



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING :

BILL INTENDED TO GIVE PROTECTION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES	1
BILL INTENDED TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE	3
PURPOSE OF COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL EXPLAINED	5
OBJECTIVE OF BILL OUTLINED	6
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL INTRODUCED	7
NOT YET POSSIBLE TO GIVE COST OF BANK RESCUE	8
UK MEETING HALF THE COSTS OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION	9
HOUSING FOR ELDERLY REVIEWED	9
FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO TUNNEL OPERATIONS OUTLINED	10
STUDY ON NEED FOR DEGREE COURSES IN SPORT, RECREATION	11
ARRANGEMENTS COVER REPATRIATION, REINTEGRATION	12
PROPOSALS FORMULATED ON REGULATING RETIREMENT SCHEMES	12
EXISTING CONTROL OVER FILM PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS TO CONTINUE	14
NO CHANGE IN LOCALISATION POLICY	14
TOO EARLY TO GIVE PUBLICATION DATE FOR ACCIDENT REPORT	16
FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AN IMPORTANT SERVICE	17
ENSURING COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSULTANTS	18
LEGISLATION AGAINST COMPUTER CRIME BEING PREPARED	19
BOAT PEOPLE SUBJECT TO LAWS OF HK	20
FINAL PREPARATORY WORK FOR THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	21
MORE FUNDS URGED FOR PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL	22
MENTAL HEALTH REGULATIONS WELCOMED	23
TWO BILLS PASSED	24
GOVERNOR AIMS TO CONVEY CLEAR PICTURE OF HK PEOPLE'S VIEWS	25
NEW WORK SAFETY LAW A MILESTONE	25

/HK MANUFACTURERS



CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK MANUFACTURERS RENOWNED FOR FLEXIBILITY	27
GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE	28
DB TO DISCUSS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	29
WELFARE PAPER ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA	30
CHILD CARE SERVICES ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA	31
AIDS EXHIBITION IN TAIKOO SHING	31
CANCELLATION OF URBAN CLEARWAY IN CENTRAL	32
URBAN CLEARWAY IN KWUN TONG	32

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

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BILL INTENDED TO GIVE PROTECTION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

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AS THE WAGE LEVEL DISTINCTION BETWEEN MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES HAS BECOME OUTDATED UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISION OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO REMOVE THIS DISTINCTION SO THAT ALL EMPLOYEES WOULD IN FUTURE BE PROTECTED BY THE ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AT PRESENT COVERED ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES REGARDLESS OF WAGE LEVELS AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE MONTHLY WAGES DID NOT EXCEED A WAGE CEILING OF \$11,500.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT REMOVING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING EMPLOYERS' LONG SERVICE PAYMENT AND SEVERANCE PAYMENT LIABILITIES TOWARDS NON-MANUAL WORKERS WHO WERE PAID ABOVE THE CURRENT WAGE CEILING.

"THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO EMPLOYERS GENERALLY, ON THE GROUNDS THAT EMPLOYEES WHOSE MONTHLY WAGES EXCEED THE CURRENT WAGE CEILING ARE USUALLY AND ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BY CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT THAT PROVIDE FOR RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT WAGES IN EXCESS OF THE CEILING SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CALCULATION OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO LIFT THE WAGE CEILING FROM \$11,500 TO \$15,000, IN LINE WITH WAGE MOVEMENTS SINCE MAY 1987, WHEN THE CURRENT CEILING HAD BEEN FIXED.

ON THE QUESTION OF PROTECTION TOWARDS EMPLOYEES WHO WERE ON CONTINUOUS CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT, MR YEUNG SAID: "AT THE PRESENT TIME AN EMPLOYEE WITH A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IS DEFINED AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, WITHIN WHICH HE HAS BEEN WORKING FOR NOT LESS THAN THREE DAYS A WEEK AND NOT LESS THAN SIX HOURS A DAY.

"THIS RIGID DEFINITION HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING FROM THE PROTECTION OF THE ORDINANCE MANY PART-TIME EMPLOYEES WHO ARE IN FACT BEING EMPLOYED ON A REGULAR BASIS, SUCH AS HALF-DAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PART-TIME WORKERS IN FAST-FOOD SHOPS.

"THE BILL SEEKS TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF CONTINUOUS CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT TO COVER ALL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE WORKED FOR NOT LESS THAN 18 HOURS A WEEK WITHIN A PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, SO THAT REGULAR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES WOULD ALSO BE PROTECTED BY THE ORDINANCE."

/MR YEUNG

MR YEUNG SAID A THIRD AREA OF IMPROVEMENT COULD BE FOUND IN THE REVISED DEFINITION OF LAY-OFF.

"AT THE PRESENT TIME, AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE EARNINGS DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT OF WORK PROVIDED BY HIS EMPLOYER - AS DISTINGUISHED FROM AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS PAID ON A MONTHLY BASIS - IS DEEMED TO BE LAID OFF, AND HENCE ENTITLED TO SEVERANCE PAYMENT, IF THE EMPLOYER DOES NOT PROVIDE WORK FOR HIM ON MORE THAN 12 NORMAL WORKING DAYS WITHIN A PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

"THIS DEFINITION STEMS FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT EMPLOYEES COULD REASONABLY EXPECT THE EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE THEM WITH WORK FOR 24 DAYS IN A PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, SO THAT ANY EMPLOYEE WHO IS PROVIDED WITH WORK FOR LESS THAN HALF OF THIS NUMBER OF NORMAL WORKING DAYS IN SUCH A PERIOD WOULD BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN LAID OFF," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFINITION HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE INFLEXIBLE.

"IT HAS WORKED TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE USUALLY PROVIDED WITH WORK FOR MORE THAN 24 DAYS OVER ANY PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

"CONVERSELY, IT HAS WORKED TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF EMPLOYERS WHO USUALLY PROVIDE WORK FOR LESS THAN 24 DAYS OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME.

"THE BILL, THEREFORE, SEEKS TO REMOVE THE INFLEXIBILITY AND TO RE-DEFINE LAY-OFF AS MEANING A SITUATION IN WHICH THE EMPLOYER FAILS TO PROVIDE WORK ON MORE THAN HALF OF THE NUMBER OF NORMAL WORKING DAYS IN A PERIOD OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE WEEKS," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES FROM PROLONGED UNDER-PROVISION OF WORK, MR YEUNG SAID THE BILL FURTHER PROPOSED THAT AN EMPLOYEE WOULD ALSO BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN LAID OFF IF NO WORK WAS PROVIDED ON MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF THE NUMBER OF NORMAL WORKING DAYS IN A PERIOD OF 26 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

THE BILL ALSO REMOVED AN AMBIGUITY REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF PREGNANT EMPLOYEES AGAINST DISMISSAL.

MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT DOUBTS HAD BEEN RAISED AS TO WHETHER AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAD GIVEN NOTICE OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE WAS PROTECTED FROM TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT UNLESS SHE HAD COMPLETED A QUALIFYING PERIOD OF SERVICE.

THE BILL MADE IT CLEAR THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAD COMPLETED A QUALIFYING PERIOD OF 12 WEEKS OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION, HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.

"THEY INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT THAT WHERE THERE IS A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IN WRITING, THE EMPLOYER SHOULD PROVIDE THE EMPLOYEE WITH A COPY OF THE CONTRACT.

"THE BILL MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HOLIDAY PAY SHALL BE A SUM EQUIVALENT TO THE WAGES EARNED BY THE EMPLOYEE ON A FULL WORKING DAY.

"IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS MAY BE OFFSET BY THE EMPLOYER'S CONTRIBUTION TO PENSION SCHEMES AND RETIREMENT SCHEMES," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL INTENDED TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1989 WILL AMEND THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE, THE DISTRICT COURT ORDINANCE AND THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO REMOVE SOME LEGAL ANACHRONISMS AND TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR MATHEWS SAID NONE OF THE PROPOSALS WAS PARTICULARLY NOVEL OR RADICAL, BUT THEY WERE NONETHELESS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY HAD THE EFFECT OF MODERNISING AND MAKING MORE EFFICIENT SOME AREAS OF THE CRIMINAL LAW WHICH WERE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED WHEN OTHER MORE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES WERE BEING PLANNED.

HE SAID HE HOPED TO INTRODUCE ONE OR TWO BILLS A YEAR LIKE THIS ONE WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING FURTHER ALL ASPECTS OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

MR MATHEWS SAID CLAUSE 2 OF THE BILL, WHICH AMENDED SECTION 9B OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE, WOULD REMOVE A PROHIBITION ON DEFENDANTS AND PRIVATE PROSECUTORS FROM CLAIMING THE WITNESS ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF THE TIME THEY ATTENDED COURT. THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED TO AN ALLOWANCE IF SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR DEFENCE OR PROSECUTION.

A FURTHER CHANGE WAS THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS WOULD BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM AN ALLOWANCE IF THEY INCURRED PERSONAL EXPENSE IN ATTENDING COURT AS PROSECUTION OR DEFENCE WITNESSES. THIS WOULD NOT APPLY TO POLICE OR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS UNLESS ATTENDING IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITY.

CLAUSE 3 ENABLED THE PROSECUTION TO ADD FURTHER COUNTS TO AN INDICTMENT AFTER COMMITTAL FOR TRIAL BY A MAGISTRATE EVEN THOUGH THE NEW CHARGES WERE NOT THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS SO LONG AS THOSE NEW OFFENCES WERE DISCLOSED IN THE PAPERS USED IN THE COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS, HE SAID.

CLAUSES 4 AND 6 REMOVED REFERENCES TO THE "SESSIONS" JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH COURT BECAUSE NO CRIMINAL COURT IN HONG KONG SAT IN "SESSIONS".

CLAUSE 5 REPEALED IN ITS ENTIRETY SECTION 67 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE. THIS SECTION CONTAINED SPECIAL MEASURES TO DEAL WITH CASES OF LARCENY, EMBEZZLEMENT AND OTHER COMMON LAW OFFENCES OF DISHONESTY. THESE OLD COMMON LAW OFFENCES WERE ABOLISHED IN 1970 BY THE THEFT ORDINANCE AND THE SECTION NO LONGER SERVED ANY FUNCTION.

MR MATHEWS SAID CLAUSE 7 AMENDED SECTION 109AA OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE WHICH DEALT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN SUPERVISION ORDERS WERE MADE IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF YOUNG PRISONERS. THE AMENDMENT REMOVED THE REQUIREMENT TO MAKE AN "AFTERCARE" ORDER IN RESPECT OF A PERSON WHO WAS TO BE REMOVED OR DEPORTED FROM HONG KONG AS IT WAS POINTLESS MAKING SUCH AN ORDER IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

CLAUSE 8 AMENDED SECTION 80B(2)(B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE. THE SECTION REQUIRED ALL STATEMENTS USED IN COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS TO BE SIGNED BY THE MAKER WITH AN ENDORSEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT MAKING A STATEMENT WHICH THEY KNEW TO BE FALSE OR DID NOT BELIEVE TO BE TRUE WAS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE CRIMES ORDINANCE.

SECTION 33 OF THE CRIMES ORDINANCE PROHIBITED THE MAKING OF FALSE STATEMENTS WHICH WERE USED IN COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS OR WHICH WERE AGREED BY THE PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENCE, MR MATHEWS SAID.

HOWEVER, VERY FEW STATEMENTS TAKEN BY THE POLICE ENDED UP AS BEING USED IN COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS OR WERE AGREED IN EVIDENCE. MOST WERE USED FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES OR FORMED THE BASIS OF PROSECUTIONS BEFORE A MAGISTRATE OR IN THE DISTRICT COURT.

MR MATHEWS SAID IT WAS DECIDED, THEREFORE, THAT THE ENDORSEMENT SHOULD BE BROADENED IN ITS TERMS SO AS TO BE CAPABLE OF APPLICATION TO ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE MAKER OF A STATEMENT WOULD BE ASKED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MAKING A STATEMENT WHICH HE KNEW TO BE FALSE OR DID NOT BELIEVE TO BE TRUE MIGHT RENDER HIM LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

MR MATHEWS SAID CLAUSES 9 AND 10 OF THE BILL EXTENDED ALIBI PROVISIONS TO ACCUSED PERSONS WHO WERE TRIED IN THE DISTRICT COURT.

THIS BROUGHT THE PRACTICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT INTO LINE WITH THAT OF THE HIGH COURT WHERE, SINCE 1971, AN ACCUSED PERSON WHO WISHED TO USE THE DEFENCE OF ALIBI WAS OBLIGED TO GIVE NOTICE OF THAT FACT TO THE PROSECUTION SO THAT THE PARTICULARS OF THE ALIBI COULD BE CHECKED.

IF ENQUIRIES REVEALED THAT THE ALIBI WAS LIKELY TO BE TRUE THEN THE PROSECUTION WOULD BE DISCONTINUED AND MUCH TIME AND EXPENSE SAVED.

CLAUSE 11 SOUGHT TO ENABLE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES TO IMPOSE TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT WHICH WERE CONCURRENT OR CONSECUTIVE TO EACH OTHER. AT PRESENT A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MIGHT ONLY IMPOSE CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON ALL OF THE PROPOSALS EXCEPT FOR THAT RELATING TO THE DISCHARGE OF SUPERVISIONS AND THAT THEY WERE BROADLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THEM ALL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PURPOSE OF COMPANIES AMENDMENT BILL EXPLAINED

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THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1989 IS THREEFOLD, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID IT WOULD:

- FIRST, INCREASE CERTAIN PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE;
- SECONDLY, IMPOSE A ONE-TIME FINE FOR CONTINUING DEFAULT CASES; AND
- LASTLY, STREAMLINE THE ARRANGEMENT FOR PRESCRIBING PENALTIES IN THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

ON AN INCREASE IN PENALTIES, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY CARRIED OUT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"AS A RESULT, WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO INCREASE CERTAIN PENALTIES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT.

"IN GENERAL TERMS, THE PROPOSED INCREASES RELATE TO FOUR CLASSES OF OFFENCE : FIRST, THOSE FOR WHICH THE EXISTING PENALTY IS INSUFFICIENT TO SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE; SECONDLY, THOSE INVOLVING PROSPECTUSES; THIRDLY, THOSE INVOLVING THE MAKING OF UNTRUE STATEMENTS OR THE GIVING OF FALSE INFORMATION; AND LASTLY, THOSE WHICH NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION AS WELL AS THE NATURE OF PARTICULAR OFFENCES," HE SAID.

ON A ONE-TIME FINE, SIR PIERS SAID AT PRESENT THE ORDINANCE PRESCRIBED ONLY A DAILY FINE FOR CONTINUING DEFAULT CASES.

"WE PROPOSE TO ADD A ONE-TIME FINE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TWO ASPECTS OF A CONTINUING DEFAULT OFFENCE, NAMELY, THE INITIAL COMMISSION OF THE OFFENCE AND ITS CONTINUATION.

"THIS FOLLOWS THE APPROACH IN OTHER RELEVANT HONG KONG LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

ON A NEW CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES, HE SAID THE PENALTIES FOR THE VARIOUS OFFENCES WERE CURRENTLY SET OUT IN THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

"WE PROPOSE TO CONSOLIDATE DETAILS OF THESE OFFENCES AND CORRESPONDING PENALTIES IN A NEW SCHEDULE. THIS WILL FACILITATE REFERENCE AND SIMPLIFY THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURE," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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OBJECTIVE OF BILL OUTLINED

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, OUTLINED THE AIM OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID SECTION 17(2) OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT THE APPOINTMENT BY THE CORPORATION OF AN OFFICER WHOSE SALARY EXCEEDED \$85,000 PER YEAR SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR.

"THIS WAS DESIGNED TO ENSURE SOME CONTROL OVER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MORE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

"WHEN THE SECTION WAS LAST AMENDED, THE SALARY POINT SPECIFIED WAS THAT OF A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT A RECENT REVIEW OF SECTION 17(2) OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN AMENDED SINCE 1974, HAD REVEALED THAT, WITH THE UPWARD REVISIONS IN SALARY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR SINCE 1974, THE SPECIFIED SALARY LEVEL OF \$85,000 HAD BEEN SURPASSED NOT ONLY BY THE CHIEF OFFICER, A RANK EQUIVALENT TO A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, BUT ALSO BY MANY OFFICERS BELOW THAT RANK.

"THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN UNNECESSARY WIDENING OF THE SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE CORPORATION'S EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICERS," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE SALARY LEVEL BY A CLAUSE TO THE EFFECT THAT ONLY APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICERS WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUIVALENT TO OR ABOVE THAT OF A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR.

- 7 -

"THE DELETION OF A SPECIFIC FIGURE WOULD OBTVIATE THE NECESSITY FOR PERIODIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SECTION AS AND WHEN SALARIES ARE ADJUSTED.

"THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL," SIR PIERS ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL INTRODUCED

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THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL 1989, WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD WERE TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION IN HONG KONG, AND TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUCH PROMOTION.

HE NOTED THAT LAST NOVEMBER 1, A PROVISIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD WAS ESTABLISHED AND ASSUMED THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FORMER COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS WHICH WAS THEN DISSOLVED.

"SECTION 5 OF THE BILL SETS OUT THE POWERS OF THE BOARD AND PROVIDES THE TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER WHICH THE BOARD WILL OPERATE.

"UNLIKE THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, THIS BOARD WILL ASSUME EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS OWN WORKING PROCEDURES, AND APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.

"IT WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE POWER TO RAISE FUNDS, EITHER THROUGH DONATIONS OR SPONSORSHIP, TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUBVENTION ALLOCATED BY GOVERNMENT," MR TSAO SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THE BOARD WOULD HAVE A NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN AND A NON-OFFICIAL VICE-CHAIRMAN AND NOT MORE THAN SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF HONG KONG AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, WOULD BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

THESE APPOINTMENTS, MR TSAO SAID, WOULD ENSURE CLOSE LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS AGENCIES PROVIDING SPORTS AND RECREATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

A PUBLIC OFFICER WOULD ALSO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD TO REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE BOARD SHOULD START FUNCTIONING FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, PROVIDED THAT THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION COULD BE ENACTED BEFORE THEN.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NOT YET POSSIBLE TO GIVE COST OF BANK RESCUE
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ALTHOUGH THE HANG LUNG BANK HAS RECENTLY BEEN SOLD, IT IS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE OVERALL COST OF ITS RESCUE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG, SIR PIERS SAID THE CALCULATION OF THE CONSIDERATION FOR THE SALE DEPENDED, IN PART, ON THE NET ASSET VALUE OF THE BANK, AND THIS HAD YET TO BE FINALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

"FURTHERMORE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN CERTAIN INDEMNITIES AND WARRANTIES IN RELATION TO PRE-GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION LIABILITIES, IF ANY.

"EVEN AT THIS STAGE, IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECOVER ALL THE COSTS INCURRED IN THE RESCUE OF THE HANG LUNG BANK," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE ACQUISITION OF THE HANG LUNG BANK BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INCORPORATED, FUNDS TOTALLING \$1.7 BILLION WERE INJECTED INTO THE BANK BY THE EXCHANGE FUND TO ENABLE IT TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE, AND TO CONTINUE CARRYING ON BANKING BUSINESS.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 9 -

UK MEETING HALF THE COSTS OF MANDATORY REPATRIATION

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THE UK GOVERNMENT WILL MEET HALF THE COSTS OF THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR BARNES SAID IT WAS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE TO REPATRIATE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND THE NORMAL PROCEDURE WAS FOR THE COUNTRY RETURNING SUCH IMMIGRANTS TO PAY THE COST OF THEIR RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

IN THE CASE OF THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE WHO HAD BEEN FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES, AND WHOSE STATUS WAS THEREFORE SIMILAR TO THAT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, IT WOULD THEREFORE BE NORMAL FOR COSTS TO BE BORNE BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THIS WOULD BE CHEAPER THAN FUNDING THEIR INDEFINITE DETENTION IN HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE, HOWEVER, ALWAYS SOUGHT TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE CLOSEST PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BY UK MINISTERS.

"THESE EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED.

"IN THE MANDATORY REPATRIATION PROCESS THIS WILL TAKE THE FORM OF THE UK GOVERNMENT MEETING HALF THE COSTS," MR BARNES SAID.

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HOUSING FOR ELDERLY REVIEWED

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AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY WAS SET UP IN NOVEMBER 1988 AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO EXAMINE, INTER ALIA, THE EXTENT TO WHICH PROVISION OF PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY PEOPLE COULD BE IMPROVED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HO SAI-CHU, MR TSAO SAID: "ARISING FROM THIS REVIEW, A NUMBER OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT ALLOCATION AND TRANSFER POLICIES WILL BE PUT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION SHORTLY."

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY WOULD BE ARRANGED ONCE A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THESE PROPOSALS.

IN VIEW OF A RECENT INCIDENT AT LAM TIN ESTATE IN WHICH AN ELDERLY PERSON JUMPED TO HIS DEATH AFTER HACKING ANOTHER ELDERLY PERSON WITH WHOM HE SHARED THE SAME HOUSING UNIT, MR HO ASKED FOR THE NUMBER OF SIMILAR CASES OF HOMICIDE FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW THE CURRENT POLICY OF PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION FOR THE ELDERLY, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN OF THE POPULATION WAS ON THE INCREASE.

ACCORDING TO MR TSAO, APART FROM THE INCIDENT REFERRED TO IN MR HO'S QUESTION, THERE WAS ONLY ONE SIMILAR CASE OF HOMICIDE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS INVOLVING ELDERLY PERSONS SHARING PUBLIC HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

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FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO TUNNEL OPERATIONS OUTLINED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS MADE INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GOVERNMENT TUNNEL OPERATIONS FOLLOWING A REVIEW CONDUCTED AFTER THE SERIOUS FIRE IN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL LAST MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR LEUNG SAID THESE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED:

- * SHORTENING THE RESPONSE TIME STILL FURTHER;
- * REVIEWING THE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN GOVERNMENT TUNNELS;
AND
- * INTENSIFYING THE TRAINING OF TUNNEL STAFF IN FIRE FIGHTING.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAD ALSO SET UP SEVERAL WORKING GROUPS TO PURSUE THESE AND OTHER POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE FIRE ON DECEMBER 13, INVOLVING A VAN AND AN ARMY RECOVERY VEHICLE WHICH WAS TOWING IT, WAS THE MOST SERIOUS EVER TO OCCUR IN THE TUNNEL SINCE IT OPENED IN 1967, AND THE ARMY VEHICLE WAS ONE OF THE HEAVIEST VEHICLES EVER TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN THERE.

AS SUCH, IT PUT THE EXISTING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TO TEST UNDER THE MOST SERIOUS CONDITIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT CONDUCTED AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW WITH ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF MEASURES.

/MR LEUNG

- 11 -

MR LEUNG SAID THE TUNNEL STAFF HANDLED THE FIRE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES WHICH GAVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE, FOLLOWED BY THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY.

ONCE THESE WERE ASSURED, ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE CLEARANCE OF TRAFFIC AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

IN ADDITION, THE PUBLIC WERE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS AND THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS NOTIFIED SO THAT THEY COULD ADJUST THEIR SERVICES ACCORDINGLY.

MR LEUNG SAID NO INJURIES OCCURRED, AND NORMAL TRAFFIC FLOW WAS RESTORED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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STUDY ON NEED FOR DEGREE COURSES IN SPORT, RECREATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL, IN CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT BODIES INCLUDING THE FUTURE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, EXAMINE THE NEED FOR FULL-TIME DEGREE COURSES IN THE FIELD OF RECREATION AND SPORTS AND ASSESS PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR SUCH GRADUATES.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG, MR TSAO SAID THAT SUBJECT TO THE FINDINGS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE TERTIARY-LEVEL COURSES ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS ADMINISTRATION.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PART-TIME NON-DEGREE COURSES IN RECREATION AND SPORTS CURRENTLY OFFERED BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

A PART-TIME DEGREE COURSE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAS OFFERED BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, AND THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ALSO RAN TEACHERS' COURSES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, MR TSAO ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 12 -

ARRANGEMENTS COVER REPATRIATION, REINTEGRATION
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THE AGREED ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS COVER THE REPATRIATION, AND REINTEGRATION IN VIETNAM, OF BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE NON-REFUGEES, AND WHO HAVE NO PROSPECT OF RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN.

MRS FAN HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUEST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC THE AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG COULD BE PROPERLY INFORMED.

MR BARNES SAID THE UK GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONSULTED, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT THE PRACTICE FOR THE TEXTS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OF THIS NATURE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.

HOWEVER, THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE THAT:

- (A) THE RETURNEES WILL BE TREATED HUMANELY AFTER THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM, AND WILL NOT BE PUNISHED FOR HAVING LEFT VIETNAM CLANDESTINELY;
- (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE UNHCR AND AGENCIES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE RETURNEES AFTER THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM; AND
- (C) REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO HELP THE RETURNEES TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THEIR FORMER COMMUNITIES IN VIETNAM.

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PROPOSALS FORMULATED ON REGULATING RETIREMENT SCHEMES
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PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION TO REGULATE RETIREMENT SCHEMES HAVE NOW BEEN FORMULATED AND DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR YEUNG SAID THE BILL INTENDED TO BE INTRODUCED WOULD NOT SPECIFY LEVELS OF BENEFITS, NOR WOULD IT COMPEL EMPLOYERS TO SET UP RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

INSTEAD, IT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO EMPLOYEES WOULD BE PAID WHEN THEY FELL DUE.

/MR YEUNG

- 13 -

MR YEUNG SAID THAT FROM THE END OF 1986-87 TO THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, FIGURES SHOWED A CUMULATIVE GROWTH OF 3,434 RETIREMENT SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, REPRESENTING A GROWTH OF 71 PER CENT.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IN JULY LAST YEAR, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 26,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD SET UP RETIREMENT SCHEMES WHICH COVERED ABOUT 618,000 EMPLOYEES, OR ABOUT 28 PER CENT OF ALL PERSONS ACTUALLY EMPLOYED AT THAT TIME.

MR YEUNG SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD, OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, ENCOURAGED EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SET UP PROVIDENT FUNDS AND OTHER SCHEMES OF RETIREMENT BENEFIT.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES, THE NUMBER OF APPROVED RETIREMENT SCHEMES STOOD AT 4,826 AT THE END OF 1986-87; IT INCREASED BY 976 AND 1,379 RESPECTIVELY IN THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS AND THE NUMBER HAD GROWN BY A FURTHER 1,079 IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1989-90.

"TO THIS EXTENT THE PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID ANY DETAILS ABOUT THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER THESE APPROVED RETIREMENT SCHEMES WERE NOT AVAILABLE AS EMPLOYERS APPLYING TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WERE NOT REQUIRED TO SUPPLY DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES INVOLVED.

"NEVERTHELESS, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT SOME OF THE APPROVED SCHEMES, PARTICULARLY THOSE OPERATED BY BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OF BUSINESSES, OR THOSE ADMINISTERED BY TRUSTEES ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANISED PROFESSION, COVER VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

THE INTENDED BILL WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE SEPARATION OF THE ASSETS OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES FROM THOSE OF THE EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS, ADEQUATE FUNDING, THE PRUDENT INVESTMENT OF ASSETS, PROMPT DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION, AND THE EXPOSURE OF ALL SCHEMES TO ANNUAL AUDIT AND TO PERIODIC ACTUARIAL REVIEW.

AS TO THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS TO SET UP PROVIDENT FUNDS AND OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEMES, MR YEUNG SAID THESE INCLUDED THE REGULAR ISSUE OF NEWSLETTERS DESIGNED TO GENERATE INTEREST IN PROVIDENT FUNDS AND RETIREMENT SCHEMES, AND THE HOSTING OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS FOR THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO HAD SHOWN INTEREST.

"THE CONTENT OF THIS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY INCLUDES BOTH HELPFUL ADVICE ON THE WAY IN WHICH SUCH SCHEMES CAN BE SET UP AND THE TAX BENEFITS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES," HE ADDED.

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EXISTING CONTROL OVER FILM PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS TO CONTINUE

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THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTROL OVER PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO FILMS SHOULD CONTINUE AND DOES NOT PROPOSE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO IMPOSE CENSORSHIP ON PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS ON FILMS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR TSAO SAID BEFORE THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE CAME INTO FORCE IN NOVEMBER 1988, FIGURES AND ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO FILMS INTENDED FOR SHOWING IN CINEMAS WERE SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO BE DISPLAYED.

HE SAID THAT IN PROMULGATING THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE 1988, THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO SET OUT CLEAR CRITERIA WITHIN WHICH THE CENSOR WAS PERMITTED TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES; AND TO INTRODUCE A MORE LIBERAL APPROACH TOWARDS FILM CENSORSHIP THEREBY GIVING FILM PRODUCERS GREATER FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND VIEWERS GREATER FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

"IN THE SAME SPIRIT, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR FILM CENSORSHIP SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO PRINTED ADVERTISING MATERIALS AND FILM STILLS WHICH ARE NOT PART OF A FILM.

"SUCH PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATELY CONTROLLED UNDER THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE," MR TSAO SAID.

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NO CHANGE IN LOCALISATION POLICY

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO CHANGE ITS LONG-ESTABLISHED LOCALISATION POLICY IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS GIVING A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI ON THE PROGRESS OF LOCALISATION IN THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE POLICE.

"MANAGEMENT SUCCESSION PLANNING AND TRAINING FOR OFFICERS OF POTENTIAL WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP SUITABLE LOCAL OFFICERS TO FILL SENIOR POSITIONS AS THESE BECOME AVAILABLE," MR BARNES SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID AS AT OCTOBER 1 LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS WAS 2,543, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 1.4 PER CENT OF THE STRENGTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

MR BARNES SAID THE JOINT DECLARATION PROVIDED THAT OVERSEAS OFFICERS MIGHT CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED AFTER 1997, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL NUMBER OF VERY SENIOR POSTS.

"WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR CHANGES IN LOCALISATION POLICY FOLLOWING THE JOINT DECLARATION, ADDITIONAL LOCALISATION MEASURES ARE INTRODUCED WHERE NECESSARY," HE SAID.

SINCE 1985, ALL OVERSEAS OFFICERS HAD BEEN APPOINTED ONLY ON AGREEMENT TERMS. AGREEMENTS OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS WOULD ONLY BE RENEWED IF THEY WERE NOT BLOCKING THE PROMOTION OF CAPABLE LOCAL OFFICERS.

MR BARNES SAID THERE HAD BEEN A DECREASE OF ABOUT 0.1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PROPORTION OF EXPATRIATES IN THE CIVIL SERVICES PER YEAR SINCE 1985.

IN THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT (BLD), THE PERCENTAGE OF OVERSEAS CONTRACT OFFICERS HAD DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR MOST OF THE GRADES, FROM 18 PER CENT TO SIX PER CENT FOR THE BUILDING SURVEYOR GRADE, 52 PER CENT TO 35 PER CENT FOR THE ESTATE SURVEYOR GRADE, 33 PER CENT TO 14 PER CENT FOR THE LAND SURVEYOR GRADE AND 36 PER CENT TO 12 PER CENT FOR THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER GRADE.

MR BARNES SAID THE BLD'S LONG-TERM POLICY WAS TO LOCALISE THE FOUR GRADES AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. THE DEPARTMENT REGULARLY REVIEWED AND MONITORED THE PROGRESS AND PACE OF LOCALISATION IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEEDS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING THE TARGET AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

FOR THE TOWN PLANNER GRADE, FORMERLY OF THE BLD AND NOW OF THE NEW PLANNING DEPARTMENT, THE PERCENTAGE OF OVERSEAS OFFICERS ON AGREEMENT TERMS FELL FROM 21 PER CENT IN 1985 TO FOUR PER CENT AT PRESENT.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, THE PERCENTAGE OF EXPATRIATE OFFICERS HAD DROPPED RAPIDLY OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS.

THE PERCENTAGE OF PROFESSIONAL EXPATRIATE STAFF TO TOTAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF HAD STOOD AT 47 PER CENT IN 1981, AND WAS NOW NINE PER CENT.

FOR THE POLICE, IT WAS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT LEADERSHIP IN THE SENIOR RANKS WAS PREDOMINANTLY LOCAL BY THE YEAR 2000, MR BARNES ADDED.

IN 1981, THERE HAD BEEN 49 LOCAL OFFICERS AT OR ABOVE SUPERINTENDENT RANK. EXPATRIATE OFFICERS NUMBERED 205. NOW THERE WERE 183 LOCAL OFFICERS COMPARED TO 306 EXPATRIATE OFFICERS.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE YEAR 2000 LOCAL OFFICERS WILL HAVE PROGRESSED FURTHER IN THEIR CAREERS AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL AIM WILL HAVE BEEN MET," MR BARNES SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 16 -

TOO EARLY TO GIVE PUBLICATION DATE FOR ACCIDENT REPORT

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORECAST AT THIS STAGE WITH ANY DEGREE OF ACCURACY IF, WHEN AND HOW THE ACCIDENT REPORT ON THE CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA (CAAC) AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT WHICH HAPPENED AT KAI TAK ON AUGUST 31, 1988, WILL BE PUBLISHED.

"IT IS, HOWEVER, UNLIKELY THAT ANYTHING WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION MUCH BEFORE THE END OF 1990," MRS CHAN SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DETAILING THE PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION UNDER HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION (INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS) REGULATIONS, MRS CHAN SAID THE TIMESCALE WAS NOT UNUSUAL, SINCE SUCH REPORTS NORMALLY TOOK TWO TO THREE YEARS TO FINALISE.

IN THE ACCIDENT, SIX CREW MEMBERS OF THE PLANE WERE KILLED AND 13 PASSENGERS INJURED. ONE OF THESE DIED LATER FROM HIS INJURIES.

MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION (INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS) REGULATIONS, THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF ACCIDENTS ANNOUNCED IN GAZETTE NOTICE 467 OF 1988, THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN INSPECTOR'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCIDENT.

"THE DRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR IS NOW COMPLETE AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 11(1) OF THE REGULATIONS, COPIES WILL SHORTLY BE PASSED TO THE OPERATOR, THE NEXT-OF-KIN OF THE COMMANDER, AND PERSONS WHOSE REPUTATION IS LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE REPORT.

"THESE PERSONS WILL THEN HAVE 28 DAYS IN WHICH TO SUBMIT TO THE INSPECTOR ANY REPRESENTATION THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE.

"REGULATION 21 PROVIDES FOR THIS PERIOD TO BE EXTENDED IF NECESSARY AND EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT SUCH AN EXTENSION MAY BE NECESSARY FOR AS LONG AS SIX MONTHS," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT ANY REPRESENTATIONS MADE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY THE INSPECTOR BEFORE HE FINALISED HIS REPORT.

"THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION WILL FORWARD THE FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, AT THE SAME TIME, COPIES WILL BE SENT TO ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVED COPIES OF THE DRAFT REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 11(1)," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT IF ANY OF THOSE PERSONS CONSIDERED THAT THE FINAL REPORT HAD NOT FAIRLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIONS, THAT PERSON MIGHT APPLY, UNDER REGULATION 12, FOR THE RELEVANT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT TO BE REVIEWED BY A BOARD OF REVIEW.

/"IN ACCORDANCE

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 15, THE GOVERNOR SHALL, UNLESS THERE ARE REASONS TO THE CONTRARY, ARRANGE FOR THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND THE REPORT OF ANY BOARD OF REVIEW THAT MAY HAVE BEEN HELD TO BE PUBLISHED EITHER IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AS HE THINKS FIT," SHE SAID.

ELABORATING ON THE TIMESCALE TAKEN TO FINALISE THE REPORT, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT, BY WAY OF COMPARISON, IN THE CASE OF THE LAST MAJOR ACCIDENT AT KAI TAK, INVOLVING A LUFTHANSA PLANE ON OCTOBER 18, 1983, THE INVESTIGATION REPORT TOOK SLIGHTLY OVER THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AN IMPORTANT SERVICE

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE) SERVICE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT SERVICE AND THERE ARE PLANS TO STRENGTHEN IT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MRS WONG SAID A PROGRAMME COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, HAD BEEN NEWLY SET UP, TO EXAMINE EXISTING POLICY, SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL AND MANNING RATIO WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE SERVICE AND TO GIVE CENTRAL DIRECTIVES TO STEER ITS DEVELOPMENT.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WAS DIRECTED AT ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, AT A MANNING RATIO OF ONE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WORKER AT ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER LEVEL TO 100,000 POPULATION.

"THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 13 AGENCIES SUBVENTED WITH A TOTAL OF 56 FLE WORKERS TO SERVE THE TOTAL POPULATION OF 5.7 MILLION," SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT A REVISED MANNING RATIO OF 1:50,000 WAS RECOMMENDED IN THE 1981 PROGRAMME PLAN REVIEW ON PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, MRS WONG SAID IT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED DUE TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS.

"FOR 1990-91, IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE THREE ADDITIONAL FLE WORKERS, AND FUNDS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"IT IS HOPED THAT IMPROVEMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE PROGRESSIVELY IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA OF PREVENTIVE SERVICE," MRS WONG SAID.

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ENSURING COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSULTANTS

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THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF A CONSULTANT ENGAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS ENSURED, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BY PROPER MANAGEMENT BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE CLIENT DEPARTMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"PERFORMANCE OF CONSULTANTS IS REGULARLY MONITORED AND REPORTED. SUITABILITY FOR FURTHER GOVERNMENT WORK DEPENDS ON EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE ON EXISTING OR RECENT ASSIGNMENTS," MR BARNES SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON DAVID CHEUNG.

"WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING AT THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANTS WITH A VIEW TO DEVISING A SYSTEM FOR PAYMENT AND CONTROL WHICH WILL ENSURE EVEN GREATER INCENTIVE TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENT, COST EFFECTIVE WORKS WHICH AT THE SAME TIME FULLY COMPLY WITH REQUIRED STANDARDS."

MR BARNES SAID THE HIRING OF CONSULTANTS WAS, LIKE THE EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF, A COMMERCIAL PROCESS AND WAS ONLY DONE WHEN THE GOVERNMENT COULD SHOW FIRSTLY THAT IT NEEDED A JOB DONE AND, SECONDLY, THAT THE BEST WAY OF DOING THAT PARTICULAR JOB WAS BY HIRING CONSULTANTS RATHER THAN EITHER USING EXISTING STAFF OR BY EMPLOYING ADDITIONAL STAFF.

THE SELECTION, APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF CONSULTANTS WAS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE APPOINTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL. THIS WAS INDEPENDENT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY'S APPROVAL.

MR BARNES SAID THE NEED TO EMPLOY CONSULTANTS WAS ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE APPROVAL OF A SELECTION BOARD WAS SOUGHT.

USUALLY THE NEED AROSE WHERE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE WAS NOT AVAILABLE WITHIN THE PARTICULAR DEPARTMENT, OR WHERE EXISTING STAFF RESOURCES WERE INADEQUATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE THE WORK.

"BUT THERE MAY ALSO BE OTHER REASONS, SUCH AS TO ACCELERATE TIMESCALES OR TO COPE WITH A FLUCTUATING DEMAND FOR RESOURCES.

"THE AUTHORITY TO USE CONSULTANTS IS USUALLY OBTAINED THROUGH A SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE AT WHICH TIME FULL JUSTIFICATION IS PROVIDED," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID FUNDS FOR EMPLOYING CONSULTANTS MIGHT BE PROVIDED THROUGH INCLUSION OF THE PROJECT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, FROM A BLOCK VOTE FOR SUCH PURPOSE, OR FROM A RECURRENT VOTE.

- 19 -

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WERE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF FUNDS.

"FEES PAID TO CONSULTANTS ARE BASED ON ONE OF THREE STANDARD METHODS OF REMUNERATION.

"THE MAJORITY OF PROJECTS ARE UNDERTAKEN ON THE BASIS OF A STANDARD SCALE WHICH SPECIFIES THE FEES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION COST, WITH THE PERCENTAGE DECREASING AS THE CONSTRUCTION COST INCREASES.

"WHERE A CONSULTANCY IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE FEE IS USUALLY NEGOTIATED AS A FIXED SUM CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF STAFF RESOURCES USED ON THE STUDY.

"IN SOME CASES A CONSULTANT IS PAID FOR HIS SERVICES ON A 'TIME CHARGE' BASIS, BY WHICH HE IS REIMBURSED AS FIXED HOURLY RATES FOR THE STAFF EMPLOYED ON THE PROJECT.

"ALL FEES ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED AND THE CONSULTANT, AND APPROVAL BY THE SELECTION BOARD," MR BARNES SAID.

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LEGISLATION AGAINST COMPUTER CRIME BEING PREPARED
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DRAFT LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING PREPARED TO SPECIFICALLY COVER CRIMES INVOLVING THE USE OF COMPUTERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON RITA FAN, ON CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGAINST TAMPERING WITH COMPUTER DATA, MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS CURRENTLY NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATION PROVIDING SANCTIONS AGAINST SUCH CONDUCT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT ANY PERSON COMMITTING SUCH ACTS MIGHT BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER EXISTING CRIMINAL LAW, SUBJECT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE ACTS WERE COMMITTED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, A CHARGE OF FALSE ACCOUNTING COULD BE LEVELLED AT A DISHONEST PAYROLL CLERK WHO PROGRAMMED HIS FIRM'S COMPUTER TO INCREASE HIS OWN MONTHLY PAY," HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME, INCLUDING UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS OR ERASURES OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMES OR DATA, POSED A MAJOR PROBLEM IN HONG KONG.

"HOWEVER, AS THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR BECOMES MORE EXTENSIVE, THERE IS A RISK THAT THEY MAY BE USED FOR DISHONEST PURPOSES," HE SAID.

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BOAT PEOPLE SUBJECT TO LAWS OF HK

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DURING THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE'S STAY IN HONG KONG THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF HONG KONG IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR BARNES SAID THAT THEIR CONDUCT IN THE DETENTION CENTRES WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS PROVIDED BY THE IMMIGRATION (VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE) (DETENTION CENTRE) RULES 1989 MADE UNDER SECTION 13H OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

"IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR PREVIOUS BACKGROUND, ANY BOAT PEOPLE HELD AT DETENTION CENTRES OR REFUGEES CAMPS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING COMMITTED AN OFFENCE UNDER HONG KONG LAW WILL BE REFERRED TO THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION AND DEALT WITH THROUGH THE DUE PROCESS OF LAW.

"IF CONVICTED AND GIVEN CUSTODIAL SENTENCES, SUCH PERSONS WILL BE SENT TO PRISON," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE WAS NO RELIABLE WAY OF IDENTIFYING BOAT PEOPLE IN DETENTION CENTRES AND REFUGEES CAMPS WHO WERE KNOWN, OR ALLEGED, TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AND WANTED FOR SERIOUS CRIMES IN VIETNAM, MR BARNES POINTED OUT.

"CRIMINAL RECORDS FROM VIETNAM ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND THERE IS NO MEANS OF VERIFYING THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OR VALIDITY OF ANSWERS GIVEN BY BOAT PEOPLE DURING THEIR SCREENING INTERVIEWS.

"A NUMBER OF OFFENCES, HOWEVER, ARE SOMETIMES ADMITTED AND STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO CHECK ON THE DETAILS AND NATURE OF THESE IN RELATION TO THE CONDUCT OF THOSE CONCERNED IN THE DETENTION CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT ANY BOAT PEOPLE IN DETENTION CENTRES WHO WERE FOUND TO HAVE INFRINGED THE DETENTION CENTRE RULES WOULD BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THOSE RULES.

"SECTION 37(1) OF THE RULES EMPOWERS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A CENTRE TO ORDER A DETAINEE WHO COMMITS ANY OFFENCE AGAINST DISCIPLINE TO BE PUNISHED BY SEPARATE CONFINEMENT.

"THE PURPOSE OF SEPARATE CONFINEMENT IS TO DISCIPLINE THE OFFENDER AND TO PREVENT HIM OR HER FROM CONTINUING TO CAUSE TROUBLE OR INTIMIDATING OTHER BOAT PEOPLE AS WELL AS STAFF AT THE CENTRE.

"SEPARATE CONFINEMENT CAN TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE SAME CENTRE IN PURPOSE-BUILT SEGREGATION UNITS OR IN UNITS IN OTHER CENTRES," HE SAID.

TO REINFORCE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH OFFENDERS THROUGH SEPARATE CONFINEMENT, MR BARNES SAID THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF SEPARATE ACCOMMODATION AND ADDITIONAL SEGREGATION SPACES.

FINAL PREPARATORY WORK FOR THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

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FINAL PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TO BE BUILT IN TSEUNG KWAN O WILL BE PUT IN HAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE LAND COMMISSION'S CONSENT LAST MONTH THAT ENGINEERING WORK MAY PROCEED, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION BOARD SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN TABLING THE CORPORATION'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988-89.

HE NOTED THAT THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE ABOUT 70 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND.

DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORMATION AND SERVICING OF THE NEW ESTATE HAD BEEN PROCEEDING DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1989, HE SAID.

"AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE REACHED BEFORE LONG AND A PROPOSAL FOR A LOAN FROM THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND WILL BE PUT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

REVIEWING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CORPORATION OVER THE YEAR, MR CHEONG RECALLED THAT IN 1988 HE REPORTED ON THE RECORD RESULTS OF THE CORPORATION FOR 1987-88 WHEN ALMOST 20 HECTARES OF LAND WERE SOLD.

THE CORPORATION DID NOT EXPECT THOSE EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS TO BE REPEATED AND SO SET ITSELF A SOMEWHAT LOWER TARGET FOR 1988-89. IN THE EVENT 10 HECTARES WERE GRANTED TO 12 APPLICANTS.

"THIS RESULT IS COMPARABLE WITH THE AVERAGE LAND DISPOSAL FIGURE FOR THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS AND REFLECTS CONTINUED SATISFACTORY DEMAND FROM BOTH MULTI-NATIONAL AND HONG KONG COMPANIES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER TO GRANT AN ADDITIONAL SITE OF ABOUT TWO HECTARES LATER IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, THE CORPORATION SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE LAND AVAILABLE AT TAI PO FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS.

REFERRING TO THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR CHEONG SAID IT WAS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THE AVERAGE COMMITTED INVESTMENT PER HECTARE WAS \$88 MILLION, WHICH WAS A \$20 MILLION INCREASE OVER THE YEAR BEFORE.

"THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE QUALITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT ON THE ESTATE AND CONFIRMS THAT THE CORPORATION IS FULFILLING ITS BRIEF TO ATTRACT NEW CAPITAL-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES TO HONG KONG AND TO BROADEN OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE," HE SAID.

MORE FUNDS URGED FOR PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL

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THE HON JAMES TIEN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE FUNDINGS FOR THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, WHICH WOULD HELP DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY TO DEMONSTRATE CONFIDENCE IN THE INDUSTRY OF HONG KONG.

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR TIEN SAID THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE HKPC TO UPGRADE ITS CAPACITY TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY, IN PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND VALUE ADDED PRODUCTION.

"WHAT INDUSTRY NEEDS IS A STRONGER HUMAN RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY BASE THAT WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO BUILD A NEW COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING," HE SAID.

MR TIEN POINTED OUT THAT THE SO-CALLED NON-INTERVENTIONISM IN THE '70S AND '80S WAS OUTDATED AND THE TENDENCY OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE OTHER "LITTLE DRAGONS" WAS TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THEIR INDUSTRIES.

HE SAID HONG KONG INDUSTRY HAD BEEN THREATENED BY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD TRIED TO ATTRACT LOCAL INVESTORS WITH THEIR CHEAP LABOUR COSTS, WHICH WOULD MEAN HIGHER PROFITS.

COUPLED WITH POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY FOLLOWING THE JUNE 4 EVENTS IN CHINA, THESE COUNTRIES HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR FOR HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND THE IMPACT OF RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE FELT SHOULD INDUSTRIALISTS CHOOSE TO DIVERSIFY THEIR CAPITALS, HE ADDED.

BUT, FROM THE CURRENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, IT APPEARED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE CHALLENGES THAT WERE NOW CONFRONTING HKPC, HE SAID.

MR TIEN NOTED THAT THE TOTAL PROVISION FOR 1989-90 OF \$96 MILLION WAS AN INCREASE OF A MERE \$5 MILLION FROM PREVIOUS YEAR, BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY A "DECREASE" OF \$3.5 MILLION IN REAL TERMS.

HE SAID WITH HKPC TAKING ON AN EXPANDED ROLE TO HELP INDUSTRY TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGE FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, HELP FIGHT POLLUTION AND MAINTAIN ITS EXPERIENCED STAFF FROM BEING ATTRACTED TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHICH COULD OFFER BETTER REMUNERATION PACKAGE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE MORE RESOURCES TO THE COUNCIL.

IN REVIEWING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HKPC IN THE PAST YEAR, MR TIEN SAID IT WAS A YEAR OF CONTINUED PROGRESS WITH SUSTAINED GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR SERVICES.

FEE INCOME DERIVED FROM SERVICES DURING THE YEAR INCREASED BY 28 PER CENT OVER 1987-88, HE NOTED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 23 -

MENTAL HEALTH REGULATIONS WELCOMED

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THE CONVENER OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE MENTAL HEALTH (GUARDIANSHIP) REGULATIONS 1989, THE HON ROSANNA TAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SHE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED THE REGULATIONS.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS TAM SAID THE REGULATIONS REPRESENTED THE OUTCOME OF EFFORTS MADE JOINTLY BY THE LEGCO MEMBERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION, AND HELPED TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE WHICH HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY AMENDED IN 1988.

SHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HER AD HOC GROUP HAD SOME SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

"FIRST, THE REGULATIONS MAKE NO PROVISION FOR A GUARDIAN'S POWERS AND DUTIES OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCES OF A PERSON UNDER GUARDIANSHIP WHO IS UNABLE TO MANAGE HIS OWN AFFAIRS," SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT TIME WAS REQUIRED TO SORT OUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROVISION, MRS TAM SAID THE AD HOC GROUP HOPED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE SECOND SUGGESTION OF THE AD HOC GROUP STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THE REGULATIONS DID NOT PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER TO ACT AS THE MEDICAL ATTENDANT OF A PERSON UNDER GUARDIANSHIP, AS PROVIDED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

MRS TAM SAID WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION HAD EXPLAINED THAT SUCH A PROVISION WAS NOT PRACTICABLE GIVEN THE EXISTING MANPOWER RESOURCES, THE GROUP NEVERTHELESS HOPED THAT THE SITUATION COULD BE REVIEWED ONCE THE MANPOWER POSITION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IMPROVED.

LASTLY, MRS TAM SAID THAT THE AD HOC GROUP WELCOMED GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR INTERESTED PARTIES AS REGARDS THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GUARDIAN, BUT WISHED TO REITERATE THAT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE MAJOR PROVISIONS IN THE AMENDED ORDINANCE AND ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS.

"NOT ONLY SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, BUT ALSO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD UNDERSTAND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES TO MAKE THE SCHEME WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR LESS FORTUNATE NEIGHBOURS," SHE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 24 -

TWO BILLS PASSED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A PRIVATE BILL, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS INCORPORATION BILL 1989, WAS ALSO PASSED. THIS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE HON EDWARD HO.

FIVE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989, THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1989, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL 1989.

DEBATES ON ALL FIVE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

AT THE START OF THE MEETING, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SITTING IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST TIME AS SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 25 -

GOVERNOR AIMS TO CONVEY CLEAR PICTURE OF HK PEOPLE'S VIEWS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF HIS VISIT TO PEKING IS TO TRY TO GIVE PEOPLE IN PEKING A VERY CLEAR PICTURE OF THE VIEWS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN TO THE CHINESE LEADERS THE NEED FOR TAKING ACCOUNT OF THOSE VIEWS IF WE WERE TO HAVE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG AND IF WE WERE TO HAVE A BASIC LAW WHICH COMMANDED CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PEKING, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER, MR LI PENG, AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR ZHOU NAN.

THE GOVERNOR WILL ALSO MEET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, MR JI PENGFEI, AND THE TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS, MR LI HOU AND MR LU PING.

"I WILL BE COVERING ALL THE MATTERS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN BETWEEN OURSELVES AND CHINA AT THE MOMENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

"I WILL BE HOPING TO BRING UP TO DATE THE PEOPLE IN PEKING WHO ARE DEALING WITH HONG KONG AFFAIRS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, WHAT OUR OWN PLANS ARE FOR DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE FUTURE, AND WHAT THE VIEWS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE AT THE MOMENT," HE ADDED.

"I HOPE THAT THROUGH THIS VISIT TO PEKING IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO TRY TO RE-ESTABLISH A PRODUCTIVE DIALOUGE WITH THE PEOPLE IN PEKING WHO ARE DEALING WITH HONG KONG AFFAIRS.

"THAT IS IMPORTANT FOR DEALING WITH THE VARIOUS ISSUES WE FACE NOW AND IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

SEEING THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON OFF AT THE AIRPORT WAS THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

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NEW WORK SAFETY LAW A MILESTONE

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THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST MONTH IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE WHICH WILL PLACE UPON EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES A SET OF GENERAL DUTIES TO ADOPT SAFE PRACTICE AT WORK AND TO ENSURE SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

OMELCO MEMBER MR CHENG HON-KWAN SAID THIS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT - GENERAL DUTIES OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AT WORK" AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

/MR CHENG

MR CHENG NOTED THAT EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE TO ENSURE IT WAS GOT RIGHT BECAUSE OF ITS LONG-TERM EFFECT.

"IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL INJURY AND DISEASES SHOULD BE A TRIPARTITE BUSINESS IN THAT THE EMPLOYERS, THE EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO TENDER THEIR FULL AND WILLING CO-OPERATION," HE SAID.

THE SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 580 SUPERVISORS, MANAGERS AS WELL AS SAFETY AND HEALTH OFFICERS FROM MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES.

SPEAKERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM WERE MR J.D.G. HAMMER, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, AND MR SUNG WING-KWONG, A SOLICITOR.

MR HAMMER WAS DESCRIBED BY MR CHENG AS "ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE UK'S GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS ON SAFETY AT WORK WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974".

OUTLINING THE PRACTICAL AND FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR INTRODUCING GENERAL DUTIES IN THE AMENDING ORDINANCE, MR HAMMER SAID AS ORDINANCES WOULD ALWAYS BECOME OUT OF DATE THERE WAS A SERIOUS GAP IN THE PROTECTION AFFORDED TO WORKERS.

"GENERAL DUTIES THEREFORE PUT INTO PRACTICAL AND LEGAL FORM THE SOCIAL JUDGEMENT THAT THOSE WHO EMPLOY OTHERS AT WORK SHOULD SEE THAT THEY ARE PROTECTED FROM FORESEEABLE HAZARDS TO THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY," MR HAMMER NOTED.

"IT PUTS A COMPREHENSIVE OBLIGATION ON MANAGEMENT TO LOOK AT EVERY ASPECT OF ITS ACTIVITIES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY," HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT GENERAL DUTIES WERE SO COMPREHENSIVE THAT THEY EMBRACED ANY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARD WHICH REQUIRED THE PROPRIETOR TO TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS, WHETHER IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL CONTROLS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT LAYOUT, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, JOB ROTATION OR WORK BREAKS.

MR HAMMER NOTED THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN RELIABLE DATA ON THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

HOWEVER, HE IDENTIFIED SOME OF THE FACTORS FROM HIS UK EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING FEWER PROSECUTIONS, LOWER EMPLOYER LIABILITY INSURANCE PREMIUMS, INCREASED ALERTNESS AT PLANTS WITH HIGH POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INCREASE ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN GOOD QUALITY LABOUR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MR HAMMER SAID EMPLOYEES HAD A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN ACHIEVING HEALTH AND SAFETY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 27 -

"THE EMPLOYEE IS UNDER A DUTY TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE PROPRIETOR IN ENABLING HIM TO PERFORM HIS OWN DUTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

"THIS IS WHERE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS RIGHT TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, OF SAFETY COMMITTEES THROUGH WHICH EMPLOYEES CAN MAKE THEIR IDEAS, COMMENTS AND VIEWS KNOWN."

MR HAMMER POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT WAS DIFFICULT IT WAS "IMMENSELY WORTHWHILE".

"WITH THE NECESSARY DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF ALL, THIS NEW ORDINANCE CAN LEAD TO GREATLY IMPROVED STANDARDS OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, FEWER ACCIDENTS AND LESS ILL HEALTH AT A COST WHICH IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE RISKS," MR HAMMER SAID.

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HK MANUFACTURERS RENOWNED FOR FLEXIBILITY

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HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR FLEXIBILITY IN ADAPTING TO MARKET CHANGES, WHICH CAN BEST BE REFLECTED BY THEIR EFFORTS IN DIVERSIFYING PRODUCTS AND MARKETS IN THE FACE OF INCREASINGLY INTENSE COMPETITION OVERSEAS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TOYS AND GAMES FAIR 1990 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR CHAN SAID TOYS AND GAMES PRODUCTS WERE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS IN DIVERSIFYING ITS MANUFACTURING BASE FROM TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

"THEY NOW ACCOUNT FOR AROUND FIVE PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS," HE SAID.

"AS FAR AS MARKETS ARE CONCERNED, WHILE THE U.S. REMAINS OUR MAJOR MARKET WHICH TAKES UP AROUND 40 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL TOYS AND GAMES EXPORTS, THERE IS QUITE AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF MARKET SHARES AMONG OUR OTHER MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, LIKE CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CANADA AND FRANCE," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES IN RECENT YEARS, MANUFACTURING REMAINED ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNALLY ORIENTED ECONOMY.

MR CHAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF ATTRACTIVE TOYS AND GAMES WITH DIFFERENT MATERIALS AND DESIGNS AS WELL AS MANY RADIO CONTROLLED PLASTIC TOYS AND ELECTRONIC GAME SETS BEING DISPLAYED IN THE FAIR.

"ALL THIS

"ALL THIS WILL HELP ESTABLISH THE INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE IMAGE OF HONG KONG'S TOYS AND GAMES EXPORTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS WOULD PERSIST IN MAINTAINING THEIR COMPETITIVE EDGE BOTH BY DIVERSIFYING THEIR MARKETS AND UPGRADING PRODUCT QUALITY.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR TOYS AND GAMES INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO COMMAND A SIGNIFICANT SHARE IN HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE," HE SAID.

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GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

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HONG KONG'S US\$16 BILLION-PLUS PORT AND AIRPORT EXPANSION IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE TERRITORY WHICH RUN WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO, MR PETER JOHNSON, SAID ON TUESDAY (U.S. TIME).

ADDRESSING A MEETING OF BUSINESS LEADERS AND ACADEMICS AT THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SAN DIEGO, MR JOHNSON SAID THAT AS WELL AS SECURING HONG KONG'S ROLE FOR THE FUTURE THIS EXPANSION WAS PROVIDING GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN HONG KONG IN FIELDS RANGING FROM PROJECT MANAGEMENT TO FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION.

BY MARCH THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PICK A FIRM OF CONSULTANTS, FROM A SHORTLIST OF EIGHT, TO DRAW UP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE AIRPORT, MR JOHNSON SAID, NOTING THAT FIVE AMERICAN FIRMS WERE AMONG THOSE VYING FOR THE JOB.

"THE PLANS FOR THE PORT ARE JUST AS DRAMATIC.

"THEY HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP ON THE BASIS OF A FIVE-FOLD EXPANSION OF THROUGHPUT BETWEEN NOW AND 2001. BY THEN WE EXPECT THAT THE PORT WILL BE HANDLING 450 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO AND 20 MILLION CONTAINERS EACH YEAR," HE ADDED.

MR JOHNSON TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE COST OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECT WOULD BE MET IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IN PART BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE THE ONLY MAJOR PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION WITHIN THE NEXT 10 TO 15 YEARS UNDERLINING THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE.

"OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE A SECOND ROAD TUNNEL BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS IS COSTING US\$250 MILLION, WILL OPEN IN THE SUMMER OF 1991 AND IS BEING BUILT AND WILL BE OPERATED BY A PRIVATE SECTOR CONSORTIUM.

/"WE HAVE

"WE HAVE JUST LET A FRANCHISE FOR A TERRITORY-WIDE CABLE TV NETWORK. THIS WILL INVOLVE INVESTMENT OF US\$700 MILLION AND IS ALSO BEING UNDERTAKEN BY A PRIVATE CONSORTIUM INCLUDING AN AMERICAN CORPORATION, US WEST, WHO HAVE A 25 PER CENT STAKE.

"THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO FURTHER EXPAND OUR ROAD AND RAIL NETWORKS," HE SAID.

"AND WE SHALL BE SPENDING US\$2.5 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS ON ENVIRONMENT RELATED PROJECTS, INCLUDING A HUGE EXPANSION AND UPGRADING OF THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM. AND WE SHALL BE BUILDING 527,000 PUBLIC SECTOR APARTMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND THE YEAR 2001," MR JOHNSON ADDED.

TURNING TO EDUCATION, MR JOHNSON NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS EMBARKING ON A DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF THE TERTIARY SECTOR.

"WE INTEND THAT IN 1995 THE NUMBER OF FIRST YEAR, FIRST DEGREE PLACES IN HONG KONG UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS SHALL BE 15,000, COMPARED WITH 7,000 IN 1990.

"THE NUMBER OF SUB-DEGREE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PLACES IS BEING SIMILARLY INCREASED.

"WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS CONFRONTING US IF HONG KONG IS TO HAVE THE EDUCATED AND SKILLED LABOUR FORCE, IN ALL SECTORS, NEEDED TO ENSURE OUR CONTINUING PROSPERITY IN YEARS TO COME. IT IS TRULY AN INVESTMENT IN OUR LONGER TERM FUTURE," HE SAID.

"THIS I HOPE GIVES SOME IDEA OF THE COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY MAJOR PLAYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURING THAT HONG KONG IS PROVIDED WITH THE MEANS TO CONTINUE OPERATING AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE AT AND ABOVE PRESENT LEVELS UNTIL WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY," MR JOHNSON SAID.

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DB TO DISCUSS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE NOISE POLLUTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY LARGE COTTON MILLS AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND THAT CAUSED BY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AT CHEUNG ON AND CHEUNG FAT ESTATES ON TSING YI.

/ALSO, THEY

ALSO, THEY WILL MOVE A MOTION REQUESTING THE TRANSPORT BRANCH TO MONITOR THE SERVICES OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

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WELFARE PAPER ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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A CONSULTATION PAPER, ENTITLED "SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND", WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR MEMBERS' COMMENTS.

THE PAPER LISTS OUT THE EXISTING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND GIVES A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A STANDING WORKING GROUP ON THE "FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY", AND WILL CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR \$25,000 TO PUBLICISE STUDY ROOM FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE'S FOUR WORKING GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990

- 31 -

CHILD CARE SERVICES ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON A PILOT SCHEME ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO GIVE OPINIONS ON A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON "SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND" AND WILL DISCUSS THE CASUALTY AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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AIDS EXHIBITION IN TAIKOO SHING

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT AIDS WHEN THEY VISIT AN AIDS EXHIBITION IN TAIKOO SHING WHICH WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 12).

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION, THE FOURTH IN A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WILL BE HELD ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF CITYPLAZA 1 FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM DAILY.

"THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AIDS, AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE FOCUS IS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO ENGAGE IN RISK BEHAVIOUR, YET ARE OFTEN LESS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE RISKS OF INFECTION WITH AIDS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COVERS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS.

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- 32 -

APART FROM SHOWING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES HOW AIDS THREATENS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE COUNTERED.

MEDICAL STAFF WILL BE PRESENT AT THE EXHIBITION TO GIVE ADVICE AND ANSWER PUBLIC ENQUIRIES.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON AIDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN HANDSOME PRIZES BY ANSWERING A QUIZ DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL RUN UNTIL SUNDAY (JANUARY 14), AND WILL MOVE TO SHUN TAK CENTRE, SHEUNG WAN ON FEBRUARY 23 TO 25.

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CANCELLATION OF URBAN CLEARWAY IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 12), THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND CHATER ROAD WILL BE CANCELLED.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN KWUN TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 12), THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WANG KEE STREET IN KWUN TONG WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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