MEANS-TESTED, LOWER OLD AGE ALLOWANCE.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE EXISTING RESIDENCE CRITERION GOVERNING PAYMENT OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE RELAXED TO ALLOW OUR SENIOR CITIZENS TO GET IT WHILE LIVING ABROAD. THERE MAY BE SOME MERITS IN CONSIDERING THAT BUT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT ALLOWANCE WHICH IS NOT A PENSION, WHICH IS NON-CONTRIBUTORY AND NON-MEANSTESTED, I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN REALLY JUSTIFY PAYMENT OF THESE ALLOWANCES OUTSIDE HONG KONG ON THIS PRESENT FORMAT.

HOWEVER, I AM SURE THE REVIEW COMMITTEE, TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED, WILL BE LOOKING AT THE OVERALL SCHEME OF THINGS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HONOURABLE MEMBERS' SENTIMENTS AND THE MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS MADE ON THIS. INDEED, AS SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THERE MAY BE BETTER ALTERNATIVES AND VIABLE OPTIONS. WE MUST LOOK AT THE PROBLEM FROM THE LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE POINT OF VIEW.

ON HEALTH CARE, AT PRESENT, SOME 9% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF PEOPLE AGED 65 AND ABOVE ACCOUNT FOR 21.5% OF ALL GENERAL OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES AND 40% OF ALL IN-PATIENTS IN THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS. WE ESTIMATE THAT ON A PER CAPITA BASIS, THE ELDERLY CONSUMES THREE TIMES MORE RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CARE.

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ELDERLY AND REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON HOSPITAL SERVICES, WE BELIEVE THE ELDERLY PEOPLE SHOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TARGET GROUPS FOR RECEIVING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. WE AIM TO INTRODUCE, ON A PILOT BASIS, SCREENING SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO ATTENDED GOP CLINICS. A HEALTH CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY WOULD ALSO BE ESTABLISHED IN KWUN TONG. OUR HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES WOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE MORE ON COMMON ELDERLY HEALTH PROBLEMS INCLUDING DIABETES AND CARDIAC PROBLEMS AND SO ON. IF THE ELDERLY KNOW MORE ABOUT SELF CARE AND DIET CONTROL, THEY CAN CERTAINLY PARTICIPATE IN MAINTAINING THEIR OWN HEALTH.

AS REGARDS THE NEED OF REFORM, I AM GUIDED BY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. REFORM WE MUST. IN FACT WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MAJOR REFORM AND BIG DEBATE AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR MANY OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS' SUPPORT ON THIS WHICH STARTED WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITY. WE ARE REVAMPING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, WE ARE LOOKING AT THE MEDICAL INSURANCE OPTIONS. CHANGE MUST BE PROPERLY AND CAREFULLY MANAGED. I THINK MEMBERS WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR MANY OF YOUR PRE-MEDICAL ADVICE WHICH WILL BE ENABLING ME TO DEVISE A BETTER SYSTEM TO BETTER THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY. TODAY I THINK I'D CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT BLOOD VESSELS AND BLOOD PRESSURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SOME MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF NURSING MANPOWER, ESPECIALLY FOR ELDERLY SERVICES IN INFIRMARIES OR CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND COMMUNITY NURSING. SHORTAGE OF NURSES IS NO SIMPLE PROBLEM. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, A WHOLE RANGE OF MEASURES HAS BEEN TAKEN TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST IN THIS IN SEARCH OF FURTHER MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM. AGAIN I MUST SAY I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR SOME OF THE VERY IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. IN RECENT MONTHS INDEED I HAVE RECEIVED PERSONAL LETTERS, A SPATE OF INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THEM ONE AND ALL FOR THEIR MEANINGFUL AND WISE COUNSEL. IT SHOWS SOCIETY AS A WHOLE WANTS TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM WHICH CONCERNS US.

I ECHO HONOURABLE MEMBERS' CALL TO RESPECT OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS. AS MENTIONED BY MANY MEMBERS, I THINK IT IS A REGRETTABLE REFLECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT MORE AND MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE APPEAR TO BE REJECTED BY THEIR FAMILY AND DUMPED ONTO THE LAP OF PUBLIC CARE OR NO CARE AT ALL. A SOCIETY IS LOOKED AT FROM THE WAY WE TREAT OUR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, OUR ELDERLY AND THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN WE ARE. LET US RESPECT THEM NOT ONLY WITH WORDS BUT WITH INDIVIDUAL ACTION.

NEXT MONTH MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFENSE OF HONG KONG DURING THE PACIFIC WAR. I'D LIKE TO ILLUSTRATE BY ACTION WHAT WE CAN DO. THE GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN, WHO FOUGHT FOR US WHILE THEY WERE YOUNG, ARE NOW OLD. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT IN THEIR OLD AGE, GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO HONOUR THEM BY GRANTING THEM, AS FROM NEXT MONTH, A PENSION AS OF RIGHT. LEST WE FORGET, THE TOIL, BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS OF THE YOUNG OF YESTERYEAR MAKE HONG KONG WHAT IT IS TODAY.

MANY OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF CONCESSIONARY FARES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. I THINK SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL RECALL THAT THIS WAS DEBATED AS ONE OF THE ITEMS IN MAY IN THIS COUNCIL THIS YEAR. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE SINCE THEN PURSUED THE PROPOSAL WITH GREAT ENERGY I MIGHT TO ADD WITH MAJOR PUBLIC PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES. I AM SAD TO SAY THAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN DISMAL. SOME WELCOME CONCESSIONARY FARES ONLY IF GOVERNMENT PAYS FOR IT. OTHERS DON'T WANT TO KNOW. STILL OTHERS WOULD PREFER TO KEEP ELDERLY PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR SYSTEM BECAUSE, THEY SAY, ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO ACCIDENTS. SUCH IS THE VARIETY OF VIEWS.

WHILST I REGRETTABLY DO NOT HAVE A POT OF GOLD FROM WHICH TO PAY CONCESSIONARY FARES, IT IS APPROPRIATE, TO ECHO MEMBERS' VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS COUNCIL THAT ALL OF US IN SOCIETY MUST EXERCISE OF OUR COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE. WE MUST PUT OUR THINKING CAPS ON, THINK OF WAYS AND MEANS, DEVISE IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF GRANTING CONCESSIONS TO SENIOR CITIZENS OF OUR SOCIETY NOT IN TERM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUT THINK OF OTHER THINGS ALSO IN RECREATION, IN CULTURE, BANKING FACILITIES ETC AND ETC. WE CAN GO ON ALSO ON DIFFERENT ITEMS BUT SOCIETY MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A WHOLE. IT'S NOT SOMETHING MONEY ALONE CAN PAY FOR. THE SPIRIT MUST COME FROM WITHIN.

IN THIS CONTEMPORARY DEBATE ABOUT HONG HONG'S CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE ELDERLY POPULATION, I AM REMINDED OF THE 18TH CENTURY MALTHUSIAN THEORY THAT POPULATION WOULD ONE DAY EXHAUST THE MEANS OF SUPPORT. THIS PREDICTION IS PESSIMISTIC BUT FORTUNATELY HAS NOT COME TRUE HERE. AND FORTUNATELY, ALSO, THERE ARE MANY OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS HERE WHO BELIEVE OPTIMISTICALLY THAT NEW CHALLENGE STIMULATES INNOVATION AND NEW ENERGY WILL BE FOUND IN A NEW ORDER. I SHARE THEIR OPTIMISM.

AS AN ARDENT OPTIMIST MYSELF, I HAVE FAITH IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR AND INGENUITY. I BELIEVE, LIKE MANY OF YOU, IN THE ELDERLY PEOPLE AND THEIR LATENT POTENTIAL. I BELIEVE IN THE GREAT POWER WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM THEM. TOGETHER WE WILL FIND AN ANSWER TO MEET THIS DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE.

HONG KONG IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS CAPACITY TO PROGRESS. THE "LIVE FOR TODAY" SYNDROME SHOULD NOT BLIND US. FINE WORDS SHOULD NOT LULL US INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT ONLY PROVIDE FOR SOCIETY'S CURRENT NEEDS. IT MUST ALSO BE FAR-SIGHTED ENOUGH TO PLAN AHEAD TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES.

IT IS SAID THE MOOD OF THE TIME IS REFLECTED IN SOME OF THE LYRICS OF THE POP SONGS. THE TOP OF THE POPS. I SHALL CLOSE WITH THE WORDS OF A FAMOUS SONG FROM THE BEATLES WHICH SAID:

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"WILL YOU STILL NEED ME?

WILL YOU STILL FEED ME

WHEN I AM 64?"

HONG KONG'S SENIOR CITIZENS MAY WELL ASK A SIMILAR QUESTION. JUDGING FROM THE TENURE OF TODAY'S DEBATE, I THINK THE ANSWER MUST BE A RESOUNDING "YES". WE WILL LOOK AFTER OUR ELDERLY PEOPLE. WE WILL PLAN AHEAD.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, I AM GRATEFUL FOR HONOURABLE MEMBERS' CONCERN OVER THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. I THINK THE MOTION OUGHT TO BE SUPPORTED: AND SUPPORTED NOT ONLY WITH FINE WORDS BUT PRACTICAL ACTION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO JOINT CO-OPERATION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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SEM ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

THE MOTION BEFORE US TODAY URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO THE FORMULATION OF AN OVERALL AND COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY. AS HAS BEEN OBSERVED BY SEVERAL SPEAKERS, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF SUCH A POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER SELF-RELIANCE AMONG THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY. IN THE LIGHT OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS AND OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS THAT THERE IS NOW A GREATER NEED FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT SCHEMES. AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP UNDER MY CHAIRMANSHIP HAS ALREADY STARTED TO EXAMINE HOW THIS NEED SHOULD BEST BE MET. AS I HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY IN THIS CHAMBER, WE WOULD WELCOME ADVICE AND PROPOSALS FROM ALL SOURCES. WE ALSO INTEND TO CONSULT WIDELY ONCE WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SOME FEASIBLE OPTIONS.

/RETIREMENT PROTECTION

RETIREMENT PROTECTION IS, OF COURSE, ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE WIDER ISSUE OF CARE AND ATTENTION FOR THE ELDERLY. BY ITS VERY NATURE, RETIREMENT PROTECTION WOULD, CONCEPTUALLY AT LEAST, PROVIDE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PAID EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO RETIREMENT. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO WILL NOT BE COVERED BY ANY RETIREMENT SCHEMES. AND THERE MAY WELL BE OTHERS WHO, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROTECTION AFFORDED BY RETIREMENT SCHEMES, FIND THEMSELVES IN NEED OF CARE AND OTHER SERVICES BEYOND WHAT THEIR RETIREMENT SCHEMES COULD PROVIDE. I SHALL DEFER TO MY COLLEAGUE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE TO COMMENT ON THE WIDER ISSUE. MEANWHILE, SHE AND I WILL ENSURE THAT THE WORK WHICH WE ARE DOING IN OUR RESPECTIVE POLICY AREAS, AND WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROVISION OF IMPROVED CARE AND OTHER SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY, IS PROPERLY CO-ORDINATED.

FINALLY, MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SINCE MISS EMILY LAU HAS ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION SPECIFICALLY TO ME, I WOULD WISH TO ATTEMPT TO RESPOND.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO SPECIFIC POLICY REGARDING THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, ALTHOUGH EQUALLY THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC POLICIES DEBARRING THEM FROM SUCH OPPORTUNITIES AS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, EXCEPT DISREGARD EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BEYOND THE STIPULATED AGE OF RETIREMENT.

I SHOULD WISH TO REFLECT ON WHAT MORE COULD OR SHOULD BE DONE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE ELDERLY. FOR I FULLY SUBSCRIBED TO THE UNDERLINING PHILOSOPHY THAT WE SHOULD TREAT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AS AN ASSET AND A RESOURCE, RATHER THAN A LIABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY. BUT I WOULD FEEL MORE ENCOURAGED IF THE FACT OF SENIOR CITIZENS REMAINING IN EMPLOYMENT IS NOT SO FREQUENTLY HELD UP AS AN EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

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SES ON CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY):

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT,

ALLOW ME TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE POINTS MADE BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS. I WILL COVER GENERAL ECONOMIC AND PORT-RELATED MATTERS. MY COLLEAGUE, MR GRAHAM BARNES, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, WILL COVER PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC CONSIDERATIONS.

LET ME FIRST SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PORT FACILITIES. I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO COVER MOST OF MEMBERS' CONCERNS IN THIS AREA.

/AN EFFECTIVE

AN EFFECTIVE PORT IS THE KEY TO OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH OF OUR NATURAL HINTERLAND WITHIN CHINA. BOTH HONG KONG AND SOUTHERN CHINA WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF WE FAIL TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF OUR COMBINED TRADE.

OUR POLICY IS TO ATTEMPT TO MATCH SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR PORT FACILITIES. IN THIS WAY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO PAY FOR, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE COSTLY NEW INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NEED TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PUBLIC PURSE. THIS POLICY HAS SUCCEEDED VERY WELL AND HAS ESTABLISHED HONG KONG AS A WORLD LEADER IN PORT SERVICES AND AS A PRINCIPAL HUB PORT FOR WORLD TRADE AND CARGO SERVICES.

DEMANDS FROM TRADE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. OUR CONTAINER GROWTH THIS YEAR IS EXTREMELY HIGH. IT IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN STRONG WELL INTO NEXT YEAR. IN PLANNING TERMS THIS MEANS WE NEED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONTAINER HANDLING CAPACITY IN THE PORT. AT PRESENT TREND LEVELS OF GROWTH WE WILL NEED THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL - NUMBER 8 - IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, AND THE NEXT FOLLOWING - NUMBER 9 - TWO YEARS LATER, DURING 1995. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON LANTAU.

THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP TERMINAL 8 HAS BEEN GRANTED AND WE SHALL NEED TO GRANT THE RIGHTS FOR TERMINAL 9 IN EARLY 1993. IN ORDER TO RETAIN OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE AND INDEED, TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR INDUSTRIES, OUR OBJECTIVE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BRING ON NEW PORT FACILITIES AS DEMAND REQUIRES. THIS POLICY HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND HAS ENABLED THE PORT TO MEET HONG KONG'S NEEDS. IF WE WERE TO TAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO MEET DEMAND, WE WOULD DRIVE BUSINESS AWAY FROM HONG KONG.

THE QUESTION REALLY IS TWO-FOLD - HAVE WE GOT OUR TIMINGS RIGHT AND WHAT ALTERNATIVE SITES ARE AVAILABLE? I SHALL SPEAK LATER ON OUR GROWTH FORECASTS AND ASSOCIATED TIMINGS. HOWEVER, I AM SATISFIED THAT THE FIRST BERTH OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 WILL BE REQUIRED BY MID 1995 - SOME TWO YEARS BEFORE THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING IS EXPECTED TO OPEN. PUT ANOTHER WAY, IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO MEET DEMAND, THEN ALTERNATIVE DEEP WATER SITES MUST BE PUT TO USE BEFORE THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING OPENS. PADS CONDUCTED A TERRITORY-WIDE SITE SEARCH AND CONFIRMED THAT THE ONLY TWO VIABLE SITES LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING OPENED IN 1997 WERE STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND SOUTH-EAST TSING YI. THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS ADVISED THIS COUNCIL ON 11 OCTOBER 1989 OF THE INTENTION TO LOCATE CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 ON RECLAIMED LAND OFF SOUTH-EAST TSING YI.

ACCORDING TO OUR BEST ESTIMATES, WE ANTICIPATE A DEMAND OF SOME 2.8 MILLION TEU'S OVER AND ABOVE THE CAPACITY OF KWAI CHUNG, EVEN WITH CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 FULLY OPERATIONAL, BUT BEFORE THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING CAN BE COMMISSIONED. THE QUESTION NOW IS : CAN ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER BE HANDLED AT SITES OTHER THAN AT TSING YI. LET ME NOW SPEAK IN MORE DETAIL ON OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AND SITING ISSUES.

CONTAINER TERMINALS ARE CONSTRAINED BY A NUMBER OF KEY FACTORS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE IS WATER DEPTH TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENT DAY CONTAINER VESSELS. WE NEED A MINIMUM WATER DEPTH OF 15 METERS IN THE APPROACHES TO A TERMINAL AND ALONGSIDE ITS BERTHS.

SUCH DEPTHS CAN ONLY BE REALISTICALLY PROVIDED IN THE KWAI CHUNG/TSING YI AREA, IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND LANTAU, AND IN TOLO HARBOUR. TSEUNG KWAN O IS NOT SUITABLE FOR LARGE CONTAINER VESSELS AND IN ANY EVENT HAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT.

TOLO HARBOUR IS NOT A PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE - AGAIN, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT AND COULD NOT BECOME AVAILABLE WHEN REQUIRED.

FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THIS LEAVES US, UNTIL 1997, WITH ONLY THE KWAI CHUNG/TSING YI AREA. GIVEN ITS DEEP WATER, THIS AREA HAS SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC POTENTIAL FOR PORT DEVELOPMENT.

THE PADS STUDY IN 1988 FIRST IDENTIFIED SOUTH-EAST TSING YI AS A SUITABLE AND VIABLE SITE FOR CONTAINER PORT DEVELOPMENT. THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY A DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY RECENTLY CONCLUDED.

THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER EXISTING FACILITIES AT KWAI CHUNG COULD BE EXPANDED WILL BE COVERED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS.

IN DETERMINING THE SITING FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL 9, MUCH DEPENDS ON THE ACCURACY OF OUR FORECASTS OF DEMAND. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE HAVE ASSUMED A 14% ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN CONTAINER THROUGHPUT AT THE TERMINALS. THIS ESTIMATE IS BASED ON WELL TESTED AND PROVEN METHODOLOGY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HONG KONG'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OVER THE PRECEDING SIXTY MONTHS AND FROM THIS PROJECTING FUTURE GROWTH AND HENCE, TERMINAL REQUIREMENTS. THIS SYSTEM HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE 1982 AND HAS HAD A GOOD, IF SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE TRACK RECORD. LET ME STRESS THE WORD "CONSERVATIVE" - FOR WHILST WE ARE PLANNING FOR 14% GROWTH, TOTAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT THIS YEAR, AT OVER 20%, IS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN PROVIDE NEW FACILITIES IN HONG KONG BEFORE LANTAU BECOMES AVAILABLE, CARGOES OVER AND ABOVE OUR PORT CAPACITY MIGHT BE BETTER HANDLED AT NEARBY ALTERNATIVE PORTS. THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS WITH THIS - FIRST WE HAVE THE LINER SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH GUARANTEE AN EXPORTER RAPID, REGULAR AND EFFICIENT TRANSIT TO HIS MARKETS. IF WE FORCE HIM TO USE NEARBY PORTS HIS GOODS MAY LOOSE THEIR COMPETITIVE EDGE. BUT THAT EDGE WILL NOT BE SLOW TO BE SHARPENED. THOSE TWO MILLION TEU'S THAT I REFERRED TO EARLIER WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO STIMULATE THE DIVERSION OF SHIPPING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FROM HONG KONG. ONCE GONE, THAT TRADE AND THOSE SERVICES ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO RETURN. THIS BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND PROBLEM. HANDLING THAT CARGO BRINGS VERY CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY. LOSING IT WILL GIVE US LONG TERM AND VERY PAINFUL LOSSES. WE HAVE ESTIMATED THAT LOSS OF TRANSSHIPMENT TRAFFIC ALONE WOULD COST US SOME \$30 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2006.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION HAS BEEN THAT WE SHOULD IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR TERMINALS THEREBY DELAYING THE NEED FOR MORE FACILITIES UNTIL IT IS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP ON LANTAU. IT IS IN ALL OF OUR INTERESTS THAT PRODUCTIVITY IS AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY ONE CANNOT DIRECTLY COMPARE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF ONE PORT - OR ONE TERMINAL WITHIN A PORT - WITH ANOTHER. EACH HAS ITS DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS. BUT, GIVEN THE COST OF DEVELOPING TERMINALS IN HONG KONG AND THE FACT THAT THEY ARE OPERATED BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, I WOULD BE EXTREMELY SURPRISED IF MARKET FORCES DO NOT ENSURE THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY.

MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT, OUR INTENTION TO CONSTRUCT CONTAINER TERMINAL FACILITIES AT TSING YI HAS BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SINCE IT IS OBVIOUSLY RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD BE ENTIRELY SURE THAT NO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE EXISTS BEFORE COMMITTING OURSELVES, WE ARE REVIEWING YET AGAIN BOTH THE TIMING AND SITING FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL 9. WE EXPECT TO MAKE A DECISION VERY SHORTLY.

THANK YOU MR DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

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SITING OF CONTAINER TERMINAL EXPLAINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT SOUTH EAST TSING YI WAS ALWAYS THE ONLY PLACE THAT WAS FEASIBLE FOR THE SITING OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 (CT9) TO MEET THE TIMING AND LOCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED UNDER THE CURRENT PORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

IN WINDING UP THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT, MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION OF CHOOSING THAT PART OF THE ISLAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CT9 WAS MADE AS THERE WERE EXTREMELY FEW SITES IN HONG KONG WHICH COULD HAVE THE DEPTH, THE ACCESS TO SEA SHIPPING ROUTES, AND BY ROAD TO THE ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS OF THE CONTAINERS.

MOREOVER, HE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO BRING THE TERMINAL INTO OPERATION BEFORE THE FIXED CROSSING TO LANTAU WAS COMPLETE.

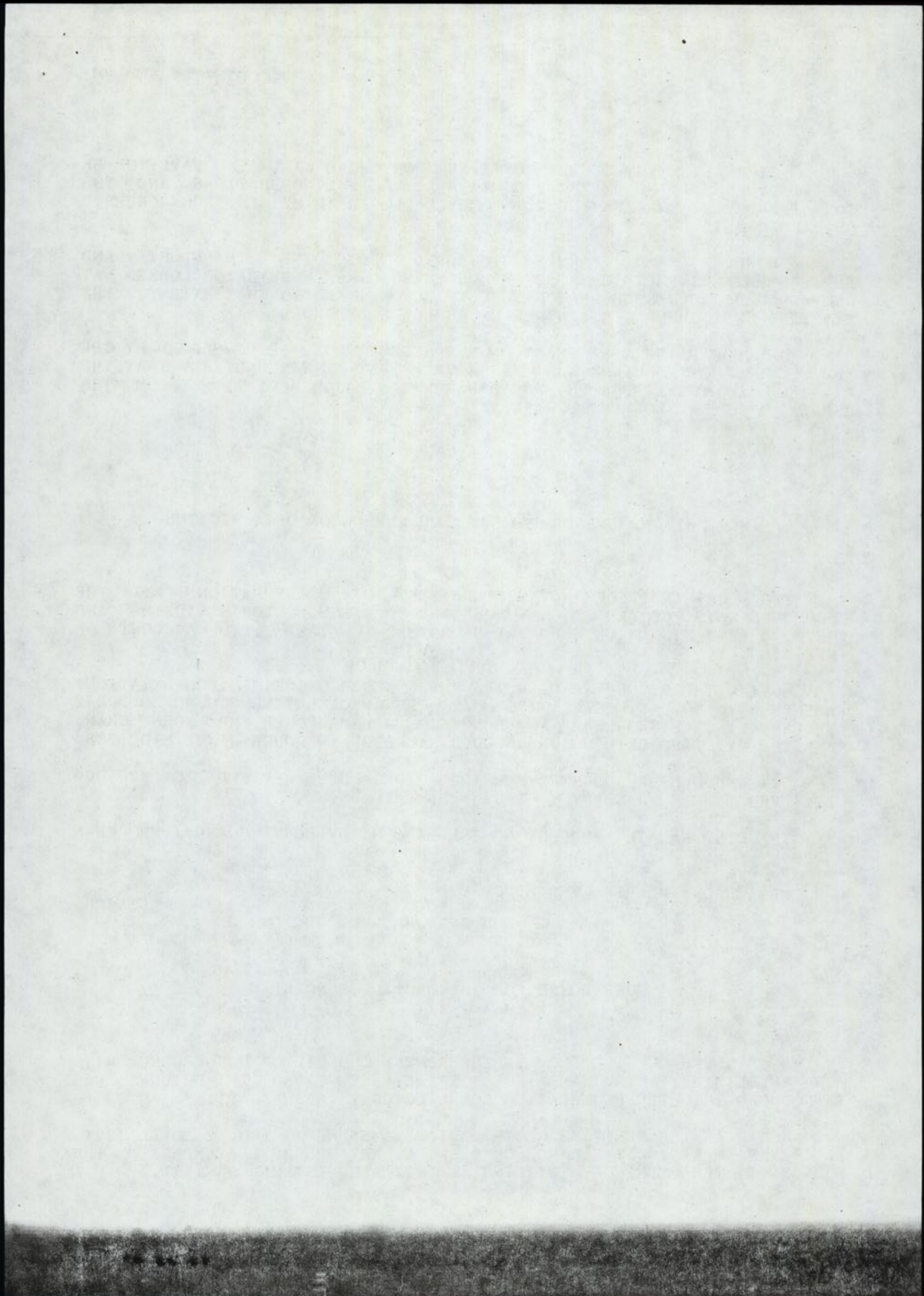
COMMENTING ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND, MR BARNES SAID THE STRETCH OF THE EASTERN COASTLINE SOUTHWARDS FROM THE SOUTHERN TSING YI BRIDGE DOWN TO THE SOUTH EAST CORNER IS OCCUPIED MORE OR LESS UP TO THE FOOTHILLS BY OIL TERMINALS AND INDUSTRY BUILT ON RECLAMATIONS SERVED BY A SINGLE ROAD BEHIND THE LOTS.

THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SOME CONFLICTING FEATURES IN THE PLANNING BETWEEN THE SOUTHERNMOST SECTOR OF CHEUNG CHING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND MAYFAIR GARDENS AND SOME OF THESE USES, AND, INDEPENDENTLY OF THE PLANS FOR CONTAINER USE AT SOUTH EAST TSING YI.

HOWEVER, TO ALLAY FEARS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO EFFECT THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS INSTALLATIONS IN THIS AREA. THE RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEABED FOR CONTAINER USES WOULD INVOLVE A COMPLETE CHANGE IN THE ROAD PATTERN OF SOUTH TSING YI TO TAKE CONTAINER AND EXISTING INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC AWAY FROM THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE CONTAINER TERMINAL WOULD NECESSITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR EXTRA LANES OF TRAFFIC ON A NEW BRIDGE TO KWAI CHUNG WHICH WOULD LEAD DIRECTLY INTO A NEW ROAD BETWEEN THE NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS AND THE LAND PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE OIL TERMINALS.

/HE SAID



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"THE ALIGNMENT OF THE CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE MODIFIED, RESULTING IN BOTH CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATIONS AND THE CONTAINER PORT ROAD HAVING TO BE MOVED CLOSER TO MEI FOO SUN CHUEN," MR BARNES SAID.

HOWEVER, MR BARNES DISCLOSED THAT THE TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF A SCHEME ON THESE LINES WERE BEING LOOKED AT AND WOULD BE ADDRESSED VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE, AND TO WHAT EXTENT, THE EXISTING KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT COULD BE EXPANDED.

HE HOPED THE ASSESSMENT ON THE SCHEME WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH BUT HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT WOULD WARRANT A MAJOR DEVIATION FROM THE CURRENT PORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

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INCREASE IN ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR PNEUMOCONIOSIS VICTIMS

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THE CEILING FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BY THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO PNEUMOCONIOSIS VICTIMS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS WILL SHORTLY BE RAISED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OF INFLATION.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE EXISTING CEILING OF \$20,000 HAD BEEN IN FORCE SINCE MID-1988.

"IT SHOULD BE ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION AND BE REVISED TO \$28,000 WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1992," HE SAID.

THE BILL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, MR CHAN ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MORE POWER FOR THE DENTAL COUNCIL

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A BILL WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE DENTAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG WITH MORE FLEXIBILITY IN HANDLING DISCIPLINARY CASES IN FUTURE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

KNOWN AS THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, IT SEEKS TO EXPAND THE RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ORDERS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL IN THE EVENT OF A FINDING AGAINST A REGISTERED DENTIST.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID SECTION 18(1) OF THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE STIPULATED FOUR DISCIPLINARY ORDERS AVAILABLE TO THE DENTAL COUNCIL.

THESE INCLUDE REMOVING A DENTIST'S NAME FROM THE REGISTER PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY, REPRIMANDING THE DENTIST OR POSTPONING JUDGEMENT ON THE CASE FOR TWO YEARS.

IT IS ALSO STIPULATED IN THE ORDINANCE THAT ALL ORDERS MADE HAVE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

"HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF MINOR OFFENCES, SUCH AS TRAFFIC OFFENCES, WHICH BEAR NO RELEVANCE TO THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY, THE PRESENT DISCIPLINARY MEASURES MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE," MRS WONG SAID.

"THE BILL THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT THE RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ORDERS BE EXPANDED SO THAT THE DENTAL COUNCIL MAY ALSO CONSIDER EITHER MAKING NO ORDER AT ALL, REPRIMANDING THE DENTIST BUT NOT PUBLISHING THE REPRIMAND IN THE GAZETTE, OR SUSPENDING THE APPLICATION OF ANY ORDER MADE."

SUBSEQUENT TO THE PROPOSED POWER TO SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF ANY ORDER MADE, THE ORIGINAL POWER TO POSTPONE JUDGEMENT FOR TWO YEARS WOULD HAVE TO BE DELETED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED

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A BILL SEEKING TO CLARIFY THAT IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S PURVIEW WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS WOULD REMOVE ANY UNCERTAINTY IN RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL'S ABILITY TO ASSIST AND ADVISE CONSUMERS REGARDING PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS AND TENANCY MATTERS.

THE SECRETARY SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO REDUCE THE QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR CONSUMER COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS, WHICH MEANS AT LEAST 12, TO 11 MEMBERS SO AS TO GIVE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS BUSINESS.

IT ALSO STRENGTHENED SECTION 20 OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITED THE EXPLOITATION OF THE COUNCIL'S NAME AND RESEARCH FINDINGS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES, BY TIGHTENING THE LEGAL LANGUAGE AND INCREASING THE LEVEL OF FINES, FROM THE PRESENT MAXIMUM OF \$5,000 TO THE PROPOSED \$100,000, MR CHAU SAID.

"WE ARE ALSO TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE, WHICH CONTAINS A LIST OF BODIES OUTSIDE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S PURVIEW," THE SECRETARY SAID.

"WE PROPOSE TO REMOVE FROM THE SCHEDULE COMPANIES WHICH ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY SPECIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OR PUBLIC MONITORING, SUCH AS THE PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY LTD AND THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LTD, SO THAT THEY WILL BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S PURVIEW.

"SEVERAL BODIES WHICH MEET THE CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE COUNCIL'S PURVIEW, SUCH AS THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, ARE BEING ADDED TO THE SCHEDULE," HE SAID.

MR CHAU ADDED THAT OTHER AMENDMENTS INVOLVED THE REMOVAL OF DEFUNCT COMPANIES AND CHANGES WHERE COMPANIES HAD ADOPTED NEW NAMES.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MEASURES TO PREVENT INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES INTO HARBOUR

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS A VARIETY OF MEASURES IN HAND TO PREVENT INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES INTO THE HARBOUR AND ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS OF WASTE WATER OUTLETS TO STORMWATER DRAINS, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON VINCENT CHENG HOI-CHUEN, MR BARNES SAID THESE MEASURES WERE CENTRED IN THE TERRITORY-WIDE PROGRAMME OF SEWERAGE MASTERPLANS ON THREE FRONTS, NAMELY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND CONTROL.

ON THE PLANNING FRONT, HE SAID PRIORITY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE SEWERAGE MASTERPLANS PROGRAMME TO THOSE AREAS WHERE INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES WERE BEING MADE DIRECTLY INTO THE HARBOUR.

"MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS TO STORMWATER DRAINS ARE INCLUDED IN THESE MASTERPLANS, WHICH INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT, CAPACITY AND PHYSICAL STATE OF THE EXISTING SEWERAGE SYSTEM INCLUDING THE NUMBERS OF UNAUTHORISED CONNECTIONS, AND PROPOSE MEASURES TO MEET THE EXISTING AND FUTURE DEMANDS FOR NEW SEWERAGE.

"THE HARBOUR AREA IS COVERED BY SEVEN SEWERAGE MASTERPLANS AND STUDIES FOR FOUR OF THESE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR ARE UNDERWAY. THE MASTERPLANS ALSO IDENTIFY 'FIRST AID MEASURES' THAT CAN PROVIDE SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO SOME POLLUTION BLACKSPOTS," HE SAID.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION FRONT, MR BARNES SAID THERE WERE ALREADY SEVERAL ONGOING OR PROPOSED REGIONAL SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES AROUND THE HARBOUR; MOST OF WHICH AROSE FROM THE MASTERPLANNING STRATEGY.

/THESE SCHEMES

THESE SCHEMES INCLUDED THE NORTH-WEST KOWLOON SEWERAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME, THE EAST KOWLOON SCHEME, THE TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING SEWERAGE SCHEME AND THE SHAM TSENG SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES.

MR BARNES SAID THE NORTH-WEST KOWLOON SEWERAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME WOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR AT A COST OF \$1.3 BILLION.

"THIS SYSTEM WILL REMOVE THE THREE EXISTING OUTFALLS WHICH PRESENTLY DISCHARGE SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS INTO THE HARBOUR, AND DIVERT TO A TREATMENT FACILITY ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

"IN ADDITION TO THIS MAJOR SCHEME, A MASTERPLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO COMPREHENSIVELY UPGRADE LOCAL SEWERAGE, THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PARALLEL WITH WORKS UNDER THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION," HE SAID.

STAGE I OF THE EAST KOWLOON SCHEME, WHICH COMMENCED THIS MONTH, WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1994 AT A COST OF \$550 MILLION, MR BARNES SAID.

"THIS SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE TRUNK SEWERS TO INTERCEPT INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT PRESENTLY DISCHARGING INTO KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER AND PROVIDE SEWERAGE LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE ALL PRESENT AND FUTURE FLOWS IN THE EAST KOWLOON AREA.

"THE SECOND PHASE, WHICH IS PLANNED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1996 AT A COST OF \$460 MILLION, WILL PROVIDE FOR LOCAL RESEWERAGE AND REMOVAL OF EXPEDIENT CONNECTIONS," HE SAID.

THE TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING SEWERAGE SCHEME, A TWO-YEAR PROJECT WHICH WILL COMMENCE NEXT YEAR AT A COST OF \$182 MILLION, IS FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW AND UPGRADED SECTIONS OF TRUNK SEWERS AT KWAI CHUNG AND ASSOCIATED LOCAL SEWERAGE, ACCORDING TO MR BARNES.

"THIS PROJECT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE THE DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL FLOWS GENERATED IN THE AREA, MUCH OF WHICH PRESENTLY DISCHARGES TO THE STORMWATER DRAINS.

"THE SECOND PHASE, AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$200 MILLION, IS PLANNED TO START IN 1993 AND WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED TRUNK SEWERAGE TO TSUEN WAN," HE SAID.

THE SHAM TSENG SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES, WOULD START IN EARLY 1993 AT A COST OF \$140 MILLION, MR BARNES SAID.

IT WILL PROVIDE AN INTERCEPTOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AT SHAM TSENG TO COLLECT, TREAT AND DISPOSE OF SEWAGE GENERATED ALONG THE COASTAL STRIP STRETCHING FROM SHAM TSENG TO TSING LUNG TAU.

"THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM WILL REMOVE POLLUTION IN THE STORMWATER DRAINS AND COASTAL WATERS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS CONTROLS, MR BARNES SAID ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL AND POLLUTING DRAINS WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE SPECIALISED TASK FORCE SET UP IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN 1986.

"IT MAINTAINS CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND TACKLES SERIOUS CASES REFERRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

"SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN PARTICULAR AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND KWAI TSING. THESE EXERCISES ARE SOMETIMES ASSISTED BY THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES SET UP BY DISTRICT BOARDS," HE SAID.

NEXT, MR BARNES SAID, AN EFFECTIVE CRADLE-TO-GRAVE SCHEME FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL WASTES WAS BEING FORMULATED.

"IT IS HOPED TO INTRODUCE THIS SCHEME IN 1992 SO THAT THE SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE THE NEW CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY IS COMMISSIONED AT THE END OF 1992," HE SAID.

DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS FROM NOVEMBER LAST YEAR TO THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, MR BARNES SAID THERE WERE 73 PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DUMPING AT SEA ACT FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING ACTIVITIES, AND 80 PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE FOR MINOR LITTERING OFFENCES.

HE SAID THE WATER QUALITY HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY BAD IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION.

"DISSOLVED OXYGEN HAS BEEN ABOVE 50 PER CENT WHICH IS ABOUT THE LOWEST TOLERABLE LEVEL FOR MARINE LIFE. THE DISTRIBUTION OF BACTERIA E. COLI VARIES WIDELY, BUT IN SOME PLACES READINGS HAVE BEEN AS HIGH AS 10,000 PER 100 ML," HE SAID.

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UNTIMELY TO INTRODUCE SALES TAX NOW
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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT NOW - A TIME OF HIGH INFLATION - IS THE TIME TO INTRODUCE A SALES TAX, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, MR YEUNG ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPTED THAT BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON THE ISSUE AT SOME FUTURE DATE, IT WOULD NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC, AND THE NEED TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MR YEUNG SAID THE PROBLEM THAT THE SALES TAX IDEA WAS INTENDED TO TACKLE WAS THAT THE PRESENT TAX BASE WAS TOO NARROWLY BASED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT OF SALARIES TAXPAYERS NOW CONTRIBUTE 56 PER CENT OF ALL SALARIES TAX REVENUE," HE SAID.

"AS REGARDS PROFITS TAX, ABOUT ONE-THIRD IS CONTRIBUTED BY LESS THAN 0.1 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S BUSINESSES."

/THE SECRETARY

THE SECRETARY SAID THIS SITUATION LEFT US UNCOMFORTABLY VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECT OF ANY DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY, AND ALSO LEFT US WITH INSUFFICIENTLY SECURE SOURCES OF REVENUE, AT A TIME WHEN THERE WERE IMPORTANT AND COMPETING CALLS ON THE PUBLIC PURSE.

NEVERTHELESS, HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE COMMUNITY'S SENSITIVITY TO THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A SALES TAX AT A TIME OF HIGH INFLATION AND HAD CAREFULLY MONITORED BOTH PUBLIC OPINION AND THE VIEWS OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT.

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DETAILED POLICE ORDERS GOVERN USE OF HANDCUFFS

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THE POLICE HAVE DETAILED INTERNAL ORDERS GOVERNING THE USE OF HANDCUFFS AND HANDCUFF TRANSPORT BELTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR ASPREY SAID POLICE OFFICERS WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO USE HANDCUFFS UNLESS NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE AN ARRESTED PERSON WAS VIOLENT, OR LIKELY TO BECOME VIOLENT, OR LIKELY TO ATTEMPT ESCAPE.

"A POLICE OFFICER HAS TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT HIMSELF WHETHER HANDCUFFS ARE TO BE USED," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE USE OF HANDCUFF TRANSPORT BELTS HAD TO BE AUTHORISED BY THE DUTY OFFICER AT A POLICE STATION OR AN OFFICER OF THE RANK OF SERGEANT OR ABOVE.

"THEY ARE USED FOR PRISONERS OR ARRESTED PERSONS WHO ARE LIKELY TO BECOME VIOLENT OR TO ATTEMPT ESCAPE, OR ARE BEING MOVED THROUGH TO UNSECURED AREAS OF A COURT."

THE SECRETARY SAID ANY COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE ABOUT THE MISUSE OF HANDCUFFS OR HANDCUFF TRANSPORT BELTS COULD BE MADE TO THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE WHICH WOULD THEN INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE.

"IF IT CAN BE ESTABLISHED THAT POLICE OFFICERS USED EXCESSIVE OR UNNECESSARY FORCE WHILST ARRESTING HIM, AN ARRESTED PERSON MAY BE ABLE TO CLAIM DAMAGES AGAINST THE POLICE," HE SAID.

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REVIEW OF S6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE IN PROGRESS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF THE NEW SIXTH FORM ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND IF ANY SHORTCOMINGS ARE IDENTIFIED, IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR INTRODUCTION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON STEPHEN NG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN SAID THE NEW ADMISSION PROCEDURE AIMED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM UNDER-ENROLMENT AT SECONDARY 6 (S6) LEVEL, WITH THE ULTIMATE POLICY OBJECTIVE OF MAXIMISING UTILISATION OF S6 PLACES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRODUCING AS MANY MATRICULANTS AS POSSIBLE.

"IT DOES SO BY ENSURING THAT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS HAVE FIRST PRIORITY FOR THE S6 PLACES IN THEIR OWN SCHOOL," HE EXPLAINED.

"IT PUTS AN END TO THE PRACTICE OF INDIVIDUAL BETTER QUALIFIED STUDENTS SECURING S6 PLACES IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.

"IT ALSO MINIMISES THE NEED FOR S5 LEAVERS TO SHOP AROUND FOR A PLACE."

AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SCHEME IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, MR CHAN NOTED, S6 PLACES WERE FULLY TAKEN UP.

CITING STATISTICS, HE SAID THERE WERE 17,720 PLACES IN THE ADVANCED LEVEL (A-LEVEL) AND 1,680 IN THE HIGHER LEVEL (H-LEVEL) CLASSES.

THE ACTUAL NUMBERS OF S6 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE A-LEVEL AND H-LEVEL CLASSES AS AT EARLY SEPTEMBER WERE 17,891 AND 1,680 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OVER-ENROLMENT IN A-LEVEL CLASSES AS AT EARLY SEPTEMBER INDICATED THAT SOME SCHOOLS HAD RECRUITED MORE THAN 30 PUPILS PER CLASS.

AS AT OCTOBER, 682 A-LEVEL AND 117 H-LEVEL STUDENTS DROPPED OUT WHILE 128 NEW RECRUITS WERE ENROLLED IN A-LEVEL AND 16 IN H-LEVEL CLASSES.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF A-LEVEL AND H-LEVEL STUDENTS TO 17,337 AND 1,579 RESPECTIVELY AS AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

"ALTHOUGH THE ENROLMENT RATIO SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED FROM 100 PER CENT TO 97.5 PER CENT BY THE END OF OCTOBER, IT REMAINED THE HIGHEST FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS," MR CHAN SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE DROPOUTS, MR CHAN SAID STUDENTS WERE NOT OBLIGED TO GIVE REASONS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE FROM S6.

"NO COMPREHENSIVE RECORD OF THE CAUSES AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE 'DROPOUTS' FROM S6 HAS THEREFORE BEEN KEPT AND THE NUMBER OF S6 'DROPOUTS' WHO EVENTUALLY ENROLLED IN A POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION IS NOT AVAILABLE," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1991

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VISA-FREE VISITS BY HKBDTC/BNO
PASSPORT HOLDERS TO 72 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

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A TOTAL OF 72 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES ALLOW VISA-FREE VISITS TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS HOLDING EITHER HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORTS OR BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, MR ASPREY LISTED OUT THOSE COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES AS FOLLOWS:

ANGUILLA	LUXEMBOURG
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	MALAWI
BAHAMAS	MALAYSIA
BARBADOS	MALDIVES
BELGIUM	MALTA
BELIZE	MONTSERRAT
BERMUDA	MOROCCO
BOLIVIA	NETHERLANDS
BOTSWANA	NEW CALEDONIA
BRAZIL	PAKISTAN
BR. VIRGIN ISLANDS	PHILIPPINES
CANADA	POLAND
CAYMAN ISLANDS	SAN MARINO
CHILE	ST HELENA
COLOMBIA	ST KITTS-NEVIS
COOK ISLANDS	ST LUCIA
CYPRUS	ST VINCENT AND
DOMINICA	THE GRENADINES
EL SALVADOR	SINGAPORE
FALKLAND ISLANDS	SOLOMON ISLANDS
FIJI	SOUTH AFRICA
GAMBIA	SPAIN
GIBRALTAR	SRI LANKA
GREECE	SWAZILAND
GRENADA	SWEDEN
ICELAND	SWITZERLAND
INDONESIA	THAILAND
IRELAND	TOGO
ISRAEL	TONGA
ITALY	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
JAMAICA	TURKS AND
	CAICOS ISLANDS
KENYA	TUVALU
KIRIBATI	VANUATU
SOUTH KOREA	WEST SAMOA
LESOTHO	YUGOSLAVIA
LIECHTENSTEIN	ZAMBIA
	ZIMBABWE

HE POINTED OUT THAT A FURTHER TWO COUNTRIES, AUSTRIA AND MAURITIUS, ALLOWED VISA-FREE ACCESS TO BDTC PASSPORT HOLDERS, BUT REQUIRED VISAS FOR BN(O) PASSPORT HOLDERS.

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"SINCE THE TIME WHEN AUSTRIA AND MAURITIUS IMPOSED A VISA REQUIREMENT ON BN(O) PASSPORT HOLDERS, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AT OUR REQUEST HAS BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE AUSTRIA AND MAURITIUS TO WAIVE VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR BN(O) PASSPORT HOLDERS IN THE SAME WAY AS FOR BDTC PASSPORT HOLDERS. EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING.

"THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE AT OUR REQUEST IS ALSO MAKING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO WAIVE THEIR VISA REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT A VISA WAIVER AGREEMENT WITH POLAND, WHICH WOULD ALLOW BOTH BDTC AND BN(O) PASSPORT HOLDERS TO ENTER POLAND FOR SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT VISAS, HAD RECENTLY BEEN SIGNED.

"WE HOPE TO CONCLUDE MORE SUCH AGREEMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO CONVINCED OTHER COUNTRIES THAT - WHATEVER PASSPORTS THEY HELD - HONG KONG RESIDENTS WERE READILY RETURNABLE TO HONG KONG AND WOULD NOT BE A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

"HOWEVER, SOME COUNTRIES REQUIRE ALL VISITORS TO HAVE VISAS NO MATTER WHERE THEY COME FROM.

"THERE IS NO REALISTIC PROSPECT OF PERSUADING THEM TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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LEGCO UPDATED ON PROGRESS OF BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME

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A TOTAL OF 3,606 PERSONS, INCLUDING 1,251 APPLICANTS AND THEIR 2,355 DEPENDANTS, HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME AS AT NOVEMBER 16.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EMILY LAU.

A BREAKDOWN OF THESE APPLICANTS, BY CLASS AND BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP, IS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL OCCUPATIONAL CLASS	204 (391)
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MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS	38 (83)
NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS	26 (35)

/MEDICAL DOCTORS

MEDICAL DOCTORS	55 (126)
LEGAL PROFESSIONALS	51 (82)
STATISTICAL ASSISTANTS	34 (65)
DISCIPLINED SERVICES CLASS	83 (199)
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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE	35 (90)
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT, ICAC	45 (102)
ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY FORCE	3 (7)
ENTREPRENEURS CLASS	31 (24)
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SENSITIVE SERVICE CLASS	933 (1,741)
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NOTE : FIGURES IN BRACKETS DENOTE NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS.

MR ASPREY SAID 758 PASSPORTS HAD BEEN ISSUED UP TO NOVEMBER 16 THIS YEAR AND A FURTHER 435 APPLICATIONS FOR PASSPORT WERE BEING PROCESSED.

HE ADDED THAT SO FAR, NO APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN REJECTED. "WE SHALL PROBABLY START TO ISSUE LETTERS OF REJECTION NEXT MONTH," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS WAS 37,761 AND THE TIME REQUIRED TO PROCESS ALL THESE CASES WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS.

"WE SHALL, HOWEVER, TRY TO GIVE APPLICANTS AN EARLY INDICATION OF THEIR CHANCE OF SUCCESS," MR ASPREY SAID.

"THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL START LATER THIS MONTH TO NOTIFY ALL OUTSTANDING APPLICANTS OF THE POSITION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS," HE ADDED.

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LICENSING SYSTEM FOR WCZ GENERALLY SATISFACTORY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM IN RESPECT OF WATER CONTROL ZONES (WCZ'S) DECLARED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE DESPITE THE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY ASSOCIATED WITH LICENSING THE LARGE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC DISCHARGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES SAID OF THE SIX WCZ'S DECLARED SO FAR IN THE TERRITORY, FOUR OF THEM WERE DECLARED BEFORE THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990 CAME INTO EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1, LAST YEAR, AND THE OTHER TWO WERE DECLARED SINCE THAT DATE.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE AMENDMENT BILL, THE "EXEMPTION ARRANGEMENTS" WHICH PREVIOUSLY EXISTED UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE HAD BEEN REPEALED AND THAT IT ALSO PROVIDED THAT DISCHARGES OR DEPOSITS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY EXEMPT WOULD BE "DEEMED" TO BE LICENSED FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS OR UNTIL A NEW LICENCE WAS GRANTED.

THEREFORE, NO PHYSICAL APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE BY DEEMED LICENSEES WAS NECESSARY IN MOST CASES, HE ADDED.

MR BARNES SAID THE FOUR WCZ'S DECLARED BEFORE DECEMBER 1, LAST YEAR WERE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL, SOUTHERN, TSEUNG KWAN O AND PORT SHELTER WCZ'S.

HE DISCLOSED THAT IN THESE ZONES, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAD RECEIVED 15,800 NOTICES (OR APPLICATIONS) OF EXEMPTION, SOME 8,000 EXEMPTIONS HAD BEEN APPROVED, 1,900 REJECTED AND THE REMAINDER WERE BEING PROCESSED.

ON NEW DISCHARGES, THAT IS, THOSE DISCHARGES OR DEPOSITS WHICH CAME INTO EXISTENCE AFTER THE ZONES WERE DECLARED AND WHICH MUST THEREFORE BE THE SUBJECT OF A LICENCE APPLICATION, 922 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED, 558 GRANTED, AND THE REST WERE BEING PROCESSED, HE ADDED.

AS FOR PROJECTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF LICENSEES IN THE FOUR WCZ'S DECLARED BEFORE THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT, MR BARNES SAID THE EPD EXPECTED 19,000 APPLICATIONS FOR "EXEMPTIONS" AND RECEIVED 15,800 WITH THE REMAINING 3,200 DISCHARGES TO BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE.

FOR THE TWO WCZ'S DECLARED SINCE THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT - DEEP BAY AND MIRS BAY - IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 45,000 DISCHARGES, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC DISCHARGES, WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE. ABOUT 3,000 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SO FAR AND ARE BEING PROCESSED BY THE EPD.

TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LICENSING SYSTEM HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, BY LOOKING AT THE SITUATION "BEFORE AND AFTER" THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990, MR BARNES QUOTED THE STATISTICS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FOR THE FIRST FOUR WCZ'S AS FOLLOWS:

WCZ	ESTIMATED NO. OF DISCHARGES	NO. OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FOR A LICENCE
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TOLO	7,000	5,169 (73.8 PER CENT)
SOUTHERN	7,200	6,496 (90.2 PER CENT)

TSEUNG KWAN O	1,855	1,855 (100 PER CENT)
PORT SHELTER	3,170	3,076 (97 PER CENT)

FROM SUCH FIGURES, MR BARNES CONCLUDED THAT THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH EXISTED WHEN THESE FOUR ZONES WERE DECLARED WERE WELL ACCEPTED BY THOSE AFFECTED BY THE ZONES.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE TWO ZONES DECLARED SINCE THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT, THAT IS, DEEP BAY AND MIRS BAY WCZ'S, THE EXEMPTION ARRANGEMENTS NO LONGER APPLIED AND ALL DISCHARGES AND DEPOSITS, EXCEPT A DISCHARGE OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE INTO A COMMUNAL SEWER OR UNPOLLUTED WATER INTO A PUBLIC DRAIN, MUST BE THE SUBJECT OF A LICENCE APPLICATION.

HE SAID THAT AS FEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC DISCHARGES IN THESE TWO ZONES HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A LICENCE APPLICATION, APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AGAINST THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DISCHARGES IN THE TWO WCZ'S WERE ONLY 5.5 PER CENT (DEEP BAY) AND 6.7 PER CENT (MIRS BAY).

"THE REASON FOR THIS LOW LEVEL OF APPLICATION SEEMS TO BE BECAUSE NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGE HOUSEHOLDERS DO NOT PRESENTLY ACCEPT THE NEED FOR THE LICENSING OF THEIR DOMESTIC DISCHARGES UNDER THE WPCO.

"DISCUSSIONS ARE NOW BEING HELD WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK TO FIND A WAY FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE," HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM, MR BARNES NOTED THAT IT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN THE WCZ'S, PARTICULARLY WHERE BEACH WATER QUALITY WAS CONCERNED, SUCH AS REPULSE BAY, MIDDLE BAY, SOUTH BAY, SILVERMINE BAY AND TUNG WAN (CHEUNG CHAU) BEACHES.

"HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THE LICENSING SYSTEM HAS ACHIEVED THESE IMPROVEMENTS ON ITS OWN; IN MOST CASES SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ACHIEVED MAINLY BY DIVERTING DRY WEATHER FLOWS AWAY FROM BEACHES.

"IN SOME AREAS IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY CONTROLS VIA THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE.

HE CONCEDED THAT APART FROM THESE MEASURES, THERE WERE NO CONTINGENT MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION; LONG-TERM BENEFITS WOULD NOT BE REALISED UNTIL THE FULL BENEFITS OF THE SEWAGE STRATEGY CAME INTO EFFECT.

"THE FULL DEGREE OF BENEFIT, AND THE OVERALL AIM OF ACHIEVING WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES, WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL THE MEASURES IN THE SEWAGE STRATEGY," HE STRESSED.

THESE MEASURES ARE:

- * LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE QUALITY OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES AND CONNECT ALL SEWAGE TO THE PROPER COLLECTION SYSTEM;
- * ENFORCEMENT OF CONTROLS OVER WHAT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY FROM INDUSTRY, RESTAURANTS, LANDFILL SITES AND LIVESTOCK FARMS;
- * AN INCREASE IN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF WAYS TO REDUCE POLLUTION;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF MORE SEWERS TO COLLECT THE SEWAGE, FOLLOWED BY FULL CONNECTION OF SEWAGE DISCHARGES TO THEM;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DEEP TUNNELS TO TRANSFER SEWAGE ACROSS THE CITY;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF MORE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO REMOVE UNDESIRABLE MATERIAL BEFORE DISCHARGE TO THE SEA; AND DISPOSAL OF THIS MATERIAL SAFELY;
- * CONSTRUCTION OF SOME VERY LONG SEA OUTFALLS TO DISPOSE OF THE TREATED WATER;
- * TRAINING OF MORE PERSONNEL IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE FACILITIES;
- * PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE SO THAT INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS ARE SEPARATED. NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY LAND RECLAMATIONS WHICH AFFECT THE NATURAL TREATMENT CAPACITY OF THE SEA, WILL HAVE TO TAKE PROPER ACCOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS.

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WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF COMMUNITY SERVES AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPOINTED PEOPLE FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE ON THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MARTIN BARROW, MR BLAKE SAID ALTHOUGH MEMBERS WERE NOT APPOINTED ON THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC REPRESENTATION OF ANY PARTICULAR TRADE OR ORGANISATION, THERE WAS ALREADY A FAIR NUMBER OF MEMBERS ASSOCIATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH THE TRAVEL, TOURISM OR HOTEL INDUSTRIES SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT AS THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS ONLY SET UP VERY RECENTLY AND IT HAD JUST HAD ITS FIRST MEETING A FEW DAYS AGO, CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING ITS MEMBERSHIP APPEARED PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE.

MR BLAKE REITERATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THE COMMITTEE WAS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR COLLECTING PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THE PROJECTS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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FIVE-HOUR DEBATE ON ELDERLY CARE
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TWENTY-FOUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE FOR FIVE HOURS ON THE MOTION DEBATE ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MOTION, MOVED BY DR THE HON C.H. LEONG, WAS PASSED.

IT READ : "IN THE LIGHT OF THE RAPID EXPANSION OF OUR AGING POPULATION, THIS COUNCIL URGES GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO THE FORMULATION OF AN OVERALL AND COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY HAVING SPECIAL REGARD TO THEIR HEALTH AND SOCIAL NEEDS."

THE MOTION MOVED BY THE HON EMILY LAU UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE WAS ALSO PASSED.

MEANWHILE, NINE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE RAISED BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN ON THE MATTER OF "CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9".

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, AND THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION, THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 AND CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

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FIRST VISIT BY HK GOVERNOR TO NEW ZEALAND

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO CHINA IN 1997 WAS NOT LIMITING THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN WELLINGTON, SIR DAVID SAID: "IN THE LAST FEW YEARS OF THE TIME OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG, WE WILL DEVOTE ALL OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHING THE NEW HONG KONG, THE POST 1997 HONG KONG.

"IT REQUIRES AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF EFFORT. I THINK MANY PEOPLE OF ADMINISTRATIONS FACED WITH A DEFINITE END TO THEIR PERIOD OF EXISTENCE MIGHT SIT BACK AND SAY 'LET THINGS TICK OVER'.

"WE HAVE CONSCIOUSLY TAKEN THE OPPOSITE DECISION, WE WILL WORK FLAT OUT TO MAKE SURE THE NEW HONG KONG HAS THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE TO SUCCEED," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID ALTHOUGH HONG KONG HAD ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS, SUCH AS HIGH INFLATION, EMIGRATION WHICH WAS RUNNING AT ABOUT 60,000 A YEAR, IT WAS A PLACE OF ENORMOUS ENERGY, VITALITY AND DETERMINATION.

"IT IS NOT SOMEWHERE WHICH IS SIMPLY BOWLED OVER BY PROBLEMS, IT IS A PLACE WHICH IS DETERMINED TO TACKLE THOSE PROBLEMS. A PLACE OF TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY IN AN AREA, THE ASIA PACIFIC, WHICH IS THE FASTEST GROWING IN THE WORLD."

HE SAID HE HOPED MORE NEW ZEALAND FIRMS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, NOT ONLY AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, BUT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE WORLD.

SIR DAVID, WHO IS THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND, MENTIONED SOME OF THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES - NEW ZEALAND WITH A POPULATION DENSITY OF JUST 12 PER SQUARE KILOMETRE AND HONG KONG'S 5,400 PER SQUARE KILOMETRE OR SIX MILLION PEOPLE IN AN AREA NO BIGGER THAN NEW ZEALAND'S STEWART ISLAND.

ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, PARTICULARLY SINCE 1989, THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS.

"BUT WE HAVE STEADILY WORKED THROUGH THOSE DIFFICULTIES AND WE ARE NOW BACK ON COURSE DEALING WITH MATTERS IN A FAR MORE PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC WAY THAN BEFORE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID ONE OF THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WAS THE WAY IN WHICH ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE CONSTANTLY GROWING AND THE FACT THAT THE CHINESE ECONOMY WAS CONSTANTLY EXPANDING.

TOMORROW (THURSDAY), SIR DAVID HAS A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JIM BOLGER, THE FINANCE MINISTER, MRS RUTH RICHARDSON, AND THE MINISTER FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, MR PHILIP BURDON.

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LEGISLATION ON HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE PIPELINE

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LEGISLATION IS IN THE PIPELINE TO SET STANDARDS FOR HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY, BE THEY PRIVATELY RUN, NON-PROFIT-MAKING OR SUBVENTED, IN A BID TO SAFEGUARD THE WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CARTLAND WAS ADDRESSING IN CANTONESE THE OPENING OF THE YAN OI TONG TIN KA PING HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY AT LONG PING ESTATE IN YUEN LONG.

"IN VIEW OF THE AGEING POPULATION, THERE IS A NEED TO EXTENSIVELY EXPAND RESIDENTIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THEM," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WOULD BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 750,000 TO MORE THAN 974,000 BY 2,000, AN ESTIMATE IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

"TO HELP TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR SERVICES THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS SHOULD FOR THE ELDERLY, POOL THEIR RESOURCES IN AN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A GREATER SUCCESS," MR CARTLAND ADDED.

ON THE WORK OF YAN OI TONG, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN TUEN MUN IN 1977, HE SAID OVER THE PAST 14 YEARS IT HAD BECOME A WELL-ESTABLISHED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD.

"IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT THE ORGANISATION HAS BEEN TRYING TO EXTEND ITS SERVICES TO OTHER DISTRICTS, INCLUDING TIN SHUI WAI, KAM TIN, TAI PO AND TSEUNG KWAN O," MR CARTLAND ADDED.

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NURSES' ROLE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

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NURSES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH WILL SOON ENTER A NEW ERA, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE NURSES OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, DR LEE SAID NURSES COULD HELP PROMOTE HEALTH EDUCATION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS OUT-PATIENT CLINIC ATTENDANTS BY PROVIDING COUSSELLING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

"NURSES CAN ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN HEALTH PROBLEMS, TO PRACTISE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, TO BETTER UTILISE HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH," HE SAID.

"THIS CAN BE WELL REFLECTED BY THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH TALKS ORGANISED BY NURSES FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC DISEASES SINCE THESE TALKS BEGAN IN 14 OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CLINICS LAST JULY."

ON THE REFORMS OF HEALTH SERVICES, DR LEE SAID THE DEPARTMENT, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PUBLIC OPINIONS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HAD DRAWN UP A PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE PHC SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

HE THEN OUTLINED THE PROGRAMMES AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CARRYING OUT WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THESE INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS, THE INTRODUCTION OF A PILOT DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES, TRAINING OF HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL, A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELL-WOMEN CLINIC AND CLINICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM.

IN ADDITION, OPPORTUNISTIC SCREENING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE ATTENDING OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL BE INTRODUCED AND ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES BE STRENGTHENED.

PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE IS IN FULL GEAR AND THE SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE YEAR 1993/94.

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NO EFFORT SPARED IN PROMOTING USE OF COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS HAS SPARED NO EFFORT IN PROMOTING THE USE OF MICROCOMPUTERS IN EDUCATION AND IN ENCOURAGING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LATEST METHODOLOGIES IN COMPUTERS AMONG YOUTHS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO ON A MORE EXTENSIVE SCALE AND WITH GREATER INVESTMENT SINCE WE KNOW TOO WELL THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP HONG KONG ABREAST OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO BEGIN THE TASK THAN IN SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

MR LI MADE THESE REMARKS AT THE PRIZE AND FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER COMPETITIONS SELECTION CONTEST WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTER EDUCATION.

THE WINNERS - MR SZE TUNG-LEI OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, MR CHEUNG YAT-TUNG OF MARYKNOLL FATHERS' SCHOOL, AND MR LAW HOI-KEE OF MUNSANG COLLEGE - WILL REPRESENT HONG KONG AT THE DJAKARTA AND SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

/MR LI

MR LI SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER COMPETITION WAS NOW AN ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION OF WHICH HONG KONG IS A MEMBER.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT HONG KONG MAY HOST THE COMPETITION IN 1993," HE TOLD THE GATHERING AT THE FUNCTION HELD AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC.

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CERTIFYING BODY SET UP TO PROCESS FILM/TV CO-PRODUCTION APPLICATIONS
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A CERTIFYING BODY, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY, THE FILM INDUSTRY AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN FORMALLY ESTABLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR FILM AND TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA.

THE CERTIFYING BODY IS TO IMPLEMENT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON HONG KONG - CANADA FILM AND TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTION, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN HONG KONG, MR JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM, ON JUNE 19 THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID THE EXISTENCE OF THE MOU WOULD ENCOURAGE THE HONG KONG AND CANADIAN FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRIES TO POOL RESOURCES TO CO-PRODUCE GOOD QUALITY FILMS AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

"THE CERTIFYING BODY WILL EVALUATE APPLICATIONS FOR CO-PRODUCTIONS AND WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, WHO IS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY AS STIPULATED IN THE MOU TO APPROVE SUCH APPLICATIONS.

"THE APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE DECISIONS IN WRITING WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE A BALANCE OF OPINIONS, THE CERTIFYING BODY IS MADE UP OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (MPIA), TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TELEVISION COMPANIES, AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE.

"IT IS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE (BROADCASTING, ENTERTAINMENT AND ADMINISTRATION), MRS RACHEL CARTLAND, AND THE MPIA WILL PROVIDE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FOUR APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE DR PAT ELLIOT OF THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS; MS POH-LEE TAN, A SOLICITOR; MR WINSTON LEONG, A BUSINESSMAN; AND MR PAUL FONOROFF, A FILM CRITIC. THEIR APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

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AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET WHICH EXPLAINS THE MAIN FEATURES OF CO-PRODUCTIONS AND THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE, AND ALSO THE NECESSARY APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE OFFICE OF THE MPIA AT ROOM 319, BEVERLEY COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 87-105 CHATHAM ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE MPIA. AN APPLICATION FEE OF \$250 WHICH IS NON-REFUNDABLE WILL BE CHARGED UPON THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT THE MPIA ON TEL. 311 9791 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

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REHABILITATION CEREMONY OF TANG ANCESTRAL HALL

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THE TANG ANCESTRAL HALL AT PING SHAN, YUEN LONG, HAS REGAINED ITS FORMER SPLENDOUR WITH THE RECENT COMPLETION OF A RESTORATION PROGRAMME.

THE \$4 MILLION PROJECT IS SOLELY FUNDED BY THE TANG CLAN RESIDING IN PING SHAN, AND IS THE MOST COSTLY OF THIS TYPE OF RENOVATION WORK IN RECENT YEARS.

THE RESTORATION WORK WAS ASSISTED AND SUPERVISED BY THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH AND THE ANTIQUITIES SECTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A REHABILITATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO MARK THE OCCASION.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO; AND THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR P.J. CORSER.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE REHABILITATION CEREMONY. A PRESS COACH (EB 6437) WILL LEAVE THE CARPARK OF THE HARBOUR ROAD INDOOR GAMES HALL (ADJACENT TO HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD), WAI CHAI, AT 9.30 AM SHARP.

AN INFORMATION OFFICER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1991

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FC MEETING ON FRIDAY

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 22) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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RELIEF FUNDS FOR SHA TIN FIRE VICTIMS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DISTRIBUTED EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS TO PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY A NO. 3 ALARM FIRE AT THE YUEN CHAU KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA (THA) YESTERDAY.

EACH VICTIM WAS GIVEN \$50 AND A TOTAL OF \$6,950 WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 139 PERSONS FROM 50 FAMILIES.

THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN REHOUSED TO OTHER VACANT UNITS IN THE THA. RELIEF ARTICLES AND HOT MEALS HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO THEM BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE CASH ASSISTANCE CAN CONTACT THE SHROFF OFFICE OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 29.

THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND THE FIRE REGISTRATION CARDS ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE SHROFF OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON TEL. 604 8078 EXT. 54.

MEANWHILE, THE SHA TIN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS JOANNA YUEN, VISITED THE VICTIMS THIS AFTERNOON AND SUPERVISED THE ISSUE OF THE FUNDS.

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MOVIE STARS TO ADD SPARKLES TO SPORTS FESTIVAL

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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH MOVIE STARS AND CANTONESE OPERA ARTISTES TAKING PART IN TENNIS AND A FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER GAMES DURING THE DISTRICT'S SPORTS FESTIVAL OVER THE WEEKEND.

THE TENNIS INVITATION MATCHES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 23) AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

THE MOVIE STAR TEAM, COMPRISING ALAN TAM, CHAN PAK-CHEONG, WONG KAM-SUN AND LAU NAM-KWONG, WILL PLAY AGAINST THE PUMA TENNIS TEAM.

MEANWHILE, THE FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER INVITATION MATCH WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THE PLAYGROUND BETWEEN THE HONG KONG SOCCER TEAM AND THE FOREIGN RESCUE TEAM.

ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 24), THE MOVIE STARS SOCCER TEAM WILL PLAY AGAINST THE PUMA TEAM IN A FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER MATCH AT 4 PM AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND. THE FRIENDS OF TSUEN WAN TEAM WILL ALSO COMPETE AGAINST THE SEIKO TEAM.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE MATCHES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING NEAR THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION.

THE MONTH-LONG SPORTS FESTIVAL FEATURES SOME 40 RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS. IT WILL END WITH A SPECTACULAR SPORTS CARNIVAL ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 30) NIGHT AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

ENQUIRIES ON THE FESTIVAL EVENTS CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 499 8624 OR 492 6193.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL TENNIS INVITATION MATCHES AND FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER INVITATION MATCHES TO BE HELD AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

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CARNIVAL FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS

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MONG KOK RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO A CARNIVAL ON DECEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) AT THE SYCAMORE PLAYGROUND, TAI KOK TSUI. ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SYCAMORE AREA COMMITTEE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD TO ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE EVENT ALSO COINCIDES WITH THE RENAMING OF THE PLAYGROUND, FORMERLY CALLED WILLOW STREET PLAYGROUND.

THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE TELEMATCHES, CHESS AND TABLE TENNIS COMPETITIONS, DANCING AND SINGING PERFORMANCES, AND A LUCKY DRAW.

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE TELEMATCHES, TABLE TENNIS AND CHESS COMPETITIONS CAN NOW ENROL AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 30 LUEN WAN STREET AND AT THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SEVENTH FLOOR, FA YUEN STREET UC COMPLEX, 123A FA YUEN STREET WHERE LUCKY DRAW TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 787 0775.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY ON THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT LIU TO ROAD, AREA 10, TSING YI. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,450 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR TYRE STORAGE AND TYRE REPAIRING PURPOSES ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED AT LAI CHO ROAD, KWAI CHUNG. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,780 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NON-OFFENSIVE AND NON-DANGEROUS GOODS, EXCLUDING CONTAINERS, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE REMAINING LOT IS LOCATED AT TAI LAM KOK, TUEN MUN. THE 3,050-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS DESIGNATED FOR STORAGE OF GOODS, VEHICLES, CHATTELS, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS (INCLUDING SAND AND AGGREGATES), BUT EXCLUDING CONCRETE BATCHING, STORAGE OF CONTAINERS, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS ALSO FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 6.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE KWAI TSING AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1991

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FRESH WATER CUT IN TO KWA WAN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 22), FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM, TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY MOK CHEONG STREET, HUNG WAN STREET, MA TAU KOK ROAD, AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD, AND INCLUDING 3-17 MOK CHEONG STREET, THE MA TAU KOK ANIMAL QUARANTINE DEPOT AND THE PUBLIC TOILET AT MA TAU KOK ROAD.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	19.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	20.11.91	+368
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-368
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.8 *-0.1* 20.11.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.60 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.21	5.68
1 MONTH	3.63 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.87 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.20 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.89 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 3,910 MN, BONDS 95 MN

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