



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FOUR BILLS SEEK TO EXTEND TIME LIMIT FOR PROCEEDINGS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOUR BILLS SEEKING TO EXTEND THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH PROCEEDINGS FOR SUMMARY OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCES MAY BE BROUGHT.

THE FOUR BILLS WERE THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE COMMODITIES EXCHANGES (PROHIBITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, SIR PIERS SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR SUMMARY OFFENCES AS CONTAINED IN THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE FROM SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS AFTER AN OFFENCE HAD BEEN COMMITTED OR 12 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF THE OFFENCE BY THE PROSECUTOR, WHICHEVER PERIOD EXPIRED FIRST.

HE SAID SUMMARY OFFENCES CONCERNING THE TRADING OF SECURITIES AND REGISTRATION OF DEALERS WERE OFTEN COMPLEX IN NATURE, INVOLVING NUMEROUS WITNESSES AND VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

"EXPERIENCE OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION INDICATES THAT THE EXISTING SIX-MONTH TIME LIMIT IS TOO RESTRICTIVE BECAUSE AN OFFENCE MAY NOT COME TO LIGHT UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER IT WAS COMMITTED.

"FURTHERMORE, IN MOST CASES CONSIDERABLE TIME IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR THE PROSECUTION," SIR PIERS SAID.

"THE EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT WILL ASSIST IN FACILITATING THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READINGS OF THE REMAINING THREE BILLS, SIR PIERS SAID THEY HAD THE SAME PROVISIONS AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

HE SAID THE SUMMARY OFFENCES IN THE PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE WERE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE ADVERTISING OF UNREGISTERED INVESTMENT BUSINESS.

THE SUMMARY OFFENCES IN THE COMMODITIES EXCHANGES (PROHIBITION) ORDINANCE RELATED MAINLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMMODITIES EXCHANGE; WHILE THOSE IN THE COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE RELATED MAINLY TO TRADING IN COMMODITIES FUTURES CONTRACTS AND THE REGISTRATION OF DEALERS, HE SAID.

DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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RESOLUTION ON DRUG TRAFFICKING ORDER PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT IT APPROVES THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) (DESIGNATED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES) ORDER 1991, MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON JANUARY 8 THIS YEAR, WITH AMENDMENTS.

MOVING A MOTION TO MODIFY THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE SOLELY TO RECTIFY CLERICAL ERRORS AND TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENCY WITH THE CHINESE TERMS USED IN THE MAIN ORDINANCE.

THEY REPRESENTED NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO THE ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

MR ASPREY SAID THE ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN JULY 1989, HAD STRENGTHENED THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO COMBAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN DRUGS BY PROVIDING FOR THE TRACING, RESTRAINING AND CONFISCATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

SECTION 28(1) OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO DESIGNATE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG TO ENABLE THEIR CONFISCATION AND OTHER ORDERS RELATING TO DRUG TRAFFICKING TO BE ENFORCED IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

"IT ALSO ALLOWS ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED IN RELATION TO THEIR DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

"TO ENSURE RECIPROCAL TREATMENT, HONG KONG HAS NEGOTIATED BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM JURISDICTIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AS WELL AS JERSEY, GUERNSEY AND THE ISLE OF MAN," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD COME INTO EFFECT WHEN THE PARTIES TO THEM HAD NOTIFIED EACH OTHER THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE HAD BEEN MET, HE SAID.

"IN HONG KONG'S CASE, THE REQUIREMENT IS FOR THE OVERSEAS JURISDICTIONS TO BE DESIGNATED UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE," MR ASPREY ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE DESIGNATION ORDER, MR ASPREY SAID IT WOULD APPLY THE ORDINANCE WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO CONFISCATION ORDERS AND RELATED PROCEEDINGS IN THE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAD NEGOTIATED BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

IN PARTICULAR, THE HIGH COURT WOULD BE ABLE TO ORDER THE RESTRAINT IN HONG KONG OF PROPERTY WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO ENFORCE A CONFISCATION ORDER MADE IN A DESIGNATED COUNTRY OR TERRITORY; AND REGISTER AND ENFORCE A CONFISCATION ORDER MADE BY A COURT IN A DESIGNATED COUNTRY OR TERRITORY.

/MR ASPREY

MR ASPREY SAID THE DESIGNATED ORDER ALSO PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 7, THAT THE VALUE OF ANY PROPERTY RECOVERED IN A DESIGNATED COUNTRY OR TERRITORY IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF AN ORDER WAS TO BE TREATED AS REDUCING THE AMOUNT PAYABLE IN HONG KONG UNDER A CONFISCATION ORDER MADE BY THE HIGH COURT OR DISTRICT COURT.

"THIS MECHANISM IS REQUIRED SINCE, UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS NEGOTIATED, PROPERTY RECOVERED ABROAD WOULD NORMALLY REMAIN WHERE IT IS RECOVERED," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORDINANCE WERE SET OUT IN SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ORDER, MR ASPREY SAID THEY WERE MAINLY OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, TO MAKE THE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE LAW AND PRACTICE RELATING TO CONFISCATION ORDERS AND RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE DESIGNATED JURISDICTIONS.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF USERS OF THIS LEGISLATION, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ABROAD, THE WHOLE ORDINANCE, AS MODIFIED, WAS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE 3 TO THE ORDER, HE ADDED.

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FOUR PILOT PROJECTS ON PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM UNDERWAY

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT APPROACH HAS BEEN TO SELECT PRIORITY AREAS OF PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND USE PILOT PROJECTS TO TEST THE WIDER APPLICABILITY OF NEW CONCEPTS TO ENABLE IT TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO EXTEND THE BENEFITS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN BARROW, SIR DAVID SAY FOUR PILOT PROJECTS WERE UNDERWAY.

HE SAID THE FIRST PROJECT REVIEWED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

"THE OBJECT IS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE POLICY SECRETARY IN ALLOCATING RESOURCES WITHIN HIS PARTICULAR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"THE REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND RECOMMENDED THE INTRODUCTION OF A FORMAL SYSTEM FOR REVIEWING POLICIES, AGREEING ON OBJECTIVES, AND EVALUATING PERFORMANCE BASED ON THE PRODUCTION OF AN ANNUAL POLICY STATEMENT BY THE BRANCH, AND AN ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN BY THE DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE POLICY SECRETARY AND THE CONTROLLING OFFICER WOULD BE DELEGATED MORE FINANCIAL AUTHORITY TO MANAGE THEIR BUDGETS.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON A TRIAL BASIS IN THE 1992/93 ESTIMATES.

SIR DAVID SAID THE SECOND PROJECT EXAMINED THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A TRADING FUND OPERATION INTO THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID A BUSINESS REVIEW OF THE VEHICLE SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT COULD BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY IN TERMS OF REDUCED COSTS AND BETTER SERVICE BY TAKING A MORE COMMERCIAL APPROACH.

"WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH THE VEHICLE SECTION WILL CHARGE FULL COSTS FOR SERVICES IT PROVIDES TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS.

"THIS FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A TRADING FUND WILL BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE THIRD PROJECT REVIEWED THE GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAJOR STATUTORY BODIES.

"THE OBJECT OF THIS REVIEW IS TO STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE BODIES BY FORMALISING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AGREEING ON OBJECTIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

"THE REVIEW COVERS 13 MAJOR STATUTORY BODIES AND HAS LARGELY BEEN COMPLETED," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE INITIAL FINDING WAS THAT THE PRESENT REPORTING AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK WAS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, SUCH AS THE NEED FOR SOME BODIES TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY THEIR OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

"THIS WILL BE LOOKED AT FURTHER BY POLICY SECRETARIES CONCERNED.

"IT IS OUR INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE THE REVIEW PERIODICALLY TO EXAMINE THE SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENTS," HE SAID.

THE FOURTH PROJECT, HE SAID, EXAMINED INCREASING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY BY CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND FINANCE BRANCH TO GIVE DEPARTMENTS MORE FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES.

"CONTROLLING OFFICERS HAVE NOW BEEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS, CONTROL OF RECRUITING EXPENSES, CONTROL OF FUNDS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AS WELL AS UNDER A NUMBER OF OTHER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

"THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT SEPARATELY, FOUR WORKING GROUPS WERE LOOKING AT THE MAIN AREAS OF CONCERN TO DEPARTMENTS.

THESE INCLUDE RECRUITMENT, DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT
COMMITTEES, EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT, AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION
PROCEDURES.

"THE PROGRAMME IS COMPLEMENTED AND SUPPORTED BY VALUE-FOR-MONEY STUDIES WHICH FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS TO SPECIFIC, INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES," HE CONCLUDED.

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GOVT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME DESPITE THE REDUCTION OF MANPOWER AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN 1991/92, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR TSAO SAID THESE MEASURES WERE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY PROGRAMME AND HE STRESSED THAT STANDARDS WILL BE MAINTAINED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BY MAKING THE BEST USE OF EXISTING SERVICES.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THOSE MEASURES HAD BEEN PROMPTED SOLELY BY THE NEED TO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT'S RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

"THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN WHICH THE DISTRICT BOARDS PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

"IN FACT, WHEN IMPLEMENTED ON APRIL 1, 1991, THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MONITORED CLOSELY AND GREAT CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC REMAIN UNAFFECTED," MR TSAO SAID.

HOWEVER, MR TSAO SAID THE ACTUAL FIGURES TO BE PROPOSED FOR THE 1991/92 DRAFT ESTIMATES HAD NOT YET BEEN FINALISED.

ON MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (MEI) AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, MR TSAO SAID THEY WERE CARRIED OUT EACH YEAR ON THE ADVICE OF THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BOARDS OUT OF THEIR ANNUAL FUND ALLOCATIONS.

"THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THESE PROJECTS IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS EACH YEAR," HE SAID.

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FOR THIS REASON, MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH IN ADVANCE THE NUMBER OF MEI PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFERRED BECAUSE OF THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

BUT MR TSAO ADDED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE TAKING PLACE WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITH A VIEW TO DEVISING A NEW PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT OF DIMINISHED ALLOCATION IN FUNDS.

"OUR AIM IS TO RESTORE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND AT LEAST IN PART, THE ALLOCATIONS FOR MEI'S," HE STRESSED.

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HK WILL REMAIN WMO'S TERRITORIAL MEMBER AFTER 1997

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THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ITS OWN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE AFTER 1997 AND WILL REMAIN A TERRITORIAL MEMBER OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (WMO), THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS AGREED WITH THE CHINESE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

"WE HAVE ALSO AGREED WITH THE CHINESE ON THE HONG KONG SAR'S PARTICIPATION IN A NUMBER OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TYPHOON COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE WMO IN GENEVA LAST NOVEMBER, SIR DAVID SAID THE DECISION IN NO WAY PREJUDICED HONG KONG'S STATUS IN THE WMO OR ITS RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS OWN NAME IN WMO CONFERENCES.

THIS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE CHINESE SIDE, HE STRESSED.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST SIX DAYS, WHICH WERE FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS, WERE ATTENDED THROUGHOUT BY THE HONG KONG DELEGATION.

AT THE SECOND PART, LASTING TWO DAYS, MINISTERS OF PARTICIPATING STATES WERE TO ENDORSE AN ACTION PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE, SIR DAVID SAID.

/"THE INVITATION

"THE INVITATION TO HONG KONG TO ATTEND BOTH PARTS OF THE CONFERENCE WAS ISSUED BY THE WMO AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.

"HONG KONG IS A "TERRITORIAL" MEMBER OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION, AS DISTINCT FROM A STATE, GOVERNMENTAL OR UNITED NATIONS MEMBER. BUT HONG KONG IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

WMO'S TERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP WAS DESIGNED TO ENABLE NON-SOVEREIGN ENTITIES WHO MAINTAINED THEIR OWN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, SUCH AS HONG KONG, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION IN A CAPACITY DISTINCT FROM SOVEREIGN STATES, SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CONFERENCE WAS SPONSORED BY SIX INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

HONG KONG PARTICIPATED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF ONLY TWO OF THESE : THE WMO AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION, SIR DAVID ADDED.

"PROCEEDINGS AT THE SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE WERE GOVERNED BY THE CONFERENCE'S OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE.

"THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT CONFIRMED THAT HONG KONG'S INVITATION FLOWED FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION," HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION ATTENDED THE FIRST PART OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH LASTED SIX DAYS AND FOUND IT VERY USEFUL," SIR DAVID SAID.

"SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECOND PART OF THE CONFERENCE THAT IS THE TWO DAY MINISTERIAL PART BEGAN THE PRC (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA) QUESTIONED HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH ITS NON-SOVEREIGN STATUS.

"FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT IT WAS DECIDED THAT, SINCE THE MATTER COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY BE RESOLVED, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN," SIR DAVID SAID.

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USE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES BY VR, VBP
WILL NOT AFFECT SERVICE TO LOCALS

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THE USAGE RATES OF MEDICAL FACILITIES BY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE CAN BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE CAPACITY OF OUR HOSPITALS AND THUS HAVE HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON M. D. CARTLAND, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR CARTLAND SAID OVERALL, THE USE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES BY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE CONSTITUTED LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE CASE-LOAD AND OCCUPANCY IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

"NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC HAS EVER BEEN TURNED AWAY OR DENIED PROMPT AND ADEQUATE TREATMENT BECAUSE OF THE USE OF THESE FACILITIES BY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE USING THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS HAD RISEN FROM 805 IN 1989 TO 992 IN 1990.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE AVERAGE OCCUPANCY OF REGIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS BY THESE PEOPLE HAD ALSO INCREASED FROM 2.3 PER CENT TO 2.9 PER CENT, HE SAID.

IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, MR CARTLAND SAID VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE ACCOUNTED FOR 0.4 PER CENT OF THE BED OCCUPANCY AND THAT THIS RATE HAD REMAINED STEADY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

NO RECORD WAS KEPT OF THEIR USE OF THE SUBVENTED ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PRIOR TO MAY 1990.

"BASED ON THE STATISTICS AVAILABLE SINCE THEN, IT IS OBSERVED THAT APPROXIMATELY 120 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE VISIT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT IN SUBVENTED HOSPITALS EACH MONTH," HE ADDED.

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MOTION ON ECR 4 PASSED

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THE MOTION ON THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4, MOVED BY THE HON SELINA CHOW, WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TWENTY-THREE MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION AND THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/ANOTHER MOTION

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ANOTHER MOTION UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, WAS ALSO PASSED.

MEANWHILE, FIVE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, COMMODITY EXCHANGES (PROHIBITION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 AND THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, A PRIVATE BILL INTRODUCED BY THE HON MARTIN LEE.

DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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HK ESTABLISHING REPUTATION AS FASHION CENTRE

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HONG KONG IS ESTABLISHING ITS REPUTATION AS A FASHION CENTRE AND CONSUMER DEMAND FOR ITS FASHION PRODUCTS IS GROWING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG FASHION WEEK 1991, SIR DAVID SAID LAST YEAR HONG KONG WAS SECOND ONLY TO ITALY IN THE TOTAL VALUE OF GARMENTS EXPORTED.

THIS WAS AN IMPRESSIVE STATISTIC FOR A TERRITORY OF ONLY ABOUT 400 SQUARE MILES IN SIZE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HONG KONG WAS HOWEVER RIGHTLY INTERESTED IN QUALITY AS WELL AS QUANTITY.

"TWENTY YEARS AGO, HONG KONG WAS BEST KNOWN AS A MANUFACTURER OF JEANS AND T-SHIRTS.

"WE HAVE BEEN MOVING UP-MARKET EVER SINCE. TODAY THE BULK OF OUR GARMENT EXPORTS GO TO QUALITY STORES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID DURING THIS PERIOD, HONG KONG'S GREAT STRENGTH HAD BEEN THAT WE COULD MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF OVERSEAS BUYERS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

"BUT WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO GO FURTHER. WE GENERATE OUR OWN IDEAS ABOUT FASHION. WE HAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND GROWING BODY OF YOUNG DESIGNERS.

"SO HONG KONG IS ESTABLISHING ITS REPUTATION AS A FASHION CENTRE. OUR MANUFACTURERS CAN SEE THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS. AND CONSUMER DEMAND FOR HONG KONG FASHION PRODUCTS IS GROWING," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID PEOPLE IN HONG KONG RECOGNISED THAT TO GROW WE MUST EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH OTHERS.

"FASHION IS ABOUT CHANGE. IT MEANS APPROACHING OLD IDEAS FROM NEW ANGLES; AND GENERATING COMPLETELY NEW IDEAS.

"THIS WEEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FASHION EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND FIND INSPIRATION IN HONG KONG'S UNIQUELY EXCITING AND VIBRANT SETTING," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG FASHION WEEK WAS GROWING IN IMPORTANCE.

"THE APPEARANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME HERE OF A EUROPEAN PAVILION IS A MARK OF THIS NEW STATURE," HE SAID.

FINALLY, THE GOVERNOR PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG FASHION WEEK -- THE MODELS, THE BUYERS, DISTINGUISHED OVERSEAS VISITORS AND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND STAFF OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHO HAD WORKED HARD TO ORGANISE THE EVENT.

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FORGERY TRAVEL DOCUMENT RACKET SMASHED

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IMMIGRATION AND POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SMASHED A SYNDICATE BELIEVED TO BE ENGAGED IN FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENT PRODUCTION AFTER A TERRITORY-WIDE RAIDS IN THE PAST TWO DAYS RESULTING IN THE ARREST OF 19 PERSONS, SOME SUSPECTED TO BE ITS MASTERMINDS AND KEY MEMBERS.

DURING THE OPERATION, INVESTIGATORS SEARCHED 28 LOCATIONS, INCLUDING ONE BELIEVED TO BE THE SYNDICATE'S COUNTERFEIT TRAVEL DOCUMENT PRODUCTION HOUSE AT TAI NAM STREET. OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, FIVE WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

THE OPERATION WAS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY IMMIGRATION AND POLICE'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTELLIGENCE BUREAU'S OFFICERS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE JOINT OPERATION THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON, THE HEAD OF THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, MR TANG CHIU-SHING, SAID THE SYNDICATE HAD BEEN PUT UNDER THEIR SURVEILLANCE FOR THREE MONTHS BEFORE THEY DECIDED TO LAUNCH AN OVERT OPERATION, COMMENCING AT 2230 HOURS ON MONDAY (JANUARY 14) TO NET SUSPECTED SYNDICATE MASTERMINDS AND MEMBERS.

MR TANG SAID MORE THAN 600 EXHIBITS, INCLUDING COMPLETE COUNTERFEIT MACHINE-READABLE HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS, PASSPORT INSIDE PAGES, PASSPORT COVERS, SUSPECTED PHOTO-SUBSTITUTED HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS, EQUIPMENTS AND SEALS BELIEVED TO BE USED FOR FORGING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, WERE SEIZED.

HE SAID THE JOINT OPERATION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL WHICH MANAGED TO QUASH THE PRODUCTION OF FORGED MACHINE-READABLE HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS RIGHT AT THE OUTSET.

"THIS IS THE FIRST OCCASION WHERE WE MANAGED TO STRIKE DIRECT AT THE FACTORY WHERE THE FORGERIES WERE MADE.

"WE HAVE ALSO ARRESTED SUSPECTED KEY MEMBERS OF THE SYNDICATE, TWO OF THEM WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA," MR TANG SAID.

MR TANG BELIEVED THAT THE SYNDICATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING FORGED DOCUMENTS TO NATIONALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) WHO WANTED TO SEEK ILLEGAL ENTRY TO COUNTRIES ABROAD.

THE SYNDICATE WAS ALSO SUSPECTED TO BE SUPPLYING FORGED HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM PRC.

"THE SYNDICATE IS BELIEVED TO BE SUPPLYING A FULL SET OF FORGED DOCUMENTS TO THEIR CLIENTS AT A PRICE OF BETWEEN HK\$130,000 AND \$150,000. THE WHOLESALE PRICE FOR A FORGED HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD IS AROUND HK\$40,000 WHILE THE PRICE FOR A COUNTERFEIT PASSPORT IS AROUND HK\$5,000," MR TANG ADDED.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE USE OF FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS HAD BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WAS WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS TO ENHANCE LIAISON AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE.

"WE WANT TO MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP ANY POSSIBLE CLUE SO FAR AS TRACKING DOWN FORGERY ACTIVITIES ARE CONCERNED.

"OUR OFFICERS AT THE CONTROL POINTS ARE ON HIGH VIGILANCE AND ALERT JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO USE FORGED DOCUMENTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH," MR TANG STRESSED.

HE BELIEVED THAT SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN FORCED TO AVOID HONG KONG ALTOGETHER.

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OVERSEAS STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

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SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEING OFFERED TO LOCAL STUDENTS FOR A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE AT FOUR CO-EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES IN BRITAIN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY THIS SEPTEMBER.

THE INSTITUTES ARE THE ATLANTIC COLLEGE IN THE UK, PEARSON COLLEGE IN CANADA, AMERICAN WEST COLLEGE IN THE USA AND ADRIATIC COLLEGE IN ITALY.

THE COURSE IS RECOGNISED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

APPLICANTS MUST BE HONG KONG CITIZENS WITH AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY; AGED OVER 16 AND UNDER 18; AND POSSESS (OR HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING) A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE C OR ABOVE, INCLUDED ENGLISH (OR GCE EQUIVALENT).

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS. SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A SELECTION INTERVIEW.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS, DONATED BY A NUMBER OF LOCAL LEADING ORGANISATIONS, WOULD NORMALLY COVER TUITION AND BOARDING FEES FOR THE TWO YEARS.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

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'HK TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS' PUBLISHED

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THE 1991 EDITION OF "HONG KONG TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS" PUBLISHED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS BILINGUAL ANNUAL PUBLICATION PROVIDES BASIC INFORMATION SUCH AS THE ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND NAMES OF KEY OFFICIALS OF MORE THAN 240 TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN HONG KONG.

COMPILED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, IT SERVES AS A DIRECTORY FOR LOCAL TRADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS IN GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, AS WELL AS A USEFUL REFERENCE GUIDE FOR THE PUBLIC.

ORGANISATIONS ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER AND THERE IS A CROSS REFERENCE CLASSIFYING ORGANISATIONS BY THE NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS.

AS AN EXAMPLE, UNDER THE SECTION "APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES", A TOTAL OF 12 RELATED ORGANISATIONS ARE INCLUDED.

FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE LATE 1970'S, THE PUBLICATION HAS PROVED POPULAR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THOSE WISHING TO OBTAIN A FREE COPY SHOULD WRITE TO MISS AMY CHEUNG, DATA AND SERVICES DIVISION, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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THREE GOVT LOTS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 18).

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED AT ORMSBY STREET, TAI HANG, MEASURES ABOUT 160 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL AND SERVICE APARTMENTS PURPOSES.

THE SECOND LOT IS A 12,090-SQUARE-METRE PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE LOCATED IN AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO.

THE THIRD LOT IS AT THE JUNCTION OF KWOK SHUI ROAD AND CHEUNG WING ROAD, TSUEN WAN, AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 15,030 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

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