



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BETTER TV VIEWING

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THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS AIMED AT RAISING THE STANDARD, QUALITY AND CONTROL OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG, SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, THE HON DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

PRESENTING THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1978 TO DECEMBER 1979, MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FELL MAINLY IN TWO AREAS:

- \* THOSE RELATED TO DEFICIENCIES AND PROBLEM AREAS IN TELEVISION PROGRAMMING WHICH COULD BE REMEDIED BY AMENDMENTS TO THE CODES OF PRACTICE, AND
- \* THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE SHAREHOLDINGS OF THE COMPANIES AND CONDITIONS OF LICENCES, WHICH IF APPROVED, WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE ITSELF.

ON PROGRAMME STANDARDS, MR FORD SAID THAT AS INDICATED BY A RECENT SURVEY, THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF VIOLENCE AND THE USE OF BAD LANGUAGE ON TELEVISION.

CONTROLS ALREADY EXIST UNDER THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE AND IN THE CODES OF PRACTICE WHICH ENABLE THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY TO ACT AS A WATCHDOG ON ANY BREACHES OF PROGRAMME STANDARDS, HE POINTED OUT.

BUT, HE SAID, THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD TOOK THE VIEW THAT A MORE DETERMINED EFFORT WAS NEEDED ON THE PART OF THE LICENSEES TO CONTROL THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES.

IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO WRITE INTO THE CODES OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES GOVERNING EVERY SITUATION.

+IN ANY CASE A COMPANY LICENSED TO BROADCAST TELEVISION PROGRAMMES HAS A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT HIGH STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED AND IN RECOGNITION OF THIS THE BOARD RECOMMENDED THAT THE STATIONS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO LAY DOWN GUIDELINES FOR THEIR OWN STAFF SPELLING OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC,+ MR FORD SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN CASES WHERE, IN SPITE OF THIS, COMPANIES CONTINUE TO BREACH STANDARDS THE BOARD HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE GREATER READINESS ON GOVERNMENT'S PART TO IMPOSE FINANCIAL PENALTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

/OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS .....

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE BOARD ON PROGRAMME SCHEDULING WERE:

- \* AT LEAST 1-1/2 HOURS OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES DAILY AND AT LEAST AN HOUR OF THESE BETWEEN 4 PM AND 6.30 PM, AND
- \* ESTABLISHING FAMILY VIEWING HOURS AS BETWEEN 4 PM AND 8.30 PM, DURING WHICH TIME ANY MATERIAL POSITIVELY UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE BROADCAST.

FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH BY AND LARGE THE BOARD WAS SATISFIED WITH BOTH THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE NEWS PROGRAMMES PRODUCED BY THE TWO STATIONS, IT WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A TENDENCY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS TO SCHEDULE NEWS PROGRAMMES AT TIMES OUTSIDE THE PEAK VIEWING HOURS.

+THE BOARD HAS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT AT LEAST TWO NEWS BULLETINS MUST BE SCHEDULED BETWEEN 6 PM AND 12 MIDNIGHT AND THAT NOT MORE THAN 3-1/2 HOURS SHOULD LAPSE BETWEEN THE BEGINNING OF ONE NEWS PROGRAMME AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT.

+THEY HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT COMMENTARY AND ANALYSIS OF NEWS TOPICS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE AND CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM NEWS BROADCASTS,+ MR FORD SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE CERTAINLY SHORTFALLS IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY TERMS IN THE AREAS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES, EDUCATIONAL AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES.

TURNING AGAIN TO THE SURVEY OF TELEVISION VIEWING, HE SAID THERE WAS A CLEAR INDICATION OF A DEMAND FOR MORE DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES WHICH BOTH INFORM AND ENTERTAIN.

+THE TREMENDOUS POPULARITY OF RTHK PROGRAMMES IS A CLEAR ENDORSEMENT OF THIS,+ HE SAID.

MR FORD SAID THE ARGUMENT OFTEN PRODUCED BY THE TELEVISION STATIONS THAT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES HAVE A LOW AUDIENCE RATING COULD NOT BE NECESSARILY SUSTAINED +UNTIL AND UNLESS THE COMPANIES ARE PREPARED TO PUT THE SAME AMOUNT OF EFFORT AND MONEY INTO THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES AS THEY DO INTO ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES.+

+IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT IF THE VIEWERS CAN ONLY COMPARE CUT-RATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES WITH LAVISHLY PRODUCED ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES THEY WILL GO ON PREFERRING THE LATTER,+ MR FORD ADDED.

IN THE MATTER OF SHAREHOLDINGS, THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD HAD CONCLUDED THAT SOME CHANGES WERE NECESSARY.

+UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE ORDINANCE THERE IS REQUIREMENT ON THE LICENCES TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC NOT LESS THAN 25 PER CENT OF THEIR VOTING SHARES WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD,+ MR FORD SAID.

THIS OBLIGATION, HE ADDED, HAD ALREADY BEEN POSTPONED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL DECEMBER 1980 BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST PUBLIC INTERESTS TO REQUIRE THE COMPANIES TO FLOAT THEIR SHARES.

+AS ONE NEWSPAPER COMMENTED THIS MORNING, A TELEVISION LICENCE IS NO LONGER A PERMIT TO PRINT MONEY,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THE BOARD HAD NOTED THAT FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS IT HAD APPEARED THAT TOTAL REVENUES FROM TELEVISION ADVERTISING WERE, ON THE MOST OPTIMISTIC CALCULATIONS, ONLY marginally greater than the combined operational costs of both stations.

IT WAS THE BOARD'S VIEW THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO LOOK FORWARD TO ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION, MR FORD SAID.

+THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THEREFORE THAT THE OBLIGATION WHICH REQUIRES THE COMPANIES TO FLOAT THEIR SHARES BE REMOVED BUT THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THE RIGHT TO GO PUBLIC IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.+

HE SAID THE TWO LICENSEES WERE GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH AND ACCEPT THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

MR FORD SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING MEASURES TO AMEND THE CONDITIONS OF LICENCES UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE ORDINANCE TO CONTROL THE APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS TO IMPORTANT MANAGERIAL POSITIONS WITH THE STATIONS AND TO STREAMLINE THE APPEALS PROCEDURE IN RESPECT OF PROGRAMME STANDARDS.

+WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS ARE BEING EXAMINED AND WILL BE OUTLINED IN MORE DETAIL WHEN THE AMENDMENTS ARE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL LATER IN THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR FORD SAID THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATION BY THE BOARD WAS THAT THE LICENCES HELD BY HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCASTS LTD (TVB) AND REDIFFUSION TELEVISION LTD (RTV) SHOULD BE RENEWED WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 31, 1980, FOR A FURTHER EIGHT YEARS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

ICAC HAD BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON ROGER LOBO TODAY CALLED ON EVERYONE WITH THE GOOD OF HONG KONG AT HEART TO PLAY HIS PART IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.

HE MADE THIS CALL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHILE COMMENTING ON THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FOR 1979 WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE COUNCIL.

MR LOBO SAID THAT THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL ONE FOR ICAC WITHOUT ANY MAJOR SETBACKS. THERE HAD BEEN INCREASED ACTIVITIES IN ALL THREE DEPARTMENTS OF THE COMMISSION.

+HOWEVER, WHILE THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION CANNOT BE WON WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF PRIVATE CITIZENS,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE HIGHLIGHTED THE COMMISSIONER'S INDEBTEDNESS TO THE ICAC'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GUIDANCE TO THE COMMISSION.

HE ALSO PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SIR Y.K. KAN WHO RETIRED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, AFTER HAVING SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND LATER THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORRUPTION.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT SIR Y.K. KAN WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES IN HIS OTHER CAPACITIES,+ MR LOBO SAID.

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CLEAR LEGISLATION NEEDED ON ENTERTAINMENT PLACES  
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THE HON ALEX WU TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AREA OF ENTERTAINMENT AS IT AFFECTS SAFETY, HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND LAW AND ORDER, AND TO FRAME LEGISLATION WHICH MEETS MODERN CONDITIONS.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR WU SAID THE RELATIVELY SMALL AMENDMENT PROPOSED, TO REGULARISE THE PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTING CINEMAS ABOVE GROUND IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, GAVE THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AN OCCASION TO LOOK AT THE LEGISLATION AS A WHOLE.

HE SAID THE EXISTING LEGISLATION WAS +UNTIDY AND OUT-OF-DATE ON MANY THINGS BESIDES CINEMAS+.

+THE MAIN FAULT IS ITS COMPLEXITY AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROCEDURES WHICH ARISE FROM IT.

/+IT IS .....

+IT IS INTERESTING THAT THIS WAS PRECISELY THE COMPLAINT MADE BY AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER IN 1919 WHEN THE ORDINANCE WAS FIRST INTRODUCED AS CONSOLIDATING LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

MR WU NOTED THAT THE PRESENT PROCEDURES WERE +MORE CUMBERSOME, BEWILDERING AND FRUSTRATING+.

THERE IS A DIVERSITY OF AUTHORITY WHICH IS UNDESIRABLE IN ITSELF AND THERE ARE NEW FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT WHICH DO NOT NECESSARILY FALL COMFORTABLY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF AN ORDINANCE WHICH WAS OUT-OF-DATE WHEN IT WAS ENACTED 60 YEARS AGO, HE SAID.

+PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS THAT THIS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS THE WRONG APPROACH TO THE CONTROL OF ENTERTAINMENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR WU SAID WHAT THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION MISSED ALTOGETHER WAS THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ACTIVITIES WHICH THE TERM COVERED.

+IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL PROPERLY WITH THE SOCIAL IMPACT WHEN THE STARTING POINT IS LEGISLATION LAYING DOWN THE HEIGHT OF THE PIT AND THE STALL ABOVE STREET LEVEL AND THE NUMBER OF TIERS OF SEATS.

+IT IS VERY UNSATISFACTORY THAT WE HAVE HAD TO GRAFT ON, AGAIN, TO LEGISLATION OF THIS TYPE OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTROLLING THE CONTENT OF ENTERTAINMENT.

+I KNOW THIS IS A CONTENTIOUS SUBJECT BUT I DO NOT THINK ANYONE BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE NO CONCERN AT ALL FOR THE CONTENT OF WHAT MAY BE OFFERED AS PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT,+ HE ADDED.

HE WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING FURTHER LEGISLATION AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE BASED ON THE APPROACH HE PROPOSED.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS WERE IN MANY RESPECTS OBSOLETE, THEY WERE WORKABLE.

HE PROMISED HOWEVER THAT A SERIOUS EXAMINATION WOULD BE MADE OF THE WHOLE LEGISLATION AS IT AFFECTS CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SAFETY MATTERS.

IT WOULD BE MADE AFTER A STUDY NOW BEING CONDUCTED ON FIRE SAFETY IN BUILDINGS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IN THE LIGHT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WHICH ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS LICENSING AND WHAT MR WU TERMED +THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ENTERTAINMENT+, MR JONES SAID THESE HAD BEEN STUDIED BY A WORKING PARTY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING WHICH HAD MADE CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS.

THESE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TO DRAWING UP NEW LEGISLATION MORE SUITED TO PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS, HE SAID.

THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 LATER PASSED ITS THIRD READING.

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CORRECT APPRAISAL OF WORLD CONDITIONS AIMED FOR MFA NEGOTIATIONS  
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WHEN THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE EVENTUALLY HELD, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL BE BASED ON A FACTUAL AND COMPLETE APPRAISAL OF WORLD CONDITIONS IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON BILL DORWARD, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR DORWARD SAID THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WERE HELD TO JUSTIFY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS COULD NOT BE ASSUMED TO BE AUTOMATICALLY VALID THIS YEAR.

+NOR CAN AN EXTENDED MFA, IN ANY FORM, BE JUSTIFIED BY PROBLEMS FACED BY INDUSTRIES IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SUCH AS UNEVEN GROWTH IN TRADE BETWEEN EEC COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATES OR UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED BY IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY, WHICH ARE NOT OF A NATURE THE MFA WAS DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHALL BE SEEKING, THROUGH OUR REGULAR CONTACTS WITH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THIS APPROACH DURING THE COMING MONTHS,+ MR DORWARD STRESSED.

THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, UNDER WHICH HONG KONG'S CURRENT BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS ARE NEGOTIATED, DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL THE END OF 1981.

MR DORWARD SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY HOW WE WOULD SEEK TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS THROUGHOUT THE RENEGOTIATION PROCESS.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SEE WHAT WAS BEING SOUGHT BY THOSE SEEKING CONTINUED SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR THEIR TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES BEYOND THE 20 YEARS OF SUCH PROTECTION WHICH THEY WOULD BY THEN ALREADY HAVE ENJOYED.

+IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE THE SUBJECT OF A MAJOR REVIEW IN THE AUTUMN OF THIS YEAR,+ MR DORWARD SAID, +FOLLOWING WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS WILL MEET IN GENEVA AROUND THE END OF 1980 TO CONSIDER, IN THE WORDS OF THE ARRANGEMENT, WHETHER IT SHOULD BE EXTENDED, MODIFIED OR DISCONTINUED.+

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EXPORT CREDIT CONTINGENT LIABILITY INCREASED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY OF THE EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FROM \$2 000 MILLION TO \$2 500 MILLION.

ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE CORPORATION'S ADVISORY BOARD HAD UNANIMOUSLY ADVISED MAKING THE INCREASE AS THE EXISTING STATUTORY LIMIT MIGHT BE REACHED SHORTLY.

+FAILURE TO RAISE THE LIMIT WOULD RESULT IN THE CORPORATION HAVING TO TURN AWAY FURTHER BUSINESS,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT THIS MAXIMUM LIABILITY WAS A THEORETICAL AMOUNT AND WOULD NEVER LIKELY TO BE AT RISK AT ONE TIME.

+THE CORPORATION ESTIMATES THE ACTUAL AMOUNT PRESENTLY AT RISK AT ANY ONE TIME AT \$950 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

SINCE THE COUNCIL HAD AGREED TO AN INCREASE FROM \$1 750 MILLION TO \$2 000 MILLION THREE YEARS AGO, HE SAID, THE CORPORATION'S LIABILITY UNDER CONTRACTS OF INSURANCE HAD RISEN BY \$441 MILLION AND AT THE END OF LAST MONTH (APRIL) STOOD AT \$1 934 MILLION.

+THE CORPORATION NOW SERVICES 1 102 POLICIES AND PROTECTS EXPORTS ON CREDIT TERMS TO VIRTUALLY ALL HONG KONG'S MARKETS. THE EXPORTS INSURED BY THE CORPORATION AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY \$3 500 MILLION IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON ADDED THAT INCREASES IN THE CONTINGENT LIABILITIES THE CORPORATION WAS ASSUMING WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BOTH BY THE CORPORATION ISSUING NEW POLICIES AND BY INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF INSURABLE BUSINESSES CARRIED OUT BY EXISTING POLICY HOLDERS.

AT PRESENT, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES ARE INCREASING AT THE RATE OF ABOUT \$40 TO \$50 MILLION EACH QUARTER.

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VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ STANDS AT 18 PER CENT  
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THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ AT 18 PER CENT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS THE SAME AS THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR DESPITE AN INCREASING TRADE DEFICIT, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF A RAPID OVERALL EXPANSION IN THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF EXTERNAL TRADE, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AT \$4 468 MILLION WAS LARGER THAN THAT IN LAST YEAR'S FIRST QUARTER (\$3 236 MILLION).

BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ RATHER THAN THE ABSOLUTE SIZE OF THE DEFICIT.

MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ REFERRED TO THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY RECEIPTS FROM TOTAL EXPORTS.

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15 MILLION SQ FEET OWED IN LAND EXCHANGE  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING MORE THAN 15 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING LAND TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR AKERS-JONES WAS ASKED BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S LIABILITY AND WHAT PROGRESS IT WAS MAKING TO MEET THE COMMITMENT.

HE SAID THE POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1978, WAS THAT COMMITMENTS IN TERMS OF PROVIDING BUILDING LAND TO MEET EXCHANGE COMMITMENTS AMOUNTED TO 14 774 846 SQUARE FEET AND AT DECEMBER 31, 1979, IT WAS 15 065 411 SQUARE FEET.

IN THIS PERIOD A TOTAL OF 36 SITES AMOUNTING TO 795 880.61 SQUARE FEET WERE SOLD BY WAY OF THE LETTER B TENDER SYSTEM.

THIS INDICATED THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAND WAS RESUMED FOR CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT WHICH GAVE RISE TO AN INCREASED COMMITMENT EQUIVALENT TO 1 086 445.6 SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING LAND.

+THESE FIGURES DO NOT REVEAL THE COMPLETE PICTURE: OUR FORECAST OF LAND PRODUCTION AND THUS OF LAND SALES INDICATE THAT THE WAITING PERIOD, THAT IS THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE ISSUE OF A LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT AND THE TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT MEETS THAT COMMITMENT, SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BY THE END OF 1982, ASSUMING THAT ALL THE LAND THAT WE PLACE ON OFFER BY TENDER IS TAKEN UP,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

+IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, I HAVE NOTICED RECENTLY THAT NO TENDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR SOME OF OUR SITES WITH LOWER PLOT RATIOS.

+YET, ON CURRENT LETTER B PRICES, WHICH I UNDERSTAND HAVE FALLEN BY SOME 30 PER CENT SINCE DECEMBER LAST, THESE SITES, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT, WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED AN ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION TO HOLDERS OF EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS.+

HE COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT THESE HOLDERS WERE HANGING BACK IN ANTICIPATION OF BETTER THINGS TO COME, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT NOT EVERYONE COULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING PRIME SITES IN TOWN CENTRES.

+IF LESS DESIRABLE SITES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NO BIDS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RECONSIDER OUR PRESENT METHOD OF DISPOSING OF THESE SITES BY WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE VINTAGE TENDER SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

+BUT MEANWHILE I MUST ADVISE EVEN THE HOLDERS OF MORE RECENTLY ISSUED ENTITLEMENTS TO APPLY FOR LAND WHEN IT IS OFFERED.+

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#### ROAD SAFETY TO RECEIVE SPECIALIST ATTENTION

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A NEW ROAD SAFETY DIVISION IS EXPECTED TO BE SET UP IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE LATER THIS YEAR, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, HE SAID THAT APPROVAL WAS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN SHORTLY FOR THE CREATION OF POSTS FOR THE NEW DIVISION AND IT WAS HOPED THAT THE DIVISION WOULD BE STAFFED BY SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

HE SAID: +THE PROPOSED UNIT, WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A SMALL GROUP OF SPECIALISTS HEADED BY A ROAD SAFETY EXPERT SECONDED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, WILL COMPRISE AN ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY SECTION AND AN INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIES SECTION.

+THE ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY SECTION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANALYSIS OF THE COMPUTER-BASED TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS AND THE FORMULATION OF GENERAL STRATEGY IN IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY.

+THE OTHER SECTION WILL BE CONCERNED ESSENTIALLY WITH THE MORE IMMEDIATE LOCAL ACCIDENT PROBLEMS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING REMEDIAL MEASURES.+

INITIALLY, MR STEAN ADDED, THE MAIN PREOCCUPATION OF THE ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY SECTION WOULD BE THE SETTING UP OF AN ACCIDENT STATISTICS SYSTEM, REVIEWING THE PRESENT DATA COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS AND DEVELOPING COMPUTER PROGRAMMES FOR DATA ANALYSIS.

/+UNDER THE .....

+UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DIVISION HEAD, THE INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIES SECTION WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE INITIAL MONTHS IN DEVELOPING TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS,+ HE SAID.

+THE UNIT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER AND ITS WORK WILL BE GUIDED AND MONITORED BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE.+

MR STEAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE APPLICATION OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES TO THE PROBLEM OF ROAD ACCIDENTS HAD BEEN AN ON-GOING TASK OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE SINCE THE 1960'S BUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY DIVISION WOULD MEAN AN UPGRADING AND CONCENTRATION OF THIS EFFORT TO COMBAT AN INCREASING PROBLEM.

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#### STATISTICS ON POLICE FIREARMS USAGE

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SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1977 POLICE OFFICERS HAVE DISCHARGED FIREARMS ON 114 OCCASIONS IN THE COURSE OF PREVENTING THE COMMISSION OF SERIOUS CRIME OR IN ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

ON 78 OF THESE OCCASIONS ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF OPENING FIRE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN, MR DAVIES SAID FIREARMS HAD BEEN DISCHARGED ON A FURTHER 34 OCCASIONS IN WHICH THE PUBLIC WERE NOT INVOLVED.

+THESE COMPRISE SUICIDE CASES, HUMANE DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS AND ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

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PREVENTIVE WORK CARRIED OUT ON SLOPES

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT PREVENTIVE WORKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED ON OVER 100 MAJOR FILL SLOPES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN ON THE CURRENT STATE OF GEOTECHNICAL WORKS AND WORKS UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE SLOPE STABILITY.

MR STEAN SAID THAT WORKS WERE CURRENTLY IN HAND ON A FURTHER 18 SLOPES AS PART OF AN ON-GOING STABILISATION PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THAT GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON MORE THAN 10 000 SLOPES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH WERE FOUND TO BE SATISFACTORY AND REQUIRED LITTLE OR NO REMEDIAL WORKS.

+THE PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME OF DETAILED STUDIES ON THE REMAINDER OF THESE SLOPES IS CONTINUING AND IN CASES WHERE THE STABILITY IS FOUND TO BE INADEQUATE, PREVENTIVE WORKS ARE PUT IN HAND AS A MATTER OF URGENCY,+ HE ADDED.

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FULL ALERT TO BLOCKED DRAINS

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THE DRAINAGE SPECIALIST GANGS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, OPERATING ON A 24-HOUR STAND-BY SYSTEM DURING THE WET SEASON, ARE AVAILABLE TO DEAL PROMPTLY WITH BLOCKAGES IN THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT THE STAND-BY PERSONNEL WOULD BE INCREASED WHEN HEAVY RAIN WAS FORECAST AND COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED AS NECESSARY BY CONTRACT LABOUR.

MR STEAN SAID: +INSPECTIONS OF DRAINAGE INSTALLATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT ABOUT ONCE EVERY WEEK ON AVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

+ANY MINOR BLOCKAGES FOUND ARE CLEARED IMMEDIATELY AND WHERE MORE EXTENSIVE WORKS ARE NECESSARY THEY ARE ORDERED DIRECTLY ON THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS.+

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED, HE ADDED, THAT STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT REGULARLY CLEARED ROAD GULLIES AS PART OF THEIR CLEANSING DUTIES.

/+DESPITE THESE .....

+DESPITE THESE ARRANGEMENTS, GULLIES AND STORMWATER DRAINS CAN STILL BE BLOCKED BY RUBBISH WASHED FROM THE ROAD OR FOOTPATH SURFACES IN THE INTERVALS BETWEEN CLEARINGS AND, IF THIS COINCIDES WITH TORRENTIAL RAIN, FLOODING CAN OCCUR,+ MR STEAN SAID.

+HOWEVER, PROBLEM SPOTS ARE GENERALLY KNOWN AND BY PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THESE, THE FREQUENCY OF LOCAL FLOODING IS MINIMISED.+

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, THE CO-OPERATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN KEEPING THE ROADS AND FOOTPATHS FREE OF LITTER WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN REDUCING THE RISK OF FLOODING.

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CHANNEL FOR COMMENT IN AIR ROUTE APPEAL  
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UNDER THE U.K. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY REGULATIONS, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A RESPONSE TO THE BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS' SUBMISSION IN THE LONDON/HONG KONG AIR ROUTE APPEAL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALEX WU WHO ASKED WHAT RESPONSE, IF ANY, HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE MADE TO THE AIRWAYS' REPRESENTATIONS.

MR JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT BOTH CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AND LAKER AIRWAYS HAVE APPEALED AGAINST THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO GRANT TO BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS ONLY A LICENCE TO OPERATE ON THE ROUTE.

NOTICES OF THE APPEALS, SETTING OUT THEIR GROUNDS AND ARGUMENTS WERE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAA REGULATIONS, SERVED UPON, AMONG OTHERS, BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

BOTH SUBMITTED WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED BY THE REGULATIONS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HOWEVER THAT THE REGULATIONS DO NOT MAKE PROVISION FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT NOR THE BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS TO MAKE A RESPONSE TO EACH OTHER'S SUBMISSION.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

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SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO BE BUILT TO HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS  
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SHA TIN IS TO BE A MAJOR NEW TOWN FOR THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION PEOPLE BUILT TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THIS HOPE WAS EXPRESSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, WHEN HE SPOKE TO MEMBERS OF KOWLOON WEST ROTARY CLUB.

HE SAID THE NEW TOWN WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL AND WELL WOODED, FULL OF RECREATIONAL AND OTHER FACILITIES, WITH MASSIVE COMMERCIAL FACILITIES SUFFICIENT TO MAKE IT THE NATURAL +CAPITAL+ AND SHOPPING CENTRE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN 19 YEARS FROM THE FIRST SPADE CEREMONY AND THIS, WHILE BRINGING US INTERNATIONAL INTEREST, BRINGS ALSO MANY PROBLEMS, SOME AT LEAST OF WHICH WE CANNOT SOLVE AS QUICKLY AS WE WOULD LIKE, AND SOME OF WHICH, THE HUMAN PROBLEMS, WILL REQUIRE A MASSIVE EFFORT EXTENDING OVER MANY YEARS TO OVERCOME.+

DR HASE SAID NONETHELESS BY 1990 HE WAS SURE SHA TIN WOULD BE A CITY KNOWN FAR AND WIDE, A CITY TO BE PROUD OF.

BY 1989, SHA TIN WOULD HAVE A POPULATION OF 750 000= AND THE BUILT-OVER URBAN AREA WOULD EXTEND FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ALMOST WITHOUT INTERRUPTION DOWN TO WU KAI SHA.

THE AREA WOULD INCLUDE 16 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, SIX OR SEVEN MAJOR PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES AND LARGE AREAS OF HIGH CLASS RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION. THERE WOULD ALSO BE FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL SERVICE FACILITIES A MAJOR CITY REQUIRED SUCH AS SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ROADS, AND SPORTS FACILITIES.

DR HASE SAID THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE TO FIND SPACE FOR THE GREAT INCREASE IN POPULATION IN HONG KONG. +THE EXISTING URBAN AREA CANNOT TAKE THE INCREASES IN POPULATION THAT WE HAVE TO FACE NOW AS A RESULT OF BOTH NATURAL INCREASE AND THE CONTINUING HEAVY FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS.+

HE SAID THIS WAS NOT THE ONLY REASON FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN EXISTING URBAN AREAS WAS IN MANY WAYS BELOW WHAT COULD BE CLASSED AS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE.

+IN THE NEW TOWN IT IS OUR HOPE TO BUILD A LIVING ENVIRONMENT SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER THAN IN THE EXISTING URBAN AREA. HENCE THE HOUSING ESTATES, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, ARE BEING PLANNED TO A MUCH MORE SPACIOUS AND OPEN PLAN THAN IN THE PAST AND SERVICE FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THEM WILL BE, WE HOPE, ON A MUCH MORE GENEROUS SCALE.

+IT IS THEREFORE NOT MERELY TO PROVIDE MORE LIVING ACCOMMODATION, BUT BETTER ACCOMMODATION WHICH IS THE REASON FOR OUR PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THIS NEW TOWN.

/+WITHIN THE .....

+WITHIN THE NEW TOWN WE ARE ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP ALL WOODED SLOPES THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE NEW TOWN BEGAN AS INTACT AS POSSIBLE. CONSEQUENTLY MOST OF OUR HOUSING ESTATES WILL BE BROKEN UP BY SPURS OF THE MOUNTAIN SLOPES WHICH WILL BE LEFT AS NATURAL WOODED AREAS.+

DR HASE DISCLOSED THAT A LANDSCAPE TEAM, INCLUDING AN ARCHITECT, A HORTICULTURIST AND A FORESTRY EXPERT, WERE LOOKING CAREFULLY AT ALL THE WOODED SLOPES TO SEE HOW BEST THEY COULD BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE A CONTINUING +LUNG+ FOR THE POPULATION. PATHS WOULD BE CUT THROUGH THE WOODS, AND SEATS AND LIGHTS PROVIDED WHERE NECESSARY TO MAKE THESE SLOPES USABLE BY THE POPULATION.

OF THE SHING MUN RIVER, DR HASE SAID IT HAD BEEN FOR MANY YEARS AN EVIL SMELLING EXPANSE OF WHAT COULD BE CALLED +OFFENSIVE MATERIAL+. THIS WAS AT PRESENT BEING DREDGED SO THAT THE MINIMUM DEPTH OF WATER WOULD BE SOME FOUR TO SIX FEET.

+HOPEFULLY, AS WE CLEAR THE REMAINING FACTORIES AND PIGFARMS THIS YEAR AND NEXT WITHIN THE SHA TIN VALLEY, THE AMOUNT OF OFFENSIVE MATERIAL ENTERING THE RIVER SHOULD DROP TO ALMOST NOTHING.

+WE ARE SEEKING NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THIS RIVER TO MAKE OF IT A MAJOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY. POWER BOATS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE RIVER, WHICH WILL BE RESERVED FOR PLEASURE ROWING, CANOEING, AND SPORTS USES, EACH USE HAVING A SECTION OF RIVER ABOUT ONE MILE LONG RESERVED TO IT.

+GRANDSTANDS AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL, WE HOPE, BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW FOR RACES - INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS TERRITORY WIDE, INCLUDING DRAGON BOAT RACES - TO BE HELD HERE.+

HE SAID TO ENSURE THAT THE RIVER WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS POSSIBLE, BOTH BANKS WOULD BE USED AS RECREATIONAL SPACE: A MILE-LONG TOWN PARK ON THE NORTHERN BANK AND A FIVE-MILE-LONG RIVER FRONT TREELINED PROMENADE STRETCHING FROM TAI WAI RIGHT DOWN TO WU KAI SHA. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE WHOLE RIVER WOULD BECOME A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION.

TURNING TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN, DR HASE SAID THE FOUR MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS AT FO TAN, YUEN CHAU KOK, SHA TIN VALLEY AND AT MA ON SHAN WERE VERY LARGE WITH MANY TENS OF SUBSTANTIAL SITES. ALL SITES - OR ALL BUT ONE OR TWO - WOULD BE SOLD FOR MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF A LOS ANGELES TYPE SMOG DEVELOPMENT, DUE TO THE SMALL AMOUNT OF WIND IN THE VALLEY, THERE WOULD BE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON USERS - NO SMOKE EMISSIONS OR FUME EMISSIONS WOULD BE ALLOWED AND ONLY ELECTRICITY ALLOWED AS A FUEL. THESE BUILDINGS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR USE AS GODOWNS OR FOR REALLY CLEAN INDUSTRIES.

+ABOUT 10 SUCH SITES A YEAR WILL BE SOLD IN SHA TIN FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS,+ HE SAID.

FOR THE BUSINESSMEN THERE WOULD BE 25 COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES IN SHA TIN PLUS ONE OLD-FASHIONED SHOPPING AREA AT TAI WAI. THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES WOULD BE MOSTLY INDOOR, WITH ACCESS FROM INTERNAL CORRIDORS, SIMILAR TO THE ALREADY EXISTING WO CHE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX. THREE SUCH COMPLEXES WOULD BE LET THIS YEAR AND ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER NEXT.

+THE MAJOR COMPLEX, IN THE TOWN CENTRE ON THE SITE OF THE OLD MARKET, WHICH IS TO BE SOLD THIS AUTUMN, AND ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY AND BUS TERMINI WILL BE SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO THE OCEAN TERMINAL - OCEAN CENTRE COMPLEX, BUT NEARLY TWICE AS LARGE.

+IT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A HUGE PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF CARS. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE THREE MEDIUM-RISE OFFICE BLOCKS, PLUS SEVERAL THOUSAND SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE.

+FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPERS THERE IS ALSO MUCH. ALREADY WE HAVE SOLD MORE THAN 50 MAJOR LOTS AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY MORE IN YEARS TO COME. THESE LOTS COME IN ALL SIZES, FROM THE VERY LARGE TOWN CENTRE LOTS AND THE LOTS SOLD FOR MAJOR PRIVATE ESTATES, TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSE LOTS FOR HIGH CLASS HOUSING ON THE ELEVATED PLATFORMS, OVERLOOKING THE RACE COURSE AND THE RIVER.+

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#### RENEWED WARNING ON CONFINED SPACES

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+A CONFINED SPACE COULD PROVE TO BE A DEATH TRAP! THE DANGER LIES WITH OXYGEN DEFICIENCY OR THE PRESENCE OF DEADLY GASES INSIDE.+

THIS MAY SOUND LIKE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK IN VIEW OF YESTERDAY'S TRAGEDY AT SHA TIN IN WHICH THREE MEN DIED IN A WELL ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE.

BUT IN FACT THIS WAS AN APPEAL MADE BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 21 -- JUST THREE WEEKS BEFORE YESTERDAY'S MULTIPLE FATALITY.

THE DEPARTMENT'S WARNING RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, ESPECIALLY THE CHINESE PRESS. ALSO, WORK IN CONFINED SPACES IS THE SUBJECT OF A TELEVISION MESSAGE CURRENTLY BEING SCREENED BY HONG KONG'S TELEVISION STATIONS.

TODAY THE ACTING CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP YUK-LUN, EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THIS LATEST TRAGEDY.

+I IMPLORE EVERYONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO LISTEN TO OUR ADVICE AND TAKE CARE WHEN WORKING IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLIER WARNING PLEADED WITH BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO TAKE ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS IN RESPECT OF WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES.

+EXAMPLES OF CONFINED SPACES COMMONLY FOUND IN INDUSTRY ARE CHAMBERS, TANKS, VATS, PITS, WELLS, TUNNELS, PIPES, FLUES, BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS, IN ALL OF WHICH DANGEROUS FUMES MIGHT BE PRESENT,+ THE STATEMENT SAID.

+FOR THEIR PART, EMPLOYERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT A CONFINED SPACE IS FREE FROM DANGEROUS FUMES, HARMFUL GASES, OR OXYGEN DEFICIENCY.

/+THEY SHOULD .....

+THEY SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THE SPACE IS ADEQUATELY VENTILATED AND HAD PLENTY OF AIR.

+IN ADDITION, EMPLOYERS MUST PROVIDE SUFFICIENT BREATHING APPARATUS, SUITABLE REVIVING EQUIPMENT, OXYGEN VESSELS, SAFETY BELTS AND ROPES.

+THIS EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE AND IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION, AND WORKERS MUST BE PROPERLY INSTRUCTED IN ITS USE.

+IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR WORKERS TO BE MORE SAFETY CONSCIOUS. THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER A CONFINED SPACE UNLESS AUTHORISED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

+WHILE ENTERING OR REMAINING IN A CONFINED SPACE, THEY MUST WEAR BREATHING APPARATUS UNLESS IT HAD BEEN CERTIFIED THAT THE SPACE IS SAFE AND FREE FROM DANGEROUS FUMES OR OXYGEN DEFICIENCY.

+IF PRACTICABLE, THEY SHOULD WEAR A SAFETY BELT AND ROPE SO THAT THEY CAN BE PULLED OUT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.+

THE STATEMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CONFINED SPACES) REGULATIONS REQUIRED EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO OBSERVE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WHEN ENTERING OR WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES. FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT MIGHT LEAD TO PROSECUTION AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2 000.

IT SAID THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OFFERED A WIDE RANGE OF SAFETY TRAINING COURSES FREE OF CHARGE, INCLUDING CONFINED SPACE SAFETY.

IN ADDITION, THE FACTORY INSPECTORS AT VARIOUS DIVISIONAL OFFICES WERE ALWAYS READY TO OFFER ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE ON HK IN LONDON FESTIVAL

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THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR DENIS BRAY WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE HONG KONG IN LONDON FESTIVAL AT 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 17).

AT THE CONFERENCE, MR BRAY WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL, TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE GIS THEATRE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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## PROPOSAL TO RAISE CEILING OF TAX-FREE INTEREST

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A BILL SEEKING TO RAISE TO 10.5 PER CENT THE MAXIMUM RATE WHICH MAY BE SPECIFIED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXEMPTING INTEREST FROM TAX WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A REVENUE PROTECTION ORDER, GIVING EFFECT TO THE NEW RATE FOR THE TIME BEING WAS MADE ON MARCH 11.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THAT THE MAIN ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR EXEMPTION FROM TAX OF INTEREST PAYABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT, BY LICENSED BANKS AND BY CERTAIN SPECIFIED PUBLIC UTILITIES, PROVIDED THAT THE RATES OF INTEREST DO NOT EXCEED THE PERCENTAGE RATE SPECIFIED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, FROM TIME TO TIME, BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE.

HIS AUTHORITY TO SPECIFY THE RATE OF EXEMPTION IS IN TURN SUBJECT TO A CEILING SET IN THE ORDINANCE WHICH HAS, FOR MANY YEARS, BEEN VARIED TO ACCORD WITH THE RATE PAID BY BANKS ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

SIR PHILIP POINTED OUT THAT IN MARCH THIS YEAR THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION RAISED THE RATE OF INTEREST ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, AND ON CERTAIN OTHER DEPOSITS, FROM 9.25 PER CENT TO 10.5 PER CENT.

ACCORDINGLY, THE BILL IS INTENDED TO RAISE FROM 9.25 PER CENT TO 10.5 PER CENT THE CEILING ON THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S AUTHORITY TO SPECIFY THE RATE OF EXEMPTION, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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## REGIONALISATION OF SWD WORKS WELL

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REGIONALISATION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, INTRODUCED IN APRIL LAST YEAR, HAS WORKED WELL, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON THOMAS LEE SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR LEE SAID THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN MANY OF THE STAFF AFFECTED BY IT HAD EXPECTED BEFORE ITS INTRODUCTION.

THIS, HE SAID, HAS BECOME APPARENT DURING AN INTERNAL REVIEW STARTED THIS YEAR.

THE REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY AND PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HE ADDED.

/MR LEE .....

MR LEE SAID THAT UNDER THE SCHEME, THE OPERATIONAL SIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS REGIONALISED AND NEW BRANCHES AT THE HEADQUARTERS WERE CREATED TO DEAL WITH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUBVENTION.

THIS REORGANISATION WAS THE CUMULATION OF PROCESS THAT BEGAN WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGEMENT REVIEW TEAM IN LATE 1977, HE ADDED.

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981 ONE-YEAR-TRAINED TEACHERS IN GOVT EMPLOY  
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT 981 ONE-YEAR-TRAINED TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, MR TOPLEY SAID 56 WERE IN SECONDARY AND 925 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME TRAINING COURSE HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 1968.

+A ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME SPECIAL COURSE WAS PROVIDED IN 1976 AND 1977 TO PREPARE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR TEACHING DUTIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

+OF THE 87 TEACHERS WHO ATTENDED THE COURSE, 51 WERE ONE-YEAR TRAINED,+ HE ADDED.

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BETTER DENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR NT RESIDENTS  
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SIX MORE DENTAL CLINICS ARE TO BE BUILT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO PROVIDE DENTAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS IN THE REGION, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG SAID TODAY.

AT PRESENT NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS WITH ACUTE DENTAL PROBLEMS CAN RECEIVE TREATMENT IN ANY OF THE SIX EXISTING GOVERNMENT DENTAL CLINICS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPECIALIST DENTAL SERVICE, AS PART OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR APPROPRIATE CASES, IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, THAT IS PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, DR THONG ADDED.

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THREE SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS WILL BEGIN OPERATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SERVE SCHOOL CHILDREN BY 1985, IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE IN THE 1974 WHITE PAPER ON DENTAL DEVELOPMENT.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, THE FIRST SCHOOL CLINIC FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WAS OPENED LAST NOVEMBER ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

ANOTHER MEASURE THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN TO IMPROVE DENTAL SERVICE IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DENTAL TEACHING HOSPITAL TO TRAIN QUALIFIED DENTISTS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, DR THONG SAID.

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS DENTAL TEACHING HOSPITAL IS ALMOST COMPLETED, AND THE FIRST BATCH OF 60 GRADUATED DENTISTS WILL BEGIN SERVING THE PUBLIC BY 1985, HE SAID.

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POWER TO RELEASE PREMISES HELD UNDER FIRE INVESTIGATION REDEFINED  
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THE FIRE INVESTIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, WHICH EMPOWERS A MAGISTRATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ORDER THE RELEASE OF PREMISES HELD UNDER FIRE INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID THAT UNDER THE MAIN ORDINANCE, THE MAGISTRATE COULD CARRY OUT AN INQUIRY ON A FIRE INVESTIGATION AND ON CONCLUSION OF THE INQUIRY, MIGHT ORDER THE PREMISES TO BE RELEASED FROM POLICE POSSESSION IF NO OFFENCE WAS DISCLOSED, OR IF THERE WAS NO SUSPECT.

MR DAVIES POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT IN A CASE LAST YEAR, THE POLICE TOOK POSSESSION OF CERTAIN PREMISES AND THE RESULTING INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED AN OFFENCE OF ARSON AND A PERSON WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED.

AN APPLICATION WAS THEN MADE FOR RELEASE OF THE PREMISES BUT THE MAGISTRATE HELD THAT THE EXISTING LAW DID NOT EMPOWER HIM TO RELEASE PREMISES WHEN AN OFFENCE HAD BEEN DISCLOSED AND A PERSON CHARGED.

+OBVIOUSLY MAGISTRATES SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ORDER THE RELEASE OF PREMISES IN ALL APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHETHER OR NOT AN ENQUIRY IS CARRIED OUT, AND WHETHER OR NOT ANY PERSON IS CHARGED WITH AN OFFENCE. THE BILL IF ENACTED WILL PROVIDE ACCORDINGLY,+ MR DAVIES SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TRANSFER OF LICENSING AUTHORITY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING WILL NOW BE THE ISSUING AUTHORITY FOR TRADE PROMOTION COMPETITION LICENCES.

THIS FOLLOWS THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY TRANSFERRING TO HIM THE AUTHORITY WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. AMENDMENTS TO THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS ARISING FROM THE TRANSFER WERE ALSO APPROVED.

IN MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON F.K. LI SAID THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY CHANGE IN THE EXISTING LICENSING POLICY AND THAT THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE LICENCES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WAS PROPOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A POLICY TO TRANSFER NON-CONSTABULARY LICENSING FUNCTIONS FROM THE POLICE TO ENABLE IT TO DEVOTE ITS RESOURCES TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

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MORE WEDDING FACILITIES UNDER PLANNING

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PLANS ARE IN HAND TO OPEN MORE MARRIAGE REGISTRIES TO COPE WITH INCREASING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR FACILITIES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR DAVIES SAID ADDITIONAL REGISTRIES WERE BEING PLANNED IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, TSIM SHA TSUI AND TSUEN WAN.

AN ADDITIONAL MARRIAGE ROOM IN THE CITY HALL REGISTRY IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED IN OCTOBER TO EXTEND THE SUNDAY MORNING MARRIAGE SERVICE THERE TO SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS.

FURTHERMORE, A SUNDAY MORNING MARRIAGE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE YAU MA TEI AND TAI PO REGISTRIES LATER THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

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ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR VISIT  
PWD WORK SITES  
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THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MR DAVID STEAD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED WORK SITES ON HONG KONG ISLAND TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS PWD PROJECTS.

AMONG THESE PROJECTS WAS THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER WHICH AIMS TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW BETWEEN POK FU LAM AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

THE \$49 MILLION PROJECT IS 60 PER CENT COMPLETE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

IT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 660-METRE ELEVATED ROAD, THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF A SECTION OF HILL ROAD AND MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE ELEVATED ROAD IS ITS 20-METRE SUPPORTS WHICH ARE THE HIGHEST OF THEIR KIND IN HONG KONG.

OTHER PROJECTS MR STEAD VISITED INCLUDED THE WONG CHUK HANG INTERCHANGE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER OFF KELLETT ISLAND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VICTORIA BARRACKS RECREATION AREA STUDY  
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A CONSULTANTS' REPORT ON THE VICTORIA BARRACKS RECREATION AND LEISURE AREA DEVELOPMENT STUDY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT. DETAILS OF THE REPORT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE GIS THEATRE, BEAONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR, TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3 PM. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A REPORTER/ PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1980

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COURTESY CALL ON HOME AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

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THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS LTD. PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR JOHN WALDEN THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

THEY WERE RECEIVED BY MR WALDEN IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

DURING A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW YIN-SUM REPORTED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION LAST YEAR AND DISCLOSED ITS FUTURE PLANS, WHICH INCLUDE THE SETTING UP OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PROMOTION OF BETTER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE KAIFONGS.

MR WALDEN WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE ASSOCIATION'S PLANS AND MADE DETAILED ENQUIRIES ABOUT THEM.

THEY EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON SOME CURRENT ISSUES, INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EDUCATION, HOUSING, AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND KAIFONG BODIES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE MR H.H.T. BARMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MRS ALICE LAI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MR CHAN HON-KWONG, CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER.

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SWIMMING LESSONS FOR 12 000 PUPILS

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MORE THAN 12 000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO SWIM THIS SUMMER UNDER A SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS PART OF ITS SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMME.

BETWEEN JULY 14 AND AUGUST 23, FREE LESSONS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE CHAI WAN, VICTORIA PARK, ABERDEEN, KWUN TONG, TAI WAN SHAN, MORSE PARK, LEI CHENG UK, KWAI SHING AND FANLING SWIMMING POOLS.

TUITION AND ADMISSION TO THE POOLS WILL BE FREE.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT A CIRCULAR TO ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS INVITING PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS EXPECTED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DRAW LOTS.

+ALL APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (PE) AT THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON NOT LATER THAN MAY 26.

/+THE DRAWING .....

+THE DRAWING OF LOTS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MAY 29 AND JUNE 4 AT THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION, OXFORD COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR, 494-496 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON,+ A SPOKESMAN SAID.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME MUST SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE DRAW.

EACH SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN A CLASS OF 30 PLACES. PUPILS NOMINATED TO TAKE PART MUST BE OVER 10 YEARS OF AGE AND MUST AGREE TO ATTEND 12 ONE-HOUR LESSONS.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE QUALIFIED SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING THE CHILDREN'S SWIMMING ABILITIES FOR DISTANCE CERTIFICATES AND SWIMMING AWARDS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN SO KON PO  
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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 16), TRAFFIC ALONG EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD IN SO KON PO WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN INTO THE EASTERN PATH OF HONG KONG STADIUM.

THERE WILL BE TRENCH OPENING WORKS IN THE AREA AND THE ARRANGEMENT WILL LAST ABOUT 20 DAYS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE THEM.

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