



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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AIM IS FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS

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THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL SEEK TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

HIGHLIGHTING THE SALIENT PROPOSALS, SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT CLAUSE 3 OF THE BILL REQUIRED A MEMBER OF THE SERVICE TO CARRY HIS WARRANT CARD AT ALL TIMES, SO THAT HE WAS ALWAYS ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIS IDENTITY AND PROVE HIS AUTHORITY IN EXERCISING HIS LAWFUL POWERS OR DUTIES.

"THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE EXISTING SECTION 17 PROVIDES THAT A MEMBER WHO IS OFF DUTY SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE ON DUTY WHEREVER HE ENCOUNTERS CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID CLAUSE 7 INTRODUCED A PROPOSED NEW SECTION 17 BA, WHICH PROVIDED MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WITH GENERAL POWERS OF SEARCH AND EXAMINATION WITHOUT A WARRANT.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE ENFORCED 19 ORDINANCES WHICH HAD THEIR OWN SEARCH AND SEIZURE PROVISIONS.

"DURING ROUTINE CHECKS, MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE ARE NOT NORMALLY EXERCISING POWERS UNDER ANY PARTICULAR ORDINANCE.

"AS A RESULT, AN OFFENDER CAUGHT AT ONE OF THE CHECKPOINTS MIGHT HAVE A LEGAL DEFENCE TO ANY CHARGE SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT.

"TO ENSURE THAT THIS NEW SEARCH POWER IS LIMITED IN SCOPE, IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS POWER MAY BE EXERCISED ONLY AT ENTRY OR EXIT POINTS, OR WHERE CARGO IS STORED PRIOR TO COLLECTION," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED NEW SECTION 17BB GAVE OFFICERS NOT BELOW THE RANK OF INSPECTOR THE POWER TO REQUEST PRODUCTION OF A TRAVEL DOCUMENT.

"THIS WILL ALLOW MORE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE TO ASCERTAIN A TRAVELLER'S STATUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING ANY STATUTORY POWERS," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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STAMP DUTY AMENDMENT BILL INTRODUCED

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THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH SEEKS TO GRANT STAMP DUTY RELIEF FOR TRANSACTIONS WHICH INVOLVE THE BORROWING AND LENDING OF HONG KONG STOCK FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTLING A LEGITIMATE SALE, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THAT UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION ANY PERSON WHO BORROWED OR LENT STOCK WAS REQUIRED TO PAY STAMP DUTY AT THE RATE OF 0.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE STOCK FOR EACH TRANSACTION.

"THE TOTAL STAMP DUTY PAYABLE FOR EACH COMPLETED STOCK BORROWING TRANSACTION, INCLUDING THE RETURN OF THE STOCK TO THE BORROWER, IS THEREFORE 1.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE STOCK.

"THIS IS THE SAME DUTY AS THAT PAYABLE IN RELATION TO TWO OUT AND OUT TRANSFERS OF STOCK," SIR PIERS SAID.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE POINTED OUT IN MAY LAST YEAR THAT STOCK BORROWING WAS A WELL-TRIED AND INTERNATIONALLY USED METHOD TO RESOLVE TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS.

"THE COMMITTEE WENT ON TO RECOMMEND A CONCESSION ON STAMP DUTY FOR TRANSACTIONS WHICH WERE USED AS A MEANS OF EXPEDITING SETTLEMENT," HE SAID.

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS ACCEPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, SIR PIERS, SAID NOTING ALSO THAT HE HAD INDICATED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT HE WOULD INTRODUCE A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTY OF SPECIFIC STOCK BORROWING AND LENDING TRANSACTIONS.

HE SAID THAT SINCE STOCK BORROWING EXPOSED THE LENDER TO RISK AND IMPRUDENT STOCK LENDING UNDERMINED MARKET INTEGRITY, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR SUCH TRANSACTIONS TO BE PROPERLY CONTROLLED.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THE STATUS OF 'APPROVED BORROWER' AS DEFINED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CONCESSION SHOULD IN GENERAL BE RESTRICTED TO MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE, AND THAT AS APPROVED BORROWERS THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO KEEP RECORDS AND FURNISH RETURNS RELATING TO THEIR STOCK BORROWING ACTIVITIES," SIR PIERS SAID.

THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE WERE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A PROPER REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR STOCK BORROWING ACTIVITIES.

"IF THIS BILL IS PASSED ITS PROVISIONS WILL NOT BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION UNTIL A SYSTEM OF CONTROL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED," HE SAID.

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID CLAUSE 3 WHICH SOUGHT TO AMEND SECTION 19 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, PROVIDED FOR THE EXEMPTION OF STOCK BORROWING AND STOCK RETURN FROM STAMP DUTY AND SET FORTH THE CONTROLS AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO MAKE THE SYSTEM WORK.

CLAUSE 4 SOUGHT TO ADD A NEW SECTION 58A, WHICH WOULD AFFORD ANY PERSON, AGAINST WHOM THE COLLECTOR OF STAMP REVENUE INTENDED TO INVOKE CIVIL SANCTIONS, AN OPPORTUNITY OF GIVING AN EXPLANATION TO THE COLLECTOR AS TO WHY SUCH ACTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE ON TAXATION HAD BEEN CONSULTED, AND HAD ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS.

"THE FULL YEAR COST TO THE REVENUE IN 1990-91 OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE SOME \$40 MILLION," HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ACTING AG REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF TRUSTS BILL

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THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON FRANK STOCK, GAVE A POINT-BY-POINT REPLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO CRITICISMS MADE BY THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG AGAINST THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989.

MR STOCK SAID IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL THAT IT HAD FIRST BEEN CONTENDED THAT IN A COMMON LAW JURISDICTION WITH RULES OF EQUITY, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE HAGUE CONVENTION. IT WAS FURTHER CONTENDED THAT IN JURISDICTIONS WITHOUT COURTS OF EQUITY, THE CONVENTION WOULD NOT ASSIST.

"I THINK IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF I WERE TO REMIND MEMBERS OF THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION AND OF THIS BILL BY QUOTING THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF GREAT BRITAIN WHEN HE MOVED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS ACT 1987, WHICH IS LARGELY IN THE SAME TERMS AS THE BILL NOW BEFORE US," HE SAID.

HE QUOTED:

"THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION IS TO ESTABLISH COMMON PRINCIPLES BETWEEN STATES ON THE LAW OF TRUSTS AND TO DEAL WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR RECOGNITION..... TRUSTS ARE NOT, IN GENERAL, A CONCEPT FAMILIAR TO CIVIL LAW COUNTRIES. THEIR SYSTEMS OF LAW ARE NOT DESIGNED TO ACCEPT THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL MAY HOLD ASSETS ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER. TO GIVE AN EXTREME EXAMPLE, AT PRESENT IF THERE ARE TRUST ASSETS IN A FOREIGN CIVIL LAW JURISDICTION, AND THE TRUSTEE INCURS DEBTS IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY, THE ASSETS OF THE TRUST ARE LIABLE TO BE SEIZED TO MEET THE DEBTS INCURRED BY THE TRUSTEE.

/"IT WAS

"IT WAS TO AVOID THIS AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM PROMOTED THE NEGOTIATION BY THE HAGUE CONFERENCE OF A CONVENTION WHICH, IN EFFECT, ALLOWS US TO EXPORT TO CIVIL LAW COUNTRIES, FIRST THE CONCEPT OF A TRUST; SECONDLY, OUR RULES LAYING DOWN THE LAW WHICH GOVERNS SUCH A TRUST, AND THIRDLY, THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED. THE CONVENTION WILL THUS PRINCIPALLY BE OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMON LAW COUNTRIES SUCH AS ENGLAND AND WALES."

OBVIOUSLY, FOR ENGLAND AND WALES WE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE PRESENT PURPOSES HONG KONG, MR STOCK SAID.

"PERHAPS WE MIGHT PAUSE TO REFLECT THAT IF WE HAVE IT AS WRONG AS IS SUGGESTED, BY REFERENCE TO THE SPEECH OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF THE DAY, WE ARE IN ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANY INDEED," HE NOTED.

MR STOCK SAID THIS EXPLAINED THE UTILITY OF THE CONVENTION FOR COMMON LAW COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, THE COURTS OF THOSE CIVIL LAW COUNTRIES WITHOUT COURTS OF EQUITY WHO WERE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION WOULD BY VIRTUE OF THE CONVENTION RECOGNISE AND ENFORCE TRUSTS TO WHICH THE CONVENTION APPLIED, HE SAID.

IT HAD BEEN SAID THAT A TRUST WAS INAPPROPRIATELY DEFINED IN THE CONVENTION AND THE EXAMPLE WAS GIVEN OF A CUSTOMER ENTRUSTING HIS SUITS TO A DRY CLEANER.

"BUT IN SO DOING, TITLE TO THE SUITS DOES NOT STAND IN THE NAME OF THE DRY CLEANER AND THE RELATIONSHIP DOES NOT THEREFORE HAVE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUST UNDER ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION," MR STOCK SAID.

THE NEXT CRITICISM WAS THAT THE EXISTING TRUST LAW WAS REPLACED BY THE CONVENTION.

"I GATHER THAT THIS ARGUMENT PROCEEDS UPON THE PREMISE THAT THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT SUBSTANTIVE DOMESTIC HONG KONG LAW BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE CODIFICATION OF THE LAW OF TRUSTS WHICH WILL REPLACE ALL EXISTING TRUST LAW," MR STOCK SAID.

"BUT THAT ARGUMENT IGNORES THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER II OF THE CONVENTION TO WHICH THIS BILL GIVES THE FORCE OF LAW.

"WHILST IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT ARTICLE 1 OF THE CONVENTION IS AMBIGUOUS IF READ IN ISOLATION, CHAPTER II OF THE CONVENTION MAKES IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE PHRASE 'THE LAW APPLICABLE TO TRUSTS' MEANS THE LAW BY WHICH THE TRUST IS GOVERNED, AND THAT THE CONVENTION DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE AN EXHAUSTIVE STATEMENT OF THE LAW ITSELF.

"THE CONVENTION SPECIFIES UNDER ARTICLE 6 THAT A TRUST SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAW CHOSEN BY THE SETTLOR SO THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IF A SETTLOR EXPRESSES A TRUST TO BE GOVERNED BY ENGLISH LAW THEN IN ANY CONVENTION COUNTRY, THE APPLICABLE LAW OF THAT TRUST WILL BE ENGLISH LAW.

IN THE CRITICISMS WHICH HAD BEEN LEVELLED THERE WAS THEN REFERENCE TO A SUGGESTED CIRCULARITY.

"I GATHER THAT THE ARGUMENT IS THAT WHETHER THE CONVENTION APPLIES DEPENDS UPON IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPER LAW, BUT THAT THE PROPER LAW CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED WHETHER THE CONVENTION APPLIES.

"THE SCHEME OF THE CONVENTION IS FIRST TO IDENTIFY THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A TRUST. IF THESE PREVAIL, THE CONVENTION APPLIES. ONCE THE CONVENTION APPLIES, THE RULES FOR DETERMINING THE PROPER LAW ARE THOSE SET OUT," HE SAID.

MR STOCK SAID THE CONVENTION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE LAW SOCIETY, THE HONGKONG BANK TRUSTEE, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOUR OF ITS EXTENSION TO HONG KONG. NONE OF THESE BODIES HAD VOICED THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED TODAY.

HE ADDED: "I SHOULD ALSO REPEAT THAT THE BILL IS LARGELY IN THE SAME TERMS AS ENGLAND'S RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS ACT 1987.

"AGAIN WHEN MOVING IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL FOR THIS ACT, THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF THE DAY SAID THIS: 'THE CONVENTION WILL THUS PRINCIPALLY BE OF BENEFIT TO COMMON LAW COUNTRIES SUCH AS ENGLAND AND WALES', AND A LITTLE FURTHER ON: 'THE BILL WILL INVOLVE LITTLE CHANGE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF EXISTING LAW IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. IT WILL HOWEVER SERVE TO CLARIFY A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHERE OUR EXISTING LAW HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED'."

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TIME FOR BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO STUDY NEW LAW
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THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON FRANK STOCK, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES BILL 1989 WOULD NOT, IF ENACTED, COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL DECEMBER 1 NEXT YEAR.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR STOCK SAID THIS WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO STUDY THE LEGISLATION AND TO AMEND THE CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS THEY USED IN THEIR DEALINGS.

HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT CONSUMERS WERE GIVEN SUFFICIENT PROTECTION AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP IN RELATION TO THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "SECURITIES".

"HOWEVER, CLOSE CONSIDERATION OF THE MERITS OF DEFINING 'SECURITIES' IN THE BILL REVEALED POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN ATTEMPTING TO DO SO.

/"ONE PROBLEM

"ONE PROBLEM WAS THAT AN EXHAUSTIVE DEFINITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT SINCE BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONTINUALLY CREATE NEW TYPES OF SECURITIES DOCUMENTS.

"ANOTHER WAS THAT A RESTRICTIVE DEFINITION MIGHT UNDERMINE CERTAIN BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS." MR STOCK SAID.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS MERIT IN LEAVING THE BILL AS IT WAS, THUS GIVING THE TERM "SECURITIES" ITS EVERYDAY MEANING.

THIS APPROACH WOULD ALSO ALLOW THE COURTS TO FOLLOW UNITED KINGDOM JUDICIAL PRECEDENTS.

"FURTHERMORE, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE ARISEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITION IN THE UNFAIR CONTRACT TERMS ACT 1977 OF THE TERM 'SECURITIES'.

"WE SHALL, OF COURSE, KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW AND SHOULD ANY PROBLEMS ARISE ONCE THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN ENACTED AND BROUGHT INTO EFFECT, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER THE POSITION," HE SAID.

MR STOCK SAID HE ACKNOWLEDGED ALSO DR IP'S CONCERN OVER THE EXCLUSION OF INSURANCE CONTRACTS FROM THE AMBIT OF THE BILL.

"THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THAT EFFECTIVE SELF-REGULATION IS A BETTER SOLUTION THAN LEGISLATION TO THE PECULIAR PROBLEMS OF INSURANCE CONTRACT LAW.

"IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ROUTE HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. INSTEAD, A SELF-REGULATORY FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND HAS WORKED WELL.

"I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT COMMENDABLE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE LOCAL INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR SELF-REGULATION AND AN INSURANCE CLAIMS COMPLAINTS BOARD IS EXPECTED TO BE ESTABLISHED SOON.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS CLOSELY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF POLICY HOLDERS ARE PROTECTED. I CAN CONFIRM THAT IF SELF-REGULATION FAILS TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONSIDER MAKING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO CONTROL INSURANCE MATTERS." HE SAID.

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STEP TOWARDS BETTER PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS

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THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES BILL 1989 IS A PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHICH WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO MOVE ONE STEP FORWARD TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION IN LAW TO CONSUMERS. DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, DR IP SAID THE LEGISLATION WAS TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX, AND SHOULD BE GIVEN THE WIDEST PUBLICITY BY THE ADMINISTRATION WHEN IMPLEMENTED.

AS THE CONVENER OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WHICH STUDIED THE BILL, DR IP SAID THE AD HOC GROUP HAD MADE REFERENCE TO RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHEN SCRUTINISING THE BILL, AND ALSO CONSIDERED SUBMISSIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION FROM INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS.

ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC GROUP WAS THE PROTECTION AFFORDED TO CONSUMERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS IN THE ARBITRATION CLAUSES.

DR IP SAID THE PROVISIONS WERE NOT CLEAR AND ACCORDED LESS PROTECTION TO THE CONSUMER THAN THE UK CONSUMER ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS ACT 1988.

THE BILL PROPOSED THAT PROTECTION WOULD BE PROVIDED TO A CONSUMER IN THAT HE WAS NOT BOUND BY A CONTRACT TERM REQUIRING HIM TO SUBMIT A DIFFERENCE TO ARBITRATION UNLESS HE HAD GIVEN WRITTEN CONSENT "AFTER THE DIFFERENCES HAVE ARISEN".

IN COMPARISON, THE UK ACT ONLY DEPRIVED THE CONSUMER OF PROTECTION IF HE CONSENTED IN WRITING TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARBITRATION CLAUSE "AFTER THE DIFFERENCES IN QUESTION HAVE ARISEN".

DR IP SAID THE AD HOC GROUP HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE CLAUSE SHOULD BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE UK ACT.

SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE AD HOC GROUP WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED EXCLUSION OF INSURANCE CONTRACTS FROM THE PROVISIONS AS INSURANCE CONTRACTS HAD ALL ALONG BEEN AN AREA OF CONSIDERABLE DISPUTE BETWEEN INSURERS AND THE INSURED.

SHE SAID THAT THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION WAS OF THE VIEW THAT LEGISLATIVE CONTROL SHOULD BE APPLIED TO INSURANCE CONTRACTS.

HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTED THAT AN EFFECTIVE SELF-REGULATION SYSTEM WOULD BE A BETTER SOLUTION TO THE INSURANCE CONTRACT LAW THAN LEGISLATION. AND THAT THE PROPOSED PACKAGE FOR SELF-REGULATION OF THE INDUSTRY WOULD BE FINALISED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN MID-1990.

/ALTHOUGH THE

ALTHOUGH THE AD HOC GROUP WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE INSURANCE CONTRACTS, IT AGREED TO GIVE THE INDUSTRY AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPLEMENT SELF-REGULATION UNDER THE MONITORING OF THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY. FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS. DR IP SAID.

DR IP ALSO SAID THE AD HOC GROUP HAD CONSIDERED WHETHER THE TERM "SECURITIES" UNDER SCHEDULE I SHOULD BE DEFINED, WITH A VIEW TO LIMITING EXCEPTIONS AND THEREBY PROVIDING GREATER PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS.

AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, THE AD HOC GROUP HAD AGREED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONTEMPLATE A SATISFACTORY DEFINITION.

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RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 'HAS DEFECTS'

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THERE WERE MANY DEFECTS IN THE PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989 AND IT WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE LOSS AND EXPENSE, THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, MR WONG SAID THAT A TRUST SHOULD BE AN EQUITABLE OBLIGATION ENFORCEABLE ONLY IN A COURT OF EQUITY.

HE LATER VOTED AGAINST THE BILL.

MR WONG SAID: "WHERE THERE IS A COURT OF EQUITY, A TRUST WILL BE ENFORCED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BY FORCE OF THE ORDINARY PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY. WHERE THERE IS NO COURT OF EQUITY HAVING JURISDICTION, AN EQUITABLE OBLIGATION CANNOT BE ENFORCED.

"IN RELATION TO A TRUST PROPERLY SO CALLED, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE CONVENTION IN JURISDICTIONS WHERE THERE IS A COURT OF EQUITY, AND IN JURISDICTIONS WHERE THERE IS NO COURT OF EQUITY, A CONVENTION CANNOT MAKE AN EQUITABLE OBLIGATION ENFORCEABLE, UNLESS IT ALSO ESTABLISHES A COURT OF EQUITY IN THAT JURISDICTION WHICH THIS CONVENTION DOES NOT PURPORT TO DO."

MR WONG WENT ON: "THE CONVENTION PURPORTS TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM BY DEFINING AS A TRUST, SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT A TRUST, AND THEN PURPORTING TO MAKE RULES RELATING TO THESE NON-TRUSTS WHICH IT CALLS TRUSTS."

CONFUSION WAS HEAPED UPON CONFUSION BY CLAUSE 2(3) OF THE BILL, HE SAID.

/"IF THIS

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"IF THIS IS GIVEN ANY MEANING IT IS ONLY CONSISTENT WITH THE WHOLE OF THE EXISTING TRUST LAW INCLUDING SEVERAL HUNDREDS YEARS OF CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT DECISIONS OF COURTS OF EQUITY BEING REPLACED BY A FEW PROVISIONS IN AN OBVIOUSLY QUESTIONABLE CONVENTION," HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE RESULT COULD BE DISASTROUS, BUT WAS UNLIKELY TO FOLLOW, BECAUSE IF THE MATTER WAS PROPERLY ARGUED, A COURT WAS LIKELY TO HOLD THAT NO RATIONAL MEANING COULD BE GIVEN TO THE CONVENTION OR THIS LEGISLATION.

ACCORDING TO MR WONG, THERE WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM IN ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONVENTION, BECAUSE ON EXAMINATION THAT PROVISION WOULD BE SEEN TO BE CIRCULAR AND ILLOGICAL.

HE SAID THAT IF ITS PURPOSE WAS TO IDENTIFY WHAT WAS THE PROPER LAW OF A TRUST THEN IT DID THIS BY DEFINING A TRUST AND THEN STATING WHAT LAW GOVERNED THE TRUST.

"BUT THE DEFINITION OF THE TRUST REQUIRES ONE TO ASCERTAIN THE PROPER LAW OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

"IF THE PROPER LAW HAS BEEN DETERMINED THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ANY OPERATION OF THE ARTICLE FOR DETERMINING THE PROPER LAW AS THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED.

"IF IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, THEN IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE RELATIONSHIP IS A TRUST AS DEFINED IN THE CONVENTION, AND UNTIL IT CAN BE SAID TO BE SUCH A TRUST THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION DO NOT APPLY AND THE CONVENTION HAS NO OPERATION," HE SAID.

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RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO OCEAN PARK

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ABOUT TWO MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING 590,000 FROM OVERSEAS, VISITED OCEAN PARK IN THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1989, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST ANNUAL ATTENDANCE SINCE THE PARK WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1977, THE HON RONALD ARCULLI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OCEAN PARK CORPORATION, MR ARCULLI SAID THE ATTENDANCE REPRESENTED A SEVEN PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURES.

"THE OPERATING INCOME ALSO REACHED A RECORD LEVEL OF \$160.3 MILLION. INCLUSIVE OF INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS FROM THE OCEAN PARK TRUST FUND, THERE WAS A SURPLUS OF \$38.5 MILLION," MR ARCULLI, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN PARK CORPORATION BOARD, SAID.

HE SAID THESE EXCELLENT RESULTS HAD ENABLED OCEAN PARK TO FUND NEW ATTRACTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE IMAGINATIVE MIDDLE KINGDOM DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS DUE TO OPEN IN JANUARY.

/"THIS IS

"THIS IS BUT ONE EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF OCEAN PARK'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A WORLD-CLASS RECREATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN VISITORS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES," HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI SAID THE PROVISION OF NEW ATTRACTIONS WHEN CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS HAD RISEN SHARPLY PROMPTED OCEAN PARK TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN JUNE LAST YEAR OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPARK AT THE LOWLAND AND THE TAI SHUE WAN SITE.

THESE PROPOSALS, IF APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD PROVIDE OCEAN PARK WITH A NEW SOURCE OF INCOME. THEY ALSO HAD THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF ALLOWING VISITORS ACCESS TO INDOOR FACILITIES.

"WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THESE PROPOSALS SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH FURTHER PLANNING AND STUDIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

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PERIOD FOR MAKING AMENDMENTS EXTENDED
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A MOTION ON THE PERIOD FOR AMENDING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, IN THIS CASE THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) (EXEMPTION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1989, WHICH WAS GAZETTED ON OCTOBER 13, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ORDER PROVIDED FOR NEW CONTROL MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSESSION AND EXPORT OF ALL IVORY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, AND WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF LEGCO ON OCTOBER 18.

UNDER THE MOTION, THE 28-DAY PERIOD FOR AMENDING THE RELEVANT SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPIRED TODAY, HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 6.

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

MR TAM SAID THE AIM WAS TO ALLOW MORE TIME IN FINDING A FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM FACED BY IVORY TRADERS AND WORKERS.

HE SAID AN EXTENSION WOULD GIVE A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE ORDER MORE TIME TO CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM IVORY TRADERS AND WORKERS AND TO DISCUSS THE RELEVANT ISSUES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

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FUNDING UNLIKELY FOR SOME YEARS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO FUND, FOR SOME YEARS AT LEAST, THE PHASE III URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF TSEUNG KWAN O, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO INVEST HEAVILY IN THE PORT, AIRPORT AND ELSEWHERE.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG ON WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPLEMENT PHASE III OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O DEVELOPMENT, MR BARNES SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING ON ITSELF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF TIU KENG LENG COTTAGE AREA TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR SOME 40,000 PEOPLE.

HE ADDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN SIDE OF TSEUNG KWAN O, INCLUDING AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AS IT WAS EXPECTED TO BE FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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GOOD CONDUCT EXPECTED OF UK IMMIGRATION STAFF

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THE UK AUTHORITIES HAVE POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND HEALTH AUTHORITY PERSONNEL ARE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT WHEN DEALING WITH THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY. THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, WHO ASKED WHAT ACTION THE ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO A RECENT PRESS REPORT REGARDING ALLEGED ROUGH HANDLING OF HONG KONG STUDENTS ENTERING THE UNITED KINGDOM THROUGH GATWICK AIRPORT.

MR BARNES SAID THAT NO COMPLAINT RELATING TO THE ALLEGED INCIDENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED, AND THE UK AUTHORITIES HAD EMPHASISED THAT ANY SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS WERE INVESTIGATED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AS A RESULT OF AN APPROACH BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, A FEW DAYS AFTER THE NEWSPAPER REPORT, IT HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT:

- THE UK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WAS REVIEWING STAFFING LEVELS AT GATWICK TO REDUCE THE WAITING TIME: AND
- IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND HEALTH UNIT WAITING TIMES WERE ALREADY MUCH LESS THAN THEY WERE IN SEPTEMBER

/MR BARNES

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO OBTAIN THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT FROM THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE AND THROUGH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON, DRAWING ON THE USUAL CONTACTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SUCH AS THE TELEPHONE ADVISORY SERVICE, THE CHINESE COMMUNITY, STUDENT BODIES AND SO ON.

"DESPITE THE PRESS REPORT IN SEPTEMBER WE HAVE RECEIVED NO COMPLAINTS EITHER IN LONDON OR HERE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR BARNES EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESS REPORT MAINLY ALLEGED TWO THINGS: LONG WAITING TIME FOR IMMIGRATION AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND RUDE TREATMENT OF HONG KONG STUDENTS AT GATWICK.

THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE UK AUTHORITIES FOR THE DELAYS WERE:

- THE LARGE NUMBER OF RETURNING AND NEW STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER, ALL ARRIVING WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME;
- THE BUNCHING OF FLIGHTS FROM HONG KONG IN THE EARLY MORNING; AND
- THE STAFFING LEVELS AND FACILITIES OF THE IMMIGRATION CONTROL UNIT AND IN THE HEALTH CONTROL UNIT WHICH WERE SET TO COPE WITH NORMAL PASSENGER NUMBERS RATHER THAN EXCEPTIONAL PEAKS.

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NO EVIDENCE OF FALL IN OVERALL AIR POLLUTION

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THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT MONITORING STATIONS THAT THE OVERALL LEVEL OF AIR POLLUTION HAS ACTUALLY FALLEN, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS IN SPITE OF SOME 6,000 GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS TO FACTORIES, 600 LEGAL NOTICES AND OVER 1,000 PROSECUTIONS INITIATED SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN 1983, HE SAID.

MR BARNES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN ON PROGRESS IN REDUCING AIR POLLUTION BY FACTORY EMISSIONS, SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, MR BARNES SAID, THIS WAS NOT TO SAY THAT THE SIX YEARS WAS TIME WASTED.

"AIR CONTROL ZONES HAVE BEEN DECLARED, AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN SET AND NEW REGULATIONS TO CONTROL AIR POLLUTING INDUSTRIES MADE. ALL ACTIONS PRE-REQUISITE TO CONTROL UNDER ANY SYSTEM OF ENFORCEMENT.

/"THERE HAVE

"THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN LOCAL SUCCESS STORIES IN ADVICE-GIVING AND LEGAL ACTION AND THE MONITORING SYSTEM HAS BEEN IMPROVED, WITH 10 AIR POLLUTION MONITORING STATIONS NOW OPERATIONAL COMPARED WITH FOUR IN 1983," HE SAID.

BUT ABOVE ALL, HE SAID, IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOW BE IN A POSITION TO JUSTIFY APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS TO RESTRICT THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUEL OIL TO 0.5 PER CENT IF IT WERE NOT ABLE TO SHOW THAT A SYSTEM OF LICENSING, PROSECUTION AND APPEALS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE THE REDUCTION IN POLLUTION LEVELS NEEDED.

"THIS IS THE SINGLE PIECE OF ACTION WHICH WILL REDUCE AIR POLLUTION LEVELS MOST," HE ADDED.

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FURTHER WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE LANGUAGE IN COURTS

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THE JUDICIARY HAS FORMED ANOTHER WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE EARLIER ON THE GREATER USE OF CHINESE IN COURTS, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON FRANK STOCK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT WAS EXPECTED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, MR STOCK SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SO CHAU YIM-PING ON WHETHER THE WORKING PARTY ON THE GREATER USE OF CHINESE IN MAGISTRATES COURTS HAD COMPLETED ITS STUDY AND WHAT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE.

MR STOCK SAID ON JANUARY 15, 1987, THE THEN CHIEF JUSTICE APPOINTED A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT TO WHICH GREATER USE COULD BE MADE OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IN COURTS AND COURT PROCEDURE, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDINGLY.

"IT LOOKED AT ALL COURTS, NOT JUST THE MAGISTRACY. IT SUBMITTED A REPORT IN JANUARY 1988," HE SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EACH LEVEL OF COURT HAD A DIFFERENT NEED, AND ACCORDINGLY IT MADE SEPARATE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF EACH COURT AND TRIBUNAL.

IT ALSO DEALT WITH DOCUMENTS USED BY THE COURTS, AND URGED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO ENSURING THAT ALL DOCUMENTS CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS, OR OTHERWISE USED OR ISSUED BY THE COURTS, BE BILINGUAL.

IN ADDITION, THE WORKING PARTY MADE CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE PRIORITY TO BE ACCORDED TO TRANSLATING LEGISLATION.

/"THE QUESTION

"THE QUESTION POSED TODAY MAKES PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MAGISTRATES COURTS, ALTHOUGH, AS I HAVE SAID, THE REMIT OF THE WORKING PARTY WAS WIDER THAN THAT.

"PERHAPS I MIGHT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ANSWER RESTRICT MYSELF TO THE PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO THE MAGISTRATES COURTS.

"IT WAS UPON THE GROWING USE OF CHINESE IN THESE COURTS THAT THE WORKING PARTY PLACED PRIME IMPORTANCE BECAUSE THESE COURTS REPRESENT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AT ITS POINT OF MAXIMUM CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, AND BECAUSE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY SPEAK CHINESE," MR STOCK SAID.

HE SAID THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDED THAT AT THE OUTSET OF PROCEEDINGS THE MAGISTRATE, EACH LAWYER AND ANY UNREPRESENTED PARTY, SHOULD MAKE AN INITIAL CHOICE OF LANGUAGE WHICH EACH WOULD RESPECTIVELY SPEAK DURING THE PROCEEDINGS.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT, SAVE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ALL DOCUMENTS IN EITHER LANGUAGE BE TRANSLATED PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDINGS AND THAT DOCUMENTS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN CHINESE OR ENGLISH SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO BOTH OF THOSE LANGUAGES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED WERE THAT THE MAGISTRATE BE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE THE LANGUAGE OF THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT THIS LANGUAGE SHOULD BE THE OFFICIAL RECORD; THAT THE BRIEF JUDGEMENT OR VERDICT SHOULD BE RECORDED BILINGUALLY AT THE END OF THE RECORD; AND THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN APPEAL, THE PARTY SHOULD BE ENTITLED UPON APPLICATION TO HAVE A TRANSLATION OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

OTHER TRIBUNALS AND COURTS WERE CONSIDERED. THESE WERE THE SMALL CLAIMS AND LABOUR TRIBUNALS, THE CORONERS COURT, THE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL, THE DISTRICT COURT, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL AND THE SUPREME COURT.

MR STOCK SAID: "ALTHOUGH THE REPORT FULLY RECOGNISED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD REQUIRE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, AN INCREASE IN THE RECRUITMENT OF SKILLED INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS TO THE JUDICIARY, AND ALSO AN EXTENSION OF THEIR TRAINING PROGRAMME, IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS OF COST AND RESOURCES, WHICH QUESTIONS FELL OUTSIDE ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"IN 1988, THEREFORE, A SUB-COMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

"IT COMPRISED MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND WAS ASSISTED BY OFFICERS OF FINANCE BRANCH. THIS SUB-COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE LOWER COURTS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED RELATIVELY SIMPLY BY MANPOWER INCREASES, LARGELY OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS, BUT THAT THE HIGH COURT PROPOSALS WERE MORE COMPLEX.

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"CONFINING ITSELF TO THE LOWER COURTS, THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD ENTAIL EXTRA WORK IN RELATION TO PRE-TRIAL AND POST-TRIAL PERIODS, COMPREHENDING IN PARTICULAR TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE, PLEADINGS, AND LENGTHY JUDGEMENTS, AND TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS FOR APPEAL."

FOR THESE EXTRA FUNCTIONS, THE SUB-COMMITTEE CALCULATED THE REQUIRED INCREASE IN INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS FOR THE MAGISTRACY IN A RATIO OF THREE NEW POSTS FOR EVERY TWO COURTS. IT ESTIMATED THAT EXTRA TYPIST AND CALLIGRAPHIST POSTS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED. THE ANNUAL RECURRENT COST WAS CALCULATED AT \$19.6 MILLION, HE SAID.

ESTIMATES OF POSTS REQUIRED WERE ALSO MADE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE SMALL CLAIMS AND LABOUR TRIBUNALS. THE TOTAL COST FOR ALL COURTS CONSIDERED IN THE EXERCISE (EXCEPTING HIGH COURT, AND CORONER'S COURT HEARINGS WITH A JURY) WAS ESTIMATED AT \$39.7 MILLION, OF WHICH STAFF COSTS WOULD BE \$33.94 MILLION, HE SAID.

QUITE APART FROM THE FACT THAT EXPENDITURE ON SUCH A SCALE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY CURTAIL THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR OTHER AREAS, VERY REAL DOUBT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT PERSONS POSSESSED OF THE SKILLS ESSENTIAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, MR STOCK SAID.

"I AM ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF THIS PROBLEM IT WAS FELT NECESSARY TO FORM ANOTHER WORKING PARTY WHOSE JOB IT IS TO CONSIDER FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW WHICH OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED GIVEN THESE QUESTIONS OF COST AND OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS," HE SAID.

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POLICE UPHOLD PRINCIPLE OF FREE PRESS

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAS ALWAYS UPHELD THE PRINCIPLE OF A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND RESPONSIBLE PRESS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THEY HAVE NEVER DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO INFRINGE UPON OR TO RESTRICT THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. NOR IS IT THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE," MR BARNES SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MIRIAM LAU REGARDING THE RECENT SEIZURE BY THE POLICE OF VIDEO TAPES FROM TWO TELEVISION STATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN EXERCISING POWERS UNDER THE POLICE FORCE OR ANY OTHER ORDINANCE, THE POLICE AIMED TO ENSURE THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN WAS LEGAL AND JUSTIFIED, HAVING REGARD TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION, RULES OF EVIDENCE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SITUATION ITSELF.

/"IN CONSIDERING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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"IN CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION BY THE POLICE FOR A WARRANT, A MAGISTRATE WILL BE MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY POLICE ACTION ON THE ONE HAND, AND THOSE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER.

"BEFORE ISSUING THE WARRANT THE MAGISTRATE HAS TO HAVE REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT, UPON THE OATH OF THE APPLICANT, THAT A DOCUMENT, ARTICLE OR THING MAY THROW LIGHT ON THE CHARACTER OR ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON SUSPECTED OF AN OFFENCE," MR BARNES SAID.

MR BARNES SAID IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT AT THIS STAGE ON THE DETAILS OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE AS THE MATTER WAS SUB-JUDICE PENDING COURT HEARINGS NEXT MONTH.

"HOWEVER, I AM INFORMED THAT THE WARRANT IN THIS INSTANCE WAS ONLY SOUGHT AFTER THE REJECTION BY THE TELEVISION COMPANIES CONCERNED OF REQUESTS TO ALLOW INVESTIGATING OFFICERS TO VIEW THE VIDEO TAPES," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS AMENDMENT OF THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE UK POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT OF 1984, MR BARNES SAID THAT IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION WAS INVITED TO EXAMINE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE EXISTING LAW AND PRACTICE GOVERNING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE POLICE IN RELATION TO ENTRY, SEARCH AND SEIZURE, AND ARREST AND DETENTION.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE COMMISSION WAS INVITED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHETHER THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT OF 1984, AND THE CODES OF PRACTICE THEREUNDER, SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN HONG KONG, WITH OR WITHOUT MODIFICATION," HE SAID.

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TWO RAILWAY CORPORATIONS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ARE EMPOWERED BY LAW TO GIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE TWO RAILWAY CORPORATIONS ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST, INCLUDING SAFETY AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE DETAILED PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE CORPORATIONS FULFILLED THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE PROVISIONS WAS MONITORED BY THE TRANSPORT BRANCH, ASSISTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, WHOSE STAFF WERE IN CLOSE AND REGULAR TOUCH WITH BOTH RAIL MANagements, HE SAID.

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ON THE QUESTION OF BRINGING THE TWO RAILWAY SERVICES WITHIN THE SCRUTINY OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC), MR LEUNG SAID A DISTINCTION SHOULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN RAIL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN GENERAL AND RAIL MANAGEMENT.

HE SAID THAT MANAGEMENT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED BOARDS OF THE TWO RAIL CORPORATIONS AND THE TAC'S INVOLVEMENT WOULD DUPLICATE THEIR ROLE.

"THE BROADER ASPECTS OF RAIL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE OVERALL TRANSPORT STRATEGY ARE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF BY TAC," HE SAID.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY THE TAC IN RECENT YEARS INCLUDED THE EFFECTS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PEAK HOUR CONGESTION FARE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, SERVICES AND SAFETY OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, AND CURRENTLY DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER, INCLUDING FUTURE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS, THEIR TIMING AND ALIGNMENTS, MR LEUNG SAID.

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UNLEADED PETROL EXPECTED IN 12 - 15 MONTHS

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UNLEADED PETROL IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG IN 12 TO 15 MONTHS. THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PAUL CHENG, MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT PRESENT DISCUSSING THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FUEL WITH OIL COMPANIES.

"AND THE ESTIMATE OF 12 TO 15 MONTHS WHICH ORIGINATED WITH THE OIL COMPANIES, IS THE TIME WHEN WE EXPECTED THE GRADE OF PETROL TO BE CHOSEN AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR ITS SUPPLY," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE CONVERSION AND COMPLIANCE OVER A PERIOD.

HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A DETAILED PROPOSAL ON THIS MATTER SHORTLY.

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DEDICATED LINE NOT MANDATORY FOR FAX MACHINE

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ASSURANCES WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT IT WILL TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT SUBSCRIBERS UNDERSTAND THAT A DEDICATED TELEPHONE LINE IS NOT MANDATORY FOR A FACSIMILE MACHINE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP, MRS CHAN SAID THERE WAS NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR A DEDICATED TELEPHONE LINE TO BE USED FOR A FACSIMILE MACHINE, NOR WAS THIS A REQUIREMENT UNDER THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S OWN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS UP TO NOW RECEIVED NO COMPLAINTS OR PUBLIC COMMENT INDICATING MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A DEDICATED TELEPHONE LINE IS REQUIRED FOR FACSIMILE MACHINES.

"I AM GRATEFUL THEREFORE TO DR IP FOR BRINGING THIS MATTER TO MY ATTENTION," SHE SAID.

DR IP HAD SAID SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE UNDER THE WRONG IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS MANDATORY FOR THEM TO APPLY FOR A DEDICATED LINE FOR A FACSIMILE MACHINE.

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TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR TIN SHUI WAI RESIDENTS

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION IS PLANNING TO RUN BUS SERVICES FROM TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN TO YUEN LONG AND HUNG SHUI KIU BEFORE THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SYSTEM IS EXTENDED TO THE NEW TOWN, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR LEUNG SAID THAT IN YUEN LONG AND HUNG SHUI KIU THE PASSENGERS COULD CHANGE TO OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORT.

HE SAID THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WOULD ALSO OPERATE FOUR NEW EXTERNAL BUS ROUTES FROM TIN SHUI WAI TO TSUEN WAN AND SHAM SHUI PO WHERE PASSENGERS COULD CHANGE TO THE MTR OR TO BUSES FOR OTHER DESTINATIONS.

HE ADDED THAT GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES WOULD ALSO BE INTRODUCED.

"ALL THESE SERVICES ARE PLANNED TO TIE IN WITH THE POPULATION INTAKE AND WILL BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED AS PASSENGER DEMAND INCREASES," HE SAID.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ENSURE THE TRAVELLING NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF TIN SHUI WAI WERE ADEQUATELY CATERED FOR.

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF LRT EXTENSION TO TIN SHUI WAI, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE KCRC WAS FIRST INVITED TO TAKE ON THE LRT PROJECT, IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE FULL NETWORK WOULD BE BUILT IN STAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENTS, LEADING TO THE EVENTUAL COMPLETION OF THE VARIOUS REGIONAL EXTENSIONS IN THE MID-1990'S.

"ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT PROGRAMME, POPULATION INTAKE IN TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN WOULD START IN DECEMBER 1991.

"POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND 46,000 BY THE END OF 1992, BUILDING UP EVENTUALLY TO OVER 135,000 BY THE END OF 1996," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE KCRC WAS CONDUCTING A DETAILED STUDY TO ASCERTAIN THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE LRT EXTENSION TO TIN SHUI WAI IN THE LIGHT OF MORE ACCURATE POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND A MORE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF LRT PATRONAGE GROWTH AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE.

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VIETNAMESE ACCOUNT FOR SMALL PERCENTAGE OF HOSPITAL USE
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IT WOULD SEEM FROM AVAILABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEES (VBP AND VR'S) ACCOUNT FOR ONLY A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL UTILISATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS AND CASUALTY SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON T.H. CHAU, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT, MR CHAU SAID THE USE OF HOSPITAL FACILITIES BY THE VIETNAMESE WAS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH SERVICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS OR CAUSED SERIOUS DELAYS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS SEEKING TREATMENT.

HE GAVE STATISTICS KEPT BY THE FOUR REGIONAL HOSPITALS, NAMELY, QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, ON THE NUMBER OF VBP AND VR'S ADMITTED IN 1988 AND 1989 INTO ONE OF THESE HOSPITALS.

ACCORDINGLY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IN 1988 WAS 400,099 AND OF THESE, 2,965 (OR 0.74 PER CENT) WERE VBP AND VR'S.

FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, 5,870 VBP AND VR'S (OR 2.1 PER CENT) WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AMONG THE 279,279 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.

/AS FOR

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AS FOR THE NUMBERS ATTENDING THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY (A&E) DEPARTMENTS AT THE FOUR HOSPITALS, MR CHAU SAID IN 1988, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF A&E ATTENDANCES WAS 600,478; OF THESE, 3,368 (OR 0.56 PER CENT) WERE VBP AND VR'S.

FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 7,007 VBP AND VR'S (OR 1.45 PER CENT) ATTENDING A&E DEPARTMENTS OUT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 484,110.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO AVAILABLE STATISTICS TO IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE ADMISSIONS AND ATTENDANCES THAT WERE DUE TO INJURIES SUSTAINED IN FIGHTING OR UPON CONTRACTION OF DISEASE, MR CHAU SAID.

"NOR HAS IT BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE TIME AVAILABLE TO IDENTIFY VBP AND VR ADMISSIONS OR ATTENDANCES AT ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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SPECIAL JOB REGISTER TO ASSIST IVORY WORKERS
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THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS OPENED A SPECIAL REGISTER TO ASSIST IVORY WORKERS WHO MAY WISH TO TAKE UP ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IVORY WORKERS COULD APPROACH ANY OF THE 16 LES OFFICES FOR ASSISTANCE, MRS CHAN SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

SHE SAID THE BAN ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN IVORY, IMPOSED ON HONG KONG BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES TO BOTH IVORY TRADERS AND WORKERS.

"STAFF OF THE LES ARE ALREADY CANVASSING SUITABLE JOB VACANCIES FROM VARIOUS TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.

"IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE WILL ADVISE THE WORKERS OF BENEFITS DUE TO THEM UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND WILL ASSIST THEM IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS WHICH THEY MAY HAVE WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS IN RELATION TO WAGES, LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS OR SEVERANCE PAYMENTS ON REDUNDANCY," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID IN CASE AN EMPLOYER WAS UNABLE TO PAY BENEFITS DUE TO HIS EMPLOYEES, AS A RESULT OF INSOLVENCY, THE WORKERS AFFECTED WOULD BE ASSISTED IN APPLYING FOR RELIEF FROM THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND.

/"AS FOR

"AS FOR IVORY WORKERS WHO MAY SEEK RETRAINING THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASK THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO ARRANGE SUITABLE COURSES.

"THE COUNCIL ALREADY OPERATES A NUMBER OF SHORT COURSES WHOSE GRADUATES ARE IN GREAT DEMAND. THE VTC MAY HAVE TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF THESE COURSES OR MODIFY THEIR CONTENTS TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF THE CARVERS.

"SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY WELL BE NECESSARY TO FINANCE THIS PROGRAMME THOUGH WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD," SHE SAID.

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FOUR BILLS PASSED

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

THEY WERE THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES BILL 1989, THE RECOGNITION OF TRUSTS BILL 1989, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, AND THE HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

A MOTION ON EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR AMENDING SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, IN THIS CASE OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) (EXEMPTION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1989, WAS PASSED.

IN ADDITION, TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 AND THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989. DEBATES ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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CIVIL SERVICE PROVIDES CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES

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THE CIVIL SERVICE PROVIDES A RANGE OF CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING A CAREER, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR FRANK STOCK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS EXHIBITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

"THE TERM CIVIL SERVICE IS ONE THAT TENDS TO CONJURE UP PICTURES OF THINGS THAT ARE DRY AND STAID." HE SAID.

"THE TRUTH IS THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHALLENGE, FOR GREAT DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE AND OF COURSE FOR SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC."

MR STOCK SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE EXHIBITION WAS PRESENTING A FORUM OF INFORMATION FOR YOUNG STUDENTS TO HELP THEM MARSHAL THE FACTS SO THAT THEY COULD BETTER ASSESS THEIR FUTURE CAREER PATHS.

"WE WILL I HOPE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNG TO VIEW HONG KONG AS A PLACE OF IMMENSE CHALLENGE AS WELL AS A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY BOTH FOR INDIVIDUAL CAREER AMBITIONS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY." HE SAID.

MR STOCK SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE THREE GOVERNMENT LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS - THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT - WERE PARTICIPATING IN THIS EXHIBITION.

"IN MATTERS OF CAREER GUIDANCE, THE BURDEN IS SQUARELY UPON US TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO WOULD CHOOSE A CAREER, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE."

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR STOCK SAID THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN MAKING A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO WORK OUT WAYS OF ENCOURAGING LOCALISATION IN THE DEPARTMENT AND CERTAIN MEASURES HAD BEEN WORKED OUT TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

"IT'S PERHAPS TOO EARLY TO BE CERTAIN ABOUT IT BUT THE SITUATION OF RETENTION OF OUR COUNSEL SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING AND I'M VERY HOPEFUL.

"THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE RUN A LEGAL DEPARTMENT WHICH IS LARGE, WHICH COVERS A VERY WIDE AREA OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE.

"THE DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY AND I'M VERY HOPEFUL THAT MORE AND MORE YOUNGSTERS IN HONG KONG WILL REALISE THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAINING VALID LEGAL EXPERIENCE, INTERESTING LEGAL EXPERIENCE, ARE GREAT," MR STOCK SAID.

ON WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WAS SHORT OF STAFF, MR STOCK SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY SHORT OF STAFF AT PRESENT.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ACROSS THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A WHOLE, LARGE NUMBERS OF VACANT POSTS HAD BEEN CUT RECENTLY AND THIS HAD HAD ITS EFFECT ON THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

HOWEVER, IN A DEPARTMENT OF ABOUT 250 LAWYERS, THERE WAS ALWAYS A TURNOVER OF STAFF "SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNGSTERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW TO JOIN US." MR STOCK SAID.

AS FOR THE WHITE BILL ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS, MR STOCK SAID MUCH HARD WORK WAS BEING DONE AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TARGET OF PRODUCING A WHITE BILL BY THE END OF THE YEAR WOULD BE MET.

A TOTAL OF 28 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE TAKING PART IN THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-DAY EXHIBITION WHICH IS BEING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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SWD EXPERIMENTS OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE PROJECT

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS EXPERIMENTING A PROJECT ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING THE RISK OF HAVING YOUNG CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME. THE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES EAST), MR CARLOS LEUNG, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE KWONG FUK CHILD CARE CENTRE RUN BY THE NEW TERRITORIES WOMEN AND JUVENILES WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MR LEUNG SAID THE SERVICE AIMED AT PROVIDING SHORT TERM DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX WHOSE CARERS HAD TO STAY AWAY FROM HOME OCCASIONALLY DUE TO SUDDEN ENGAGEMENTS AND VARIOUS COMMITMENTS.

"THESE COMMITMENTS MAY INCLUDE SUDDEN ILLNESS AND HOSPITALISATION, ESCORTING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, VISITING SICK OR IMPRISONED FAMILY MEMBERS, OR DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND RELATIVES," HE EXPLAINED.

MR LEUNG SAID THE PROJECT WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES IN WHICH A TOTAL OF 15 DAY NURSERIES WOULD PROVIDE 105 PLACES.

"PHASE ONE OF THE PROJECT HAS STARTED ON NOVEMBER 1. THE SERVICE IS NOW BEING PROVIDED IN THREE NURSERIES IN KWUN TONG, SHAM SHUI PO AND TAI PO.

"THE SECOND PHASE WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH WITH 12 MORE NURSERIES JOINING THE SERVICE. THEY ARE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED IN THE TERRITORY, IN WAN CHAI, TSING YI, MONG KOK, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN, SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, KWAI CHUNG, EASTERN, TSUEN WAN, SOUTHERN AND NORTH DISTRICTS."

NOTING THAT THE SERVICE WAS AVAILABLE WITHIN NORMAL HOURS OF DAY NURSERIES, MR LEUNG SAID RESIDENTS USING THE SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO PAY \$20 FOR HALF-DAY AND \$40 FOR WHOLE DAY SERVICE, IN ADDITION TO A \$4 MEAL CHARGE PER DAY.

HOWEVER, FAMILIES IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY MAY APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK OR MENTALLY DISABLED ARE NOT COVERED BY THE PROJECT," MR LEUNG SAID.

"AS THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN EACH NURSERY IS LIMITED, REGISTRATION OR REFERRALS WILL BE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS," HE ADDED.

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GOVT ENDORSES RECOMMENDATIONS ON SIXTH FORM POLICY

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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER HAS ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WORKING GROUP ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE WORKING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED IN AUGUST 1988 TO CONSIDER HOW THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN MODIFIED IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS, SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ITS REPORT, THE WORKING GROUP ADDRESSED THE MANY PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION WHICH WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED IN MAY 1988.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT CHINESE-MEDIUM ADVANCED LEVEL (A-LEVEL) COURSES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AS EARLY AS 1990, WITH THE FIRST CHINESE-MEDIUM A-LEVEL EXAMINATION TO BE CONDUCTED IN 1992," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS MEANS THAT SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY OFFERED A SIX-YEAR SECONDARY COURSE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO OFFER THE FULL SEVEN-YEAR PROGRAMME LEADING TO A-LEVEL EXAMINATIONS IN CHINESE. THE LAST HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN 1992.

"ADDITIONAL A-LEVEL COURSES IN PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FROM 1991 ONWARDS, ENABLING PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, WHICH AT PRESENT PROVIDE COURSES LEADING ONLY TO THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, TO OFFER SIXTH FORM COURSES."

/THE GOVERNMENT

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ENDORSED THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (I-LEVEL) COURSES SHOULD BE RENAMED AS ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL (AS-LEVEL) COURSES.

SUCH COURSES ARE NO LONGER "INTERMEDIATE" AS THEY WERE INTENDED TO BE IN THE ORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL, AS THE EXAMINATION IS NOW TO BE TAKEN AFTER TWO YEARS OF STUDY RATHER THAN AFTER ONE.

IN ADDITION, THESE COURSES ARE CONCEPTUALLY VERY CLOSE TO THE AS-LEVEL COURSES NOW BEING OFFERED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY WELL KNOWN AND ACCEPTED OVERSEAS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT AS-LEVEL COURSES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN 1992, WITH THE FIRST AS-LEVEL EXAMINATION BEING HELD IN 1994.

"TO ENSURE THE BROADENING OF THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM, A NEW AS-LEVEL SUBJECT, LIBERAL STUDIES, WILL BE INTRODUCED AS A CORE SUBJECT IN THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM. A MODULAR APPROACH WILL BE ADOPTED IN SYLLABUS DESIGN TO GIVE SCHOOLS A VARIETY OF TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM.

"TWO ADDITIONAL AS-LEVEL SUBJECTS, NAMELY, USE OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, ARE ALSO TO BE CORE SUBJECTS IN THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM. THE AIM IS TO IMPROVE THE LANGUAGE SKILLS OF SIXTH FORM STUDENTS," HE ADDED.

VARIOUS MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIXTH FORM POLICY.

IN THIS REGARD, THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME OF IDENTIFYING AND REVIEWING REFERENCE BOOKS WRITTEN IN CHINESE SUITABLE FOR USE IN A-LEVEL COURSES; AND HANDBOOKS WITH TECHNICAL TERMS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH FOR VARIOUS SUBJECTS TAUGHT IN THE SIXTH FORM HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY SCHOOLS SHORTLY.

IN ADDITION, THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY HAVE ENDORSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF NEW SUBJECT COMMITTEES AT THE SIXTH FORM LEVEL. BOTH THESE AND EXISTING SUBJECT COMMITTEES WILL BE PREPARING THE REQUIRED SYLLABUSES.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR THE CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE ADHERED TO.

"SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT, IN CONSIDERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR SCHOOLS, THEY SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING THE NEEDS AND ABILITIES OF THEIR SIX-FORM STUDENTS.

"THEY SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONSULT THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE." HE SAID.

HK SHOULD HAVE ROLE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

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HONG KONG, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMY, SHOULD HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE AND A ROLE TO PLAY IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE (PECC) IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, MR CARTLAND SAID HONG KONG BELIEVED THAT PECC WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND, REGARDLESS OF HOW OTHER COMPLEMENTARY DISCUSSIONS MIGHT DEVELOP, THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A NEED FOR THE VALUABLE ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION THAT PECC PROVIDED.

"WE STAND READY TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND SAID HONG KONG HAD PARTICIPATED IN TASK FORCE WORK AND ATTENDED THE MEETING AS GUEST OBSERVERS.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S MAIN INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF PECC WAS IN THE AREA OF TRADE POLICY.

"GIVEN HONG KONG'S EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED EXPORT-LED ECONOMY, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT WE HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING THE OPEN WORLD TRADING SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND SAID THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE HAD GROWN RAPIDLY DURING THE 1980'S TO REACH US\$127 BILLION IN 1988, REPRESENTING 2.2 PER CENT OF WORLD TRADE IN GOODS AND MAKING HONG KONG THE 11TH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY IN THE WORLD.

"A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS HAS, WE BELIEVE, BEEN THE PURSUIT OF NON-INTERVENTIONIST FREE TRADE POLICIES.

"THERE ARE NO BARRIERS TO TRADE, NO TARIFF, NO EXCHANGE-CONTROLS; WE ARE OPEN TO INWARD AND OUTWARD INVESTMENT FLOWS AND HAVE A COMPARATIVELY UNREGULATED ENVIRONMENT FOR TRADE IN SERVICES," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND SAID ALL OF THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE NATURE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WHICH ADJUSTED READILY TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF ADJUSTMENT IN RESPONSE TO MARKET DEVELOPMENTS, COST FACTORS AND CURRENCY MOVEMENTS.

"IT HAS DEMONSTRATED AN ABILITY TO DEVELOP COMPLEMENTARITIES AND A DEGREE OF INTER-DEPENDENCE WITH OTHER ECONOMIES TO THE BENEFIT OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE," HE SAID.

/"AS MUCH

"AS MUCH AS 78 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE IN GOODS IS WITH MEMBERS OF PECC AND THE MAIN SOURCES AND PRINCIPAL RECIPIENTS OF HONG KONG'S INWARD AND OUTWARD INVESTMENT FLOWS ARE REPRESENTED IN THIS MEETING," HE ADDED.

ON THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS, MR CARTLAND SAID HONG KONG'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TEXTILES AND THE RELATED AREAS OF SAFEGUARDS.

HE SAID HONG KONG FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AND THE TEXTILES AND GARMENTS SECTOR BROUGHT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF STRENGTHENED GATT DISCIPLINES.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ALL CONCERNED TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MFA BY NEW AND MORE INSIDIOUS FORMS OF PROTECTION SUCH AS THE EXTENSIVE AND INDISCRIMINATE USE OF ANTI-DUMPING.

"IT IS ALSO A PREREQUISITE THAT THERE BE A CLEAR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF GATT-CONSISTENT MEASURES ON A STRICTLY NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND MOST FAVOURED-NATION BASIS," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON SOME OF THE POINTS RAISED EARLIER AT THE MEETING, MR CARTLAND SAID THE LINKING OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO THE U.S. DOLLAR WAS NOT DONE FOR TRADE POLICY REASONS.

"IT WAS DONE AT A TIME OF LOW CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG IN 1983 TO ARREST A RAPID SLIDE IN THE VALUE OF THE CURRENCY WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FREE FLOATING.

"THE PEG HAS BROUGHT STABILITY TO EXCHANGE RATES. THE ECONOMY HAS ADJUSTED TO THE PEG AND SPECULATIVE DEPOSITS HOPING FOR IT TO CHANGE HAVE EVAPORATED.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING IT," HE SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC FORECAST CONTAINED IN PECC'S PACIFIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, MR CARTLAND SAID THE FORECAST ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG FAILED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE STEADY RECOVERY THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT MONTHS.

HE SAID THE PROPERTY MARKET IN HONG KONG HAD ADJUSTED AT REALISTIC LEVELS, HAVING LOST SOME OF THE EXCESSIVE SPECULATIVE HEAT THAT WAS EVIDENT EARLY IN THE YEAR.

"BANKING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG IS BEING CARRIED OUT NORMALLY. EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SHOW POSITIVE GROWTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

"THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM, STRENGTHENED BY REFORMS INTRODUCED SINCE THE OCTOBER '87 CRASH, HAS SHOWN NO SIGNS OF REAL STRAIN. THE EXCHANGE RATE, THANKS TO THE U.S. DOLLAR LINK, HAS REMAINED STABLE.

"THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INTERRUPTION IN THE FLOW OF GOODS TRAFFIC ACROSS THE BORDER.

"UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS AT 1.4 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER WHICH IS VIRTUALLY FULL EMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

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HK HAS PROPOSED GATT ANTI-DUMPING CODE
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HONG KONG HAS TAKEN THE VERY POSITIVE STEP OF PROPOSING, IN THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) ANTI-DUMPING CODE.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THIS AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERSTOFF ASIA 1989 TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BARMA SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER AND PRACTITIONER OF FREE TRADE PRINCIPLES AS ENSHRINED IN THE GATT AND IT DID NOT CONDONE GENUINE DUMPING, WHICH WAS AN UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE GATT.

NOTING THAT ONE OF THE PRODUCTS BEING OFFERED IN THE EXHIBITION WAS DENIM, HE SAID HONG KONG WAS CURRENTLY PLAGUED BY A SPATE OF ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS ON ITS PRODUCTS, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, DENIM CLOTH WAS ONE OF THE PRODUCTS BEING TARGETTED FOR ANTI-DUMPING ACTION.

"WE IN HONG KONG ARE MOST PERPLEXED AND PERTURBED BY SUCH ACCUSATIONS OF DUMPING," HE SAID.

MR BARMA POINTED OUT THAT THE LATEST ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES APPEARED TO BE TINTED WITH PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TRADING WORLD SHOULD GUARD AGAINST THE USE OF SUCH MEASURES AS NEW BARRIERS TO TRADE," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S GARMENT INDUSTRY, MR BARMA SAID THE TERRITORY WAS NOW THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST GARMENT EXPORTER AFTER ITALY AND KOREA.

"OVER THE YEARS, HONG KONG GARMENTS HAVE ATTAINED A REPUTATION OF HAVING INNOVATIVE DESIGNS AND HIGH QUALITY," HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT HONG KONG, BEING AN OPEN ECONOMY, FREE OF TARIFF OR NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ITS MARKETS AND BUYING MATERIALS FROM THE BEST SOURCES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"THE CHOICE OF HONG KONG AS A VENUE OF THIS EXHIBITION IS THEREFORE MOST APPROPRIATE," HE ADDED.

OVER 200 FABRIC MANUFACTURERS FROM 23 COUNTRIES ARE TAKING PART IN THE INTERSTOFF ASIA 1989 EXHIBITION.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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PAC HEARING NEXT WEEK

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AN OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING THE TABLING OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REPORT IS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 AND THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23. THE MORNING SESSION WILL RUN FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.45 PM, AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 2.30 PM TO 4.30 PM.

CONTROLLING OFFICERS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO POINTS MADE IN THE REPORT.

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DECREASE IN AVERAGE TAR YIELD OF CIGARETTES

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THE AVERAGE TAR YIELD AMONG THE 106 TOP BEST-SELLING CIGARETTES IN HONG KONG HAS DECREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT TO 14.8 MG/CIGARETTE COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 15.0 MG/CIGARETTE IN THE LAST ANALYSIS. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST (13TH) SIX-MONTH REVIEW OF TAR AND NICOTINE YIELDS OF CIGARETTES RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FIGURES FROM RECENT SURVEYS SHOW A CONTINUED DECLINE IN THE AVERAGE TAR YIELDS OF CIGARETTES.

NO "HIGH TAR" CIGARETTES (THAT IS THOSE WITH A TAR CONTENT OF 29 MG AND ABOVE) WERE FOUND IN THE PRESENT SURVEY AND THE NUMBER OF BRANDS OF CIGARETTES CLASSIFIED AS "LOW TAR" CIGARETTES INCREASED FROM 20 IN THE LAST SURVEY TO 25 IN THE PRESENT SURVEY.

"THE RESULTS SEEM TO CONFIRM THE TREND OF CONSUMER PREFERENCE FOR LOW TAR CIGARETTES." A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BUT LOW TAR CIGARETTES ARE STILL HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH," HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE NICOTINE YIELD OF CIGARETTES HAS RISEN BY 3.2 PER CENT TO 1.29 MG/CIGARETTE WHEN COMPARED WITH 1.25 MG/CIGARETTE IN THE LAST SURVEY.

"NICOTINE IS ADDICTIVE AND CREATES DEPENDENCE ON TOBACCO," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASE IN NICOTINE YIELDS IN TWO CONSECUTIVE SURVEYS."

/THE HONG

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH HAS PROPOSED, IN ITS PACKAGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AN IMMEDIATE CEILING OF 1.2 MG/CIGARETTE FOR NICOTINE AND 18 MG/CIGARETTE FOR TAR.

"A GOVERNMENT DECISION WILL SOON BE MADE ON THIS RECOMMENDATION IN THE LIGHT OF OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS YEAR."

A FULL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINDINGS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST EDITION OF "CHOICE" MAGAZINE.

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11,000 VISIT EXHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

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MORE THAN 11,000 PEOPLE HAVE VISITED AN EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO INTRODUCE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED.

OPENED LAST FRIDAY, THE WEEK-LONG EXHIBITION IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI UNTIL TOMORROW (THURSDAY). OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 10 AM TO 6.30 PM.

VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW DISABLED PEOPLE ARE PLACED IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR POTENTIAL WORKING ABILITIES.

THE EXHIBITION ALSO DEPICTS THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING, JOB ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

THERE ARE ALSO A DISPLAY OF DIFFERENT EMPLOYMENT AIDS AND EQUIPMENT SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO HELP THE DISABLED AT WORK, JOB-MATCHING BY COMPUTER, A COMPUTER QUESTION-AND-ANSWER GAME BOOTH AND LIVE WORK DEMONSTRATIONS BY DISABLED WORKERS.

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LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECTS ON DB AGENDA

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE STUDIES AND PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE LDC, MR ABRAHIM RAZACK, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

/MEMBERS WILL

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER A PAPER ON THE REVISED LAYOUT OF THE PLANNED PARKLAND AND INDOOR GAMES HALL ON THE WESTERN RECLAMATION.

THEY WILL ALSO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER WESTERN MARKET BUILDING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN ROOM 1416, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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DISTRICT FESTIVAL CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION

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A CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN WONG TAI SIN, BEGINNING ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17), AS PART OF THE CURRENT WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE UNTIL NOVEMBER 21 (TUESDAY). IT WILL THEN BE MOVED TO THE WONG TAI SIN COMMERCIAL CENTRE ON NOVEMBER 22 BEFORE CLOSING ON NOVEMBER 24.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ENABLE RESIDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR DISTRICT WHILE FOSTERING A GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THEM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE EXHIBITION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS, ONE ON THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND THE OTHER ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF WONG TAI SIN.

THE "PEOPLE'S RIGHTS" SECTION WAS PRODUCED BY THE LAW SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. THE PRESENTATION HAS WON THE OUTSTANDING AWARD IN THE 1988-89 CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES PROJECTS COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE CIVIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND CARTOONS ON DISPLAY, RESIDENTS WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS, AND THE LAWS OF SOCIETY.

THE SECTION ON WONG TAI SIN WILL INTRODUCE THE HISTORY OF HOUSING AND TRAFFIC MATTERS IN THE DISTRICT, THEIR PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

/AN OPENING

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AN OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY AT NOON. OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, MR ALBERT LI; CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON CENTRAL, MR CHOI KEI-WONG; AND PRESIDENT OF THE 1989 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHOW WING-TUNG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1989 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT NOON ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17) AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

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FOUR GOVERNMENT LAND LOTS TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF FOUR SITES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TWO LOTS AT AP LEI CHAU WEST, MEASURING 5.538 SQUARE METRES AND 5.756 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY, ARE TO BE USED FOR THE OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS AND INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

A 2.550 SQUARE-METRE LOT IN AREA 4, TSING YI ISLAND, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS (EXCLUDING STORAGE OF CONTAINERS).

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER LOT IS IN AREA 3, TSUI LAM, TSEUNG KWAN O, AND HAS AN AREA OF 4.359 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR A PUBLIC CARPARK.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS FOR THE FOUR SITES IS NOON ON DECEMBER 1.

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TEMPORARY RE-ROUTEING OF DOUGLAS STREET IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17), DOUGLAS STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC WITH ACCESS FROM DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

THE RE-ROUTEING WILL LAST FOR ABOUT 10 WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN WATER STREET IN WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17), THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WATER STREET IN WESTERN DISTRICT BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT AIRPORT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17), THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY WHICH LINKS THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST EASTBOUND WITH THE EASTERN END OF DEPARTURES CIRCUIT WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY FOR GOODS VEHICLES EFFECTIVE 24 HOURS DAILY ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF THE DEPARTURES CIRCUIT WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARDS FOR ABOUT 14 METRES.

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

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17). THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF MEI LAI ROAD IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH NASSAN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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LANE CLOSURE ON TUEN MUN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE THREE TRAFFIC LANES OF THE TUEN MUN BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH TSUEN WAN ROAD WILL BE PARTIALLY CLOSED IN TURN FROM 8 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 17) TO 8 PM ON NOVEMBER 25.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

CLOSURE OF TWO TRAFFIC LANES WILL ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NIGHT TIME (8 PM TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY). ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE CLOSURE PERIOD.

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