



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGISLATION INTENDED TO ENSURE TV COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIVE

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THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 PROVIDES THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THE OFF-AIR TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE COMING YEARS.

IT ALSO SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT THE LICENSEE COMPANIES CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING.

THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, THE HON PETER TSAO, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

MR TSAO SAID THE BILL INTRODUCED THE AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO ISSUE NEW LICENCES TO TELEVISION COMPANIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNOUNCED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

"IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE MORE IMPORTANT CONDITIONS SHOULD BE BACKED UP BY LEGISLATION SO THAT THE LICENSEES WOULD HAVE A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY AS REGARDS THE FUTURE REGIME," HE EXPLAINED.

"IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT DRAFT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO, AND I HOPE DISPOSED OF, DURING THIS SESSION OF THE COUNCIL IN TIME TO PROCESS THE RENEWAL OF THE EXISTING LICENCES WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 1, 1988."

HE ADDED THAT THE LICENSEES HAD HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAN FOR NECESSARY CHANGES SINCE THE TERMS WERE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH.

NOTING THAT THE BILL WAS NOT THE OUTCOME OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE, MR TSAO SAID SUCH A REVIEW WOULD BE CONDUCTED AND THE ORDINANCE RESTRUCTURED TO INCORPORATE POLICIES NOT ONLY ON OFF-AIR TELEVISION, BUT ALSO ON RADIO BROADCASTING AND CABLE TELEVISION.

THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL EMBODIED THREE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS:

(I) OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF OFF-AIR TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES;

(II) THE PROHIBITION ON THE LICENSEE COMPANY BEING HELD BY A HOLDING COMPANY AND RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP OF SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES BY THE LICENSEE COMPANY; AND

(III) THE QUESTION OF ROYALTY.

ON OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL, MR TSAO SAID THE BILL'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENSURE THAT MAJORITY INTERESTS REMAINED IN THE HANDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

/"THERE IS .....

"THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN HONG KONG IN THE CONCEPT OF RESTRICTING THE HOLDING OF VOTING SHARES OF A LICENSEE BY PERSONS OR COMPANIES WHICH DO NOT SATISFY CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS," HE NOTED.

"SIMILARLY, THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF VOTING SHARES OF A LICENSEE."

BOTH PROVISIONS WERE ENSHRINED IN THE EXISTING ORDINANCE.

THE BILL BROUGHT UP TO DATE THE RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN "LOCAL" AND "NON-LOCAL" SHAREHOLDERS, MR TSAO SAID.

IT ALSO INTRODUCED A CEILING ON THE HOLDING OF VOTING SHARES BY INDIVIDUAL "NON-LOCAL" SHAREHOLDERS, IN ADDITION TO A CEILING ON THE AGGREGATE SHAREHOLDING BY SUCH PERSONS.

STRICTER REQUIREMENTS ON NOTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS BY "NON-LOCAL" PERSONS AND COMPANIES WERE INTRODUCED.

UNDER THE NEW RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS, MR TSAO SAID A "LOCAL" PERSON WAS DEFINED AS ONE WHO WAS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, AND WHO HAD, AT SOME TIME, BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS.

IN THE CASE OF A COMPANY, A "LOCAL" COMPANY WAS ONE WHICH WAS "ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG" AS DEFINED IN THE ORDINANCE.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING DEFINITION AS REGARDS COMPANIES INCLUDED A REQUIREMENT THAT THE MAJORITY OF DIRECTORS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE COMPANY MUST BE COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG.

THE BILL AMENDED THIS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEW RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, AND ALSO REPEALED THE REFERENCE TO COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS.

TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF HOLDING COMPANIES AND SUBSIDIARIES, MR TSAO STRESSED THAT THE ELEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OF A LICENSEE COMPANY WAS THE "SPIRIT" AND REAL INTENTION OF THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE EXISTING SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE HAD PROVED INEFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING THAT SPIRIT.

MR TSAO SAID THAT 11 IMPORTANT PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE COULD BE AND INDEED HAD BEEN CIRCUMVENTED BY THE SETTING UP OF HOLDING COMPANIES OF WHICH THE LICENSEES HAD BECOME SUBSIDIARIES.

EXAMPLES WERE THE PROHIBITION ON NOMINEE SHAREHOLDERS, IN SECTION 10(G) OF THE ORDINANCE, AND THE PROHIBITION ON DISQUALIFIED PERSONS EXERCISING CONTROL OF THE COMPANY UNDER SECTION 10(F).

THEY ALSO INCLUDED THE PROVISION UNDER SECTION 11(1)(B) RESTRICTING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP TO 49 PER CENT AND, UNDER THE SAME SECTION, THE PROHIBITION ON A LICENSEE ACQUIRING A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN ANY COMPANY THE BUSINESS OF WHICH WAS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED OR ASSOCIATED WITH TELEVISION BROADCASTING.

AS THE HOLDING COMPANIES WERE NOT SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE PROHIBITIONS, MR TSAO SAID THEY MIGHT AND IN FACT DID HAVE NOMINEE SHAREHOLDERS, AND WERE NOT LEGALLY PREVENTED FROM SETTING UP OR ACQUIRING BUSINESSES UNRELATED TO BROADCASTING.

ON ROYALTIES, MR TSAO SAID CURRENTLY THEY WERE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF PROFITS.

"SINCE AIR-WAVES ARE A COMMUNITY PROPERTY, THE LICENSEES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR THEIR USE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER A PROFIT IS MADE," HE SAID.

"THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL ARE FOR ROYALTY TO BE PAYABLE ON GROSS INCOME FROM TELEVISION ADVERTISING, ACCORDING TO A SLIDING SCALE, BUT SUBJECT TO AN OVERALL CEILING OF 12 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL INCOME FROM TELEVISION ADVERTISING."

TO PREVENT AVOIDANCE, ROYALTY WOULD BE PAYABLE ON THE AMOUNT THAT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DUE TO A LICENSEE AT PUBLISHED MARKET RATES FOR PARTICULAR TRANSACTIONS, THAT IS ANY SPECIAL DISCOUNTS GIVEN IN PARTICULAR INSTANCES WOULD NOT BE DEDUCTED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE ROYALTY DUE.

"THE NEW SYSTEM OF CALCULATION IS NOT, HOWEVER, INTENDED TO BE A MEANS OF INCREASING REVENUE, BUT RATHER TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THE LICENSEES' PRIVILEGED USE OF A COMMUNITY PROPERTY," MR TSAO SAID.

MR TSAO STRESSED THE TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS NOT A PIECE OF LEGISLATION AIMED AT THE SMALL SHAREHOLDER.

A LICENSEE WAS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY AND SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY WHEN A "NON-LOCAL" SHAREHOLDER ACQUIRED A SHAREHOLDING OF TWO PER CENT OR MORE OF THE VOTING SHARES OF A LICENSEE.

"AT CURRENT SHARE PRICES THIS AMOUNTS TO OVER \$110 MILLION IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE LICENSEES AND \$12 MILLION IN THE CASE OF THE OTHER," MR TSAO SAID.

"I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT INVESTORS DEALING WITH SUCH LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE."

/MR TSAO .....

MR TSAO ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TRYING TO DISCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES.

"BUT WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH A FREE ENTERPRISE," HE EXPLAINED.

"A TELEVISION BROADCASTING LICENCE IS A FRANCHISE IN A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL FIELD OF MASS COMMUNICATION.

"UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER LICENSEES IS NOT ONLY JUSTIFIABLE BUT IS, INDEED, A RESPONSIBILITY."

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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POSITIVE STEP IN IMPROVING ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1988 TAKES A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR MATHEWS ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP FOR HER SUPPORT OF THE MEASURE.

MOVING AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 4 IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE, MR MATHEWS SAID CLAUSE 4(A) OF THE ORIGINAL BILL WOULD SIMPLY REPEAL SECTION 46 OF THE DISTRICT COURT ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDED THAT MINORITY - BEING UNDER 21 YEARS OR AGE - WAS NO DEFENCE TO CIVIL CLAIMS WHICH WERE WITHIN THE DISTRICT COURT'S JURISDICTION.

"THE REPEAL OF SECTION 46 WOULD RESTORE THAT COMMON LAW POSITION IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF HONG KONG IN ITS REPORT ON 'YOUNG PERSONS - EFFECTS OF AGE IN CIVIL LAW'," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, ANOTHER PROPOSAL IN THE REPORT - THE LOWERING OF THE AGE OF MAJORITY FROM 21 TO 18 FOR CONTRACTUAL PURPOSE - HAD BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WORK WAS IN HAND TO IMPLEMENT IT.

IT WAS CONSIDERED BETTER NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE REPEAL OF SECTION 46 AT PRESENT BUT INSTEAD TO IMPLEMENT BOTH RECOMMENDATIONS TOGETHER IN DUE COURSE.

/AS REGARDS .....

AS REGARDS THE 18 TO 21 YEAR-OLD AGE GROUP, WHICH WAS FOR THESE PURPOSES THE MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY WERE THE MOST ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE OF THOSE AFFECTED, THE EFFECT OF PROCEEDING WITH THE REPEAL OF SECTION 46 NOW WOULD BE TO CONFER EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY BUT THEN TAKE IT AWAY AGAIN WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS OR SO WHEN THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION ABOUT AGE OF MAJORITY WAS IMPLEMENTED.

"TO CHANGE THE LAW ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT POINT TWICE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME WOULD CREATE UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HOWEVER, IF SECTION 46 WAS NEITHER REPEALED NOR AMENDED ITS SCOPE WOULD INCREASE WITH THE INCREASE WHICH THE BILL EFFECTED IN THE DISTRICT COURT'S JURISDICTION, SO THAT IN FUTURE IT WOULD APPLY IN CASES UP TO \$120,000 INSTEAD OF \$60,000.

MR MATHEWS SAID THIS WOULD BE A MOVE IN A DIRECTION CONTRARY TO THAT ALREADY DECIDED UPON FOR THE UNDER-18 AGE GROUP.

"THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT THE SCOPE OF SECTION 46 SHOULD BE HELD AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL, THAT IS, WHERE THE AMOUNT CLAIMED IS \$60,000 OR LESS," HE SAID.

THIS WOULD SERVE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE UNTIL LEGISLATION WAS BROUGHT FORWARD, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S REPORT ON A BROADER BASIS, INCLUDING THE REPEAL OF SECTION 46.

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#### REDUCING THE COST OF JUSTICE

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1988 WAS ANOTHER POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE PRACTICAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE MONETARY JURISDICTION OF THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL TO \$15,000 AND THAT OF THE DISTRICT COURT IN CIVIL MATTERS TO \$120,000, DR IP SAID THE AMENDMENTS SERVED TO REDUCE THE COSTS THE PUBLIC HAD TO BEAR WHEN SEEKING JUSTICE.

DR IP SAID DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE THAT THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL HAD MUCH TO OFFER THE PUBLIC BECAUSE IT PROVIDED A MUCH CHEAPER LEGAL PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH DISPUTES.

/"FIRSTLY, LEGAL .....

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"FIRSTLY, LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS NOT REQUIRED AND SO MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN RESORT TO JUDICIAL PROCESS AND YET NOT HAVING TO PAY EXPENSIVE LEGAL FEES," SHE SAID.

"SECONDLY, THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY THE TRIBUNAL IS COST-EFFECTIVE FROM THE TAXPAYERS' POINT OF VIEW SINCE THE AVERAGE COST PER CASE HEARD IN THE TRIBUNAL IS SMALL."

SHE SAID THAT WITHOUT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL, CLAIMS BETWEEN \$8,000 AND \$15,000 HAD EITHER TO BE ARTIFICIALLY ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS IN ORDER TO COME WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL OR BE PURSUED IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

"HOWEVER, WE ALL KNOW TOO WELL THAT IN THE LATTER CASE THE LEGAL FEES WILL SIMPLY WIPE OUT THE AMOUNT CLAIMED RIGHT AWAY," DR IP SAID.

"IN ANY CASE, BOTH OF THESE ACTIONS DETER CLAIMANTS FROM TAKING LEGAL ACTION TO EXERCISE THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND, IN THE LONG RUN, WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE MORE DEBTORS TO DISHONOUR THEIR OBLIGATIONS," SHE ADDED.

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#### FLEXIBLE TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR TUNNEL

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THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WILL BEGIN IN MID-JULY AND THE TUNNEL WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH A MODERN CONTROL SYSTEM ALLOWING FOR FLEXIBILITY OF TRAFFIC CONTROL.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL.

MR LEUNG WELCOMED A SUGGESTION THAT THERE BE A TIDAL FLOW ARRANGEMENT WHICH, JUDGING FROM THE EXAMPLE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL, WOULD HELP EASE CONGESTION DURING PEAK HOURS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

HE SAID THE IDEA WOULD BE PURSUED WITH THE CONSORTIUM DURING THE DETAILED DESIGN STAGE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH PROVISION WITHIN THE DESIGN.

ON A SUGGESTION THERE BE A RAIL LINK BETWEEN SHA TIN AND EAST KOWLOON, MR LEUNG SAID SUCH A PROJECT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RAIL AND ROAD OPTIONS, WAS BEING STUDIED UNDER THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY.

/REFERRING TO .....

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REFERRING TO THE IMPACT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID ADEQUATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT WERE REDUCED TO THE MINIMUM.

HE SAID THE CONSORTIUM HAD AGREED THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO AMELIORATE ANY VISUAL, AIR AND NOISE IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE TUNNEL.

SUFFICIENT MEASURES WOULD ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT SOIL FROM BEING CARRIED INTO THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN THE ADJACENT AREAS.

DETAILS REGARDING THESE OBLIGATIONS WERE CONTAINED IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT.

MR LEUNG ALSO STRESSED THAT THE NEEDS OF ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE EXERCISE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL WERE FULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES AND COMPENSATION PACKAGES TO BE OFFERED.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HAD TRIED THEIR BEST TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE TO THOSE WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.

COMMENTING ON THE GUARANTEE AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSORTIUM, MR LEUNG EMPHASISED THAT THE PURPOSE WAS TO LIMIT THE SIZE AND FREQUENCY OF ANY FUTURE TOLL INCREASES AND TO ENSURE THAT THE TOLL STRUCTURE COULD BE AS STABLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE LONGER TERM.

HE ADDED THAT A TOLL INCREASE WOULD NOT BE GRANTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AS LONG AS THE TUNNEL COMPANY REMAINED REASONABLY REMUNERATIVE.

HE ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CONSORTIUM HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THE DECISION WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE CONSORTIUM AND ITS ABILITY TO PERFORM THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FRANCHISE REMAINED UNCHANGED AFTER THE RESTRUCTURING.

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PROJECT AN INTERNATIONAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

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THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT IS ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS TAM NOTED THAT THE CONSORTIUM WHICH FORMED THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED COMPRISED BRITISH, CHINESE, JAPANESE AND LOCAL INTERESTS.

THE CONSORTIUM REPRESENTED INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG BY INVESTING IN A 30-YEAR TUNNEL FRANCHISE, MISS TAM SAID WHEN SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988.

SHE SAID IT WAS WITH PLEASURE THAT THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP SET UP TO EXAMINE THE BILL GAVE ITS SUPPORT.

MISS TAM, THE CONVENER OF THE AD HOC GROUP, SAID CONSUMERS WOULD BE PROTECTED FROM UNANTICIPATED TOLL INCREASES THROUGH A SERIES OF GUARANTEES GIVEN BY THE CONSORTIUM MEMBER WHICH WOULD ENSURE A LOW INITIAL TOLL AND A STABLE TOLL STRUCTURE.

THE GUARANTEES ASSURED TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE TUNNEL AND APPROACH ROADS WITHIN 37 MONTHS AND ALSO PREVENTED COST INCREASES DUE TO FLUCTUATION IN INTEREST RATES, ESCALATION IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS, LOWER THAN PROJECTED OPERATING INCOME FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS, AND DELAY IN COMPLETION, FROM BEING TRANSLATED DIRECTLY INTO TOLL INCREASES.

MISS TAM NOTED THAT UNLIKE THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WOULD NOT CARRY A RAIL LINK.

"THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP HAD ENQUIRED INTO THE REASON FOR THIS AND WE WERE INFORMED THAT IN ENGINEERING TERMS IT IS NOT ADVISABLE TO CONSTRUCT A TUNNEL THROUGH THE ROCK WITH A DIAMETER SO WIDE AS TO RENDER CONSTRUCTION UNECONOMICAL," SHE SAID.

IF THE NEED SHOULD ARISE IN FUTURE, A SEPARATE RAIL TUNNEL COULD BE CONSTRUCTED AND IN FACT THIS WOULD BE A BETTER OPTION THAN TO HAVE BOTH ROAD AND RAIL LINK IN THE SAME TUNNEL.

MISS TAM ADDED THAT THE AD HOC GROUP HAD, IN VIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL, REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THE DESIGNS OF THE APPROACH ROADS TO BOTH ENDS OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL AND ADVISE THE CONSORTIUM THAT THE TUNNEL APPROACHES SHOULD CATER FOR THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF TIDAL FLOW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

THERE SHOULD BE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY SO THAT IF THE NEED SHOULD ARISE, ALL THE FOUR LANES COULD BE USED FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE LION ROCK TUNNEL COULD ALLOW FOUR LANES TO GO NORTH. THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO PUT THESE PROPOSALS TO THE CONSORTIUM.

/THE TUNNEL'S .....

THE TUNNEL'S COMPLETION IN 1991 WOULD BRING LONG AWAITED RELIEF TO THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUTERS OF NORTH AND EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES WHO TRAVELLED REGULARLY INTO THE URBAN AREAS.

"I CAN ENVISAGE THE BOOST THIS WILL BRING TO THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND PROPERTY VALUE IN THOSE PARTS OF THE TERRITORY WHICH THE TUNNEL HAS MADE MORE ACCESSIBLE," SHE ADDED.

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NEW TUNNEL WILL IMPROVE TRAFFIC SITUATION  
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CHAOS BROUGHT ABOUT BY TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WOULD COME TO AN END FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, DR THE HON CONRAD LAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR LAM WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988.

ON THE LIABILITY OF THE TUNNEL COMPANY IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION, DR LAM SAID PEOPLE WERE CONCERNED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE TOO SERIOUS TO BE OVERCOME.

"THEY FEAR THAT DEBRIS AND GRAVEL WOULD BLOCK THE WATER AND DRAINAGE CHANNELS, CAUSING FLOODS WHEN THERE IS TORRENTIAL RAIN.

"BUT LOSS INCURRED BY THE RESIDENTS IN RELATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL HAS NOT BEEN SPECIFIED IN THE BILL," HE SAID.

DR LAM NOTED THAT THE PROJECT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 37 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.

HE URGED THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO TRY THEIR BEST TO SEE THE DEADLINE WAS MET AND TO GUARD AGAINST ANY TRIVIALITIES WHICH MIGHT CAUSE DELAY.

ON TOLLS, DR LAM SAID THE PUBLIC DID NOT WANT TO SEE ANY INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF TUNNEL TOLLS AS A KIND OF FISCAL MEASURE TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

"THE PUBLIC CONSIDERED THAT THE FARES COLLECTED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (INCLUDING THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT) HAVE NOT BEEN PROPERLY MONITORED," HE SAID.

/"THEY HOPE .....

"THEY HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GAIN EXPERIENCE FROM THE PRESENT INCIDENTS SO THAT THE TOLLS COLLECTED BY THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY MONITORED AND ONLY REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE ALLOWED.

"AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE BURDEN IN OF SOLVING CONGESTION PROBLEMS IN TUNNELS SHOULD NOT BE BORNE SOLELY BY CAR-DRIVERS.

"GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH DEAL WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING OF OUR HIGHWAYS AND ROADS SHOULD ALSO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE."

THOUGH THE PROJECT WOULD COST THE GOVERNMENT AN ESTIMATED \$818 MILLION IN TERMS OF SITE CLEARANCE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROADS, DR LAM SAID IT WAS WORTHWHILE IN VIEW OF THE CONVENIENCE BROUGHT TO THE PUBLIC AND ITS EFFECT IN RELIEVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE LEVEL OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE REASONABLY SET SO AS TO SPARE AFFECTED FACTORY OPERATORS AND SHOP OWNERS UNNECESSARY LOSSES.

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GRADUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONTINUE MAKING IMPROVEMENTS GRADUALLY TO THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME FOR THE WELFARE OF EMPLOYEES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WINDING UP DEBATE ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1988, MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON THE EXISTING PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE AMOUNT OF PAYMENT FOR YOUNG EMPLOYEES AND THE QUALIFYING PERIOD OF SERVICE.

HE NOTED THAT MEMBERS HAD ALSO ASKED FOR THE LOWERING OF THE AGE LIMIT FROM 65 TO 60 FOR ENTITLEMENT TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT UPON RESIGNATION ON AGE GROUNDS.

"ALL THESE ARE USEFUL POINTS AND WE WILL TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN FORMULATING THE NEXT PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS, AND IN SO DOING WE WILL OF COURSE ALSO SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD," MR WONG STRESSED.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE TIME TAKEN TO INTRODUCE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME.

/BUT HE .....

BUT HE EXPLAINED THAT, AS ALREADY POINTED OUT EARLIER, IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE CAREFUL IN MAKING THE WORDING OF THE BILL CLEAR, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE PROVISIONS FOR PAYMENT UPON THE DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE AND FOR THAT PAYMENT TO GO TO THE RIGHT PERSONS.

"THE FACT THAT MEMBERS NOW CONSIDER THE LEGAL LANGUAGE SATISFACTORY IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT THE TIME TAKEN IS WORTH IT," MR WONG ADDED.

REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CERTIFYING PERMANENT UNFITNESS FOR JOBS, A GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED HOSPITAL DOCTOR SHOULD CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE'S OWN PRIVATE DOCTOR FOR MEDICAL RECORDS, MR WONG SAID THIS MATTER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED DURING THE DRAFTING STAGE.

HE SAID THAT THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT IN THE BILL WAS CONSIDERED TO OFFER A SATISFACTORY SAFEGUARD.

"UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT, HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP AN EMPLOYEE FROM OBTAINING PREVIOUS MEDICAL RECORDS FROM HIS OWN PRIVATE DOCTOR IF HE SO WISHES, AND TO PRESENT SUCH INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED HOSPITAL DOCTOR FOR REFERENCE AND IN SUPPORT OF HIS CASE," MR WONG ADDED.

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#### LEGISLATIVE LOOPHOLES PLUGGED

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THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988 SHOULD BE POPULAR WITH WORKERS AS IT IMPROVES THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME AND PLUGS LOOPHOLES IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, THE HON HUI YIN-FAT SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL WHEN DEBATE ON IT RESUMED, MR HUI SAID IT WOULD ENABLE ELIGIBLE WORKERS TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION WHEN THEY RESIGNED ON GROUNDS OF PHYSICAL UNFITNESS FOR THEIR JOB OR ON REACHING THE AGE OF 65.

BUT MR HUI EXPRESSED RESERVATION ABOUT A PROVISION IN THE BILL WHICH REQUIRED WORKERS WHO RESIGNED ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION FROM DOCTORS OF GOVERNMENTS OR GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED HOSPITALS BEFORE THEY COULD BE COMPENSATED.

SUCH A REQUIREMENT MIGHT CAUSE INCONVENIENCE TO THOSE WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING PRIVATE DOCTORS, AS THEY WOULD HAVE TO TURN TO GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED HOSPITALS JUST FOR THE SAKE OF OBTAINING THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATION, HE SAID.

/HE HOPED .....

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HE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AUTHORISING DOCTORS OF GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TO APPROACH THE ATTENDING PHYSICIANS OF THE WORKERS CONCERNED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR MEDICAL RECORDS EXPEDITIOUSLY.

MR HUI ALSO SAID THAT ONCE A WORKER HAD SERVED AN EMPLOYER FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, HE SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT REGARDLESS OF HIS AGE AT THE TIME OF ACQUIRING ELIGIBILITY AND ALSO REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE WAS DISMISSED OR RESIGNED ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE EXISTING METHOD OF CALCULATION WAS OBVIOUSLY UNFAIR TO YOUNG WORKERS, HE SAID.

"WHY IS IT THAT WORKERS AGED OVER 41 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE TO FULL PAYMENT WHEREAS THE CASE IS NOT SO FOR THOSE UNDER 40?" HE ASKED.

IF THE SCHEME WAS INTENDED TO PROTECT WORKERS WITH A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF SERVICE, THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DISCRIMINATION WHEN IT CAME TO AGE DIFFERENCE, HE SAID.

MR HUI ALSO EMPHASISED THAT LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SOME FORM OF RETIREMENT SCHEME.

IT SHOULD NOT BE SO REGARDED BECAUSE, FIRST, ONLY A HANDFUL OF EMPLOYEES WERE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT; SECOND, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PAYMENT WOULD NOT EXCEED 12 MONTHS' SALARY; AND THIRD, LONG SERVICE PAYMENT WAS NOT TRANSFERRABLE.

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#### FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO LABOUR LAW ADVOCATED

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED TO FURTHER REFINE THE SYSTEM OF LABOUR PROTECTION IN HONG KONG BY MAKING YOUNG WORKERS UNDER 40 YEARS OF AGE ELIGIBLE FOR FULL PAYMENT UNDER THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1988 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID HONG KONG HAD TO RELY HEAVILY ON ITS HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ECONOMY.

SHE SAID THAT THE TERRITORY NEEDED A LABOUR FORCE BOTH LARGE IN NUMBER AND EXCELLENT IN QUALITY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOUR PROTECTION LAY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS SAFEGUARDS AND MEASURES TO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO THE JOB MARKET AND TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE WORKFORCE.

/MRS TAM .....

MRS TAM SAID THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME, WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1986, WAS A BIG STEP FORWARD IN THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS. HOWEVER, THE SCHEME WAS NOT WITHOUT FLAWS AND ITS SHORTCOMINGS HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD CONCERN.

"IT IS MOST WELCOME AND COMMENDABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT ITS PROMISE AND REVIEWED THE SCHEME ONE YEAR AFTER ITS INTRODUCTION, AND THAT AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED IN THIS BILL TO EXTEND PROTECTION TO EMPLOYEES WHO RESIGN ON THE GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH AND OLD AGE.

"HOWEVER, IT IS MOST DISAPPOINTING THAT THE REVISED LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME HAS NOT MADE ANY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG EMPLOYEES," MRS TAM SAID.

SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD POINTED OUT IN 1985 THAT SINCE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT WAS TO BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE LENGTH OF SERVICE, YOUNG WORKERS UNDER THE AGE OF 40 SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO INEQUITABLE PROVISIONS WHICH LIMITED THEM TO 50 PER CENT TO 75 PER CENT OF FULL PAYMENT, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD COMPLETED 10 YEARS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE.

"WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR ELDERLY WORKERS TO FIND A NEW JOB AFTER LEAVING THEIR ORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND THEY ARE PERFECTLY JUSTIFIED TO BE SECURED UNDER THE SCHEME, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE YOUNGER WORKERS WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR PRIME YEARS TO THE SERVICE OF THEIR EMPLOYERS ARE EQUALLY JUSTIFIED TO BE PROTECTED UNDER THE SCHEME AND TO ENJOY SIMILAR BENEFITS AS THEIR SENIOR COUNTERPARTS," SHE SAID.

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IMPROVEMENT OF PENSIONS LEGISLATION INTENDED

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A BILL AIMING AT IMPROVING THE LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE SERVICE PENSIONS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PENSION BENEFITS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1988, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WERE LARGELY TECHNICAL AND WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT OR ERODE CIVIL SERVANTS' EXISTING PENSION BENEFITS.

HE SAID TWO OF THE AMENDMENTS COVERED THE EARLY PAYMENT OF THE COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITY OF A DEFERRED PENSION AND THE REMOVAL OF THE LIMIT ON DEDUCTIONS FROM AN OFFICER'S PENSION BENEFITS FOR RECOVERY OF DEBTS WHERE HE CONSENTED.

/AT PRESENT, .....

AT PRESENT, THE APPROVAL OF EARLY PAYMENT OF A DEFERRED PENSION APPLIED BOTH TO THE COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITY AND TO THE REDUCED MONTHLY PENSION.

"HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WARRANT EARLY PAYMENT OF THE GRATUITY ONLY; FOR EXAMPLE, EXTREME FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ON THE PART OF THE PENSIONER," SIR DAVID EXPLAINED.

"CLAUSE 5 THEREFORE AMENDS THE PENSION BENEFITS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THIS FLEXIBILITY."

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT SECTION 31(2) OF THE PENSION BENEFITS ORDINANCE INADVERTENTLY IMPOSED A LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OF DEDUCTIONS WHICH COULD BE MADE FROM AN OFFICER'S PENSION BENEFITS FOR THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT, EVEN THOUGH THE OFFICER CONCERNED MIGHT HAVE CONSENTED TO LARGER DEDUCTIONS.

"THE ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT ON DEDUCTIONS, AT 25 PER CENT OF PENSION BENEFITS, ONLY WHERE THE OFFICER DOES NOT CONSENT," HE SAID.

"THE LEGISLATION IN ITS EXISTING FORM HAS CAUSED PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE HOUSING LOAN AND DOWN PAYMENT LOAN SCHEMES."

CLAUSE 7 OF THE BILL THEREFORE SOUGHT TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION AND CLAUSE 8 EFFECTED A SIMILAR AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12 OF THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE TO COVER ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE OLD PENSION SCHEME, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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#### PURPOSES OF SAFETY COUNCIL EXPLAINED

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THE PROPOSED OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE GREATER INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION BY INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY IN RAISING THE STANDARDS OF SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK, NOT ONLY IN INDUSTRY BUT IN ALL AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL BILL 1988.

MR WONG SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD BE AN INDEPENDENT BODY CONSISTING OF A CHAIRMAN AND UP TO 20 MEMBERS, REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

/"PROFESSIONAL AND .....

"PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED SO AS TO WIDEN THE EXPERTISE ON THE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS, MR WONG SAID THAT IN 1976 MR J.A. LINEHAN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HEALTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE WHICH SHOULD EVENTUALLY DEVELOP INTO A SAFETY COUNCIL.

"IN 1978 THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION WAS SET UP UNDER THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"ENCOURAGED BY ITS INITIAL SUCCESS AND IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER CALLS FROM EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, THE COMMITTEE FORMED A WORKING PARTY IN 1984 TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBLE FORMATION OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNCIL.

"THE PRESENT PROPOSALS ARE BASED ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THAT WORKING PARTY."

THE PROPOSED COUNCIL WOULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE COMMUNITY ON THE PROMOTION OF SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK THROUGH FOUR MAJOR FUNCTIONS.

FIRST, IT WOULD DESIGN AND CONDUCT TRAINING COURSES, PRODUCE TEACHING AIDS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS, PROMOTE THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, CONDUCT PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS AND VALIDATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH QUALIFICATIONS.

SECONDLY, IT WOULD UNDERTAKE PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES, COLLECT AND COMPILE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION, AND PREPARE SAFETY AND HEALTH LITERATURE FOR PUBLIC USE.

THIRDLY, IT WOULD DEVELOP CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN AREAS SUCH AS OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SURVEYS, FEASIBILITY STUDIES, PROCEDURES ON MONITORING AND CONTROL, AND ADVICE ON PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

FOURTHLY, IT WOULD ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON ANY LEGISLATIVE MEASURES NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK, AND WOULD EITHER CARRY OUT OR COMMISSION RESEARCH.

"AS REGARDS THE SOURCE OF FINANCE, THE PROPOSED COUNCIL WILL MAINLY RELY ON A LEVY BASED ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA, TO BE PAID BY EMPLOYERS," MR WONG SAID.

"IT IS OUR PRESENT INTENTION TO PROPOSE A ONE PER CENT LEVY WHICH WILL YIELD ABOUT \$7 MILLION A YEAR.

"THE LEVEL OF LEVY WILL BE REVIEWED REGULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE."

/MR WONG .....

MR WONG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND WAS, STRICTLY SPEAKING, NOT SUBJECT TO THE LEVY.

"CLAUSE 18 THEREFORE PROVIDES FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNCIL IN ITS CAPACITY AS AN EMPLOYER.

"THE AMOUNT WILL BE CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE AROUND \$0.5 MILLION IF THE LEVY ON PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS WAS ONE PER CENT IN THE FIRST YEAR."

HE SAID IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN TWO STAGES.

THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL, ITS POWERS, MEMBERSHIP, PROCEDURES, STAFFING AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

THE LEVY PROVISIONS, AND THOSE DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS AGAINST ANY CONTRIBUTION ASSESSED AND ANY SURCHARGE IMPOSED DUE TO LATE PAYMENT WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

"THIS WILL ALLOW THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEVY COLLECTION," HE SAID.

MR WONG NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO BEGIN WORK BEFORE THE FIRST LEVY INCOME WHICH BECAME DUE ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR BUT WAS NOT ACTUALLY RECEIVED UNTIL MAY NEXT YEAR, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ASKED TO APPROVE A SETTING-UP GRANT OF ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AFTER THE SETTING UP OF THE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES AND SAFETY TRAINING COURSES TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS NO DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.

"THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO REDEPLOY SOME MANPOWER RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN THE ENFORCEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MORE POSITIVE ACTION ON UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISING

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THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH IN ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ADOLF HSU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WOULD FOLLOW PASSAGE OF THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, AND THE REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES TO PROSECUTION, MR HSU SAID WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

"CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS AMONGST THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS TO INITIATE PROSECUTION ACTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHICH MAY CONTRAVENE THE PROVISIONS," HE SAID.

"PENALTY FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE WILL BE INCREASED TO \$10,000 ON FIRST CONVICTION AND \$25,000 ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

"THE INTENTION IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM BEING INDUCED BY SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS TO SEEK IMPROPER TREATMENT FROM UNQUALIFIED PERSONS OR TO RESORT TO WRONGFUL APPLICATION BY SELF-MEDICATION, WITH THE RESULT THAT THERE IS DELAY IN SEEKING PROPER TREATMENT, MAKING THE DISEASE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CURE.

"IN SERIOUS CASES THIS COULD CAUSE PERMANENT DISABILITY OR EVEN ENDANGER THE LIFE OF THE PATIENT."

MR HSU SAID THAT DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE BILL, MERCHANTS DEALING IN CHINESE MEDICINES HAD ASKED WHETHER CERTAIN CHINESE TERMS WHICH THEIR MEMBERS HAD BEEN USING IN THEIR ADVERTISEMENT WOULD CONTRAVENE THE LAW.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAD GIVEN ITS OPINIONS FOR THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF CHINESE MEDICINE DEALERS, POINTING OUT THAT MOST OF THEIR COMMONLY USED TERMS WERE ACCEPTABLE.

"WHILE NO VETTING MACHINERY WILL BE SET UP TO SCREEN EACH AND EVERY ADVERTISEMENT ON CHINESE MEDICINE PRIOR TO ITS PUBLICATION, THE ADMINISTRATION WELCOMES ENQUIRIES FROM THE DEALERS CONCERNED REGARDING TERMINOLOGIES OF DISEASES GENERALLY AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GUIDANCE," HE SAID.

MR HSU EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE ORDINANCE AT PRESENT, PUBLICATION OF ANY ADVERTISEMENT WAS PROHIBITED IF IT REPRESENTED ANY MEDICINE, SURGICAL APPLIANCE OR TREATMENT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OR BY IMPLICATION, AS BEING EFFECTIVE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

/PROBLEMS OF .....

PROBLEMS OF ENFORCEMENT AROSE WHERE ADVERTISEMENTS AVOIDED THE USE OF THE PRECISE TERMS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE IN REFERRING TO THE TREATMENT AVAILABLE AND USED INSTEAD COLLOQUIAL TERMS OR VEILED LANGUAGE SUCH AS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

" IN SUCH CASES IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVE THAT THE MEDICINE OR TREATMENT ADVERTISED HAS CONTRAVENED THE LAW.

"PROBLEMS CAN ALSO ARISE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF STREET ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS, IN IDENTIFYING AND PROSECUTING THE PERSON PLACING THE ADVERTISEMENT," HE SAID.

THE BILL THEREFORE SOUGHT TO REMEDY THESE DEFECTS BY MAKING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVERTISING DEPEND NOT ON WHAT THE ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTED, BUT ON WHETHER IT WAS LIKELY TO LEAD PERSONS READING THE ADVERTISEMENT TO USE THE MEDICINE, SURGICAL APPLIANCE OR TREATMENT ADVERTISED FOR THE CURE OF ANY OF THE PRESCRIBED DISEASES.

IT ALSO PROVIDED THAT UNLESS THE CONTRARY WAS PROVED, A PERSON WHO WAS HELD OUT IN AN ADVERTISEMENT AS BEING A MANUFACTURER OR SUPPLIER OF MEDICINE OR SURGICAL APPLIANCES, OR AS BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE TREATMENT, WAS PRESUMED TO HAVE CAUSED THE ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"WHERE AN ADVERTISEMENT INDICATES SOME MEANS OF CONTACTING A PERSON WHO PROVIDES TREATMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ADDRESS OR A TELEPHONE NUMBER, THAT PERSON IS PRESUMED TO HAVE CAUSED THE ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND THEY SEE NO OBJECTION TO THEM," HE SAID.

MR HSU SAID THE BILL ADDED TWO NEW SCHEDULES TO THE ORDINANCE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE. THESE WOULD UPDATE THE LIST OF PRESCRIBED DISEASES AND LIST THEM IN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND RATIONAL MANNER.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CONTROL OF PRIVATE BILLIARD CLUBS SUPPORTED

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS AND IS ALL IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THE HON ROSANNA TAM SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL, MRS TAM DESCRIBED AS "APPROPRIATE AND REASONABLE" THE PROPOSAL TO CLASSIFY PLACES WITH FOUR BILLIARD TABLES OR MORE AS BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT A LARGE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED PRIVATE CLUBS OPERATING IN THE GUISE OF PUBLIC BILLIARD PARLOURS, AND THAT LOOPHOLES IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION HAD DISCOURAGED PROPER MANAGEMENT, MAKING THESE PLACES BREEDING GROUNDS FOR CRIME.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY CRITICISM OF THE BILL WAS THAT THE INTRODUCTION HAD BEEN TOO SLOW TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

"BEARING IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE POPULARITY OF FASHIONABLE GAMES USUALLY DOES NOT LAST LONG, ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ONCE WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE OR ELSE LEGISLATION WILL APPEAR MEANINGLESS," MRS TAM SAID.

"ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS, BILLIARD GAMES HAVE BECOME LESS POPULAR AFTER THE BOOM WHICH STARTED A FEW YEARS AGO. THUS, I TRUST THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL IF THE BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED EARLIER."

\*NOTING THAT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE EXISTING LICENSING CONDITIONS OF BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS, MRS TAM SAID SHE HOPED THAT SIMILAR PROVISIONS FOR THE AGE AND STATUS OF CUSTOMERS AS FOR OTHER GAMES CENTRES FOR ADULTS MIGHT BE INTRODUCED, SO THAT A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 16 OR WEARING UNIFORM WOULD NOT BE ADMITTED.

THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER STIPULATING THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN BILLIARD TABLES, SO AS TO MINIMISE THE CHANCES OF CUSTOMERS BUMPING AGAINST EACH OTHER AND CAUSING TROUBLE.

MRS TAM SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PLACES FOR PLAYING BILLIARDS BY SETTING UP PUBLIC BILLIARD CENTRES OR BY SPONSORING INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES BY VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG, THANKED MRS TAM FOR HER SUPPORT.

"I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE HER THAT HER SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS FOR CONSIDERATION.

"I SHALL ALSO REFER HER PROPOSALS CONCERNING BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS RUN BY GOVERNMENT OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS," HE SAID.

POWER TO CLOSE UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES

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A BILL SEEKING TO ENABLE THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS TO STOP OPERATIONS OF UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES BY PHYSICALLY CLOSING THE PREMISES OR VESSELS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1988, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ADOLF HSU, SAID THAT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, OPERATORS OF UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES WERE AT PRESENT PROSECUTED UNDER THE FOOD BUSINESS (URBAN COUNCIL)/(REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

"IF THE LICENCE HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED UPON THE SECOND CONVICTION, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL WOULD APPLY TO THE COURT FOR A PROHIBITION ORDER OR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER SECTION 128 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO STOP THE ILLEGAL FOOD OPERATORS FROM CONTINUING WITH THEIR UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES," MR HSU SAID.

HE SAID THAT SECTION 128 OF THE ORDINANCE EMPOWERED A MAGISTRATE TO MAKE AN ORDER EITHER TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF THE PREMISES OR VESSEL FOR ALL OR ANY PURPOSES (A PROHIBITION ORDER), OR TO CLOSE THE UNLICENSED PREMISES OR VESSEL EITHER WHOLLY OR IN PART (A CLOSURE ORDER).

"AS THERE ARE NO FURTHER PROVISIONS IN THIS ORDINANCE ENABLING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS TO CARRY OUT THE CLOSURE ORDERS BY PHYSICALLY CLOSING PREMISES OR VESSELS, THIS AMENDMENT BILL IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE OBJECTIVE OF STOPPING UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES TO BE ACHIEVED," HE POINTED OUT.

MR HSU SAID THAT BESIDES SEEKING TO EMPOWER RELEVANT PUBLIC OFFICERS TO PHYSICALLY CLOSE THE PREMISES OR VESSEL IN QUESTION, THE BILL ALSO AMENDED THE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE THE POWER OF ARREST TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENTS IN CARRYING OUT CLOSURE ORDERS.

PENALTIES FOR TWO NEW OFFENCES WERE ALSO PRESCRIBED.

ENTERING OR REMAINING ON ANY PREMISES OR VESSEL UNDER A CLOSURE ORDER WOULD ATTRACT A FINE OF \$60,000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, WITH A DAILY FINE OF \$1,000.

UNLAWFULLY INTERFERING WITH OR REMOVING ANY DEVICE USED FOR CLOSING THE PREMISES OR VESSEL, OR REMOVING ANY CLOSURE NOTICE, ETC. WOULD ATTRACT A FINE OF \$10,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

/MR HSU .....

MR HSU SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF PREMISES TO INCLUDE A VESSEL OR A STALL SO AS TO PUT BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE FOOD BUSINESS (URBAN COUNCIL)/(REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS, WHICH REGULATED ACTIVITIES ON FOOD PREMISES, ALSO APPLIED TO A VESSEL OR STALL.

"UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES, A CLOSURE ORDER WILL BE MADE CONSEQUENTIAL ON THE BREACH OF A PROHIBITION ORDER, RATHER THAN AS AN ALTERNATIVE SANCTION," HE SAID.

"THE BILL INCLUDES A PROVISION REQUIRING THE COURT TO MAKE A PROHIBITION OR CLOSURE ORDER ONLY WHEN IT IS SATISFIED THAT AT LEAST 14 DAYS' NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE ORDER HAS BEEN GIVEN.

"MOREOVER, THE COURT WOULD PROVIDE ANY INTERESTED PARTY WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD UPON THE MAKING OF A PROHIBITION OR CLOSURE ORDER AND THE OCCUPIER OF THE PREMISES OR VESSEL WOULD HAVE SEVEN DAYS TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDER."

MR HSU ADDED THAT IT WAS PROPOSED THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WOULD COME INTO OPERATION ON OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

"THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THE TRADE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEW PROVISIONS. IT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENTS TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRE-ENFORCEMENT ACTION," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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QE FOUNDATION WILL IMPROVE WELLBEING OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

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THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION, WHEN ESTABLISHED, WILL COMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME AND WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE WELLBEING OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON DOMINIC WONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WONG WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED BILL 1988.

HE SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS TO ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION WITH THE PURPOSE OF FURTHERING THE WELFARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND PROMOTING THEIR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THERE WERE ABOUT 110,000 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, MAKING IT THE LARGEST GROUP AMONG ALL DISABILITIES.

/"OFTEN THE .....

"OFTEN THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED REQUIRE A WIDER RANGE OF SERVICES THAN OTHER DISABILITY GROUPS," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES IS BEING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, THERE ARE STILL SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALLS IN THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

"MOREOVER, THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IS STILL GENERALLY POOR, AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RAISE FUNDS."

MR WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT THE NET PROFIT OF \$30 MILLION ON THE SALE OF GOLD COINS TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN TO HONG KONG IN 1986, TOGETHER WITH A DONATION OF \$30 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND A FURTHER MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF \$30 MILLION FROM GENERAL REVENUE, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FOUNDATION.

"APART FROM THE INITIAL PAYMENT OF \$60 MILLION FROM THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT AND GENERAL REVENUE, THE BILL HAS ONLY MINOR IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE STAFFING AND FINANCE," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE FOUNDATION WOULD LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OVERLAP BETWEEN WHAT WAS FUNDED FROM GENERAL REVENUE IN IMPLEMENTING THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION.

THE BILL PROVIDED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION WOULD BE VESTED IN A COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

"THERE WILL BE A CHAIRMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION AND FIVE TO NINE OTHER MEMBERS," MR WONG SAID.

TO GIVE THE FOUNDATION THE FLEXIBILITY TO UNDERTAKE MEANINGFUL PROJECTS FROM THE BEGINNING, THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE THE DISCRETION TO SPEND UP TO TEN PER CENT OF THE ORIGINAL CAPITAL OF THE FOUNDATION IN ADDITION TO ITS INCOME.

THE COUNCIL WOULD ALSO BE EMPOWERED TO APPOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, ASSISTANTS AND MANAGERS OF THE ASSETS AND TO PAY FOR VARIOUS NECESSARY EXPENSES.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF THE FOUNDATION BE AUDITED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT AND TABLED IN THE COUNCIL EVERY YEAR.

MOREOVER, THE BILL ENABLED THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE FOUNDATION TO BE CHARGED TO GENERAL REVENUE.

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY DIRECT THAT AN ANNUAL FEE NOT EXCEEDING 2.5 PER CENT OF THE FOUNDATION'S INCOME IN THAT YEAR BE CHARGED IN RETURN," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

CLARIFICATION OF ROLE OF HKU COUNCIL, SENATE

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A PRIVATE BILL WHICH SEEKS TO CLARIFY THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL AND SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE HON PETER C. WONG SAID THE BILL CLARIFIED THAT IT WAS THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL TO ENQUIRE INTO THE FACTS OF ANY CASE WHERE TERMINATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEACHER MIGHT BE IN QUESTION, AND THAT IT WAS THE ROLE OF THE SENATE TO GIVE ADVICE ON THESE FACTS.

IT ALSO MADE CLEAR IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE IF GOOD CAUSE FOR TERMINATION EXISTED, HE ADDED.

THE BILL WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE CHANCELLOR WITH THE POWER TO APPOINT A PERSON TO ACT AS PRO-CHANCELLOR DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE PRO-CHANCELLOR, MR WONG SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SIX BILLS PASSED

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SIX BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE PUBLIC FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1988, TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988, REGISTRATION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1988, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

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

THEY WERE: THE PENSION BENEFITS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1988, TELEVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL BILL 1988, QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED BILL 1988, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1988, UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, AND A PRIVATE BILL, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

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YEAR OF CONTRAST FOR ICAC

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THE YEAR 1987 WAS ONE OF CONTRAST IN STATISTICAL TERMS FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AS THERE WERE FEWER REPORTS OF CORRUPTION OVERALL AND YET THE NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH OFFENCES ROSE BY 86 PER CENT TO 514, DR THE HON DANIEL TSE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DR TSE, CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORRUPTION, WAS TABLING THE 1987 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ICAC COMMISSIONER.

HE SAID THAT 2,299 REPORTS OF CORRUPTION WERE RECEIVED IN 1987, WHICH WAS 11 PER CENT FEWER THAN IN 1986.

YET THE ICAC'S CASELOAD AND THE 1,068 CORRUPTION REPORTS INVOLVING THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE THE HIGHEST EVER.

MR TSE SAID THE ANNUAL REPORT ALSO SHOWED THAT THERE WERE WELCOME REDUCTIONS IN CORRUPTION REPORTS AGAINST THE POLICE -- 536 REPORTS, AND AGAINST OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS -- 624 REPORTS.

BOTH OF THESE FIGURES WERE 15 PER CENT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES IN 1986.

THE COMMISSION HAD CONTINUED ITS THREE-PRONGED ATTACK ON CORRUPTION, HE SAID.

UNDER THIS, THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATED COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AND OTHER OFFENCES WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION, AND THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT EXAMINED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES SO AS TO REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION.

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT EDUCATED THE PUBLIC ON THE EVILS OF CORRUPTION.

ON THE WORK OF THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT, DR TSE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR, AND WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF PROTRACTED CORRUPTION-BASED INVESTIGATIONS.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAD BEEN OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE, HE SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, ONE NOTABLE CASE CONCERNED THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK IN WHICH AFTER 16 MONTHS OF JOINT EFFORT BY OFFICERS OF THE POLICE AND THE ICAC, THE MAIN PART OF THIS ENQUIRY WAS CONCLUDED AND ALL THE FOUR MAJOR OFFENDERS WERE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED FOR FRAUD," HE SAID.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THREE DRUG RELATED CASES THERE WAS CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN RESPECT OF ONE OF THEM AND WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HERE FOR THE OTHER TWO.

ON THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT, DR TSE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN TAKING A GREATER INTEREST IN IMPROVING THEIR SYSTEMS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT SO AS TO REDUCE CORRUPTION OPPORTUNITIES.

REFERRING TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, HE SAID IT HAD ORGANISED VARIOUS FUNCTIONS INVOLVING 327,000 PEOPLE DURING THE YEAR.

DR TSE SAID A HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR WAS THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE ICAC FROM NOVEMBER 2 - 6. THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY 250 DELEGATES, 105 OF WHOM WERE FROM OVERSEAS, REPRESENTING 72 ORGANISATIONS AND 32 COUNTRIES.

HE ADDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION TO THE WORK OF THE ICAC WHICH WAS REFLECTED BY THE CONFERENCE WAS VERY MUCH A REALITY. THE COMMISSION HAD INVOLVED ITSELF IN A WIDE RANGE OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO OFFENCES WHICH WERE COMMITTED IN HONG KONG BUT WHICH HAD IMPLICATIONS OVERSEAS.

THE CO-OPERATION THAT OVERSEAS AGENCIES HAD GIVEN TO THE ICAC WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. FOR ITS PART, THE COMMISSION IN TURN TRIED TO MEET REQUESTS FROM OVERSEAS FOR ASSISTANCE ON OPERATIONAL, TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, DR TSE SAID.

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#### USE OF SEK KONG AIRFIELD RULED OUT

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NONE OF THE COMMERCIAL CIVIL INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY OPERATING AT KAI TAK CAN BE SAFELY OPERATED ON A REGULAR BASIS AT THE SEK KONG AIRFIELD, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR NENDICK WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DIVERTING SOME AIRCRAFT, PARTICULARLY SMALLER ONES, TO SEK KONG TO EASE THE HEAVY TRAFFIC AT KAI TAK.

EXPLAINING THE SAFETY CONSIDERATION, MR NENDICK SAID THE TOPOGRAPHY OF SEK KONG, SUCH AS THE MOUNTAINS TO THE NORTH, EAST AND SOUTH, WOULD NOT ALLOW SAFE TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS BY COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO SAID THE NUMBER OF GENERAL AVIATION MOVEMENTS INVOLVING SMALL LOCALLY-REGISTERED PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AND EXECUTIVE JETS AT PRESENT CONSTITUTED A SMALL PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL AIR TRAFFIC.

IN 1987, LOCAL CIVIL AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS AT KAI TAK ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 5,000 OF THE TOTAL OF SOME 87,000 MOVEMENTS.

"THE RELATIVELY LOW VOLUME OF SUCH AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS HAS PERMITTED THESE FLIGHTS TO BE ACCOMMODATED AT KAI TAK, ALBEIT WITH CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT IMPINGE UPON THE DEMANDS PLACED ON THE USE OF THE AIRPORT BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINE OPERATIONS," MR NENDICK SAID.

STRESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF KAI TAK TO HONG KONG'S AVIATION NEEDS, MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT SAW NO NEED TO DIVERT AIR TRAFFIC TO SEK KONG.

THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS NECESSITATED -- TO UPGRADE THE RUNWAY, TO INSTALL OTHER AIRPORT AND PASSENGER TERMINAL FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE LOCAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE -- ALSO LIMITED THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE SEK KONG AIRFIELD.

"APART FROM COST CONSIDERATIONS, SUCH DEVELOPMENTS ARE CONSIDERED INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MILITARY USAGE OF THE AIRFIELD," HE ADDED.

MR NENDICK EMPHASISED THAT KAI TAK HAD SERVED HONG KONG'S AVIATION NEEDS WELL, AND WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

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#### POPULATION-JOB BALANCE SOUGHT IN NEW TOWNS

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CREATION OF A BALANCE BETWEEN POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES HAS BEEN AN AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON ROBIN SAUNDERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS OBJECTIVE WAS EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF THE PRODUCTION, RESERVATION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND TO ACCOMMODATE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE ANTICIPATED NUMBERS OF RESIDENT WORKERS, MR SAUNDERS SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG.

/"THE ESSENTIAL .....

"THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE, SUCH AS WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND TRANSPORT IS DEVELOPED IN PHASE WITH THIS, THE AIM BEING TO CREATE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR, AND AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES IN THE NEW TOWNS AS THE POPULATIONS BUILD UP," HE SAID.

"ONCE THESE OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT GENERALLY INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING JOB PLACES, AND IT CANNOT DIRECT POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS TO SET UP BUSINESS IN ANY PARTICULAR LOCATION.

"OTHER THAN THE INCENTIVES OF LOWER LAND COSTS, AN IN-BUILT WORKFORCE, AND SUITABLE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE, THERE ARE NO OTHER SPECIFIC INCENTIVES OFFERED TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS TO ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF JOBS."

HE ADDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE AVAILABLE LAND AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN THE NEW TOWNS.

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EPD SEEKS STAFF WITH GOOD BASIC DEGREE

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT LOOKS FOR STAFF WITH A GOOD BASIC DEGREE IN A SCIENTIFIC OR ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE, TOGETHER WITH SOME RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRY OR CONSULTANCY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ADOLF HSU, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE PROF THE HON C.K. POON, MR HSU SAID THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT GENERALLY SEEK TO RECRUIT GRADUATES WITH A FIRST DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES.

"STAFF WITH SCIENTIFIC OR ENGINEERING BACKGROUND ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE VARIOUS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS THAT MAKE UP THE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

MR HSU SAID THAT SO FAR AS TRAINING IN SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL SUBJECTS WAS CONCERNED, THE EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON POST-GRADUATE TRAINING.

"ACCORDINGLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN COLLABORATING WITH VARIOUS TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG TO DEVELOP COURSES IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, NOISE AND VIBRATION, AIR POLLUTION CHEMISTRY AND CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT," HE SAID.

/"STAFF WHO .....

"STAFF WHO JOIN THE EPD ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE COURSES AS WELL AS ATTENDING SPECIALIST SHORT COURSES BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, OR ARE ATTACHED TO RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS ABROAD."

HE NOTED THAT IN 1987-88, SEVEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS HAD ATTENDED PART-TIME MASTER OF SCIENCE COURSES AND 29 HAD ATTENDED SEMINARS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, 15 OFFICERS HAD BEEN SENT OVERSEAS TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, SPECIALIST SHORT COURSES OR ON ATTACHMENT.

FORTY-FOUR TRAINING COURSES HAD BEEN ORGANISED FOR 1988-89.

"IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, SUPPLEMENTED BY THE USE OF CONSULTANTS, WHO ARE ABLE TO RESPOND MORE QUICKLY TO PEAKS IN DEMAND, ARE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT PLANNED ANTI-POLLUTION PROJECTS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY STAFF SHORTAGES.

"THERE MAY, HOWEVER, BE TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES IN THE SHORT TERM, DUE TO THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD," MR HSU SAID.

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#### CHECKS ON FOOD CONTAINERS

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THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT CONTAINERS CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR HOLDING FOOD OR DRINKS POSE A HEALTH RISK TO THE PUBLIC IF HYGIENICALLY HANDLED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ADOLF HSU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MR HSU SAID THAT THE USE OF PAPER FOR WRAPPING OR HOLDING OPEN FOOD WAS CONTROLLED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD BUSINESS (URBAN COUNCIL) AND THE FOOD BUSINESS (REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

THESE PROVISIONS STIPULATED THAT NO PERSON IN THE FOOD BUSINESS SHOULD WRAP UP OR OTHERWISE BRING ANY OPEN FOOD INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANY PRINTED NEWSPAPER OR UNCLEAN PAPER OR WRAPPING MATERIAL.

ANY FOOD BUSINESS OPERATOR WHO CONTRAVENED THIS BY-LAW COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

"AS REGARDS FOOD CONTAINERS MADE OF OTHER MATERIALS, SUCH AS PLASTIC OR FOAM RUBBER, THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAS BEEN COLLECTING SAMPLES FROM FOOD OUTLETS, WHICH INCLUDE FAST FOOD OUTLETS, FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL IN ORDER TO DETECT UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES," MR HSU SAID.

/"THIS MONITORING .....

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"THIS MONITORING PROCESS WILL CONTINUE."

"FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS FOUND TO BE USING UNCLEAN OR UNSUITABLE CONTAINERS WHICH HAVE CONTAMINATED THE FOOD CONTAINED THEREIN WILL BE PROSECUTED."

MR HSU ADDED THAT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WAS PLANNING TO CREATE A POST OF FOOD CHEMIST WITHIN ITS FOOD SECTION TO ENHANCE THE LEVEL OF EXPERTISE WHEREBY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SAFETY OF PACKAGING MATERIALS WOULD BE FULLY INVESTIGATED AND EVALUATED.

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NO PROVISION FOR CHINA WORKERS TO TAKE JOBS IN HK

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UNDER EXISTING IMMIGRATION POLICY, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR WORKERS FROM CHINA TO ENTER HONG KONG FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES, BE IT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER FIELDS. THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARNES SAID HE WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH FIGURES FOR DR THE HON HELMUT SOHMEN WHO HAD ASKED FOR PRECISE FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF WORKERS FROM CHINA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD, WHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO ENTER AND WORK IN HONG KONG LEGALLY.

"A SEPARATE CATEGORY OF ENTRANT IS, HOWEVER, THOSE WHO ARRIVE LEGALLY FROM CHINA FOR RESIDENCE PURPOSES BY MEANS OF CHINESE ONE-WAY EXIT PERMITS ISSUED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES," MR BARNES SAID.

"BY AGREEMENT WITH THE LATTER THESE ARE RESTRICTED TO 75 PERMITS PER DAY, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 27,000 PERSONS PER YEAR AS A PERMANENT ADDITION TO HONG KONG'S POPULATION.

"SINCE 1979, 220,000 CHINESE PERMIT HOLDERS HAVE ENTERED HONG KONG."

MR BARNES SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE FREE TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT AFTER ARRIVAL, AND HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT MANY OF THEM HAD IN FACT ENTERED THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET.

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ACTION TAKEN TO EASE TYPHOON SHELTER CONGESTION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS TO NAVIGATION THAT THE CONGESTION IN TYPHOON SHELTERS MAY CAUSE AND HAS BEEN TACKLING THE PROBLEM TO ENSURE SAFE NAVIGATION THERE.

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE PROBLEM OF CONGESTION WAS GENERALLY NOT SERIOUS IN HONG KONG WATERS, MR NENDICK SAID WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR.

"THE HARBOUR ITSELF IS BUSY BUT NOT CONGESTED. THERE IS, HOWEVER, CONGESTION IN MOST TYPHOON SHELTERS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, WHICH WAS BEING TACKLED IN THREE WAYS.

MR NENDICK SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINED REGULAR PATROLS IN TYPHOON SHELTERS AND IN AREAS FREQUENTED BY LOCAL CRAFT TO ENSURE SAFE NAVIGATION AND TO MAINTAIN GENERAL DISCIPLINE.

"TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PATROLS ARE MOUNTED DURING FESTIVALS AND IN INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS WHEN THERE IS A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF LOCAL CRAFT IN TYPHOON SHELTERS," HE SAID.

A SECOND APPROACH WAS TO EXAMINE THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR WATER SPACE BY LOCAL CRAFT.

"BIENNIAL REVIEWS OF TYPHOON SHELTER SPACE REQUIREMENTS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

"THE CONCLUSIONS OF THESE REVIEWS ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SYSTEM AT WORK

A THIRD APPROACH WAS TO FURTHER REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DWELLING VESSELS IN TYPHOON SHELTERS.

"THE NUMBER OF DWELLING VESSELS, WHICH ARE A MAIN CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO CONGESTION IN TYPHOON SHELTERS, HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 2,700 IN 1983 TO 658 TO DATE," HE SAID.

"THIS NUMBER WILL BE FURTHER REDUCED IN THE COMING YEARS THROUGH THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES INITIATED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT."

/MR NENDICK .....

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MR NENDICK SAID THE SITUATION IN ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU, TO WHICH MR LIU REFERRED, WAS NOT SERIOUS.

"THE NUMBER OF DWELLING BOATS HAS REDUCED FROM SOME 680 TO 250 IN THE PAST THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

"THE SQUATTER PROBLEM HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS NAVIGATIONAL ACCIDENTS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS."

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#### RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF HANDCUFFS

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HANDCUFFS AND PLASTIC RESTRAINERS ARE NOT USED AUTOMATICALLY OR INDISCRIMINATELY WHEN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE ARRESTED, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, MR BARNES SAID THAT HANDCUFFS AND PLASTIC RESTRAINERS WERE USED ONLY WHEN NECESSARY FOR SPECIAL REASONS.

"THAT IS, IF THE ARRESTING OFFICER, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, BELIEVES THAT THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT MAY BECOME VIOLENT OR MAY TRY TO ESCAPE," HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THESE RESTRICTIONS IN THE USE OF HANDCUFFS AND PLASTIC RESTRAINERS WERE STIPULATED IN POLICE GENERAL ORDERS AND APPLIED TO ALL POLICE ARRESTS, NOT ONLY ARRESTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

MR BARNES ALSO EXPLAINED THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH AN ARRESTING OFFICER MIGHT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AT THE TIME OF ARREST.

THESE CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDED THE NUMBER, TYPE AND MOOD OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND THE LOCATION AS WELL AS THE TIME OF DAY AND NIGHT.

THE DISTANCE TO BE COVERED, MODE OF TRANSPORT AND AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICER'S ACTION HAD ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED.

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ACTION ON UNSAFE AIR-CONDITIONING FIXTURES

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE HAD REMOVED, RELOCATED OR MODIFIED 74 AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS OR ASSOCIATED FIXTURES IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON ROBIN SAUNDERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OFFICE INTO 410 SUCH CASES REPORTED TO IT DURING THE PERIOD, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHUNG PUI-LAM.

MR CHUNG HAD ASKED WHETHER PRIOR APPROVAL WAS REQUIRED FOR ERECTION OF STRUCTURES ON EXTERNAL WALLS OF BUILDINGS TO SUPPORT WATER TANKS FOR AIR-CONDITIONING PURPOSES.

MR CHUNG ALSO WANTED TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INJURIES REPORTED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS CAUSED BY THE FALLING OF SUCH STRUCTURES OR WATER TANKS AND WHETHER DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED UNDERTOOK REGULAR INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THESE STRUCTURES DID NOT CONSTITUTE A POTENTIAL DANGER TO THE PUBLIC.

MR SAUNDERS SAID THAT PROVIDED NO MAJOR BUILDING WORKS, SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE COLUMNS OR SLABS WAS REQUIRED, THE INSTALLATION OF SUPPORTING STRUCTURES FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED BY MR CHUNG WERE NOT REGARDED AS BUILDING WORKS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

GENERALLY, THEREFORE, APPROVAL FOR THE ERECTION OF THESE STRUCTURES WAS NOT REQUIRED, HE SAID.

"THIS MEANS THAT ANYONE WISHING TO INSTALL BRACKETS FOR AIR-CONDITIONING COOLING TANKS, PIPEWORK, DUCTS, FANS AND SO ON, NEED NOT OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FOR THESE, AS THEY ARE REGARDED AS 'FIXTURES' RATHER THAN BUILDING WORK," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, SANCTIONS WERE AVAILABLE TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY UNDER SECTIONS 26 AND 31 OF THE ORDINANCE, WHERE SUCH FIXTURES WERE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC, OR PROJECTED BEYOND THE BUILDING LINE.

HE SAID THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE DID NOT UNDERTAKE REGULAR INSPECTIONS BUT RELIED INSTEAD ON REPORTS FROM THE PUBLIC, THE POLICE OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"IF A FIXTURE IS FOUND TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL GIVE NOTICE TO THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION," HE SAID.

"FAILING THIS, THE AUTHORITY HAS THE POWER TO ENTER THE BUILDING AND EITHER MAKE THE INSTALLATION SAFE OR REMOVE IT, AND TO RECOVER THE COSTS FROM THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE.

/ "THIS MIGHT .....

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"THIS MIGHT EITHER BE THE LANDLORD OR THE TENANT, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES."

REGARDING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INJURIES CAUSED BY THE FAILURE OF SUCH STRUCTURES, MR SAUNDERS NOTED THAT THE BOO DID NOT RECEIVE REPORTS OF SUCH INCIDENTS AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE AND THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH STATISTICS.

"I AM ADVISED ALSO THAT THE POLICE DO NOT KEEP STATISTICS SPECIFICALLY OF SUCH INCIDENTS, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NUMBER OF CASES WHICH COME TO ATTENTION IS VERY SMALL," HE ADDED.

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#### SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY IN PROPERTY NOT EXCESSIVE

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UP TO NOW, SPECULATION IN THE PROPERTY MARKET SEEMS TO BE CONFINED LARGELY TO A SMALL NUMBER OF POPULAR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID NENDICK, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR NENDICK SAID THAT IN A RISING MARKET, THE NUMBER OF PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WAS LIKELY TO RISE AND SOME SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY MUST BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY DID NOT YET APPEAR EXCESSIVE OR SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO PRODUCE DAMAGING EFFECTS ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

"WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY, IT MUST BE FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DECIDE UPON THEIR OWN PURCHASE DECISIONS," HE POINTED OUT.

"I WOULD NOT ENVISAGE OUR GIVING THE PUBLIC SPECIFIC ADVICE ABOUT THE RISK OF SPECULATION BUT CLEARLY IT NEEDS TO BE RECOGNISED THAT PROPERTY PRICES CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE."

MR NENDICK ALSO SAID THAT WITH AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF NEW RESIDENTIAL FLATS COMING ON STREAM, FUTURE INCREASES IN FLAT PRICES WERE LIKELY TO BE RESTRAINED.

HE EXPECTED THAT THE RECENT FIRING UP OF INTEREST RATES WOULD BE A FACTOR WHICH MIGHT RENDER SPECULATION LESS ATTRACTIVE IN FUTURE.

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ASBESTOS-CEMENT IN ESTATES POSES NO UNDUE RISK  
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ASBESTOS-CEMENT USED IN THE BUILDING OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES DOES NOT POSE AN UNDUE HEALTH RISK TO RESIDENTS PROVIDED IT IS NOT DISTURBED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON ROBIN SAUNDERS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO DR THE HON CONRAD LAM, MR SAUNDERS SAID THAT A TOTAL OF 325 PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS IN MARK III, IV AND V ESTATES BUILT BETWEEN 1962 AND 1969, AND HOUSING 667,000 TENANTS, HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CONTAINING SOME ASBESTOS-CEMENT PRODUCTS.

THEY WERE USED MAINLY FOR BALCONY AND STAIRCASE BALUSTRADING AS WELL AS FOR ROOF INSULATION.

"ALL THESE BLOCKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR REDEVELOPMENT UNDER THE LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY AND SAFE METHODS HAVE BEEN DEvised BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT, FOR THE REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS-CEMENT MATERIALS DURING DEMOLITION OR REPAIR PRIOR TO REDEVELOPMENT," HE SAID..

"IN ADDITION, 1,664 TEMPORARY HOUSING STRUCTURES BUILT PRIOR TO 1984, HOUSING ABOUT 90,000 TENANTS, HAVE ASBESTOS-CEMENT ROOFING. THE USE OF THIS MATERIAL FOR ROOFING CEASED IN 1984."

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ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR CLOSING ROADS  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES FOR CLOSING ROADS TO ENSURE THAT INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC IS MINIMISED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR LEUNG SAID THAT FOR ROAD CLOSURES WHICH COULD BE PLANNED AHEAD, THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WOULD CONSULT OTHER RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS AND, IF NECESSARY, DISTRICT BOARDS, TO ENSURE THAT THE CLOSURE WAS NECESSARY.

THEY WOULD ALSO DEVISE APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC DIVERSION SCHEMES SO THAT INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC WOULD BE MINIMISED.

/HE STRESSED .....

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HE STRESSED THAT BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AND, AFTER THE CLOSURE, DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT THE ROAD WAS NOT CLOSED LONGER THAN NECESSARY.

FOR EMERGENCY CLOSURES CAUSED BY TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, NATURAL DISASTERS, FIRES, OR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO PUBLIC UTILITIES, THE POLICE ALSO HAD DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING THEM.

POLICE OFFICERS ATTENDING THE SCENE WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO REGULATE TRAFFIC. ANY DECISION ABOUT SUBSEQUENT TEMPORARY DIVERSIONS OR ROAD CLOSURES WAS MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BY AN OFFICER OF SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT RANK.

FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE, THE INFORMATION WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE PASSED TO THE POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE MEDIA.

"THE SITUATION IS MONITORED CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THE ROAD IS REOPENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

ON THE AUTHORISATION OF A ROAD CLOSURE, MR LEUNG SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WAS EMPOWERED TO CLOSE A ROAD OR ANY PART OF IT FOR SUCH PERIOD AS HE MIGHT THINK NECESSARY.

THIS WAS EFFECTED BY A NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE, OR IN ONE ENGLISH AND ONE CHINESE NEWSPAPER.

IN EMERGENCY CASES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT OR THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WAS EMPOWERED, WITHOUT PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE, TO CLOSE A ROAD FOR NOT LONGER THAN 72 HOURS.

TO FACILITATE MINOR ROAD WORKS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT ALSO HAD POWERS TO CLOSE A ROAD, THE AUTHORITY FOR WHICH HAD BEEN DELEGATED TO SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE HIGHWAYS, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES AND TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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TALKS IN CHINA ENCOURAGING - LORD GLENARTHUR  
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THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LORD GLENARTHUR, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) HE HAD HAD SOME "INTERESTING AND VERY ENCOURAGING" TALKS WITH THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING HIS FIRST VISIT TO CHINA.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ARRIVING FROM CANTON, LORD GLENARTHUR SAID HE WOULD HAVE A BUSY TWO AND A HALF DAYS IN HONG KONG, DURING WHICH HE WOULD BE MEETING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LORD GLENARTHUR WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON; THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN, AND THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR REG HOLLOWAY.

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LORD GLENARTHUR VISITS TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LORD GLENARTHUR, VISITED THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRESS AND TECHNICAL ADVANCES MADE IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

LORD AND LADY GLENARTHUR WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, AND AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR MIKE ARNOLD.

DURING A TOUR AROUND THE ESTATE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, BRIEFED THEM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

MR CHEONG SAID THE CORPORATION AIMS TO BROADEN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE AND TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY.

"IT PROVIDES SITES AND STANDARD FACTORIES FOR INDUSTRIALISTS WHO, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES, ARE UNABLE TO FIND SUITABLE FACTORY PREMISES ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

/A PROPOSAL .....

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A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AFTER TAI PO AND YUEN LONG, HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AND IT WAS HOPED THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS PROJECT WOULD BE READY FOR OCCUPATION IN 1992-93.

IN 1986-87, THE CORPORATION HAD DISPOSED OF ABOUT 10.7 HECTARES OF LAND THROUGH 16 LEASE AGREEMENTS, AND THIS WAS NEARLY DOUBLE THE AVERAGE ANNUAL FIGURE ACHIEVED OVER THE 10 YEARS OF THE CORPORATION'S EXISTENCE.

LORD AND LADY GLENARTHUR NEXT VISITED THE JOHNSON ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTORY LTD WHICH PRODUCES MINIATURE DC AND AC MOTORS, USUALLY TAILORED TO CUSTOMERS' APPLICATIONS.

THE PARTY WAS MET BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR PATRICK WANG, AND THE DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER, MR HENRY MEI.

AFTER A BRIEFING ON THE COMPANY'S HISTORY, PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND FUTURE PLANS, LORD AND LADY GLENARTHUR WERE SHOWN THE HIGH SPEED STAMPING PRESS, TRANSFER PRESS, ASSEMBLING OF MOTORS AND AUTOMATIC MACHINE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE END OF THE VISIT, LORD GLENARTHUR SAID IT WAS FASCINATING TO SEE A FACILITY WHICH HE THOUGHT MUST BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF ITS KIND ANYWHERE.

"IT'S A FACILITY NOT ONLY COMBINING PRODUCTION, BUT ALSO THE DESIGN OF THE EQUIPMENT THAT ENABLES THAT PRODUCTION. IT'S THE LATEST STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

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JLG TEAMS TO GIVE RECEPTION  
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THE BRITISH AND CHINESE TEAMS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL HOST A JOINT RECEPTION ON FRIDAY (JULY 1) EVENING TO MARK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR PERMANENT OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

ALL JLG MEMBERS WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET IN THE MORNING AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED COLVIN HOUSE WHICH WILL REPLACE THE INFANT SCHOOL AT VICTORIA BARRACKS AS THE VENUE FOR JLG PLENARY AND EXPERT MEETINGS.

/THEY WILL .....

THEY WILL ATTEND A LUNCHEON PARTY GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AFTER THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FOLLOWING JLG EVENTS ON JULY 1:

1. THERE WILL BE A 20-MINUTE GUIDED PRESS TOUR OF COLVIN HOUSE WHICH WILL START PROMPTLY AT 9 AM. THE TOUR WILL CONCLUDE AT 9.20 AM AND LATE COMERS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF PHOTO CALL IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM BEFORE THE MEETING.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE USUAL SECURITY CHECKS. YOU ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BEFORE 8.15 AM FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. A FIXED PRESS POSITION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR COVERAGE OF A BRIEF WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND SPEECHES BY THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE TEAMS AT THE JOINT RECEPTION IN THE EVENING.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE TAI PO AND SHEK O ROOMS AT LOWER LEVEL 1 OF SHANGRI-LA HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE BY 6 PM.

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PROTECTION FOR SEMI-CONDUCTOR CHIPS

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PROPOSALS WERE BEING INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION TO INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, OR SEMI-CONDUCTOR CHIPS, WHICH ARE AT THE HEART OF MUCH OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR STEVE BARCLAY SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM LOCAL MANUFACTURERS THAT CHIP DESIGNS DID NOT RECEIVE ADEQUATE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION, HE SAID.

CHIP DEVELOPMENT IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND EXPENSIVE, YET THEY COULD, AT PRESENT, BE EASILY COPIED BY OTHERS, HE ADDED.

MR BARCLAY SAID THAT IT WAS PROPOSED THAT HONG KONG SHOULD INTRODUCE LEGISLATION BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM'S SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTS (PRODUCTION OF TOPOGRAPHY) REGULATIONS, 1987.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THESE REGULATIONS INCLUDE:

/\* THE DESIGNER .....

- \* THE DESIGNER OR OWNER OF AN ORIGINAL INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGN HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT TO THAT DESIGN.
- \* THE DESIGNER OR OWNER OF THE DESIGN HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THE DESIGN.
- \* THE PERIOD OF PROTECTION IS 10 YEARS IF THE DESIGN HAS BEEN COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED OR 15 YEARS IF IT HAS NOT BEEN EXPLOITED.
- \* CIVIL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE DESIGNER OR OWNER TO PROTECT HIS RIGHTS.
- \* THE RIGHTS OF THE DESIGNER OR OWNER ARE NOT INFRINGED BY "REVERSE ENGINEERING" - THE ANALYSIS OR EVALUATION OF A DESIGN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING ANOTHER DESIGN, OR BY INNOCENT INFRINGEMENT.

MR BARCLAY SAID THAT THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH WAS SEEKING INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON WHETHER THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION IS SUPPORTED AND WHETHER THE UK REGULATIONS ARE AN APPROPRIATE MODEL.

"WE WOULD LIKE COMMENT ON A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AS WELL," SAID MR BARCLAY.

- ARE THERE ANY TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAKE THE UK REGULATIONS OBSOLETE?
- SHOULD PROTECTION IN HONG KONG BE DEPENDENT ON THE DESIGN BEING REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT?
- SHOULD HONG KONG'S LAW PROVIDE FOR CRIMINAL, AS WELL AS CIVIL, REMEDIES?

THE QUESTION OF THE PROTECTION OF CHIP DESIGN IS SEPARATE FROM ISSUES CONCERNING SOFT-WARE.

A CHIP IS THE KEY ELEMENT OF MANY COMPUTERS AND OTHER MODERN PRODUCTS. FIRST A MANUFACTURER MUST ASSESS THE DEMAND OF POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS. THEN COMPLICATED DIAGRAMS MUST BE PRODUCED WHICH ARE TURNED INTO THREE-DIMENSIONAL CONFIGURATIONS WHICH REPRESENT THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT.

THESE ARE THEN TURNED INTO A SERIES OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL LAYOUT PATTERNS - A COMPLICATED AND EXPENSIVE PROCESS PRODUCTION OF THE CHIP IS EQUALLY DEMANDING, REQUIRING HIGH LEVELS OF TECHNOLOGY.

AS THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG STANDS AT THE MOMENT THE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT MADE BY A CHIP DESIGNER CAN BE UNDERMINED BY COMPETITORS WHO CAN SIMPLY COPY THE PRODUCT.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS ARE AVAILABLE FROM, AND COMMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

STRINGENT MEASURES FOR FISH MARKET

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STRINGENT MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT MONTH IN THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION'S CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE MARKETING ORDER IN THE MARKET.

EFFECTIVE FROM FRIDAY (JULY 1), FISH BUYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ENTRY TO THE SORTING FLOOR OF THE MARKET WHERE FISH IS LANDED AND SORTED. ACCESS TO THIS AREA WILL, FROM THE SAME DATE, BE RESTRICTED TO FISHERMEN, THEIR AGENTS AND OTHER PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO WORK THERE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), AN FMO SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STRINGENT MEASURES WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE IN PURSUANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP ON GANGS.

HE SAID THAT THESE MEASURES WERE DESIGNED TO ROOT OUT VARIOUS MALPRACTICES DISCOVERED IN THE MARKET INCLUDING THE INFILTRATION BY TRIAD MEMBERS ON THE SORTING FLOOR, RESULTING IN GOOD QUALITY FISH BEING PRE-SELECTED, MARKED AND MANIPULATED THROUGH THE SALE PROCESS.

"THESE MALPRACTICES HAVE MADE IT EXTREMELY UNFAIR TO THE MAJORITY OF THE FISH BUYERS WHO IN EFFECT ARE PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING IN A FAIR AUCTION OF THE FISH.

"IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION, AND SINCE ALL FISH BUYERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE FISH FROM THE AUCTION FLOOR, WE HAVE DECIDED TO PROHIBIT BUYERS FROM ENTERING THE SORTING FLOOR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH BOTH BUYERS AND FISHERMEN AND THEY HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THESE MEASURES GENERALLY, HE ADDED.

THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET IS ONE OF THE SEVEN FMO WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS. ITS DAILY THROUGHPUT IS ABOUT 60 TONNES, CATERING MAINLY FOR THE POPULATION OF WEST KOWLOON.

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MORE EMSD PLANTS TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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A PRELIMINARY SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS TO SERVICE A POPULATION OF 400,000 IN THE TO KWA WAN AND HUNG HOM AREAS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, AFTER HE SIGNED A \$21.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SEWAGE PUMPING, SCREENING AND BUILDING SERVICES EQUIPMENT FOR THE PLANT AT TO KWA WAN.

THE SCREENING PLANT, WITH A DESIGNED AVERAGE DAILY FLOW CAPACITY OF 129,000 CUBIC METRES, AND A MAXIMUM CAPACITY THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT, WILL PROVIDE PRELIMINARY TREATMENT TO THE EXISTING AND FUTURE SEWAGE FLOW IN TO KWA WAN AND HUNG HOM AREAS.

AFTER BEING PUMPED AND UNDERGOING FINE SCREENING AND GRIT REMOVAL PROCESSES, THE SEWAGE WILL BE DISCHARGED INTO VICTORIA HARBOUR THROUGH TWIN SUBMARINE OUTFALLS WITH MULTI-PORT DIFFUSERS FOR BETTER DILUTION AND DISPERSION.

SITE WORK FOR THE PLANT, LOCATED NEAR BAILEY STREET, WILL COMMENCE IN LATE 1988 AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY MID-1990.

PRESENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT OPERATES AROUND THE CLOCK 27 SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS OF ALL TYPES AND 31 SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS TO FEED THE TREATMENT WORKS AS WELL AS 26 SEPTIC TANKS FOR REMOTE LOCATIONS NOT SERVED BY A SEWERAGE NETWORK.

MR OSBORNE SAID: "THESE FACILITIES ARE SITED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE EFFLUENT DISCHARGED IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT."

"TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY IS ACHIEVED AS DESIGNED, EFFLUENT SAMPLES ARE TAKEN AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND ANALYSED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S LABORATORIES," HE ADDED.

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FIFTY PER CENT OF REDUNDANT TEACHERS PLACED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY PLACED SOME 200 OUT OF 400 REDUNDANT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO REGISTERED WITH THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS.

THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF PLACING REDUNDANT TEACHERS INTO NEW POSTS STARTED ON MAY 9 AND IT WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH TO COMPLETE, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

TO SPEED UP THE PLACEMENT EXERCISE, THE SPOKESMAN URGED ALL AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPERVISORS TO REPORT ALL AVAILABLE TEACHING VACANCIES IN THEIR SCHOOLS, ARISING FROM NEW CLASSES, WASTAGE AND RETIREMENT, IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED ON SCHOOL MANagements TO ACCEPT THE REDUNDANT TEACHERS REFERRED BY THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO FILL THEIR VACANCIES.

"WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT FROM SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PLACE ALL REDUNDANT TEACHERS AT AN EARLY DATE," HE SAID.

"AS A RESULT, TEACHING VACANCIES IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE FROZEN," HE ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, SCHOOL SUPERVISORS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY EMPLOYMENT WITH OTHER TEACHERS BEFORE THE PLACEMENT SERVICE HAS COMPLETED ITS TASK.

FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS CARRIED OUT THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF HELPING TO PLACE REDUNDANT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS INTO NEW JOBS BECAUSE OF A DROP IN POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AND A SHIFT OF POPULATION FROM URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS.

BETWEEN 1975 AND 1987, ABOUT 5,000 AFFECTED TEACHERS HAD BEEN HELPED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POSTS.

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## MONETARY STATISTICS FOR MAY PUBLISHED

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STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SHOW THAT HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN MAY COMPARED WITH APRIL. FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ON THE OTHER HAND, GREW MORE RAPIDLY IN MAY THAN IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

HK\$M1 AND HK\$M2 BOTH RECORDED DECLINES IN MAY WHILE HK\$M3 WAS LITTLE CHANGED FROM THE PRECEDING MONTH.

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW MODERATELY IN MAY COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. LOANS FOR FINANCING VISIBLE TRADE AND OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG REGISTERED CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WHILE LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG EDGED UP ONLY SLIGHTLY.

AN ACCOMPANYING TABLE SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR MAY 1988 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS.

## DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 0.2 PER CENT IN MAY FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 1.5 PER CENT IN MARCH AND AN INCREASE OF 2.1 PER CENT IN APRIL. OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 1.1 PER CENT AND 7.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE TIME DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 8.1 PER CENT. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 21.5 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 4 PER CENT IN MAY FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.2 PER CENT AND 2.9 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 2.4 PER CENT WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 5.8 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE BY 23.4 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS ROSE BY 19.5 PER CENT IN MAY AFTER INCREASES OF 27.2 PER CENT AND 10.7 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.6 PER CENT IN MAY AND BY 19.2 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 2.9 PER CENT IN MAY AND BY 25.8 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

DEPOSITS (ALL CURRENCIES) WITH BANKS INCREASED BY 2.2 PER CENT IN MAY WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 3.9 PER CENT. THEIR RESPECTIVE INCREASES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MAY 1988 WERE 24.2 PER CENT AND 6.6 PER CENT.

MONEY SUPPLY  
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HK\$M1 AND HK\$M2 FELL BY 1.6 PER CENT AND 0.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN MAY WHILE HK\$M3 RECORDED ZERO GROWTH. THESE COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING RATES OF -0.4 PER CENT, 1.3 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT IN APRIL. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MAY, THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES FOR HK\$M1, M2 AND M3 WERE 30.5 PER CENT, 24.8 PER CENT AND 22.4 PER CENT. ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SWAP DEPOSITS, HK\$M2 GREW BY 0.9 PER CENT WHILE HK\$M3 ROSE BY 1.3 PER CENT IN MAY. OVER THE YEAR, THEY GREW BY 22 PER CENT AND 20.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 FELL BY 1.4 PER CENT IN MAY WHILE TOTAL-M2 AND TOTAL M3 GREW BY 2.1 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE 0.2 PER CENT, 2.2 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT IN APRIL. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MAY, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 30.7 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 24.5 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 22.5 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES  
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TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES GREW BY 1.9 PER CENT IN MAY, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.4 PER CENT AND 3.8 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR GREW BY 3.6 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES ROSE BY 0.7 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG GREW BY 3.8 PER CENT IN MAY AFTER INCREASES OF 1.2 PER CENT AND 0.5 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY; OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 18.1 PER CENT. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 3.3 PER CENT IN MAY COMPARED WITH RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES OF 0.8 PER CENT AND 3.5 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL; OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 26.4 PER CENT. LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN MAY AFTER INCREASES OF 2.1 PER CENT AND 4.8 PER CENT IN MARCH AND APRIL RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 79.1 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS  
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THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY ONE TO 156. THE NUMBER OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 35, WHILE THAT OF REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE TO 228.

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MONETARY STATISTICS - MAY 1988

	May 1988	Apr 1988	Earlier months (% change to May 1988)	May 1987
<b>Money Supply</b>				
M1 - HK\$	71,536	72,317 (-1.6%)	77,288 (-7.4%)	54,813 (30.5%)
Foreign currency	8,281	8,002 (3.5%)	9,711 (-14.7%)	6,282 (31.5%)
Total	79,822	80,918 (-1.4%)	86,999 (-8.2%)	61,094 (30.7%)
M2 - HK\$	325,720	327,333 (-0.5%)	325,158 (-0.7%)	261,080 (24.8%)
Foreign currency	399,001	392,534 (1.7%)	359,891 (10.9%)	320,953 (24.3%)
Total	724,721	709,867 (2.1%)	688,019 (5.3%)	582,033 (24.5%)
M3 - HK\$	357,020	357,019 (0.0%)	355,787 (0.3%)	291,736 (22.4%)
Foreign currency	429,682	412,587 (4.1%)	386,875 (10.5%)	350,407 (22.6%)
Total	786,702	769,606 (2.2%)	744,662 (5.6%)	642,143 (22.5%)
Notes and coins in circulation	30,241	30,642 (-1.3%)	33,092 (-8.6%)	24,514 (23.4%)
of which held by public	28,489	27,164 (-2.5%)	28,716 (-7.6%)	21,720 (22.0%)
<b>Deposits</b>				
Demand deposits	53,333	53,754 (-0.8%)	58,284 (-8.5%)	39,374 (35.5%)
Savings deposits	176,199	182,903 (-3.7%)	190,868 (-7.7%)	141,199 (24.8%)
Time deposits with banks	455,027	433,166 (5.0%)	397,721 (14.4%)	370,553 (22.8%)
Time deposits with dtcs	59,955	57,714 (3.9%)	54,731 (9.5%)	56,239 (6.6%)
HK\$ deposits	319,066	318,355 (0.2%)	316,336 (0.9%)	282,569 (21.5%)
US\$ deposits	227,991	222,560 (2.4%)	211,167 (8.0%)	213,202 (6.9%)
Other foreign currency deposits	197,455	186,622 (5.8%)	174,101 (13.4%)	131,593 (50.0%)
All deposits	744,513	727,537 (2.3%)	701,604 (6.1%)	607,365 (22.6%)
Foreign currency swap deposits	30,324	25,378 (19.5%)	18,014 (68.3%)	30,650 (-1.1%)
<b>Loans and advances</b>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	47,451	45,734 (3.8%)	44,965 (5.5%)	40,176 (18.1%)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	5,180	5,467 (-5.2%)	7,847 (-34.0%)	5,634 (-6.1%)
Other loans for use in H.K.	389,431	377,107 (3.3%)	361,572 (7.7%)	308,186 (26.4%)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	326,624	324,582 (0.6%)	303,234 (7.7%)	182,363 (79.1%)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	60,081	60,762 (-1.1%)	62,515 (-3.9%)	37,101 (61.9%)
Loans in HK\$	340,919	329,175 (3.6%)	315,056 (8.2%)	264,174 (20.0%)
Loans in foreign currencies	487,646	484,476 (0.7%)	465,074 (4.9%)	289,285 (68.6%)
Total loans and advances	828,767	813,651 (1.9%)	780,133 (6.2%)	573,460 (44.5%)

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FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN SAI KUNG

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WOULD ENABLE RESIDENTS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CRIME PREVENTION AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAINTAIN CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH THE POLICE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE SAID.

TO AROUSE PUBLIC ATTENTION, THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE HAS INVITED FILM ACTRESS, MISS CHAN MAN-YEE, TO BE THE STANDARD BEARER OF THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN.

MISS CHAN WOULD GIVE HER UTMOST SUPPORT TO THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE OF "ANTI-SHOPTHEFT" AND "HOME-SECURITY". THE "ANTI-TRIAD" THEME WILL ALSO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FIRST PROGRAMME OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS THE ERECTION OF A PUBLICITY SIGNBOARD AT THE CLEAR WATER BAY SECOND BAY TODAY.

THE SIGNBOARD SERVES AS A REMINDER TO BEACH-GOERS TO TAKE GREAT CARE OF THEIR BELONGINGS AND TO REPORT ANY BEACH OR VEHICLE THEFT TO THE POLICE.

OTHER PUBLICITY SIGNBOARDS WILL ALSO BE ERECTED AT VARIOUS CARPARKS AND BEACHES SUCH AS THE CLEAR WATER BAY FIRST BAY, SILVERSTRAND BEACH, PAK SHA WAN PIER AND SAI KUNG TOWN NEW PUBLIC PIER IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME, THE FIRST FIVE PHASES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS, HAS STARTED ITS PHASE VI EXERCISE IN HOI FU HOUSE, TUI MIN HOI TSUEN, EARLY THIS MONTH.

IN THIS SCHEME, RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT CRIME TO THE POLICE AND GIVE MUTUAL HELP TO THEIR NEIGHBOURS SO AS TO DETER BURGLARS AND OTHER CRIMINALS.

THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE SPREAD THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW DISPLAY PROJECT IN WHICH PERSPEX SHEETS FOR DISPLAYING ANTI-TRIAD LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

VISITS WILL ALSO BE ARRANGED FOR THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE KWUN TONG MAGISTRACY NEXT MONTH AND LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO THE SAI KUNG DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION IN OCTOBER. THESE VISITS WILL ENABLE THEM TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPERATION OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE A CRIME PREVENTION VARIETY SHOW CUM PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

/OTHER ACTIVITIES .....

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CRIME PREVENTION SEMINARS FOR RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS, ANTI-SHOPTHEFT POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION, PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND ANTI-TRIAD CROSS-WORD PUZZLE COMPETITION.

ALL SAI KUNG RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN, ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THE FIGHT CRIME ACTIVITIES.

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DB TO CONSIDER OBJECTIONS TO THA  
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MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE OBJECTIONS OF BEACON HEIGHTS RESIDENTS TO A PROPOSED TEMPORARY HOUSING PROJECT IN AN ADJACENT AREA.

THE THA PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT A MEETING HELD LAST NOVEMBER, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS. MEMBERS HAVE DECIDED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS' OBJECTIONS.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 1988-89, AND WILL CONSIDER A NUMBER OF FUND APPLICATIONS.

THEY WILL ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE PHASE 4 RE-DEVELOPMENT OF LEI CHENG UK ESTATE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THIS YEAR'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT VOTE AND A REPLY BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE SHAM SHUI PO PRIVATE BUILDING STUDIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO BEGIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.15 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37-39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON.

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KOWLOON CITY DB TO DISCUSS REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY

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KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY, THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SUMMER TIME IN HONG KONG.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT AND TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MISS ANISSA WONG, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME.

THE SPORTS CONSULTANCY REPORT IS ALSO ON THE AGENDA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UNDER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE RESITING ARRANGEMENT FOR ON-STREET LICENSED HAWKERS IN THE VICINITY OF JAVA ROAD MARKET AND ELECTRIC ROAD MARKET AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CLEARANCE PROGRAMME FOR 1988/89 AND THE LAYOUT PLAN OF THE CHAI WAN PARK EXTENSION PROJECT.

SEVERAL MEMBERS WILL ALSO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED TO GIVE REASONS REGARDING THE SHELIVING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ALDRICH BAY PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND EXAMINE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY OTHER SUITABLE ALTERNATIVES.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROGRESS OF SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET EAST RECONSTRUCTION WORKS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN ALDRICH VILLAGE AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UC FACILITIES AT THE EXISTING SHAU KEI WAN LOW LEVEL SERVICE RESERVOIRS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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SAI KUNG COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THEY WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT WORK ON A FOOTPATH IN PING TUN VILLAGE AND A PROPOSED SITTING-OUT AREA IN NAM SHAN VILLAGE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF TAI PING VILLAGE AND THE TREATMENT OF DESERTED INCINERATORS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHAM SHUI PO FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 1) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION AT UN CHAU STREET.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, THREE ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES OPERATING FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

THEY ARE:

- \* THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TONKIN STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH UN CHAU STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- \* PRATAS STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH UN CHAU STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.
- \* UN CHAU STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TONKIN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES.

THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FUK WING STREET BETWEEN CAMP STREET AND PRATAS STREET WILL BE CANCELLED. NEW PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FUK WING STREET BETWEEN CAMP STREET AND PRATAS STREET, AND ON THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF PRATAS STREET BETWEEN UN CHAU STREET AND FUK WING STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, PRATAS STREET BETWEEN UN CHAU STREET AND FUK WING STREET WILL BE CONVERTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND INTO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND; WHILE CAMP STREET BETWEEN UN CHAU STREET AND FUK WING STREET WILL BE CHANGED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND INTO TWO-WAY WORKING.

IN ADDITION, VEHICLES ON PRATAS STREET SOUTH OF UN CHAU STREET WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY TO TURN LEFT ONTO UN CHAU STREET.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAYS IN NORTH POINT AND SHAU KEI WAN  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN NORTH POINT AND SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 2).

THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD IN NORTH POINT FROM A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAIKOO SHING ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 115 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME A DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO FACILITATE SLOPE REINFORCEMENT WORKS.

IN SHAU KEI WAN, HOI AN STREET BETWEEN HING MAN STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY. THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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WATER CUT IN KWAI CHUNG  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF ON SATURDAY (JULY 2) FROM 9 PM TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY KWAI CHUNG ROAD, LAI KING HILL ROAD, JOINT STREET, LAI CHO ROAD, AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD (EXCEPT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL).

AT THE SAME TIME, WATER PRESSURE TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE WEAKENED.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY CONTAINER PORT ROAD, KWAI TAI ROAD, KWAI YUE STREET, WING SHUN STREET, TEXACO ROAD, KWAI FUK ROAD, SHING FUK STREET, KWAI SHING CIRCUIT, KWAI HING ROAD, WO TONG TSUI STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, LAI CHO ROAD, JOINT STREET, LAI KING HILL ROAD, KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND TSUEN WAN ROAD, INCLUDING ALL BLOCKS OF MEI FOO SUN TSUEN TO THE SOUTH OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

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