



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

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FULLEST DEBATE ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS EXPECTED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WHEN THE TALKS ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE COMPLETED, THERE WOULD BE THE FULLEST DEBATE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE LEGCO.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I'LL VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WHATEVER I'M ABLE TO SAY AT THAT STAGE TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF TALKS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY."

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING MORE OPENNESS IN THE TALKS, HE SAID: "WHILE ALL OF US, PARTICULARLY AN OPEN COMMUNITY AND OPEN SOCIETY LIKE HONG KONG, WOULD LIKE TO SAY MORE RATHER THAN LESS, WHAT WE ALL WANT EVEN MORE THAN THAT IS THAT THESE TALKS SHOULD GO WELL."

"I THINK THE TALKS WOULD STAND LESS CHANCE OF GOING WELL IF WE WERE TO PUBLICISE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED DAY BY DAY DURING THE TALKS."

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE BRITISH SIDE HAD SOFTENED ITS STANCE, MR PATTEN SAID: "OUR POSITION TODAY IS AS OUR POSITION WAS WHEN THE TALKS BEGAN. BUT, AS I WAS SAYING EARLIER, I THINK YOU WOULD EXPECT THE PRECISE DETAILS OF THESE MATTERS TO BE LEFT WITH THE NEGOTIATORS."

"I ALSO THINK IT IS ABUNDANTLY PLAIN THAT THE STANCE WE HAVE TAKEN IS A STAND SUPPORTED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG."

ON THE ISSUE OF "THROUGH TRAIN", THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS A QUESTION WHICH A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY ASKED.

"THEY SAY TO ME WHY ORGANISE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GO THROUGH 1997 IF INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES DON'T AND THAT'S OBVIOUSLY A MATTER WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL PRODUCE AGREEMENTS ON THAT," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE TIMING OF LEGISLATION OF THE BILL, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE DO WANT, ALL OF US, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, TO SEE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME TO THE TALKS WHICH HAVE BEGUN WELL IN PEKING."

"I THINK THE COMMUNITY WANTS THE NEGOTIATORS TO BE GIVEN TIME, TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A GOOD OUTCOME IF THAT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE. WE ALL HOPE IT IS."

COMMENTING ON MR GOODLAD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT, THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS ONE OF HIS REGULAR VISITS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY AND TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"HE IS OBVIOUSLY COMING AT AN IMPORTANT MOMENT," HE ADDED.

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INDEPENDENT PANEL APPOINTED TO REVIEW GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION  
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AN INDEPENDENT PANEL COMPRISING THREE RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO REVIEW THE GOVERNOR'S TAX POSITION.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PANEL ARE TO ADVISE ON WHETHER THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE LIABLE TO PAY SALARIES TAX IN HONG KONG, HAVING REGARD TO THE LAW GOVERNING HIS TAX POSITION, THE TERMS OF HIS CONTRACT OF APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR AND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OUTLINING THE RECENT CHANGES TO THE QUEEN'S TAX POSITION IN UK," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE PANEL MEMBERS ARE SIR SIDNEY GORDON, SIR Q W LEE AND MR ANDREW SO.

"THE PANEL HAS BEEN ASKED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC," THE CHIEF SECRETARY ADDED.

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WHARF FORMALLY GRANTED PAY-TV LICENCE  
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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL DECIDED AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE 12-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION LICENCE SHOULD BE FORMALLY GRANTED TO WHARF CABLE LIMITED.

THE LICENCE WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 1, 1993.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL GAVE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE ON FEBRUARY 9 TO THE ISSUE OF A LICENCE TO WHARF CABLE LTD SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL AND CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE.

THE BILL WAS ENACTED AND CAME INTO OPERATION ON APRIL 2.

A COPY OF THE DRAFT LICENCE WAS PASSED TO THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP IN FEBRUARY 1993.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON MAY 20 OF THEIR ENDORSEMENT OF THE GRANT OF LICENCE HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE ISSUE OF THE LICENCE.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEREMONY TO HAND OVER THE LICENCE TO WHARF CABLE LIMITED ARE BEING MADE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID: "WE ARE DELIGHTED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. WE ARE ALREADY WORKING WITH WHARF CABLE TO FACILITATE COMMENCEMENT OF THEIR SERVICE BY THE SCHEDULED DATE OF OCTOBER 1993."

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POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE REPORT 1992

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THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (PCC) WOULD, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL SCRUTINY OF INVESTIGATION REPORTS, BE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN PURSUING REFORMS TO THE EXISTING MACHINERY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

GIVEN MORE TIME, THE PCC WOULD BE SEEN TO BE MORE DYNAMIC AND PRO-ACTIVE WITH GROWING AWARENESS AND HOPEFULLY APPRECIATION OF ITS SERVICE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PCC, MISS ROSANNA WONG, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE PCC REPORT 1992 THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE PCC IS AN INDEPENDENT BODY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO MONITOR AND REVIEW THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS MADE BY THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE POLICE.

COMMENTING ON THE WORK OF PCC, MISS WONG SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS TRANSPARENCY. A FULLER ACCOUNT OF HOW PCC CONDUCTED ITS BUSINESS WAS THEREFORE GIVEN IN THE REPORT, ILLUSTRATED BY CASE SUMMARIES WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

SHE HOPED THAT THE NEW FORMAT OF THE REPORT WOULD INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE PCC'S ROLE.

MISS WONG EMPHASISED THAT THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO MONITOR AND REVIEW. INVESTIGATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE (CAPO).

ALL INVESTIGATION REPORTS, TOGETHER WITH ALL EVIDENCE COLLECTED (INCLUDING STATEMENTS, MEDICAL REPORTS, EXHIBITS AND LEGAL ADVICE) ARE RIGOROUSLY SCRUTINISED BY THE PCC, WHICH IS ASSISTED BY A FULL-TIME SECRETARIAT.

IN 1992, 3,250 INVESTIGATION REPORTS WERE RECEIVED INVOLVING 4,146 ALLEGATIONS. THESE COMPARE WITH 3,154 AND 4,582 RESPECTIVELY IN 1991.

OF ALL THESE, ASSAULT, AN OVER-BEARING MANNER/IMPOLITENESS AND NEGLECT OF DUTY CONSTITUTED THE BULK OF COMPLAINTS, REPRESENTING NEARLY 82% OF THE TOTAL COMPLAINTS.

MANY COMPLAINTS OF THE LATTER TWO CATEGORIES WERE MINOR ONES, SOME OF WHICH WERE DEALT WITH BY INFORMAL RESOLUTION.

"ASSAULT" STILL CONSTITUTED THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF ALL COMPLAINTS, THAT IS, 1,827 OR 44.1%. IT WAS HOWEVER INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT 88.2% OF ASSAULT COMPLAINTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN OR CLASSIFIED AS NOT PURSUABLE. THE PCC WOULD PROBE INTO THIS SITUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF A SURVEY.

/NOT ALL .....

NOT ALL CAPO REPORTS WERE AGREED BY THE PCC. MISS WONG SAID IN 1992, PCC HAD RAISED 318 QUERIES INVOLVING 231 CASES.

THESE QUERIES WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE THOROUGHNESS OF INVESTIGATIONS, AMBIGUOUS POINTS, THE PROPRIETY OF POLICE PROCEDURES AND THE EXERCISE OF CONSTABULARY POWERS.

WHILST MOST OF THESE QUERIES WERE ANSWERED BY CAPO TO PCC'S SATISFACTION, 31 CASES HAD THEIR CLASSIFICATIONS ALTERED OR REVERSED AS A RESULT OF PCC INTERVENTION.

IN ADDITION, 26 SUGGESTIONS ON POLICE PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES WERE ACCEPTED BY CAPO.

BY THE VERY NATURE OF THEIR WORK, POLICE OFFICERS WERE FREQUENTLY IN A SITUATION WHICH RENDERED THEM LIABLE TO COMPLAINTS BECAUSE OF THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO CITIZENS.

ONE WAY OF REDUCING COMPLAINTS, ACCORDING TO MISS WONG, WAS THROUGH THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF BOTH POLICE OFFICERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT A COMPLAINTS PREVENTION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE POLICE IN NOVEMBER 1992 AND HOPED THE QUESTION OF TRAINING OF FRONT LINE POLICE OFFICERS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY ADDRESSED.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMAL RESOLUTION SCHEME.

THIS ALLOWS THE RESPECTIVE POLICE FORMATIONS TO HANDLE MINOR COMPLAINTS BY INFORMAL RESOLUTION WITHOUT SUBJECTING THEM TO FULL INVESTIGATION.

THIS SCHEME ENABLES BOTH CAPO AND THE PCC TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MORE SERIOUS COMPLAINTS. A TOTAL OF 363 MINOR CASES WERE INFORMALLY RESOLVED IN 1992 UNDER THE SCHEME.

MISS WONG SAID THE PCC ALSO ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ON THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM.

WHILST THE PCC WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS WERE NEEDED. THESE INCLUDED:

- \* TO MAKE THE PCC A STATUTORY BODY.
- \* TO EMPOWER THE PCC TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES.
- \* TO APPOINT SOME NON-POLICE OFFICERS FOR INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS CASES AND IN DUE COURSE TO REPLACE THE HEAD OF CAPO BY A NON-POLICE OFFICER.
- \* TO INCLUDE MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION IN THE REPLIES TO COMPLAINANTS.

/\* TO INTRODUCE .....

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- \* TO INTRODUCE A SCALE OF GRADINGS FOR COMPLAINTS.
- \* TO RATIONALISE THE COMPLAINT CLASSIFICATIONS.
- \* TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO PROBE INTO THE CAUSES FOR WITHDRAWN/NOT-PURSUABLE CASES.

MISS WONG WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECENTLY ACCEPTED ALL BUT ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE QUESTION OF EMPLOYING NON-POLICE OFFICERS IN CAPO WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE PCC WOULD ACTIVELY PURSUE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN CO-OPERATION WITH CAPO AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

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#### GOVERNOR VISITS KOWLOON CITY

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AND MRS PATTEN VISITED KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY FIRST TOURED A RICHLY ORNAMENTED TAOIST TEMPLE, SHANG SIN CHUN TONG, IN KOWLOON TONG.

AT THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN, THEY SAW A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

MR AND MRS PATTEN WERE THEN BRIEFED ON THE FACILITIES OF WHAMPOA GARDEN IN HUNG HOM DURING THE TOUR THERE.

BEFORE CONCLUDING THE VISIT, THEY MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A RECEPTION AT THE SPOTLIGHT RECREATION CLUB.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE TRIP BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW; THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG.

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TALKS ON INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS UNDERWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING AND INVESTMENT PARTNERS A NETWORK OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE EFFECT AFTER 1997.

SPEAKING AT THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE'S ASIA AND WORLD TEXTILES CONFERENCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID THE AGREEMENTS WERE AIMED AT PROVIDING FURTHER ASSURANCE TO FOREIGN INVESTORS.

"TO DATE, WE HAVE SIGNED ONE AND INITIALLED EIGHT SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH SOME OF OUR MAJOR ECONOMIC PARTNERS, AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO BRING THEM INTO FORCE SOON," MR FUNG SAID.

MR FUNG NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S STRATEGIC LOCATION IN ASIA PACIFIC, ITS EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, ITS ABILITY TO LEVERAGE ON CHINA'S SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL BASE, AND CHINA'S ABILITY TO TAP HONG KONG'S TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS WERE MAJOR REASONS WHY FOREIGN COMPANIES WERE INCREASING THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE TERRITORY.

"HONG KONG IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT LOCATION FOR A BUSINESS PRESENCE IN ASIA PACIFIC: AS AT THE MIDDLE OF 1992, 1,360 COMPANIES HAD LOCATED THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

MR FUNG SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HONG KONG TO BECOME A LEADING MANUFACTURING, FINANCIAL AND TRADING CENTRE FOR GOODS AND SERVICES OF THE WORLD WAS ITS ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY.

"HONG KONG IS CLEARLY AN INTEGRAL PART OF ASIA PACIFIC, THE FASTEST GROWING AND MOST DYNAMIC REGION IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

"ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION IN THE REGION HAS HELPED US PROSPER; AND GREATER ECONOMIC TIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION IN TURN CONTINUE TO GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL TRADE AND SUSTAIN GROWTH IN THE SERVICE SECTOR.

"THIS, COUPLED WITH INCREASING PER CAPITA INCOME AND PURCHASING POWER AS A RESULT OF GROWING AFFLUENCE, PROVIDE GOOD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG ITSELF," HE ADDED.

HONG KONG'S CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA HAD PLACED IT IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHILE FURTHERING ITS OWN.

"THE OPENING OF CHINA AS A MARKET AND A SOURCE OF LABOUR AND LAND FACILITATES THE FURTHER UPGRADING AND TRANSFORMATION OF HONG KONG'S OWN ECONOMY.

"THE FLOURISHING RE-EXPORT TRADE BRINGS BUSINESS NOT ONLY TO OUR TRADERS, BUT ALSO OUR SERVICE SECTOR SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, FINANCE AND EVEN TOURISM.

/"THIS ENHANCES .....

"THIS ENHANCES HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

"OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES IN CHINA ALSO ALLOW HONG KONG COMPANIES TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS IN MARKETING AND DEVELOPING MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE, HIGHER TECHNOLOGY, AND HIGHER VALUE ADDED MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG AND TO MOVE UP MARKET," MR FUNG SAID.

HE NOTED THAT INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND MACHINERY HAD INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY BY 18 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

THUS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE CHANGES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC STRUCTURE WHICH HAD SEEN A REDUCED SHARE OF MANUFACTURING TO THE GDP, THE ACTUAL VOLUME OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT HAD NOT DECLINED AND THERE STILL EXISTED A STRONG, LEANER AND MORE EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL BASE IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

MR FUNG POINTED OUT THAT A MERE FAVOURABLE LOCATION WAS, HOWEVER, NO GUARANTEE FOR, AND COULD NOT IN FACT FULLY EXPLAIN, HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO CREATE A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT - AND OUR POLICIES AND ACTIONS OVER THE YEARS HAVE PROVEN TO BE CORRECT IN THIS CONTEXT.

"THEY STEM FROM A FREE ENTERPRISE AND FREE TRADE POLICY BASED UPON A PHILOSOPHY OF MINIMUM INTERFERENCE WITH MARKET FORCES AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS," HE SAID.

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#### PLANNING STUDY COMMISSIONED

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SIGNED A \$2.5 MILLION AGREEMENT WITH A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CARRY OUT A STUDY ON PORT BACK-UP LAND AND OPEN STORAGE REQUIREMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE STUDY WOULD EXAMINE THE EXISTING PATTERNS AND PROBLEMS OF CONTAINER BACK-UP USES AND OTHER TYPES OF OPEN STORAGE IN THE TERRITORY.

THE FINDINGS WILL BE USED TO ASSESS THE FUTURE LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH TYPE OF USE AND TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE LOCATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE THE FORECAST DEMAND, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS.

IN THE STUDY, A FIELD SURVEY OF ALL THE EXISTING SITES, AND A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF THE OPERATORS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

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THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE FINDINGS WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL INPUTS TO THE PREPARATION OF RURAL OUTLINE ZONING PLANS, AND THE FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR VARIOUS CONTAINER BACK-UP AND OPEN STORAGE USES.

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER PUN, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE SHANKLAND COX LIMITED.

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TOLO HARBOUR SEWAGE PIPELINE CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SIGNED A \$253 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBMARINE PIPELINE UNDER THE TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME, STAGE TWO.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR SIH NAM-SEN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR, M U C JOINT VENTURE.

WORKS INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF A SIX-KILOMETRE WELDED STEEL SUBMARINE PIPELINE OF 1,000 MM DIAMETER SUPPORTED ON PILES WITH PRECAST CONCRETE CRADLES.

THE CONTRACT ALSO REQUIRES THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED WELDED STEEL PIPES ON RECLAIMED LAND LEADING TO THE TAI PO AND SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.

WORKS BEGAN LAST THURSDAY (MAY 20) FOR COMPLETION BY MAY 1995.

MR SIH SAID WHEN THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED, A PUMPING STATION WOULD PUMP TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM TAI PO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT THROUGH THE SUBMARINE PIPELINE TO SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

"THE COMBINED TREATED SEWAGE FROM SHA TIN AND TAI PO WILL THEN BE PUMPED THROUGH A TWIN PUMPING MAIN, AND GRAVITATES THROUGH A 7.4-KILOMETRE TUNNEL TO KAI TAK NULLAH BEFORE FINALLY DISCHARGING INTO VICTORIA HARBOUR," HE SAID.

THE EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME IS PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR ACTION PLAN WHICH IS AIMED AT REDUCING POLLUTION CAUSED BY "RED TIDES" IN THE HARBOUR.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

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CONTRACT AWARDED FOR POLICE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AWARDED A \$403.8 MILLION CONTRACT FOR PHASE II WORKS OF THE NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX IN WAN CHAI.

LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF ARSENAL STREET AND QUEENSWAY, THE COMPLEX WILL COMPRISE THREE BLOCKS INTERLINKING WITH EACH OTHER.

WORKS UNDER THE CURRENT CONTRACT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 33-STOREY TOWER BLOCK WITH A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 48,000 SQUARE METRES.

IT WILL PROVIDE SECURE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CRIME WING AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE NON-CRIME FORMATIONS AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED ON LEASED PREMISES, SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, MANAGEMENT SERVICES WING, INSPECTION SERVICES WING AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRANCH.

SPECIAL FACILITIES, SUCH AS VIDEO INTERVIEW ROOMS AND ONE-WAY VIEWING IDENTIFICATION PARADE SUITE, WILL BE SOME OF THE FEATURE PROVISIONS.

FOUNDATION WORK FOR THIS PHASE II BLOCK STARTED LAST JUNE AND HAS BEEN COMPLETED RECENTLY. CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START NEXT MONTH FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1995.

THIS BLOCK AND A SIMILAR PHASE III BLOCK WILL FLANK THE SEVEN-STOREY PHASE I BLOCK WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1990.

THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, SIGNED THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION.

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23 PASS MEDICAL LICENTIATE EXAM

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THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 23 CANDIDATES HAVE PASSED THE PART II (ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL USE PAPER) OF THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS THIS YEAR.

THE 1993 PART II EXAMINATION WAS HELD TWICE, IN MARCH AND MAY, GIVING CANDIDATES A CHOICE OF EXAMINATION DATES AND ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE FAILING IN THE FIRST EXAMINATION A SECOND CHANCE TO TAKE THIS PART OF THE EXAMINATION IN THE SAME YEAR.

/AMONG THE .....

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AMONG THE 20 CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE PART II LICENTIATE EXAMINATION IN MARCH, 15 CANDIDATES PASSED, AND EIGHT OUT OF 12 CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE EXAMINATION IN MAY PASSED. THESE GIVE A TOTAL FIGURE OF 23 PASSES AT PART II THIS YEAR.

ALL OF THEM WHO HAVE PASSED ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE PART III EXAMINATION SCHEDULED FOR JULY THIS YEAR.

THE PART III LICENTIATE EXAMINATION IS AN ORAL EXAMINATION ON CANDIDATES' ABILITY TO APPLY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO CLINICAL PROBLEMS.

EACH CANDIDATE WILL BE GIVEN AN ORAL EXAMINATION IN EACH OF THE THREE DISCIPLINES OF MEDICINE, SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.

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## 263 RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 263 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 113 MEN, 62 WOMEN, 44 BOYS AND 44 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 153RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,046 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 29,358 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.1 *-0.3* 26.5.93

/HONG KONG .....

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.91 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.75	3.78
1 MONTH	3.04 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.07	3.91
3 MONTHS	3.07 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.10	4.12
6 MONTHS	3.29 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.10	4.27
12 MONTHS	3.60 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 16,362MN

CLOSED 26 MAY 1993

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

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

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MOTION DEBATE ON SINO-BRITISH TALKS

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FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE MOTION DEBATE ON SINO-BRITISH TALKS TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

ON 13 APRIL THIS YEAR, THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH SIDES AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD HOLD TALKS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. THREE ROUNDS OF TALKS HAVE SINCE BEEN HELD IN PEKING. THE TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED TO HOLD THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS ON 28 AND 29 THIS MONTH.

IT IS PERFECTLY NATURAL, AND INDEED UNDERSTANDABLE, THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD WANT TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS. AS AGREED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, THE CONTENTS OF THE TALKS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. THERE ARE SOUND, PRACTICAL REASONS FOR THIS. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE COMMUNITY, I BELIEVE, IS THAT WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GIVE THE NEGOTIATIONS A FAIR WIND, AND TO COMPLETE THEM SUCCESSFULLY. ONE OF THE THINGS WE CAN DO IN THIS RESPECT IS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE CONFIDENTIALLY. IF WE WERE TO REPORT AFTER EACH ROUND OF TALKS ON WHAT EXACTLY HAS BEEN SAID ACROSS THE TABLE, THAT COULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT ALL TO THE NEGOTIATORS. NOR, THEREFORE, COULD IT BE HELPFUL TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS.

ALTHOUGH THE CONTENTS OF THE TALKS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, THE SCOPE AND BASIS FOR THE TALKS ARE ALREADY DEFINED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON 13 APRIL. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT ITS AIM IN THE TALKS IS TO SECURE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS WHICH ARE OPEN, FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE ABLE TO EXPRESS VIEWS THROUGH VARIOUS ESTABLISHED CHANNELS ON THE SORT OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS THEY WOULD REGARD AS OPEN AND FAIR. INDEED, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY RECEIVED EXTENSIVE VIEWS AND PROPOSALS FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC DURING THIS TIME, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE COMPENDIUM AND ITS SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE VIEWS OF THIS COUNCIL, AS EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS DEBATES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS OR SO. SURELY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR PUBLIC OPINION, AND TO LISTEN TO MEMBERS' VIEWS, IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

/THE STAND .....

THE STAND OF THE ADMINISTRATION IS CLEAR. IF AND WHEN AN UNDERSTANDING IS REACHED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, WE WILL SHARE IT WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND JUSTIFY IT TO THIS COUNCIL. AND I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO MR ANDREW WONG FOR EXPLAINING AND DEFINING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECRECY. I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THERE WILL BE NO SECRET DEALS. NOR, INDEED, CAN THERE BE ANY. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95 WILL REQUIRE LEGISLATION, AND IT WILL BE FOR THIS COUNCIL TO EITHER PASS, AMEND OR REJECT THE RELEVANT DRAFT LEGISLATION PRESENTED BEFORE IT.

MR PRESIDENT, FOR THE REASONS I HAVE EXPLAINED EARLIER, THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE CURRENT SINO-BRITISH TALKS TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. SHOULD THESE TALKS BEAR FRUITS, HOWEVER, ANY UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WILL, AS THE GOVERNOR HAS SAID REPEATEDLY, BE MADE PUBLIC. THE THREE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS WILL THEREFORE VOTE AGAINST DR YEUNG SUM'S MOTION, AND SUPPORT DR TANG SIU-TONG'S AMENDED MOTION.

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INTERNATIONAL TREATIES WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY TO HK  
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THE OBJECTIVE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF THE MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL TREATIES WHICH ARE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY TO THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AFTER JUNE 30, 1997, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID.

IN HIS REPLY DURING QUESTION TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR MATHEWS SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT OVER 200 MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND ABOUT 180 BILATERAL TREATIES WHICH HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX II OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, A SUB-GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO CONSIDER THE NECESSARY ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AFFECTING HONG KONG," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF ABOUT HALF OF THE MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND THAT CONSIDERATION IN THE SUB-GROUP OF MOST OF THE OTHERS WAS TAKING PLACE.

"AS REGARDS THE BILATERAL TREATIES, THESE WILL LAPSE IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG AFTER JUNE 30, 1997.

"DISCUSSION IS THEREFORE UNDER WAY IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP ON PROGRAMMES FOR HONG KONG TO NEGOTIATE, WHERE THERE IS A NEED, ON ITS OWN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH CAN REMAIN IN FORCE AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

SOME AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONCLUDED IN THE FIELDS OF AIR SERVICES, INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION, AND THE SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS.

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NO DETERIORATION IN LAW AND ORDER IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES  
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THE STATE OF LAW AND ORDER IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IS NOT DETERIORATING AND THE CRIME RATE THERE IS CONSISTENTLY LOWER THAN IN THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS PEGGY LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, THE CRIME RATE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS 12.4 PER 10,000 RESIDENTS. THE CORRESPONDING RATES FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS LAST YEAR WERE 13.5 AND 13.8.

AFTER REVIEWING THE POSITION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN 1992, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONCLUDED THAT GATES AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED AS A STANDARD PROVISION IN EXISTING OR NEW RENTAL BLOCKS ON THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT, COST CONSIDERATIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED BY TENANTS.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS ENDORSED A PILOT SCHEME IN TSING YI DISTRICT TO BE CARRIED OUT IF THE TENANTS IN THE BLOCKS ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INSTALLATION AND RECURRENT COSTS OF THE EQUIPMENT AND THE PROVISION OF SECURITY GUARDS.

OTHER MEASURES AGREED BY THE AUTHORITY INCLUDE BETTER ILLUMINATION, MORE PATROLS BY ESTATE ASSISTANTS, AND CLOSER LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL POLICE ON CRIME PREVENTION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND TENANTS' ASSOCIATIONS.

THE AUTHORITY WOULD KEEP THE OVERALL SITUATION AND THE SITUATION IN INDIVIDUAL ESTATES UNDER REGULAR REVIEW IN CONSULTATION WITH THE POLICE, MR EASON SAID, ADDING THAT A SURVEY ON TENANTS' VIEWS WOULD BE CONDUCTED LATER THIS YEAR.

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LEGALLY AIDED CLIENTS GET BEST REPRESENTATION  
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THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, IN ASSIGNING CASES TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL, ADHERES TO THE OVERRIDING PRINCIPLE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE LEGALLY AIDED CLIENT MUST COME FIRST AND THAT THE CLIENT IS BEST REPRESENTED LEGALLY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ELSIE TU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THAT SAID, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID ASSIGNS CASES AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AMONG COUNSEL OF SUITABLE EXPERTISE, HAVING REGARD TO THE NATURE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE CASES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE COUNSEL," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

TO ENSURE AN EQUITABLE SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP A COMMITTEE, CO-OPTING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, TO MONITOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES.

IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL, SIR DAVID SAID THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "EXPATRIATE COUNSEL" AND "LOCAL COUNSEL", WHATEVER THE DEFINITION.

THUS THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN EXPATRIATE AND LOCAL BARRISTERS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES.

THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO MAINTAIN A PANEL OF COUNSEL ENROLLED ON THE ROLL OF BARRISTERS WHO ARE WILLING TO INVESTIGATE, REPORT AND GIVE AN OPINION UPON APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF LEGAL AID AND TO ACT FOR AIDED PERSONS.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE 471 BARRISTERS ON THE DIRECTOR'S PANEL WHICH INCLUDES THREE FORMER COUNSEL OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, 75 FORMER COUNSEL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AND 16 FORMER MAGISTRATES.

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RESULTS DUE ON INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS OF  
POLYTECHNICS AND BAPTIST COLLEGE

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THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) WILL SHORTLY REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE READINESS OF THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE FOR SELF-ACCREDITATION AND UNIVERSITY STATUS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN SAID THE UPGC APPOINTED A PANEL IN JANUARY THIS YEAR TO CONDUCT INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS OF THE THREE INSTITUTIONS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY HAD DEVELOPED SOUND INTERNAL ACCREDITING MECHANISMS AND PROCESSES, AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY WERE READY FOR SELF-ACCREDITATION.

"THE PANEL'S REPORT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE UPGC AT ITS MEETING IN APRIL," HE SAID.

"THE UPGC WILL SHORTLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER ON THE OUTCOME OF THE EXERCISE AND THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE READINESS OF THE THREE INSTITUTIONS FOR SELF-ACCREDITATION AND THE FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON THE QUESTION OF UNIVERSITY STATUS AND TITLES FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS."

THE SECRETARY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ACCORDING TO THE ACADEMIC JUDGEMENT OF THE UPGC AND ITS ADVISER, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION, THE STANDARD AND QUALITY OF COURSES AT VARIOUS LEVELS PROVIDED BY THE TWO POLYTECHNICS IN HONG KONG WERE COMPARABLE WITH THOSE AT EQUIVALENT LEVELS PROVIDED AT THE OTHER UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITIES.

THEY ALSO COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS FOR SUCH COURSES.

AS REGARDS RESEARCH, MR CHAN NOTED THAT THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF BOTH THE POLYTECHNICS HAD BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN WINNING RESEARCH GRANTS FROM THE RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL AND OTHER SOURCES OF PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH FUNDING AS WELL AS HAVING ACHIEVED A CREDITABLE PUBLICATION RECORD.

THE POLYTECHNICS ARE ALSO VERY ACTIVE IN THE FIELDS OF APPLIED AND CONTRACT RESEARCH, HE ADDED.

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GOVT WORKS FOR MINIMUM DISRUPTION OF DREDGING TO FISHERMEN

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ENSURE THAT DREDGING PROJECTS CAUSE AS LITTLE DISRUPTION AS POSSIBLE TO THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALLEN LEE, THE SECRETARY SAID ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN PLACE FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WELL IN ADVANCE OF ANY PROPOSED WORKS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, IN TURN, HAS WELL-ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE AQUACULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

"THESE CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKING SATISFACTORILY," MR SIU SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES FOR MARICULTURISTS TO SEE IF CHANGES WERE REQUIRED TO COVER POSSIBLE DISTURBANCE ARISING FROM DREDGING PROJECTS.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE CALCULATION METHOD WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THAT APPLICABLE TO CATCHER FISHERMEN.

THE REVISED COMPENSATION FOR CATCHER FISHERMEN AFFECTED BY DREDGING PROJECTS WAS DETERMINED BY THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF THE DISRUPTION TO INSHORE FISHING CAUSED BY THE CURRENT DREDGING WORKS OFF TUNG LUNG CHAU AND THE EFFECT ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF INSHORE FISHERMEN.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE AFFECTED FISHING GROUNDS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO RECOVER AFTER THE WORKS AND THE DECREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING WORK IN FISHING AND FISHING-RELATING INDUSTRIES.

MR SIU SAID IF ANY MARICULTURISTS WERE AFFECTED, THEY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT NEAR THE FISH CULTURE ZONE IN WHICH THEY WERE LICENSED TO OPERATE.

"EVEN IF BUSINESS HAS TO BE SUSPENDED DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME DREDGING GOES ON NEARBY, THE MARICULTURISTS WILL BE ABLE TO RESUME OPERATIONS ONCE WORKS IN THE VICINITY HAVE CEASED," HE EXPLAINED.

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FEW GOVT OFFICES WERE LEFT VACANT

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ONLY 0.03 PER CENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION HAD BEEN LEFT VACANT FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG YING-YEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TSANG SAID THE ACCOMMODATION HAD NOT BEEN ALLOCATED BECAUSE IT WAS SURPLUS TO IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS.

"THE 240 SQUARE METRES OF GENERAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION CURRENTLY VACANT WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE AS AND WHEN SUITABLE USERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND SUBJECT TO THE VETTING OF REQUIREMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY," HE SAID.

OF THE VACANT PREMISES, 160 SQUARE METRES ARE LOCATED AT THE RECENTLY COMPLETED NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN FANLING AND 80 SQUARE METRES ARE LOCATED AT THE MUI WO GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY HOLDING A TOTAL OF 785,676 SQUARE METRES OF GENERAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

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NO PLAN TO DISBAND HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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THERE IS AT PRESENT NO PLAN TO DISBAND THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD), THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MRS ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MICHAEL HO MUN-KA, MRS CHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THOSE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO CHOSE NOT TO TRANSFER TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY (HA) AFTER NOVEMBER 1994.

"THESE OFFICERS WILL REMAIN WORKING IN THE HA ON CIVIL SERVICE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT UNTIL THEY LEAVE THE SERVICE THROUGH NATURAL WASTAGE," SHE SAID.

WHEN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM IN 1991, THE 21,793 DEPARTMENTAL GRADE STAFF WORKING IN THE HSD WERE GIVEN UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER 1994 TO DECIDE TO TRANSFER TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE HA OR REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS.

AS AT APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE STILL 12,260 CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING IN THE HA.

MRS CHAN SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HSD WOULD BE REVIEWED REGULARLY HAVING REGARD TO THE DECLINING NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS REMAINING WITH THE HA.

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STEPPED UP ACTION AGAINST SOFT DRUG ABUSE

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ENFORCEMENT ACTION HAS BEEN STEPPED UP TO DETER THE ILLEGAL SUPPLY AND TO DISCOURAGE THE MISUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, MR ASPREY SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANNED TO STEP UP ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF ALL DRUG RETAIL PREMISES TO AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR.

THE ILLEGAL SALE OF DRUGS IS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, WHICH RECOMMENDS TO THE ADMINISTRATION APPROPRIATE ACTIONS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS OR MORE SEVERE PENALTIES WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SO JUSTIFY.

THE SECRETARY SAID ON THE ADVICE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE, 32 DRUGS OF THE BENZODIAZEPINE GROUP, AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET AND FOUND LIABLE TO ABUSE, HAVE BEEN CONTROLLED AS DANGEROUS DRUGS SINCE JANUARY 18 LAST YEAR.

IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING REPORTS ABOUT THE ABUSE OF COUGH MEDICINE, STRICTER CONTROLS ON THE SALE OF THIS MEDICINE, CONTAINING MORE THAN 0.1 PER CENT OF CODEINE OR DEXTROMETHORPHAN, WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

MR ASPREY SAID SIX DEATH CASES INVOLVING FATAL DOSAGES OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, BUT NO BREAKDOWN BY AGE WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE CASES CONCERNED.

HE SAID REGULAR INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICIALS AT REGISTERED CLINICS AND MEDICINE DEALERS.

IN 1990, 6,292 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE. THE CORRESPONDING NUMBERS FOR 1991 AND 1992 WERE 6,271 AND 5,624.

TEST PURCHASES ARE ALSO MADE TO ASCERTAIN IF THESE VENUES ARE CONTRAVENING THE LAW.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF TEST PURCHASES MADE WERE 489, 105 AND 431 RESPECTIVELY.

SUBSEQUENTLY, 22 PROSECUTIONS WERE MADE IN 1990, 17 IN 1991 AND FIVE IN 1992.

AMONG THE PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, FOUR INVOLVED MEDICAL PERSONNEL; THREE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WERE PROSECUTED IN 1991 AND FINED \$7,000, \$15,000 AND \$30,000 RESPECTIVELY; AND ONE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WAS PROSECUTED LAST YEAR AND FINED \$2,000.

THESE CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE MEDICAL COUNCIL FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

TWO CASES ARE STILL UNDER ENQUIRY.

IN THE THIRD CASE, THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WAS REMOVED FROM THE MEDICAL REGISTER FOR THREE MONTHS, SUSPENDED FOR ONE YEAR.

AS FOR THE FOURTH CASE, THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WAS REMOVED FROM THE MEDICAL REGISTER FOR SIX MONTHS ON ACCOUNT OF OTHER OFFENCES, AND HE HAS NOT APPLIED FOR RE-REGISTRATION, MR ASPREY SAID.

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MORE MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR NEW TERRITORIES

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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID MORE RESOURCES HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

CITING STATISTICS, SHE SAID 1,485 HOSPITAL BEDS, THREE SPECIALIST CLINICS AND SIX GENERAL CLINICS WERE COMMISSIONED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

THESE COMPARED WITH A NET DECREASE OF 260 HOSPITAL BEDS AND THE ADDITION OF ONE GENERAL CLINIC IN THE URBAN AREA DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

"FURTHERMORE, AROUND 2,500 HOSPITAL BEDS, THREE SPECIALIST CLINICS AND SIX GENERAL CLINICS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE COMING ON STREAM BETWEEN 1993/94 AND 1997/98," SAID MRS WONG IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID THE PROVISION OF NEW HOSPITALS AND CLINICS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VARIOUS INTER-RELATED FACTORS SUCH AS POPULATION GROWTH, COMMUNITY DEMANDS, DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING MEDICAL FACILITIES AND INTERFACE WITH OTHER PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE.

THE RECURRENT CONSEQUENCES OF CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ANNUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF RESOURCES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

THE SECRETARY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS COMPILING A CORPORATE PLAN SETTING OUT ITS STRATEGIC TARGETS, THE PLAN TO ACHIEVE THESE TARGETS, AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AS WELL AS A PROJECTION OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

"THE CORPORATE PLAN WILL COVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS AND WILL BE ROLLED FORWARD EVERY YEAR.

"THIS PLAN IS UNDER PREPARATION AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE END OF 1993," SHE SAID.

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MORE COMPENSATION FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES PROPOSED  
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ORDINANCE BY REMOVING THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR DEATH OR PERMANENT INCAPACITY AND INTRODUCE INSTEAD A MONTHLY EARNINGS CEILING FOR CALCULATING SUCH COMPENSATION.

INITIALLY, THE CEILING IS PROPOSED TO BE SET AT \$15,000 WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THAT USED FOR CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COMPENSATION WOULD BE \$1.44 MILLION FOR PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY AND \$1.26 MILLION FOR DEATH," THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT, COMPENSATION FOR DEATH OR PERMANENT INCAPACITY WAS CALCULATED BY REFERENCE TO THE AGE AND MONTHLY EARNINGS OF THE EMPLOYEE CONCERNED.

THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE IS SUBJECT TO A STATUTORY MAXIMUM, WHICH IS \$620,000 IN THE CASE OF PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY AND \$542,000 IN THE CASE OF DEATH.

"A RECENT ANALYSIS REVEALED THAT, IN 46.7 PER CENT OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY CASES, THE COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENT HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED BY THE OPERATION OF THE STATUTORY MAXIMUM," HE SAID.

"THIS WAS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS FOR THE YOUNGER EMPLOYEES BECAUSE OF THE AGE FACTOR."

MR CHAN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO BRING THE PROPOSAL INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

IT WOULD ENABLE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF INJURED EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE THEIR FULL ENTITLEMENT AS ONLY 6.6 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION IN 1992 EARNED MORE THAN \$15,000 A MONTH, HE ADDED.

THE BILL ALSO AIMS TO UPDATE THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY WHICH WAS LAST REVISED IN 1985.

THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE INCREASING THE PERCENTAGES OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY SPECIFIED FOR SOME INJURIES; EXPANDING THE COVERAGE TO INCLUDE MORE INJURIES; AND PROVIDING A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY FOR INJURY TO THE PREFERRED HAND AND FOR INJURIES INVOLVING THE LOSS OF TWO OR MORE FINGERS.

AMENDMENTS ARE ALSO PROPOSED:

- \* TO MAKE THE LAW CLEAR THAT AN INJURED EMPLOYEE COULD TAKE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIS EMPLOYER'S INSURER WITHOUT FIRST SUING HIS EMPLOYER;

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- \* TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO AMEND THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WHICH SPECIFIES THE LIST OF COMPENSABLE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES, AND
- \* TO MAKE REGULATIONS RELATING TO OPERATIONAL MATTERS WHICH ARE TECHNICAL IN NATURE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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#### VIETNAMESE SPURRED TO RETURN HOME

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAVE MADE STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TO JOIN THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ZACHARY WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), HE SAID THOSE WHO DECIDED TO VOLUNTEER WERE MOVED TO VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION CENTRES, WHICH HOUSED ONLY FELLOW VOLUNTEERS.

"THIS REINFORCES THEIR DECISION TO VOLUNTEER AND FREES THEM FROM ANY PRESSURES FROM LAWLESS ELEMENTS WHO MIGHT WISH THEM TO WITHDRAW."

"ANY ILLEGAL OR SUSPECTED UNLAWFUL ACTS ARE REPORTED TO THE POLICE FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION," MR ASPREY SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE ADMINISTRATION IS EMPOWERED UNDER LEGISLATION TO SEPARATELY DETAIN OR TRANSFER VIETNAMESE WHO TRY TO THREATEN OR INTIMIDATE OTHER DETENTION CENTRE INMATES.

THERE WERE 520 CRIMES REPORTED IN VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRES IN 1991/92 AND 269 IN 1992/93.

OF THE CASES IN 1991/92, 348 WERE VIOLENT CRIMES AND 172 WERE NON-VIOLENT CRIMES; WHEREAS OUT OF THE 269 IN 1992/93, 227 WERE VIOLENT CRIMES AND 42 WERE NON-VIOLENT CRIMES.

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MORE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN TAI PO, NORTH DISTRICT

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THERE WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICT IN 1993/94 COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR.

FOR TAI PO, THE NUMBER WILL BE INCREASED BY 1,320 AND THAT FOR NORTH DISTRICT BY 3,000.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV THE HON FUNG CHI-WOOD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ON THE QUESTION OF FORM ONE STUDENTS TO BE ALLOCATED TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THEIR OWN DISTRICT IN THE 1993/94 SCHOOL YEAR, MR CHAN SAID THAT BASED ON THE FORECAST DATA FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM, THE NUMBER WOULD BE 100 FOR TAI PO AND NONE FOR NORTH DISTRICT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE NUMBERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OTHER FORMS WHO WOULD BE ATTENDING SCHOOL OUTSIDE THEIR OWN DISTRICT IN 1993/94.

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USE OF HALONS AND CFC'S TO BE PHASED OUT

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS HAVE TAKEN NEW MEASURES TO MEET THE ACCELERATED PROGRAMME AGREED BY PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IN COPENHAGEN IN NOVEMBER 1992, REQUIRING HALONS AND CFC'S TO BE COMPLETELY PHASED OUT BY 1994 AND 1996 RESPECTIVELY.

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

MR EASON SAID CFC REFRIGERANTS WOULD NOT BE USED IN ANY NEW AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED PROJECTS.

EXISTING EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS WILL BE RETROFITTED USING SUBSTITUTE REFRIGERANTS OR REPLACED BY THOSE USING ZERO OZONE-DEPLETING REFRIGERANTS IN A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME COSTING ABOUT AN ESTIMATED \$310 MILLION.

THE PROGRAMME COVERS ALL EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS MAINTAINED BY THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) IN GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATION BUILDINGS.

"IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94, \$5.4 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON THE INSTALLATION OF HIGH EFFICIENCY PURGES AND REFRIGERANT RECOVERY AND RECYCLING UNITS TO STOP THE VENTING OF CFC'S TO THE ATMOSPHERE FROM 51 SYSTEMS IN THESE BUILDINGS," MR EASON SAID.

MR EASON SAID THE USE OF HALON-BASED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN NEW PROJECTS MAINTAINED BY EMSD HAD STOPPED AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO SURVEYED ALL EXISTING HALON FIRE-FIGHTING INSTALLATIONS UNDER GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE.

"PENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFE SUBSTITUTES AND A CLEAR DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL INSTALLATION, A REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME SIMILAR TO THE ONE FOR CFC'S WILL BE PREPARED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

"THE PROCUREMENT OF HALON-BASED PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS HAS STOPPED AND THEY WILL BE REPLACED WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY EXTINGUISHING AGENTS WHEN EXISTING EQUIPMENT REACHES THE END OF ITS SERVICEABLE LIFE," MR EASON SAID.

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#### ACTIONS AGAINST AIR POLLUTION FROM DIESEL VEHICLES

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THE PRINCIPAL FORM OF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AIR POLLUTION FROM DIESEL VEHICLES IS A TESTING PROGRAMME AIMED AT ACHIEVING BETTER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR EASON SAID THE PROGRAMME INVOLVED SPOTTING, CALLING UP AND TESTING SMOKY VEHICLES.

ALMOST 46,000 VEHICLES WERE TESTED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS STIPULATED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS IN 1992.

WHERE THEY DID NOT RESPOND TO CALL-UP NOTICES OR MEET EMISSION REQUIREMENTS, THEIR LICENCES WERE CANCELLED, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN 2,500 SUCH CANCELLATIONS.

ANOTHER MEASURE IS THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION PROGRAMME WHICH, IN ADDITION TO CHECKING FOR ROAD-WORTHINESS AND SAFETY, CHECKS ENGINE EMISSIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS.

MR EASON SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE A HIGHER QUALITY AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL FUEL TO REDUCE THE SULPHUR CONTENT FROM 0.5 TO 0.2 PER CENT AND TO ADOPT MORE STRINGENT EMISSION STANDARDS FOR LARGE DIESEL ENGINES.

"WE ARE ALSO EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF AN IMPROVED VEHICLE EMISSION INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME, AND HIGHER PENALTIES FOR SMOKY VEHICLES.

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"IN ADDITION, THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING NEW LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES TO RUN ON UNLEADED PETROL RATHER THAN DIESEL IS BEING LOOKED INTO ONCE AGAIN," HE SAID.

ON THE USE OF "CITY DIESEL", MR EASON SAID THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WAS MONITORING THE SWEDISH INITIATIVE.

"IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE BENEFITS AND IF ITS INTRODUCTION IS FEASIBLE, WE WILL CONSIDER IT," HE SAID.

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NO PLAN TO LOCALISE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO INTRODUCE A LOCALISATION POLICY TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FREDERICK FUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AWARE OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE COMMITTEE WHO HAD THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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MEASURES TO PREVENT BLOCKAGE TO DRAIN INLETS

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DAILY SWEEPING OF STREETS BY URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (USD) AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (RSD) HELPS TO PREVENT BLOCKAGE OF INLETS TO UNDERGROUND DRAINS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS PEGGY LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FREQUENCY OF SWEEPING WOULD BE INCREASED FOR AREAS CONSIDERED TO BE LITTER BLACK SPOTS, MR BLAKE SAID, ADDING THAT REFUSE IN WATER COURSES DISCHARGING TO THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM WAS ALSO CLEARED REGULARLY.

BLOCKED ROADSIDE GRATINGS AND GULLIES IDENTIFIED DURING REGULAR ROAD INSPECTIONS BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT (HYD) ARE CLEARED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON EXPRESSWAYS AND BY USD/RSD ON OTHER PUBLIC ROADS.

"IF REQUIRED, ADDITIONAL ROADSIDE GULLIES WILL BE PROVIDED AT LOCATIONS VULNERABLE TO FLOODING DUE TO FREQUENT BLOCKAGE OF DRAIN INLETS BY REFUSE," MR BLAKE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID UPON APPROACH OF RAINY SEASON, THE HYD WOULD MOBILISE ITS TERM CONTRACTORS TO CLEAR IDENTIFIED BLOCKAGE OF DRAIN INLETS TO PREVENT FLOODING.

DURING RAINSTORMS, USD/RSD WOULD MOBILISE THEIR STAFF TO PATROL AREAS PARTICULARLY PRONE TO FLOODING. DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SEWER GANGS AND TERM CONTRACTORS SPECIALLY GEARED UP TO HANDLE FLOODING INCIDENTS.

THE HYD WOULD HELP TO CLEAR BLOCKED DRAIN INLETS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED AND ITS STAFF WOULD INSPECT THE ROAD SURFACE CONDITIONS TO REPORT ANY IDENTIFIED FLOODING SPOTS FOR IMMEDIATE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS, MR BLAKE ADDED.

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GOVERNMENT PROBES INVESTMENT LOSS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LOSS INCURRED BY THE AIDS FOUNDATION IN THE INVESTMENT OF ITS FUNDS AND IS EXAMINING ITS REPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT USED A COMBINATION OF MEASURES TO CONTROL AND MONITOR THE USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO A SUBVENTED ORGANISATION.

THESE INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE USE, MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT OF FUNDS; THE EXAMINATION OF PERIODIC FINANCIAL REPORTS AND THE ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE ORGANISATION; THE AD HOC INSPECTION OF RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS BY STAFF OF THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT; AND THE APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AS MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS WONG SAID THE EXTENT OF THE MONITORING AND CONTROL VARIED FROM ORGANISATION TO ORGANISATION DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE SUBVENTION.

IN THE CASE OF THE AIDS FOUNDATION, THE GOVERNMENT LAID DOWN GUIDELINES ON THE INVESTMENT OF THE ONE-OFF SEEDING GRANT OF \$15 MILLION, SUCH AS INVESTMENTS SHOULD BE IN SHORT-TERM FIXED DEPOSITS, BONDS, LOAN STOCKS AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT.

MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT MONITOR THE USE OF DONATIONS BY SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

HOWEVER, A SUBVENTED ORGANISATION MUST SEEK THE GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT BEFORE IT COULD ACCEPT A DONATION, E.G. WHEN ADDITIONAL RECURRENT SUBVENTION WOULD BE REQUIRED AS A RESULT.

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SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS MAY ALSO REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THEIR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

"WHERE NECESSARY, THESE ORGANISATIONS MAY SEEK FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO HELP THEM MANAGE RESOURCES OR SECURE BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY," SHE ADDED.

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ATTENDANCE AT COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE EXPLAINED

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SIX JUDICIARY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE 10TH COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE HELD IN CYPRUS EARLIER THIS MONTH AND ONLY ONE COURT CASE WAS THEREBY AFFECTED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ELSIE TU, SIR DAVID SAID WITH FORWARD PLANNING, IT WAS GENERALLY POSSIBLE TO AVOID ADJOURNMENT OR DEFERMENT OF HEARINGS DURING THE ABSENCE OF THESE JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

ONE CASE WAS HOWEVER AFFECTED, HE SAID.

"IT WAS A TRIAL WHICH STARTED IN EARLY MARCH AND HAD OVERRUN ITS ESTIMATED DURATION. THE TRIAL HAD TO BE SUSPENDED FOR A WEEK IN THE JUDGE'S ABSENCE," HE ADDED.

THE COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE, SIR DAVID SAID, IS A REGULAR TRIENNIAL MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH JUDGES, LAWYERS AND LAW TEACHERS.

IT GIVES PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND EXCHANGE IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES, AND TO KEEP ABREAST WITH LEGAL AND JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

"IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG JUDICIARY ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, WHICH LASTED FROM MAY 3 TO 7, 1993," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE.

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PERCENTAGE OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED ENGLISH TEACHERS IMPROVED  
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THE PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO WERE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN EITHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE OR ENGLISH LITERATURE HAS INCREASED FROM 30 PER CENT IN 1991 TO 33 PER CENT IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO HAD RECEIVED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN EDUCATION HAS ALSO INCREASED FROM 22 PER CENT TO 24 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD, HE ADDED.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TIMOTHY HA WING-HO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN NOTED THAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS, IN RECRUITING STAFF SPECIALISED IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH, GAVE PREFERENCE TO GRADUATES FROM THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITIES WHO HAD MAJORED IN ENGLISH.

SCHOOLS CAN ALSO RECRUIT THREE QUALIFIED EXPATRIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS LOCALLY UNDER THE CODES OF AID, OR UP TO TWO SUCH TEACHERS UNDER THE EXPATRIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER SCHEME.

ON TRAINING, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES SPECIFICALLY TO UPGRADE THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SUBJECT.

THESE INCLUDE A SIX-WEEK IMMERSION ENGLISH COURSE IN BRITAIN FOR PRE-SERVICE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GRADUATES MAJORING IN ENGLISH; A 16-WEEK FULL-TIME REFRESHER COURSE FOR SERVING GRADUATE AND NON-GRADUATE SECONDARY ENGLISH TEACHERS, FOLLOWED BY A FOUR-WEEK IMMERSION ENGLISH COURSE IN BRITAIN; AND A 12-WEEK REFRESHER COURSE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PANEL CHAIRPERSONS OF ENGLISH, WHICH INCLUDE A FOUR-WEEK UK IMMERSION COURSE ELEMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RUNS SEMINARS AND OTHER SHORT COURSES ON SUBJECT CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY FOR SERVING AND NEWLY-RECRUITED ENGLISH TEACHERS.

MR CHAN ALSO TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE TEACHING ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS AND ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL CAREERS OF TEACHERS SO AS TO MAKE TEACHING A MORE REWARDING AND RESPECTED PROFESSION.

IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEGUN IMPLEMENTING IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 5 AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTING IN SEPTEMBER A HOUSING ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR AIDED TEACHERS TO HELP ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY IN THE PROFESSION.

MEASURES TO PREVENT PASSENGERS FALLING FROM MTR PLATFORMS

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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO PREVENT PASSENGERS FROM ACCIDENTALLY FALLING FROM STATION PLATFORMS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR JOHN TELFORD, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE LIGHTING AND KEEPING PLATFORMS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTIONS; A YELLOW LINE NEAR TO THE EDGE OF THE PLATFORM TO ACT AS A VISUAL REMINDER, THE EDGES OF ALL PLATFORMS ARE BEING PAINTED WHITE; AND REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE TO REMIND PASSENGERS TO STAND BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE.

IN ADDITION, A PLATFORM QUEUING SCHEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO FACILITATE THE ORDERLY BOARDING AND ALIGHTING FROM TRAINS. PLATFORM ASSISTANTS ARE PROVIDED TO HELP WITH CROWD CONTROL AT BUSY STATIONS DURING PEAK HOURS.

MR TELFORD SAID THE CORPORATION ALSO ORGANISED ANNUAL COURTESY AND SAFETY CAMPAIGNS FOR USERS OF THE SYSTEM.

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, A TOTAL OF 125 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 29 CHILDREN, HAVE ACCIDENTALLY FALLEN FROM THE MTR STATION PLATFORMS.

THEY WERE INTERVIEWED BY MTR STAFF AS PART OF THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THESE ACCIDENTS AND NONE CLAIMED TO HAVE FALLEN ON THE TRACK BECAUSE OF PLATFORM CROWDING.

ACCORDING TO MTRC RECORDS, THE INCIDENTS WERE SPREAD EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND WERE NOT PARTICULARLY PREVALENT DURING PEAK TRAVELLING TIMES WHEN THE PLATFORMS WERE MOST CROWDED, MR TELFORD SAID.

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TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM STRICTLY ENFORCED

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BOTH THE LICENSING AND THE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN SYSTEMS ON THE EXPORT OF TEXTILES PRODUCTS ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR, MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT ABIDED FULLY BY ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON SUCH EXPORTS.

THIS INCLUDES THE REQUIREMENT THAT ONLY GOODS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN CAN BE EXPORTED UNDER HONG KONG EXPORT QUOTAS.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OPERATES A COMPREHENSIVE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM, WHICH REQUIRES LICENSING OF ALL TEXTILES EXPORTS TO OUR RESTRAINED MARKETS.

"IN ADDITION TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, OUR MAJOR MARKETS, HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN," MR CHAU SAID.

THE LAW PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES OF FINES AND/OR IMPRISONMENT FOR OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF ABUSES TO THE CONTROL SYSTEM.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUIRES THE OFFENDERS TO SURRENDER THE MISUSED QUOTA.

IN ADDITION TO STEPPING UP ENFORCEMENT WORK, MR CHAU SAID THE REWARD SCHEME ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TEXTILES FRAUD HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER THE ILLEGAL TRANSSHIPMENT OF TEXTILES.

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO TEXTILE ORIGIN FRAUD TOTALLED 2,075 INVOLVING GOODS VALUED AT \$709 MILLION, WHILE 2,753 COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WERE PROSECUTED.

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BILLS ON AUTOMATIC TUNNEL TOLL COLLECTION INTRODUCED

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FIVE BILLS PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION AT GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ROAD TUNNELS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILLS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR JOHN TELFORD, SAID THE USE OF AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION WOULD INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE TUNNEL OPERATING COSTS.

UNDER THE AUTOTOLL ARRANGEMENT, A MOTORIST WHO HAS SUBSCRIBED TO THE SYSTEM CAN DRIVE THROUGH AN AUTOTOLL LANE WITHOUT STOPPING FOR PAYMENT WHILE HIS ACCOUNT IS AUTOMATICALLY DEBITED WITH THE APPROPRIATE TOLL.

THE ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 PROVIDES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOTOLL SYSTEM AT GOVERNMENT TUNNELS.

THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 ENABLES PASSAGE TAX TO BE COLLECTED BY AUTOTOLL.

THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 PROPOSES TO RAISE FROM \$1,000 TO \$2,000 THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL BY-LAWS, BRINGING IT INTO LINE WITH CORRESPONDING PENALTIES IN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ORDINANCE AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL ORDINANCE.

THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 EMPOWER THE RESPECTIVE TUNNEL COMPANIES TO MAKE BY-LAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION FACILITIES AT THE TWO TUNNELS.

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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SINGLE BODY FOR SPORTS PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CREATE A SINGLE STATUTORY BODY WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS AND FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR SO SAID THE BILL AIMED TO ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SDB) AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE (HKSI).

AT PRESENT, THE BOARD AND THE INSTITUTE ARE TWO SEPARATE AND DISTINCT STATUTORY BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN HONG KONG.

"THIS HAS CREATED SOME PROBLEMS OF OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION," MR SO SAID.

"HAVING LOOKED AT THE FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND ORGANISATIONS OF THESE TWO BODIES IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THEM, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE WIDER INTEREST OF SPORTS PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG TO STREAMLINE THE TWO ORGANISATIONS AND INTEGRATE THEIR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES."

WITH THE CREATION OF A UNIFIED BOARD, MR SO SAID, A CENTRALISED APPROACH COULD THEN BE ADOPTED TO REMOVE OVERLAPPING IN CERTAIN FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, PURCHASING, MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

CLEAR LINES OF REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY WILL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE UNIFIED BODY AND WILL HELP TO ACHIEVE BETTER VALUE-FOR-MONEY, HE ADDED.

UNDER THE PROPOSED BILL, THE SCOPE AND POWERS OF THE SDB WILL BE EXPANDED TO ENABLE IT TO TAKE ON THE EXISTING FUNCTIONS OF THE HKSI BOARD.

TO ALLOW THE HKSI TO RETAIN A SEPARATE IMAGE AND IDENTITY, THE SDB WILL BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTE.

/"THE CHAIRMAN .....

"THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HKSI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SDB, ALTHOUGH HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE MADE SEPARATELY BY THE GOVERNOR," MR SO SAID.

"THIS WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT THE HKSI IS INDEPENDENTLY MANAGED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITHIN THE BROAD POLICY PARAMETERS SET OUT BY THE SDB."

MR SO ALSO STATED THAT THE INTEGRATION OF THE TWO BODIES WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE EXISTING ROLE PLAYED BY THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

INDEED, HE POINTED OUT, IT SHOULD HELP TO FACILITATE THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF SPORTS BY HONG KONG TEAMS IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MOTION ON SINO-BRITISH TALKS PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED A MOTION ON THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS AFTER A TWO-HOUR DEBATE TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

TWENTY MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE PROPOSED BY DR THE HON YEUNG SUM. THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

AN AMENDED MOTION ON THE SUBJECT, MOVED BY DR THE HON TANG SIU-TONG, WAS DEFEATED.

ANOTHER MOTION ON EMPLOYEES' RETRAINING SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI WAS ALSO PASSED.

A TOTAL OF 16 MEMBERS SPOKE IN THE DEBATE. THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, REPLIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED A MOTION MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY UNDER THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, PILOTAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WERE PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS WHILE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL, TELEPHONE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

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

THE BILLS WERE ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993, CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

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