



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STEPS TAKEN TO FURTHER DE-CONTROL RENTS
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THE PROPOSALS IN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 ARE STEPS TOWARDS GOVERNMENT'S AIM OF DE-CONTROLLING RENTS, THAT IS TOWARDS A SYSTEM IN WHICH THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO A FREE DOMESTIC RENTAL MARKET, IN WHICH LANDLORDS WILL BE ABLE TO CHARGE A FAIR MARKET RENT AND IN WHICH TENANTS WILL RETAIN A FAIR MEASURE OF SECURITY OF TENURE BASED ON ADEQUATE PROTECTION BY AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON JOHN TODD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TODD SAID GOVERNMENT SET UP A COMMITTEE IN 1980 TO EXAMINE THE POLICIES AND LEGISLATION GOVERNING RENT CONTROL AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

THE COMMITTEE FOUND THAT CONTROLLED RENTS FOR PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR PREMISES WERE ONLY ABOUT 20 PER CENT AND 40 PER CENT OF MARKET RENTS RESPECTIVELY.

AS THESE RENT LEVELS WERE UNDULY LOW AND THAT THIS WAS DISCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN HOUSING PRODUCTION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF RENTAL HOUSING IN PARTICULAR, THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTED, EVERY EFFORT CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO AVOID ADVERSE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCELERATE THE PHASING OUT OF RENT CONTROL.

MR TODD SAID THAT GOVERNMENT ADOPTED THIS AS ITS LONG-TERM POLICY.

HE ALSO SAID THAT AS AMENDING LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EACH YEAR SINCE 1983 DESIGNED TO RAISE PROGRESSIVELY THE CONTROLLED RENTS OF PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR PREMISES, BRINGING THEM CLOSER TO MARKET LEVELS AND EVENTUAL DE-CONTROL, THE TWO MAIN PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WERE SIMPLY FURTHER STEPS IN GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE.

GIVEN GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES AND THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES, MR TODD RAISED THREE POINTS WHY THE SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT FURTHER STEPS COULD NOW BE TAKEN SAFELY.

FIRSTLY, HE NOTED THAT THE AVERAGE CONTROLLED RENTAL LEVELS WERE STILL SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW MARKET RENTS WITH PRE-WAR PREMISES BEING AT ABOUT 55 PER CENT AND POST-WAR PREMISES AT ABOUT 68 PER CENT OF PREVAILING MARKET RENTS.

SECONDLY, ON WHETHER THE PROPERTY MARKET WAS SUFFICIENTLY STABLE TO JUSTIFY FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS DE-CONTROL, HE SAID THAT SINCE 1983 WHEN THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS FURTHER DE-CONTROL WERE TAKEN, RENTS AND PROPERTY PRICES HAD REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE.

IN 1985 THE TOTAL PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC UNITS WAS ABOUT 78 000, INCLUDING 30 000 RENTAL UNITS UNDER THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME. THE PROJECTED FIGURES FOR 1986 SHOWED SOME 80 000 FLATS BEING PRODUCED THIS YEAR AND A FURTHER 82 000 BEING PRODUCED IN 1987.

+IN VIEW OF THESE CONSISTENTLY HIGH LEVELS OF PRODUCTION, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT DOMESTIC RENTS AND PRICES WILL REMAIN STABLE,+ HE SAID.

LASTLY, ON WHETHER IN A STABLE MARKET SITUATION THERE WAS ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR TENANTS SHOULD LANDLORDS TRY TO RAISE RENTS ABOVE MARKET LEVELS, HE POINTED OUT THAT PART IV OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE PROVIDED A MECHANISM WHICH ENSURED SECURITY OF TENURE PROVIDED THAT THE TENANT WAS PREPARED TO PAY A FAIR MARKET RENT AND ALLOWED WHAT WAS A FAIR MARKET RENT TO BE DETERMINED BY AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL.

MR TODD SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION GOVERNMENT NOW PROPOSED TWO FURTHER STEPS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF CONTROLLED RENTS.

THE FIRST PROPOSAL AFFECTING POST-WAR TENANCIES WERE COVERED BY PART II OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE RENT CONTROL MECHANISM FOR REGULATING RENT INCREASES ENTAILED THE SETTING OF A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE LEVEL OF PREVAILING MARKET RENT TO BE REACHED BY ALL CONTROLLED RENTS.

MR TODD SAID THAT DESPITE PROGRESSIVE INCREASES TO THIS MINIMUM LEVEL ABOUT HALF OF THE CONTROLLED TENANCIES STILL ENJOYED RENTS BELOW 60 PER CENT OF MARKET LEVELS AND ABOUT ONE-THIRD PAID LESS THAN HALF.

IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO RAISE THE REQUIRED MINIMUM LEVEL FROM 55 PER CENT TO 60 PER CENT OF PREVAILING MARKET RENT WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 19 THIS YEAR.

HE SAID THAT THE EFFECT WOULD BE THAT SOME 26 000 LOWER RENT TENANCIES, OUT OF THE 105 000 PROTECTED TENANCIES, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO RENT INCREASES, WHICH COULD BRING THEIR RENTS UP TO 60 PER CENT OF MARKET LEVELS. THE AVERAGE RENT INCREASE WOULD BE \$568 PER MONTH OR 46 PER CENT OF THEIR CURRENT RENT.

+EVEN WITH THIS INCREASE SUCH TENANTS, WHO HAVE LONG ENJOYED PROTECTION AND LOW-CONTROLLED RENTS, WOULD CONTINUE TO PAY LESS THAN NEW TENANTS FOR COMPARABLE PREMISES,+ MR TODD SAID.

THE REMAINING 79 000 PROTECTED TENANCIES, HE ADDED, WOULD REMAIN SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM BIENNIAL INCREASE OF 30 PER CENT ON CURRENT RENT, PROVIDED THAT THIS INCREASE DID NOT TAKE THE RENT ABOVE PREVAILING MARKET LEVELS.

THE SECOND PROPOSAL CONCERNING PRE-WAR TENANCIES SOUGHT TO RAISE THESE RENTS TO MORE REALISTIC LEVELS AND TO BRING THEM CLOSE TO THE MINIMUM PERMITTED RENTS FOR EARLY POST-WAR PREMISES.

IT WAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE PERMITTED RENT FROM 27 TIMES TO 30 TIMES THE STANDARD RENT.

MR TODD SAID THAT THIS CHANGE WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ABOUT \$132 PER MONTH ON CURRENT PERMITTED RENTS, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 11 PER CENT, AND WOULD AFFECT 2 200 DOMESTIC PREMISES.

IT WOULD BRING THE AVERAGE PERMITTED RENT OF THESE PREMISES UP TO 60 PER CENT OF MARKET LEVEL, THE MINIMUM LEVEL SOUGHT FOR POST-WAR TENANCIES.

MR TODD SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED SOME TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO PART III AND VI TO UPDATE THE MONETARY LIMITS OF EXISTING SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF SMALL PREMISES WHERE SUCH PREMISES WERE EITHER DESERTED OR WHERE THEY WERE UNLAWFULLY HELD OR OCCUPIED.

HE NOTED THAT THE VALUE LIMITS IN THE ORDINANCE WERE SET IN THE LAST CENTURY AND HAD NOT BEEN AMENDED SINCE THEN SO THAT THE PROCEDURES HAD FALLEN INTO DIS-USE.

IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE LIMIT SHOULD BE RAISED AND SHOULD APPLY TO PREMISES WITH CURRENT RATEABLE VALUES NOT EXCEEDING \$30 000 AND IN FUTURE THE LIMITS MIGHT BE RAISED BY WAY OF A RESOLUTION BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FINALLY, HE SAID THAT AS A MEASURE OF CONSISTENCY, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION WAS ENABLED TO DELEGATE HIS POWER TO WAIVE OR REFUND FEES UNDER PART VII OF THE ORDINANCE AS HE ALREADY COULD UNDER OTHER PARTS OF THE ORDINANCE.

MR TODD NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT REVIEWED THE WORKING OF THE ORDINANCE ANNUALLY, TAKING ACCOUNT, AS HAD BEEN DONE THIS YEAR, OF THE PROPERTY MARKET AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES BEFORE PROPOSING CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE.

HE ASSURED COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC THAT ANY FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS DE-CONTROL WOULD AGAIN BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION AT THE TIME AND WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF BOTH TENANTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

WIDER RULE-MAKING POWERS FOR MARINE CHIEF
* * * * *

AMENDMENTS TO THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE ARE TO GIVE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WIDER RULE-MAKING POWERS IN RESPECT OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY FOR CREW ON LICENSED VESSELS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, MR JACOBS SAID ALL LICENSED VESSELS UNDER WAY IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG WERE REQUIRED TO CARRY A CERTIFICATED MASTER AND ENGINEER ON BOARD.

THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE REQUIRED THE DIRECTOR TO CONDUCT APPROPRIATE EXAMINATIONS AND ENABLED HIM TO MAKE RULES GOVERNING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY.

+WHILE THE SYSTEM WORKS WELL ENOUGH FOR MOST CATEGORIES OF VESSEL, IT GIVES RISE TO PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF CREW FOR PLEASURE VESSELS.

+THERE IS NO PROVISION ALLOWING THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO ISSUE DIFFERENT GRADES OF CERTIFICATE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS. NEITHER IS HE EMPOWERED TO RECOGNISE CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY OTHER MARITIME AUTHORITIES,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

A NUMBER OF OTHER MINOR AMENDMENTS WHICH WERE OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE WERE ALSO INCLUDED, HE SAID.

THESE WOULD ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO MAKE RULES FOR THE ISSUE OF DIFFERENT GRADES OF CERTIFICATE, FOR THE NECESSARY EXAMINATIONS, FOR RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AND GENERALLY FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF THE RELEVANT PART OF THE ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, AN AGE LIMIT FOR THE CONTINUED VALIDITY OF A CERTIFICATE WOULD BE SET AND PROVISION MADE FOR ITS SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION.

+IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE AGE LIMIT BE 65 YEARS. FURTHER EXTENSION BEYOND THAT AGE WILL BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO THE HOLDER SATISFYING THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE OF HIS CONTINUED COMPETENCY, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND GOOD EYE SIGHT.

+THE EFFECT OF THIS PROVISION IS THAT IF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER DOES NOT APPLY, OR FAILS IN HIS APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION BY THE TIME HE REACHES 65, HIS CERTIFICATE WILL BECOME INVALID,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT THE TERMS OF THIS LEGISLATION, TOGETHER WITH THE REGULATIONS AND RULES PROPOSED, HAD BEEN AGREED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLEASURE BOATING COMMUNITY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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STATUTORY POWERS SOUGHT FOR AIRCRAFT NOISE CONTROL
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A BILL TO PROVIDE STATUTORY POWERS TO REDUCE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY AIRCRAFT AND TO ENABLE EFFECT TO BE GIVEN TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ON AIRCRAFT NOISE EMISSIONS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CIVIL AVIATION (AIRCRAFT NOISE) BILL 1986, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THESE STANDARDS AND PRACTICES HAD BEEN LAID DOWN IN ANNEX 16 TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CIVIL AVIATION TO WHICH HONG KONG, THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM, WAS A PARTY.

ANNEX 16 HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO) IN RECOGNITION OF THE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY AIRCRAFT.

MR JACOBS SAID THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE GOVERNOR TO DETERMINE THE CLASSES OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH, ON DATES TO BE SPECIFIED, WOULD REQUIRE A NOISE CERTIFICATE (OR SIMILAR EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH ANNEX 16) BEFORE BEING PERMITTED TO LAND OR TAKE OFF IN HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION WAS EMPOWERED TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION IF JUSTIFIED IN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, HE ADDED.

HE SAID IF THIS BILL WAS PASSED, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE NOISE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS BE PHASED IN, AS RECOMMENDED BY ICAO AND ADOPTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

NOISE CERTIFICATES WOULD BE REQUIRED OF AIRCRAFT BASED IN HONG KONG, FROM SEPTEMBER 1, BUT FOREIGN AIRCRAFT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY ONLY FROM A DATE, STILL TO BE DETERMINED, AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1987.

+IN BRIEF, THE GENERAL EFFECT OF THESE PROVISIONS WILL BE TO PROHIBIT OLDER, NOISIER AIRCRAFT FROM BEING OPERATED INTO AND OUT OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT THE FIRST STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART OF THE LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE NO IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE OVERALL AIRCRAFT NOISE LEVELS IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SINCE ALL AIRCRAFT ON THE HONG KONG REGISTER WERE CAPABLE OF COMPLYING WITH THE LEGISLATION.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND ITS FULL EFFECT WILL BE FELT ONCE THE SECOND STAGE IS IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERED THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION TO REQUIRE AIRCRAFT OPERATORS TO ADOPT LANDING AND TAKE-OFF PROCEDURES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECT OF NOISE AND VIBRATION, AND TO SPECIFY WHEN AIRCRAFT MIGHT LAND AT AND TAKE OFF FROM HONG KONG AERODROMES AND IN WHAT NUMBERS.

+AGAIN, THESE ARE POWERS WHICH MAY BE EXERCISED TO REDUCE AIRCRAFT NOISE IMPACT IN AND AROUND THE AIRPORT, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT,+ HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS ALSO SAID GIVEN THE LOCATION OF HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE AIRPORT OR UNDER ITS FLIGHT PATHS WERE SUBJECT TO NOISE RESULTING FROM AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, SUCH AS THE GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NIGHT-TIME TAKE-OFFS AND LANDINGS, TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF AIRCRAFT NOISE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY PROPOSED FOR ROYAL VISIT

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AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY SHOULD BE APPOINTED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, THIS YEAR TO MARK THE VISIT BY THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO ENJOY ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE OCCASION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY (ROYAL VISIT) BILL 1986, MR HENDERSON SAID AS WITH THE ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY IN 1981 TO CELEBRATE THE ROYAL WEDDING, THIS HOLIDAY SHOULD BE ENJOYED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, AND SHOULD THUS BE A HOLIDAY UNDER BOTH THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE HOLIDAYS ORDINANCE.

A SPECIAL BILL WAS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE, HE SAID, AS THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE GRANT OF AN ADDITIONAL STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

MR HENDERSON SAID THE BILL WAS IDENTICAL IN STRUCTURE TO THE 1981 PUBLIC HOLIDAY (PRINCE OF WALES' WEDDING) ORDINANCE, AND APPOINTED OCTOBER 22 AS A GENERAL HOLIDAY UNDER THE HOLIDAYS ORDINANCE AND A STATUTORY HOLIDAY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

+THE DAY WILL THEREFORE BE OBSERVED AS A GENERAL HOLIDAY BY BANKS, SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/+EMPLOYERS ARE

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+EMPLOYERS ARE REQUIRED TO GRANT TO EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AN ADDITIONAL DAY'S PAID HOLIDAY,+ HE SAID.

AN EMPLOYER WHO FINDS IT INCONVENIENT TO GRANT THE ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 39 OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ON OCTOBER 22 MAY THEREFORE GRANT THE HOLIDAY ON ANOTHER DAY WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 60 DAYS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER OCTOBER 22, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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JP VISITS TO TREATMENT CENTRES CLAUSE CHALLENGED
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IT IS THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE DRUG ADDICTS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 THAT CLAUSE 3 WHICH REDUCED VISITS BY JUSTICES OF PEACE TO TREATMENT CENTRES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL.

CLAUSE 3 PROPOSED THAT JUSTICES OF PEACE SHOULD VISIT THE TWO ADDICTS TREATMENT CENTRES ONCE AT LEAST EVERY THREE MONTHS INSTEAD OF ONCE EVERY MONTH AS AT PRESENT.

MR HUI POINTED OUT THAT INMATES OF THE WOMEN TREATMENT CENTRE WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT SINCE NEWCOMERS TO THE CENTRE COULD CHOOSE TO TAKE A SHORT TREATMENT COURSE LASTING ONLY THREE TO FOUR WEEKS.

+IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT MANY OF THEM WILL MISS THE OFFICIAL VISITS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE WITH VISITING JUSTICES OF PEACE.

+THE AMENDMENT THEREFORE TENDS TO DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH VISITS,+ HE SAID.

+MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP CONSIDERED THE AMENDMENT UNNECESSARY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE AVAILABILITY OF JUSTICES OF PEACE WHO CAN GO ON SUCH OFFICIAL VISITS,+ MR HUI ADDED.

CONCERNING THE INCREASE IN MONETARY PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND THE REDUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM AGE LIMIT OF A YOUNG PERSON FROM 19 YEARS TO 18 YEARS, MR HUI SAID THESE AMENDMENTS WERE DEEMED TIMELY AND NECESSARY AND MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP PLEDGED THEIR FULL SUPPORT.

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COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON ANTIQUITIES BOARD URGED

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CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

THE SUGGESTION CAME FROM THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HE SUPPORTED THE BILL WHICH WHEN ADOPTED WOULD PROVIDE FOR AN UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMAN TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, RATHER THAN HAVING THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE AS WAS PRESENTLY THE CASE.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHICH WAS CURRENTLY A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 9 BE REMOVED SO AS TO ALLOW FOR A WIDER RANGE OF EXPERTISE AND REPRESENTATION TO BE ON THE BOARD.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE INCLUSION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE BOARD AS WELL AS TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

THANKING MR CHEONG-LEEN FOR SUPPORTING THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO, SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE CONSIDERATION TO MR CHEONG-LEEN'S SUGGESTION.

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MEASURE AIMS AT RECOVERY OF COSTS

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IN LINE WITH GENERAL POLICY, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOVER IN FULL FROM APPLICANTS THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN THE EXAMINATION, INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION OF FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1986, MR THOMAS SAID EXISTING LEGISLATION CONTAINED NO SUCH POWER.

+UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, ANY PERSON WITH THE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS MAY APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO BE REGISTERED AS A FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR,+ HE SAID.

/+THE DIRECTOR

+THE DIRECTOR THEN HAS A DUTY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THAT PERSON IS FIT TO BE REGISTERED.+

+TO THAT END, THE DIRECTOR IS REQUIRED TO EXAMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE APPLICANT AND IN CERTAIN CASES TO CONDUCT A WRITTEN EXAMINATION AND INTERVIEW. IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR HAS TO INSPECT ANY WORKSHOP OF THE APPLICANT,+ HE ADDED.

THE EXAMINATION AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT BY THE STAFF OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND THE DIRECTOR SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOVER THE COSTS.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT IF THE BILL WAS PASSED, AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE SERVICES (INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS) REGULATIONS WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE PROPOSED. THESE WOULD SET OUT THE ACTUAL FEES TO BE CHARGED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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VILLAGE VEHICLE ACCIDENT VICTIMS TO GET SAME ASSISTANCE
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VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VILLAGE VEHICLES WILL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO THE SAME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS APPLICABLE TO OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, HE SAID THAT THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG HAD CONFIRMED THAT VILLAGE VEHICLES WOULD BE CATEGORISED AS +SPECIAL TYPE-TROLLEYS AND GOODS CARRYING TRACTORS+ IN THEIR TARIFF AND THAT PREMIUM FOR THIS TYPE OF VEHICLE IN RESPECT OF THIRD PARTY INSURANCE COVER WAS MODEST.

THANKING THE HON RICHARD LAI FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MR MACPHERSON SAID HE COULD ASSURE MEMBERS THAT ANY RESTRICTION IN THE NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED WOULD NOT LEAD TO A BLACK MARKET SITUATION, AS PERMITS WOULD BE VALID FOR ONLY ONE YEAR AND WOULD BE NON-TRANSFERABLE.

+A SAFEGUARD IS ALSO PROVIDED IN THE PROPOSED SYSTEM IN THAT A PERMIT IS ISSUED TO THE OWNER OF A VILLAGE VEHICLE IN RESPECT OF THAT VEHICLE ONLY, AND UPON TRANSFER OR DISPOSAL OF THE VEHICLE, THE OWNER IS REQUIRED TO RETURN THE PERMIT TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT,+ HE SAID.

/MR MACPHERSON

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MR MACPHERSON SAID THAT MR LAI HAD RIGHTLY POINTED OUT THAT A STATUTORY SCHEME FOR APPEAL HAD NOT BEEN PROVIDED IN THE BILL IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PERMIT SYSTEM SIMPLE.

+THE ADMINISTRATION WILL, HOWEVER, CLOSELY MONITOR THE OPERATION OF THE PERMIT SYSTEM AND IF EXPERIENCE REVEALS THAT A STATUTORY MACHINERY TO DEAL WITH APPEALS IS NECESSARY, STEPS WILL IMMEDIATELY BE TAKEN TO RECOMMEND SUCH A PROVISION,+ HE SAID.

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SIMPLE, FAIR SYSTEM TO REGULATE VILLAGE VEHICLES WELCOMED
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP STUDYING THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT THE BILL ACHIEVED THE AIM OF PROVIDING FOR A SIMPLE AND FAIR SYSTEM OF REGULATING VILLAGE VEHICLES.

THIS WAS STATED BY CONVENER OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THE HON RICHARD LAI WHEN SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE A FEW RESERVATIONS ON WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO SEEK GOVERNMENT'S REASSURANCE.

DR LAI FIRST ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT INSURANCE COMPANIES HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSED PERMIT SYSTEM, AND THAT THEY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL AND WERE PREPARED TO OFFER POLICIES AT REASONABLE AND REALISTIC PREMIUMS.

HE ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO STATE THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF THE APPLICATION OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO VILLAGE VEHICLES.

ON THE WIDE POWERS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PERMITS THAT MIGHT BE ISSUED, THE CLASSES OF PERSONS THAT COULD BE ISSUED WITH PERMITS AND THE TIMES OF DAY DURING WHICH VEHICLES MIGHT BE USED, DR LAI SAID THESE POWERS WERE USEFUL IN CONTROLLING THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN A PARTICULARLY CONGESTED AREA.

+THE NATURE OF THESE POWERS MAKES IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS FULL CONSULTATION ON WHEN, HOW, AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE EXERCISED: THE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARDS, RURAL COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE LOCAL BODIES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE POWERS ARE USED,+ HE SAID.

/DR LAI

DR LAI STRESSED THAT CARE SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ANY RESTRICTION IN THE NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED SHOULD NOT LEAD TO THE CREATION OF A BLACK MARKET IN PERMITS.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTENTION IS TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM BY MAKING THE PERMITS VALID FOR ONLY ONE YEAR AND BY MAKING THEM NON-TRANSFERABLE,+ HE SAID.

ON THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO REFUSE THE ISSUE OF A PERMIT OR TO CANCEL A PERMIT, DR LAI SAID THE PERMIT SYSTEM WAS A SIMPLE ONE AND SHOULD NOT BE ENCUMBERED WITH COMPLICATED STATUTORY APPEAL PROCEDURES OF THE KIND THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO PERSONS DENIED LICENCES FOR OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PERMIT SYSTEM IN ITS FIRST YEAR TO SEE WHETHER STATUTORY MACHINERY TO DEAL WITH APPEALS WAS NECESSARY.

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AMENDMENTS MADE TO ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEME TO MAKE UP FOR A NUMBER OF DEFICIENCIES WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE EXISTING PROVISIONS.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY SO THAT THE SCHEME COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED. THE INTENTION HAD BEEN TO ENABLE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO BE MADE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING VEHICLES INSURED WITH FIVE INSOLVENT INSURERS.

+THESE AMENDMENTS RELATE MAINLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEME AND CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS. THE SUBSTANCE IS UNCHANGED,+ HE SAID.

THE PROPOSAL WOULD ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE TO EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS, THE EXTENT OF LIABILITY OF ANY DEFENDANT OR THE INSURER, THE QUANTUM OF EACH CLAIM, THE AMOUNT OF EACH EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS AND ALL OTHER QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WITHOUT BEING UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO REQUIRE FURTHER EVIDENCE.

THE AMENDED SCHEME ALSO ENABLES THE COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT AND CONSIDER CLAIMS NOTWITHSTANDING THE EXPIRY OF ANY RELEVANT LIMITATION PERIOD, MR JACOBS SAID.

/+THIS AMENDMENT

+THIS AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED A FEW APPLICATIONS WHERE NO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND WHERE PROCEEDINGS ARE NOW STATUTE BARRED. THE SCHEME WAS INTENDED TO COVER THESE CASES.+

MR JACOBS SAID THE PROVISIONS IN RELATION TO RIGHTS OF SUBROGATION CONFERRED UPON THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD ALSO BE CLARIFIED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE APPLICATION PERIOD FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS WAS TO BE EXTENDED BY ONE MONTH.

UPON THE EXPIRY OF THE PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS ON APRIL 4, A TOTAL OF 426 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

MR JACOBS SAID: +ALTHOUGH IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THOSE ELIGIBLE HAVE APPLIED, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY STILL BE SOME WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF THE SCHEME. I HOPE THAT NO FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT WILL BE REQUIRED.

+ON THE INFORMATION NOW BEFORE US IT APPEARS THAT THE PROPOSED EXTENSION WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY INCREASE IN THE OVERALL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF UP TO \$100 MILLION NOTED BY THIS COUNCIL LAST NOVEMBER.

+THE COMMITTEE EXPECTS THAT ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED BY SEPTEMBER 1986 AND THE EXTENSION WILL NOT DELAY THE FINAL PAYOUT TO THE VICTIMS.+

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POSITIVE STEPS TO PROMOTE CHINESE LANGUAGE
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PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN PROMOTING THE WIDER USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND FOR EDUCATION, AND THE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE IN THE YEARS TO COME, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI, SIR DAVID SAID POSITIVE STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PROMOTE THE WIDER USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS SINCE 1974 WHEN CHINESE WAS DECLARED AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

MR LEE HAD ASKED WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO PROMOTE THE POLICY, HOW IT HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN EDUCATION AND IN CIVIL SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING, AND THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS.

SIR DAVID SAID PUBLIC NOTICES, OFFICIAL FORMS AND DOCUMENTS WERE NOW PROVIDED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AND REPLIES TO COMMUNICATIONS IN CHINESE FROM THE PUBLIC WERE MADE IN CHINESE.

+PAPERS FOR THIS COUNCIL, DISTRICT BOARDS, THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, AND OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ARE BILINGUAL AND, WHENEVER NECESSARY, SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION IS PROVIDED DURING MEETINGS.

+LEGISLATION OF POPULAR INTEREST IS TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE AND UP TO DATE 110 PIECES OF LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN SO TRANSLATED. A SCHEME IS ALSO UNDERWAY TO PRODUCE AN AUTHENTIC CHINESE VERSION OF ALL NEW BILLS PLACED BEFORE THIS COUNCIL.+

SIR DAVID SAID TO COPE WITH THE ADDITIONAL WORK INVOLVED, THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972, HAD EXPANDED THREEFOLD TO THE PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT OF 446.

THESE MEASURES HAD, BY AND LARGE, BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING THE WIDER USE OF CHINESE AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, SIR DAVID SAID, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAD RECOMMENDED THAT INDIVIDUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS BE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

+IN PURSUIT OF THIS RECOMMENDATION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS WRITTEN TO SCHOOLS SUGGESTING A RANGE OF ORGANISATIONAL MODELS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE, EITHER PARTIALLY OR IN FULL, FOR TEACHING PURPOSES.

+IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHERS ARE ORGANISED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF TEACHING IN CHINESE.

+ADDITIONAL TEACHING RESOURCES ARE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS ADOPTING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION SO AS TO HELP MAINTAIN STANDARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH.

+A CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF GOOD QUALITY TEXTBOOKS IN CHINESE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF THE MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE WIDER ADOPTION OF CHINESE FOR TEACHING PURPOSES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS LIKELY TO BE A GRADUAL AND CUMULATIVE PROCESS.

REFERRING TO CIVIL SERVICE RECRUITMENT, SIR DAVID SAID THAT FOR GRADES WHICH REQUIRED REGULAR USE OF CHINESE A MINIMUM REQUIREMENT OF A KNOWLEDGE OF CHINESE WAS NORMALLY STIPULATED AND, WHERE NECESSARY, A TEST IN THE USE OF CHINESE WAS CONDUCTED.

ON THE TRAINING SIDE, POLICY WAS GEARED TOWARDS MEETING OPERATIONAL NEEDS.

+TRAINING IN THE USE OF WRITTEN CHINESE, PUTONGHUA OR OTHER CHINESE DIALECTS IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO NEED TO USE THEM. EXPATRIATE OFFICERS ARE GIVEN LESSONS IN CANTONESE AND SOMETIMES EVEN WRITTEN CHINESE TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR WORK,+ SIR DAVID SAID.

+THE LANGUAGE TRAINING COURSES CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS GENERALLY ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE NUMBER AND CONTENT OF THESE COURSES WILL BE KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW TO KEEP PACE WITH THE CHANGING NEEDS.+

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BUS ROUTES UNDER REGULAR REVIEW

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CONSTANTLY REVIEWS THE CLASSIFICATION OF BUS ROUTES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION CHANGES IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR MACPHERSON SAID BUS ROUTES WERE GROUPED INTO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES INCLUDING URBAN AND RURAL, AND A NUMBER OF FACTORS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN GROUPING THEM.

THE MAIN CONSIDERATIONS WERE POPULATION DENSITIES AND DEMAND IN THE AREAS THROUGH WHICH THE BUS ROUTE OPERATED, HE SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE THE URBAN ROUTES OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY COVER SERVICES OPERATING ENTIRELY WITHIN KOWLOON, SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN= THE REMAINDER BEING CLASSIFIED AS RURAL.

+FOR THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY, BUS SERVICES OPERATING ALONG THE DENSELY POPULATED CORRIDOR BETWEEN CHAI WAN AND KENNEDY TOWN ARE CURRENTLY GROUPED UNDER THE URBAN CATEGORY WHILE THOSE SERVING THE MID-LEVELS AND SOUTH ISLAND ARE CLASSIFIED AS SUBURBAN,+ HE SAID.

MR MACPHERSON SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE A FULL COMPARISON BETWEEN THE URBAN AND RURAL BUS FARES DUE TO THE MANY AND VARIED FARE BANDS INCLUDED IN THE ROUTE GROUPS.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID +FARES ARE GENERALLY HIGHER FOR THE RURAL AND SUBURBAN SERVICES TO REFLECT THE LOWER PASSENGER TURNOVER EN-ROUTE, THE IRREGULAR SPREAD OF PASSENGER DEMAND THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND THE RELATIVELY HIGHER OPERATING COSTS OF THESE SERVICES.+

FREQUENCIES WERE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF PASSENGER DEMAND IRRESPECTIVE OF ROUTE CLASSIFICATIONS.

OVERALL, THE FARE SCALES OF KMB FOR THE RURAL SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE ALREADY QUITE CLOSE TO THE URBAN SCALES, REFLECTING THE INCREASED URBANISATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+FOR CMB, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS IN DISCUSSION WITH THE COMPANY ABOUT REVIEWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF BUS ROUTES IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT,+ HE ADDED.

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BUILDING NEW CHILD CENTRES IS THE AIM

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THE GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT HAS NO INTENTION OF REPROVISIONING OR ENLARGING EXISTING INTEGRATED CHILD CARE CENTRES SINCE THEY MEET CURRENT LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS ON FLOOR AREA, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HENDERSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY WAS TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF PLACES BY PLANNING MORE NEW CENTRES RATHER THAN REPROVISIONING EXISTING ONES.

+NEITHER IS IT INTENDED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE TIME BEING,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO A PROPOSED TWO-YEAR FULL TIME PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE FOR SPECIAL CHILD CARE WORKERS, MR HENDERSON SAID THE ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT CONSIDERED VIABLE UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE IT WAS UNLIKELY TO ENCOURAGE SUITABLE GRADUATES TO ENTER THE FIELD OF SPECIAL CHILD CARE.

HOWEVER, ALTERNATIVES HAD BEEN DEvised: FIRST, A ONE-YEAR PRE-SERVICE FULL-TIME CERTIFICATE COURSE IN CHILD CARE AT PRESENT PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC; AND SECOND, EXPERIENCED AND INTERESTED GRADUATES OF THE ABOVE QUALIFICATION WOULD GO ON TO COMPLETE AN IN-SERVICE COURSE OF ONE ACADEMIC YEAR SPECIALLY FOCUSsing ON CARE FOR THE DISABLED CHILDREN.

THE LATTER COURSE WOULD BE AN EXTENSION OF THE SIX-MONTH COURSE NOW BEING RUN BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

/ON A

ON A QUESTION WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER RAISING THE BASIC QUALIFICATION OF SPECIAL CHILD CARE WORKERS FROM FORM 3 TO FORM 5, MR HENDERSON NOTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRE-SCHOOL CARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF DISABLED CHILDREN PUBLISHED IN 1984. IT WAS PROPOSED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS) ENTRY POINT FOR SPECIAL CHILD CARE WORKERS WOULD BE RAISED FROM MPS 7 TO MPS 9, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A TWO-YEAR PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE.

HOWEVER, THE IMPROVED SALARY SCALE HAD YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE TWO-YEAR PRE-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE WAS CONSIDERED NOT PRACTICAL, AND THEREFORE THIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONSIDERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

REFERRING TO THREE NEW SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO BE IN OPERATION IN 1984, MR HENDERSON SAID THESE INVOLVED TWO AT SHEK KIP MEI AND LUNG HANG ESTATES TO BE RUN BY THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND ONE AT CHUN SHEK ESTATE IN SHA TIN TO BE RUN BY THE HEEP HONG SOCIETY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

THE FIRST TWO WERE GIVEN POLICY APPROVAL ON JULY 22, 1983 AND THE APPLICATION FOR GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO COVER THE CAPITAL COST WAS ENDORSED BY SUBVENTIONS AND LOTTERIES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SLFAC) ON NOVEMBER 18 LAST YEAR.

+BOTH PROJECTS ARE NOW BEING PROCESSED BY THE FINANCE BRANCH. ONCE FUNDING HAS BEEN APPROVED, THE AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECTS,+ HE SAID.

THE THIRD SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE, AT CHUN SHEK ESTATE, RECEIVED POLICY SUPPORT IN MARCH 1984, AND THE AGENCY SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND IN OCTOBER THAT YEAR.

HOWEVER, SLFAC MEMBERS CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED FITTING-OUT COSTS TO BE ON THE HIGH SIDE AND ADVISED THAT THE CASE BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE OTHER TWO CENTRES HAD BEEN AGREED UPON.

IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF DISABLED CHILDREN, SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES REQUIRED CERTAIN SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT AND NON-STANDARD FINISHES, HE POINTED OUT.

+THUS, THE STANDARD OF FITTING-OUT OF THESE CENTRES IS HIGHER THAN THAT OF ORDINARY CHILD CARE CENTRES.+

/AS TO

AS TO THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULES OF ACCOMMODATION FOR THE THREE NEW CENTRES, MR HENDERSON SAID THESE HAD BEEN ADOPTED EXCEPT THAT +WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF STAFFING STANDARDS CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED.+

MR HENDERSON ALSO PROVIDED A TABLE WHICH OUTLINED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PRE-SCHOOL CARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF DISABLED CHILDREN AND PROGRESS MADE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

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FIVE NEW SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR DISABLED
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IN RECENT YEARS NO SERIOUS PROBLEM HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN MOBILISING SUBVENTED WELFARE AGENCIES TO OPERATE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THE EX-MENTALLY ILL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR HENDERSON SAID THAT FIVE NEW WORKSHOPS PROVIDING 760 PLACES FOR THE DISABLED, INCLUDING THE EX-MENTALLY ILL, WOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

ALL OF THEM HAD BEEN TAKEN UP BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

+THERE ARE AT PRESENT 11 SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WITH A CAPACITY OF 1 220 PLACES WHICH WOULD ADMIT DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS,+ MR HENDERSON SAID.

+SEVEN OF THESE WORKSHOPS ARE OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING 800 PLACES FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF DISABLED PERSONS INCLUDING THE EX-MENTALLY ILL.+

THE REST OF THEM, RUN BY VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES, WERE ESSENTIALLY FOR THE EX-MENTALLY ILL.

MR HENDERSON ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO RECORDS KEPT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THE NUMBER OF RECOVERED MENTAL PATIENTS WAITING FOR ADMISSION TO SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WAS 147.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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SHORTER WAIT SOON FOR REDUNDANT WORKERS

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THE SITUATION OF WORKERS WAITING TOO MANY DAYS FOR INITIAL INTERVIEW BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT ON THE LODGING OF BANKRUPTCY OR WINDING-UP PETITIONS IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE AS ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED STAFF BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THE WAITING PERIOD HAD INCREASED FROM FOUR TO EIGHT WORKING DAYS DUE TO AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS OVER THE YEARS.

AS FOR THE WAITING PERIOD OF WORKERS' PETITIONS TO BE FILED WITH THE COURTS, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT IT VARIED WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF INDIVIDUAL CASES AND +IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE A DIRECT COMPARISON OF THE WAITING PERIOD WITH THAT IN 1984-85.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT WORKERS REFERRED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERVIEWED BY LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS IN ABOUT EIGHT WORKING DAYS.

+A FURTHER THREE TO FOUR WORKING DAYS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PREPARATION AND COMPLETION OF THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS BEFORE A PETITION CAN BE FILED,+ HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT IN CASES WHERE NO EVIDENCE OF AN ACT OF BANKRUPTCY OR INSOLVENCY WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, THE WAITING TIME FOR A PETITION TO BE FILED MIGHT BE LONGER BECAUSE ENQUIRIES HAD TO BE MADE TO ESTABLISH THE INABILITY OF THE EMPLOYER TO MEET HIS OBLIGATIONS TO HIS CREDITORS.

+IF THE WORKERS RELY UPON A FINDING OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL THEN SEVEN CLEAR DAYS HAVE TO BE ALLOWED FOR A BANKRUPTCY NOTICE, OR A 21 CLEAR DAYS FOR A NOTICE UNDER SECTION 178 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, TO BE SERVED BEFORE A PETITION CAN BE FILED,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, IN URGENT CASES SUCH AS THOSE WHERE THERE WAS A REAL THREAT THAT THE EMPLOYER MIGHT ATTEMPT TO DISPOSE OF ASSETS IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE CLAIMS OF CREDITORS, THEN A PETITION COULD BE FILED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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RESTRICTIONS ON TAXI LICENCES RULED OUT
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THERE SEEMED NOTHING TO GAIN BY RESTRICTING THE ISSUE OF NEW TAXI LICENCES TO OWNER-DRIVERS, OR FORBIDDING THE TRANSFER OF TAXI LICENCES WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS AGAINST SUCH MEASURES IN PRINCIPLE AND HE HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTRODUCE THEM.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR MACPHERSON SAID HE APPRECIATED THE CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAXI LICENCES BEING MONOPOLISED BY BIG COMPANIES FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES, BUT THESE WORRIES WERE NOT BORNE OUT BY FACTS.

+SOME 95 PER CENT OF THE WHOLE TAXI FLEET IS ALREADY OWNED BY INDIVIDUAL OWNER-DRIVERS, THE REMAINING FIVE PER CENT OR 740 LICENCES BEING DISTRIBUTED AMONGST 46 COMPANIES,+ HE SAID.

+THIS DISTRIBUTION PATTERN DOES NOT SEEM TO INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OF A MONOPOLY AND DOES NOT CALL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES TO LIMIT THE ISSUE OF NEW TAXI LICENCES TO OWNER-DRIVERS.+

AS REGARDS SPECULATION, A RECENT REVIEW HAD REVEALED THAT THE AVERAGE TENDER PREMIUM FOR TAXI LICENCES HAD ACTUALLY DECREASED IN REAL TERMS BY 23 PER CENT FOR URBAN TAXIS SINCE 1977 AND BY ABOUT 90 PER CENT FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS SINCE 1980, MR MACPHERSON SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE POPULAR BELIEF THAT SPECULATION HAD PUSHED UP THE TENDER PREMIUM FOR TAXI LICENCES.

+IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE A PROHIBITION ON THE TRANSFER OF TAXI LICENCES AND SUCH A PROHIBITION WOULD MOST LIKELY RESULT IN A BLACK MARKET AS LONG AS THERE IS A DEMAND FOR TAXI LICENCES,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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HEAVIER MEDICAL PENALTIES UNDER STUDY
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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR THE ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF MEDICINE UNDER THE MEDICAL CLINICS ORDINANCE AND SIMILAR AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED TO THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE TO DEAL WITH OFFENCES WHICH OCCUR OUTSIDE MEDICAL CLINICS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, HE HOPED THAT A BILL INCORPORATING THESE PROPOSALS WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL EARLY IN THE NEXT SESSION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAMBERS SAID STATISTICS ON PROSECUTIONS OF UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS COULD NOT READILY BE PRODUCED BY THE EXISTING STATISTICAL SYSTEM RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.

+TO PRODUCE THESE FIGURES MANUALLY WOULD INVOLVE GOING THROUGH NOT LESS THAN 270 000 PROSECUTION FILES,+ HE SAID.

HE HOWEVER NOTED THAT SOME RELEVANT FIGURES RELATING TO COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WERE AVAILABLE.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS WERE 44 IN 1983, 73 IN 1984 AND 66 IN 1985, HE SAID.

+DURING THE SAME THREE YEARS THE DEPARTMENT TOOK PART IN 84,112 AND 92 POLICE RAIDS IN CONNECTION WITH COMPLAINTS OF THIS TYPE,+ HE ADDED.

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COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE FULLY INVESTIGATED
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ALLEGATIONS OF A CRIMINAL NATURE LODGED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS ARE CAREFULLY AND FULLY INVESTIGATED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR THOMAS SAID ON COMPLETION OF EACH INVESTIGATION THE FILE WOULD BE PASSED TO THE PROSECUTIONS DIVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, WHICH WOULD THEN DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A PROSECUTION. IF THERE WAS, PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE INSTITUTED.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO A QUESTION ON THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE REPORTED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, MR THOMAS SAID THE INFORMATION SOUGHT WAS AVAILABLE FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. HE PROVIDED A TABLE GIVING THE RELEVANT DATA.

IN THE LAST THREE CALENDAR YEARS, 12 637 CASES WERE REPORTED, AND THESE REPORTS CONTAINED ALLEGATIONS OF 19 185 SEPARATE MISDEMEANOURS. OF THESE ALLEGATIONS OF MISDEMEANOURS, 8.5 PER CENT WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIATED.

MR THOMAS SAID THE CASES REPORTED INVOLVED 22 033 POLICE OFFICERS. ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THOSE FOUND TO BE AT FAULT WAS AS FOLLOWS: 2 331 WERE GIVEN ADVICE, 427 WERE GIVEN A WARNING, 433 FACED FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, AND 92 WERE CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

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FOUR BILLS PASSED
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FOUR BILLS -- THE DRUG ADDICTS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 -- WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FIVE OTHER BILLS -- THE CIVIL AVIATION (AIRCRAFT NOISE) BILL 1986, THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1986, THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY (ROYAL VISIT) BILL 1986 AND THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 -- WERE READ A SECOND TIME, AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO JUNE 25.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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UMELCO POLICE GROUP TABLES FINAL REPORT
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THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP (UPG) EXAMINED A RECORD NUMBER OF POLICE INVESTIGATION REPORTS IN 1985 IN CONTINUATION OF THE TREND WHICH HAS DEVELOPED SINCE THE GROUP WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1977, THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, THE HON S.L. CHEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE GROUP'S LAST ANNUAL REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR CHEN SAID THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES REGISTERED BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE IN 1985 SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THAT OF 1984 AND, AS IN 1984, A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE NEW CASES WERE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE.

MR CHEN RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED LAST DECEMBER THAT THE UPG WOULD BE RECONSTITUTED EARLY THIS YEAR WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING ITS MONITORING CAPABILITY.

THE RECONSTITUTED GROUP, RENAMED THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE, HAD A CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN DRAWN FROM UMELCO AND EIGHT MEMBERS DRAWN FROM A POOL OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, HE SAID.

MR CHEN SAID THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE WAS NO LONGER BE A UMELCO BODY AND ITS SECRETARIAT OPERATED TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES AS A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT.

+CONCURRENT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE, NEW MONITORING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHEN PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND ALL OFFICERS IN THE COMPLAINTS AND INTERNAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO THE OLD GROUP AND TO THE NEW COMMITTEE.

MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO THE UPG ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985 PUBLISHED TODAY, THE ON-DUTY ATTITUDE OF POLICE OFFICERS CONTINUED TO BE THE MAIN SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT AGAINST THE POLICE LAST YEAR.

THE REPORT STATES THAT DURING THE YEAR, THE UPG EXAMINED 4 080 INVESTIGATION REPORTS OF THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE (CAPO), WHICH EMBRACED 5 922 SEPARATE POINTS OF COMPLAINT.

/THE LARGEST

THE LARGEST SINGLE SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT (25.8 PER CENT) WAS ABOUT OVERBEARING, IMPOLITE CONDUCT OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OF POLICE OFFICERS, FOLLOWED BY NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY OR IMPROPER ACTION (23.8 PER CENT), AND ASSAULT (21.6 PER CENT).

A TOTAL OF 1 512 POINTS OF COMPLAINT WERE EITHER WITHDRAWN OR FOUND TO BE NOT PURSUABLE, BECAUSE THE COMPLAINANT COULD NOT BE LOCATED TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION, OR THE IDENTITIES OF THE POLICE OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY AT FAULT COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED.

RANDOM CHECKS WERE MADE BY THE GROUP SECRETARIAT TO ESTABLISH THE REASONS FOR WITHDRAWN CASES, AND ALL COMPLAINANTS CONTACTED IN THESE CHECKS CONFIRMED THEY HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR COMPLAINTS VOLUNTARILY.

OF THE REMAINING 4 410 POINTS OF COMPLAINT, 504 WERE SUBSTANTIATED AND 131 WERE FOUND TO BE NOT PROVEN, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNSUBSTANTIATED POINTS OF COMPLAINT WAS 3 190, AND 585 POINTS OF COMPLAINT WERE FOUND TO BE FALSE.

THE REPORT SAYS THAT AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT BY OR ON BEHALF OF CAPO DURING THE YEAR, CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WERE INSTITUTED OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST 646 POLICE OFFICERS.

WHERE ANY MISCONDUCT OR IRREGULARITY IS REVEALED IN THE COURSE OF A COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION, APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE POLICE FORMATION COMMANDER, AND 707 OFFICERS WERE DEALT WITH IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DURING 1985, THE REPORT SAYS.

DURING THE YEAR, THE UPG EXAMINED ON AVERAGE 370 INVESTIGATION REPORTS EACH MONTH AND BY THE END OF NOVEMBER THE NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS WAS 720.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT DELAY IN BRINGING AN INVESTIGATION TO A CONCLUSION WAS WATCHED CLOSELY AND A COMMITTEE OF THE CAPO MET QUARTERLY TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF OUTSTANDING CASES.

IT POINTS OUT THAT THE MINUTES OF THOSE MEETINGS WERE EXAMINED BY THE UPG AND INTERIM REPORTS WERE CALLED FOR ON ANY CASE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OR WHERE THE REASONS FOR DELAY WERE UNCLEAR.

WHEN A COMPLAINT INVOLVED AN EXTENDED INVESTIGATION, INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS WERE FURNISHED BOTH TO THE UPG AND TO THE COMPLAINANT.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE UPG RAISED QUERIES ON A NUMBER OF POLICE PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS IN THE COURSE OF EXAMINING INVESTIGATION REPORTS ON COMPLAINTS. AS A RESULT, STUDIES AND CHANGES WERE INITIATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- * THE ISSUE OF A HEADQUARTERS ORDER ON THE UNDESIRABILITY OF TAKING STATEMENTS FROM SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL OFFENCES WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING THE STATEMENT IS THE VICTIM OR AN EYE-WITNESS TO THE INCIDENT;
- * THE ISSUE OF A HEADQUARTERS ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ONLY CERTIFIED COPIES OF STATEMENTS ARE ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS AND THEIR SOLICITORS;
- * THE ISSUE OF NEW POLICE GENERAL ORDERS INTRODUCING REVISED PROCEDURES FOR THE HANDLING, LABELLING, DESCRIPTION, STORAGE AND RETURN OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO DETAINED PERSONS;
- * THE AMENDMENT OF POLICE GENERAL ORDERS IN RESPECT OF STREET SEARCHES;
- * THE CIRCULATION OF A HEADQUARTERS ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE REMOVAL OF PERSONS FROM THE WANTED PERSONS LIST IS CARRIED OUT PROMPTLY AND ACCURATELY; AND
- * A RESEARCH STUDY ON THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS BY POLICE OFFICERS ON DUTY WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF SUCH VEHICLES AND THIRD PARTY RISKS.

THE REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT A TOTAL OF 4 333 NEW CASES WERE REGISTERED BY THE CAPO IN 1985, WHICH SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 3.8 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURE FOR 1984.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING,
INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES FOR 1985
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING AN ANNUAL SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 1985.

THE SURVEY COVERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- * STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING FACILITIES FOR HIRE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC;
- * POSTAL, TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, MESSAGE DELIVERY AND MESSAGE EXCHANGE SERVICES;
- * ALL FINANCE (EXCEPT BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES; LOAN, MORTGAGE AND DISCOUNT COMPANIES; DEALERS-BROKERS AND EXCHANGES IN STOCKS AND SHARES, COMMODITY FUTURES, GOLD BULLION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE; PAWNSHOPS- MONEY CHANGERS; AND OTHER FINANCIAL UNDERTAKINGS;
- * INSURERS, RE-INSURERS, AGENTS AND BROKERS OF ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE AND RELATED INSURANCE SERVICES; AND
- * ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, ADVERTISING, DATA PROCESSING, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY RENTAL, LEGAL, NEWS AGENCY, SECRETARIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING SENT TO A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 2 400 ESTABLISHMENTS OUT OF A TOTAL OF SOME 11 000 ESTABLISHMENTS FALLING UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SURVEY.

DATA TO BE COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDE THE TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR COSTS, OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS TURNOVER AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

SUCH ECONOMIC DATA WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE SECTORS CONCERNED AND ARE NEEDED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SECTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL ALSO BE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FORMULATION OF DECISIONS AND POLICIES.

RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT. A CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CONDUCT OF THIS SURVEY WAS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICE NO. 12 IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

/SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS

SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES BY JULY 31, 1986.

OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WHO CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD WHILE ON DUTY, WILL VISIT THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED TO ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES IF REQUIRED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS STRESSES THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND THAT ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE RELEASED.

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ANOTHER BOARD TO DISCUSS TRIAD REPORT
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED DOCUMENT ON TRIAD PROBLEMS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE VARIOUS MEASURES PROPOSED TO COUNTER THE SOCIAL MALADY AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

APART FROM OUTLINING THE TRIAD PROBLEM AND GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO IT, THE DOCUMENT ALSO PRESENTS OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE PROBLEM.

THEY ARE AIMED BROADLY AT CURBING THE OVERT DISPLAY OF TRIAD AND GANG POWER AND INFLUENCE AND ATTACKING MORE EFFECTIVELY THE ORGANISED RACKETS OPERATED BY TRIADS.

INCLUDED IN TOMORROW'S AGENDA FOR MEMBERS' DISCUSSION WILL BE A PUBLIC WORK PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE YUEN LONG NULLAH BUNDS- A MOP-UP REPORT ON THE SIXTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL- PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND THE TWO LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED ON A NEW MARKETING FACILITY IN YUEN LONG - THE HUNG SHUI KIU TEMPORARY MARKET - WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED IN LATE SEPTEMBER, COMPRISING 72 MARKET STALLS AND 152 MINI-STALLS.

/THE TEMPORARY

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THE TEMPORARY MARKET COULD HELP SOLVE ILLEGAL HAWKING PROBLEMS IN HUNG SHUI KIU WHICH HAD LONG BEEN A SUBJECT OF COMPLAINTS FOR OBSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES CAUSED ALONG THE MAIN STREET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW ON THE 13TH FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD CHAMBERS, TAI KIU ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, YUEN LONG.

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EASTERN TO DISCUSS TRIAD DOCUMENT

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE +DOCUMENT ON OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO COUNTER THE TRIAD PROBLEM+ AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL, MR ANDREW BRUCE, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR MICHAEL STONE, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

THE URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME IN EASTERN DISTRICT AND THE DRAFTED EASTERN DISTRICT STRATEGY WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1936

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FORD VISITS IMMIGRATION HQ

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR DAVID FORD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AS PART OF HIS REGULAR VISITS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

MR FORD HAD A DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, BEFORE LOOKING OVER VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE OVERSEAS VISA, TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND EXTENSION SECTIONS.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF A WORKSHOP WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND ALSO COURTESY IN DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC, AND LEARNT THAT THE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC HAD IMPROVED.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IS AMONG A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKING PART IN A COURTESY DRIVE LAUNCHED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH IN MAY.

MR FORD ALSO MET STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING HIS VISIT.

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FREE EYE CHECKS FOR OLD PEOPLE

NEARLY 8 000 PEOPLE AGED OVER 60 LIVING IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE FREE EYE CHECKS DURING AN +EYE CARING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY+ TO BE HELD BETWEEN JUNE 8 AND JULY 2.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD, TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, KWAI CHUNG ROTARY CLUB, AND CO-ORGANISED WITH THE HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO TUNG-CHING, SAID OF A POPULATION OF NEARLY HALF A MILLION IN THE DISTRICT, ABOUT 50 000 WERE OVER THE AGE OF 60.

+IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE BOARD THAT THESE PEOPLE BE OFFERED APPROPRIATE CARE AND SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

/LAST YEAR

LAST YEAR THE BOARD HAD ALLOCATED ABOUT \$47 000 TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO HOLD VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

+THIS YEAR, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN \$70 000 WILL BE SPENT ON PROJECTS FOR THE ELDERLY,+ MR HO SAID.

CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE EYE CARING CAMPAIGN, MR LAM KWING-CHEE, SAID THE AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS TO OFFER EYE CARE SERVICES AND INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT TO THE ELDERLY, AS A GESTURE OF RESPECT TOWARDS THEM.

BESIDES EYE CHECKS, THE FOUR-WEEK CAMPAIGN WILL INCLUDE AN EXHIBITION ON EYE CARE, FREE PROVISION OF SPECTACLES FOR NEEDY ELDERLY PEOPLE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF EYE-CARE BOOKLETS.

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FARMERS TO STUDY NEW TECHNIQUES IN U.S.

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A GROUP OF 15 FARMERS WILL LEAVE ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7) FOR THE UNITED STATES ON A NINE-DAY TOUR TO STUDY MODERN TECHNIQUES IN CROP FARMING AND MARKETING AND ALSO TO SEE THE LATEST IN FARM MACHINERY.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, WILL PRESENT A BANNER TO THE GROUP AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE STUDY TOUR, THE NINTH SINCE 1977, HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD TOMORROW AT 3.30 PM AT AFD HEADQUARTERS ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE JOURNALISM SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ON FRIDAY (JUNE 6) AT 4 PM AT THE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF HONG KONG, 17TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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FOCUS ON VETTING OF APPLICATIONS

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE ROLE OF AREA COMMITTEES IN THE VETTING OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS SUBMITTED BY MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IN ADDITION, THE REPORTS OF THE FIVE WORKING GROUPS ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION AND THE PROGRESS OF BOARD-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

ANOTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA CONCERNS AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS BY THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION EDUCATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT 4 PM IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE TOMORROW.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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NO MAIL DELIVERY

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THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY AND ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 11), THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR THREE KOWLOON SITES

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A STORAGE SITE AND TWO VEHICLE PARKING AREAS IN KOWLOON ARE BEING OFFERED FOR RENT ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE STORAGE SITE OF 6 100 SQUARE METRES IS AT SHEUNG YEE ROAD, KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION, AND IS FOR STORING NON-COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS. THE TENANCY FOR THE SITE IS 18 MONTHS INITIALLY, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

A SITE OF 930 SQUARE METRES AT LAI KING HILL ROAD ADJACENT TO THE LAI CHI KOK BUS TERMINUS IS FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK. THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

A SITE MEASURING 6 400 SQUARE METRES AT LAI CHI KOK ROAD IS FOR PARKING GOODS VEHICLES, BUT EXCLUDING ARTICULATED VEHICLES. THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 20.

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN CENTRAL
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FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN CENTRAL WILL BE MADE 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS :

- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DOUGLAS STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATER ROAD;
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FROM A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH PEDDER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * PEDDER STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATER ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CHATER ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH PEDDER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CHATER ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * PEDDER STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR A PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN DOUGLAS STREET AND PEDDER STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY, THE SECTION OF PEDDER STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES NORTH OF QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE MADE A PEAK HOUR (7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM) URBAN CLEARWAY DAILY.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1986

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF KING'S ROAD
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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE, THE SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH JAVA ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7) TO 7 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED:

- * EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD OR JAVA ROAD HEADING FOR QUARRY BAY AND AREA FURTHER EAST WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR NEAR HEALTHY STREET WEST, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, TAI KOO WAN ROAD, TAI WING AVENUE AND TAI KOO SHING ROAD BEFORE REJOINING SHAU KEI WAN ROAD OR KING'S ROAD.
- * WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD HEADING FOR NORTH POINT AND AREA FURTHER WEST WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA WESTLANDS ROAD, TAI KOO SHING ROAD, TAI YUE AVENUE, TAI KOO WAN ROAD, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO KING'S ROAD NEAR HEALTHY STREET WEST.

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