



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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APPROVAL FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND, LOAN FUND

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RESOLUTIONS TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND AND A LOAN FUND WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE MOVED UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS.

NOTING THAT HE HAD REFERRED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST WEEK, SIR PIERS SAID THIS FUND WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE IN RELATION TO THE EXPENDITURE INVOLVED IN INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMING YEARS.

IN ESTABLISHING THE NEW FUND, THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE TAKEN TO RATIONALISE THE OPERATION OF THE OTHER FUNDS, AND AS A RESULT, THE MASS TRANSIT FUND AND THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND WOULD BE DISESTABLISHED.

"THIS NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND WILL BECOME A VEHICLE FOR PROVIDING THE GOVERNMENT'S PERMANENT INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE ITSELF.

"BODIES THAT ALREADY FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY ARE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

"THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN 1991, WILL ALSO FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

"WHILST THE MONEY IN THE FUND WILL, FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES, BE SEPARATED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT, I MUST STRESS THAT ALL INVESTMENTS AND LOANS ARISING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE FUND WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"THUS THE AUTHORITY OF FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL IN NO WAY BE DIMINISHED. IT IS THE ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS ONLY THAT WILL CHANGE," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND WOULD FACILITATE MORE LOGICAL ACCOUNTING FOR THE LARGE INVESTMENTS THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE AND WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE. AS A RESULT, THE FUND SHOULD ASSIST IN PROVIDING A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE OVERALL STATE OF THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS RESOLUTION PROVIDED FOR THE FUND TO TAKE OVER THE VARIOUS INVESTMENTS ALREADY MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE RAIL CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BODIES SUCH AS THE NEW HONG KONG HARBOUR CROSSING COMPANY, AND TO MAKE FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN THESE AND OTHER BODIES.

FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND, THE MASS TRANSIT FUND WOULD NO LONGER BE REQUIRED.

/THE RESOLUTION

THE RESOLUTION THEREFORE PROVIDED FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE MASS TRANSIT FUND.

SIMILARLY, THE NEW FUND WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE MAJOR FUNCTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND IN MAKING EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THEREFORE, THE RESOLUTION ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND.

A NUMBER OF RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND WERE COVERED IN THE SECOND RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE NEW LOAN FUND.

IN MOVING THE SECOND RESOLUTION, SIR PIERS SAID THE OPPORTUNITY WAS BEING TAKEN TO REORGANISE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENT FUNDS.

THE PURPOSE WAS TO BRING TOGETHER LOANS MADE UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND, THE STUDENT LOAN FUND AND THE GENERAL REVENUE UNDER ONE FUND.

"THIS RESOLUTION PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOAN FUND TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENT LOAN FUND.

"LIKE THE FIRST RESOLUTION, THIS RESOLUTION IS CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOAN FUND AND THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENT LOAN FUND WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT THE ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS OF THOSE WHO QUALIFY AT PRESENT OR THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE.

"THE AUTHORITY OF FINANCE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE LOANS WILL NOT CHANGE BUT A SINGLE LOAN FUND WILL BE A MORE LOGICAL ARRANGEMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL LOANS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

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MOTION ON FUNDING PASSED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION PROVIDING FUNDS ON ACCOUNT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON EXISTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR ON APRIL 1 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE FUNDS INVOLVED AMOUNT TO \$38.9 BILLION.

THE MOTION WAS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

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BILL TO ENLARGE HKPC MEMBERSHIP

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A BILL TO ENLARGE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, SIR PIERS SAID SECTION 9 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SPECIFIED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 21, OUT OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 14 SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANAGEMENT, LABOUR, AND PROFESSIONAL OR ACADEMIC INTERESTS.

THIS NUMBER HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1967.

HE SAID THE CURRENT SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP WAS INADEQUATE TO ALLOW FOR ALL THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SECTORS TO BE SUFFICIENTLY REPRESENTED.

"THE BILL THEREFORE PROPOSES TO ENLARGE THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP FROM 21 TO 23 TO ALLOW FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO EXTRA MEMBERS FROM THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SECTORS," SIR PIERS SAID.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO COPE WITH THE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED SCOPE, VOLUME AND COMPLEXITY OF ITS WORK."

SIR PIERS SAID THE BILL ALSO PROPOSED TO EMPOWER THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH AND ACQUIRE COMPANIES TO CARRY OUT PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

"SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1967, THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL HAVE EXPANDED ENORMOUSLY.

"THE COUNCIL HAS DEVELOPED INTO A LEADING INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION PROVIDING A DIVERSE RANGE OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO PLAY ITS ROLE MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO EXPLOIT MORE READILY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, THE BILL WOULD EMPOWER THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH COMPANIES AND TO PURCHASE SHARES IN COMPANIES FOR BETTER CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS.

"THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO EMPOWER THE COUNCIL TO MAKE LOANS OR GIVE OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMPANIES IT HAS ESTABLISHED," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

MUCH PREPARATORY WORK DONE ON AIRPORT PROJECT

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MUCH PREPARATORY WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK CAN BE OPERATIONAL IN 1997, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SIR PIERS WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL 1990 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

HE SAID THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WOULD BE SET UP TO TAKE FORWARD THE NECESSARY PLANNING AND PREPARATORY WORK PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

"ONCE ESTABLISHED, THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WILL BECOME THE DEDICATED VEHICLE TO TAKE OVER THE NECESSARY PLANNING AND PREPARATORY WORK FOR THIS MAJOR PROJECT," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE BILL SET OUT THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS ONCE IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S MAIN FUNCTION WOULD BE TO UNDERTAKE WHATEVER TASKS WERE NECESSARY IN ESTABLISHING THE NEW AIRPORT.

"TO PROVIDE A CORPORATE FRAMEWORK THROUGH WHICH THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY MAY ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE, THE BILL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE ITS OWN STAFF, TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY OR LAND, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR OTHER AGREEMENTS, TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND MONEY, AND TO EMPLOY CONSULTANTS OR OTHER ADVISERS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN THE TASK OF PLANNING AND DESIGNING THE AIRPORT.

"TO MEET THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S EXPENDITURE, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT PUBLIC FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED INITIALLY.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO BORROW AND FOR GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES TO BE GIVEN IN RESPECT OF MONEY RAISED IN THIS WAY," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS PRUDENT TO INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS, IN PRACTICE, IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT BORROWINGS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED UNTIL AFTER 1992 WHEN THE MAJOR EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME CAME ON STREAM.

"BY THEN, WE EXPECT THAT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED," HE SAID.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE SCHEDULE TO THE BILL SOUGHT TO MAKE THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY A BODY CORPORATE AND PROVIDED FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO ITS CONSTITUTION.

HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, WHO WOULD BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY, AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WHO, WHEN APPOINTED, WOULD BE A MEMBER, THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF BETWEEN EIGHT TO 15 OTHER MEMBERS.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR TO DIRECT THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS, IF IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

CONSIDERING THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, EXCEPTIONALLY AND TO AVOID ANY DELAYS THAT COULD ARISE FROM PROCESSING THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE TEXTS SIMULTANEOUSLY, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD DIRECTED THAT ONLY THE ENGLISH VERSION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"ONCE ENACTED, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ORDINANCE, THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE TEXT WILL THEN BE STUDIED BY THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR FORMAL APPROVAL," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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CHANGES IN RADIATION ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE RADIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 ARE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE RADIATION BOARD TO REMOVE SOME PROVISIONS OF THE RADIATION ORDINANCE WHICH ARE NO LONGER SERVING A USEFUL PURPOSE OR CANNOT BE PRACTICALLY IMPLEMENTED AND TO AMEND OTHERS THAT ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT THE RADIATION ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION IMPOSED CONTROLS ON THE IMPORT, EXPORT, POSSESSION AND USE OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND IRRADIATING APPARATUS, IN ORDER TO MINIMISE THE HEALTH HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE IMPROPER USE OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND IRRADIATING APPARATUS.

/SHE SAID

SHE SAID UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE ORDINANCE, THE RADIATION BOARD WAS EMPOWERED TO EXEMPT FROM PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE ANY SPECIFIED PERSON, GROUP OR CLASS OF PERSONS, HAVING REGARD TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE DEGREE OF RISK.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS AT PRESENT NO GENERAL EXEMPTION COVERING RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES OR IRRADIATING APPARATUS THEMSELVES, WHICH WERE BY DEFINITION "RADIOACTIVE" BUT WERE NOT HARMFUL TO HEALTH, FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

THESE MIGHT INCLUDE LUMINOUS WATCHES AND SMOKE DETECTORS WHICH CONTAINED RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES THAT WERE SO PERMANENTLY ENCASED THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERED SAFE TO BE USED BY THE PUBLIC WITHOUT THE NEED FOR LICENSING CONTROLS.

SHE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DRAW UP AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF SUCH ARTICLES WHICH MIGHT BE EXEMPTED AS NEW PRODUCTS APPEARED FROM TIME TO TIME.

"CLAUSE 7 OF THE BILL THEREFORE PROVIDES THAT THE EXISTING POWER OF THE RADIATION BOARD TO GRANT EXEMPTIONS TO SPECIFIED PERSONS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER SPECIFIED RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES OR IRRADIATING APPARATUS, AND THAT SUCH EXEMPTIONS SHOULD BE PUBLICISED BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE," MRS WONG EXPLAINED.

UNDER SECTION 16(4)(C), A RADIATION BOARD INSPECTOR HAD THE POWER TO SEIZE, REMOVE AND DETAIN ANY IRRADIATING APPARATUS OR RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE IN RESPECT OF WHICH THERE WERE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO SUSPECT THAT AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN COMMITTED.

MRS WONG SAID CLAUSE 8 OF THE BILL AMENDED SECTION 16 BY EMPOWERING INSPECTORS TO SEAL OR RENDER INOPERABLE AN IRRADIATING APPARATUS IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO SO WITHOUT PERMANENTLY DAMAGING THE EQUIPMENT.

IN THE CASE OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES WHICH HAD BEEN SEIZED OR DETAINED, MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT NEW SUBSECTION 6 ENABLED AN INSPECTOR TO SEAL THE ARTICLES OR PLACES CONTAINING THESE SUBSTANCES.

"THESE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, THE APPARATUS OR SUBSTANCES INVOLVED MAY BE TOO BULKY TO BE REMOVED PROMPTLY AND THE BOARD SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT OR MINIMISE HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF THE APPARATUS OR SUBSTANCES," SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT CLAUSE 9 PROVIDED A SANCTION AGAINST UNAUTHORISED BREAKING OR INTERFERING WITH THE SEAL.

UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE ORDINANCE, A LICENCE HOLDER WAS LIABLE FOR AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE ORDINANCE COMMITTED BY HIS EMPLOYEE OR AGENT, UNLESS HE PROVED THAT THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE AND THAT HE HAD EXERCISED ALL DUE DILIGENCE TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF THE OFFENCE.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT, HOWEVER, PAST EXPERIENCE HAD INDICATED THAT EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE OR PRINCIPAL-AGENT RELATIONSHIPS WERE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH IN COURT AND, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THE LICENCE HOLDER WAS ABLE TO AVOID CONVICTION BY SUCCESSFULLY DENYING THAT THE OPERATOR OF AN IRRADIATING APPARATUS WHO HAD COMMITTED THE OFFENCE WAS HIS EMPLOYEE OR AGENT.

TO REMEDY THIS DEFECT, MRS WONG SAID CLAUSE 14 RE-ENACTED SECTION 22 TO REMOVE THE REFERENCE TO EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS AND TO MAKE A LICENCE HOLDER LIABLE FOR AN OFFENCE COMMITTED IN RESPECT OF THE LICENSED RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES OR IRRADIATING APPARATUS UNLESS HE PROVED THAT THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE AND THAT HE HAD EXERCISED ALL DUE DILIGENCE TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF THE OFFENCE.

SHE SAID THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE A FIVEFOLD INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF FINES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE. THESE FINES HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE THE ORDINANCE CAME INTO FORCE.

"ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES HAS BEEN AT A LOW LEVEL, IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE FINES SO AS TO MAINTAIN THEIR DETERRENT EFFECT AND BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH SIMILAR OFFENCES UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE," MRS WONG SAID.

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BILL FOR FUNDING EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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A BILL INTENDED TO IMPOSE A LEVY ON THE PREMIA FOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE POLICIES, TO FUND AN EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES BILL 1990, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT INSURERS WERE COLLECTING A ONE PER CENT LEVY ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIA TO MEET THE EXPENSES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

"GIVEN THE IMMINENT INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IS THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE BILL NOW BEING DRAFTED, AN ADDITIONAL LEVY OF ONE PER CENT WILL BE REQUIRED.

"INSTEAD OF ASKING INSURERS TO COLLECT TWO LEVIES AND REMIT THEM TO TWO DIFFERENT BODIES, THE BILL BEFORE US PROVIDES FOR A COMBINED LEVY OF TWO PER CENT, AND FOR THE CREATION OF AN EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMBINED LEVY," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT THIS MEASURE WOULD ALSO RELIEVE THE TWO STATUTORY BOARDS OF THE BURDEN OF COLLECTING THEIR OWN LEVY, AND ALLOW THEM TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR PRIMARY TASK OF PROMOTING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND ADMINISTERING THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

HE SAID PART II OF THE BILL ESTABLISHED THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AS A BODY CORPORATE AND SET OUT ITS COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURE.

"THE BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF A CHAIRMAN, UP TO FIVE MEMBERS REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, AND UP TO TWO PUBLIC OFFICERS.

"THE BOARD SHALL HAVE ITS OWN STAFF AND ITS EXPENSES WILL BE MET FROM THE COMBINED LEVY," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID PART III DEALT WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS.

"CLAUSE 7 AND SCHEDULE 2 PROVIDE FOR THE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME FROM THE COMBINED LEVY TO THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL AND, PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE FUND, TO A TEMPORARY FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INCORPORATED," HE EXPLAINED.

MR YEUNG SAID PART IV PRESCRIBED THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPOSING, COLLECTING AND DISTRIBUTING THE COMBINED LEVY.

CLAUSE 14 PROVIDED FOR THE IMPOSITION OF THE LEVY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVY, PAYABLE ON EVERY EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIUM.

"THE CLAUSE ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE RATE OF LEVY TO BE DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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RAISING OF LEGAL AID MEANS LIMITS BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING RAISING THE MEANS LIMITS FOR LEGAL AID, AND A DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, SIR DAVID SAID 2,557 APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID WERE REJECTED IN 1987 ON THE GROUNDS OF FINANCIAL MEANS, 3,250 IN 1988, AND 3,044 IN 1989.

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"TO PUT THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THERE WERE MORE THAN 15,000 APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID IN EACH OF THESE YEARS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REJECTED FOR THIS REASON," HE SAID.

ON A SUGGESTION BY MR TAM YIU-CHUNG THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER EXEMPTING CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF APPLICANT FROM THE MEANS TEST, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD BE INVIDIOUS TO CREATE A SPECIAL CLASS OF APPLICANT.

HE SAID IF THE SYSTEM WAS TO BE FAIR, THEN MEANS TESTING SHOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL.

"INEVITABLY, IN CASES SUCH AS THOSE MENTIONED, WHERE A GROUP OF WORKERS APPLIES FOR LEGAL AID IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO AN APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, SOME WILL SATISFY THE MEANS TEST AND OTHERS WILL NOT.

"IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THOSE WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID WILL NEVERTHELESS BENEFIT FROM A COURT DECISION IN FAVOUR OF THOSE WHO WERE PROVIDED WITH ASSISTANCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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POLICY ON REHOUSING OF SQUATTERS REMAINS UNCHANGED

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG ESTABLISHED POLICY OF OFFERING REHOUSING TO SQUATTERS WHO HAVE BEEN RENDERED HOMELESS BY NATURAL DISASTERS OR CLEARANCE OPERATIONS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR TSAO SAID THE INCOME LEVEL OF THESE SQUATTERS WAS NOT A CONSIDERATION IN THEIR REHOUSING.

"THE SUCCESS OF THE POLICY IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE SQUATTER POPULATION IN THE TERRITORY HAS DECREASED FROM 473,000 PERSONS IN 1984-85 TO 292,000 PERSONS TODAY.

"WE ARE, IN FACT, IN SIGHT OF CLEARING ALL URBAN SQUATTER AREAS BY THE MID-1990'S. THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CHANGE THE POLICY AT THIS JUNCTURE," MR TSAO SAID.

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NO ACTION TAKEN TO LIFT SANCTIONS

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TO DATE THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION TO LIFT THE EXISTING SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SITUATION WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON PETER H.Y. WONG, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED CERTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTION AGAINST THE COUNTRY IN 1986.

"THESE INCLUDE A STATUTORY BAN ON THE IMPORT OF GOLD COINS AND IRON AND STEEL FROM SOUTH AFRICA, AND A VOLUNTARY BAN ON NEW INVESTMENT AND BANK LOANS AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO THE COUNTRY," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HONG KONG WAS BEING USED AS AN AREA TO CIRCUMVENT INTERNATIONAL TRADING SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THEM.

"IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT A HONG KONG COMPANY HAS IMPORTED COAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA, AND RE-EXPORTED IT TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT ANOTHER HONG KONG COMPANY HAS BEEN SHIPPING OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA," HE SAID.

ON THE FIRST ALLEGATION, SIR PIERS SAID HONG KONG HAD NOT IMPOSED ANY BAN ON THE IMPORT OF COAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

"FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE STATISTICS, THERE HAS BEEN NO RE-EXPORT OF COAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN ORIGIN FROM HONG KONG SINCE 1986," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID AS HONG KONG HAD NO OIL PRODUCTION, THERE WAS NO DOMESTIC EXPORT TRADE IN OIL.

"WE ARE ALSO NOT AWARE OF ANY RE-EXPORTS OF OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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TRAFFIC PATTERN OF EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING STILL DEVELOPING

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THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE UTILISATION RATE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LEVELS OF TOLLS CHARGED AS THE TRAFFIC PATTERN OF THE TUNNEL IS STILL DEVELOPING, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE AVERAGE 28,000 VEHICLES USING THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING EACH DAY LAST MONTH WAS NOT TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE COMPANY'S ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF 33,000 IN 1990, MR LEUNG SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON HUI YIN-FAT.

ALTHOUGH SOME CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES WERE CHARGED MORE AT THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING THAN THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, THESE CONSTITUTED LESS THAN 13 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES PASSING THROUGH BOTH TUNNELS DURING THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, MR LEUNG SAID.

THE BULK OF SUCH TRAFFIC WAS MADE UP OF PRIVATE CARS, TAXIS, LIGHT AND MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES.

THE TOLLS THEY PAID AT THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WERE THE SAME AS, OR IN SOME CASES LOWER THAN, THOSE PAYABLE AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

MR LEUNG SAID IT WAS PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE TRAFFIC FIGURES, PARTICULARLY AS THE TUNNEL HAD BEEN OPEN FOR JUST OVER FIVE MONTHS AND THE TRAFFIC PATTERN HAD YET TO BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.

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ASSESSMENT OF MANPOWER NEEDS BEING STUDIED

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AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MANPOWER COMMITTEE SET UP TO ASSESS HONG KONG'S MEDIUM TERM MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS HAS RECENTLY DELIVERED ITS MAIN FINDINGS WHICH ARE NOW BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED BY THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, WHO APPOINTED THE COMMITTEE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON EDWARD HO.

MR YEUNG SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO GO INTO DETAILS.

"SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT NO SERIOUS MIS-MATCH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND THAT THE FINDINGS CONFIRM THE LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT AMONGST HIGHLY EDUCATED AND TRAINED PEOPLE.

/"IT SEEMS

"IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT PEOPLE WITH TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, AND PEOPLE WITH APPROPRIATE TRAINING FOR MANAGERIAL POSITIONS, WILL BE IN STRONG DEMAND FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME.

"WHEN THESE FINDINGS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY DIGESTED IN TERMS OF THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, THEY WILL BE PUT TO THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL," HE SAID.

FAR MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD SO ASSESSED THE SIZE OF EXISTING NUMBERS OF TRAINED MANPOWER BY REFERENCE TO VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL LEVELS.

"HAVING REGARD TO EMPLOYMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, THE COMMITTEE WENT ON TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY AND WHAT TYPES OF PEOPLE EACH INDUSTRIAL SECTOR MIGHT EMPLOY BY THE MID-1990'S.

"THE DEMAND SIDE OF THE EQUATION THUS ESTABLISHED, THE COMMITTEE THEN ASKED ITSELF WHAT THE SUPPLY SIDE WOULD LOOK LIKE.

"THIS IS LARGELY MADE UP OF IMMIGRANTS, RETURNING EMIGRANTS AND STUDENTS, AND THE OUTPUT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, IN ADDITION TO AVAILABLE STOCK AS AFFECTED BY NATURAL WASTAGE AND EMIGRATION.

"THE COMMITTEE WAS ULTIMATELY TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE IS LIKELY TO BE ANY MIS-MATCH AT VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL LEVELS BETWEEN THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY SIDES OF THE EQUATION," HE SAID.

ON WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A CO-ORDINATED TRAINING PROGRAMME, MR YEUNG SAID THE SHORT ANSWER WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED THE NEED FOR THIS.

"IN RESPECT OF EDUCATION, WE PLAN TO DOUBLE THE CURRENT PROVISION OF FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS.

"WE ALSO PLAN TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF OUR EXISTING VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES, WORKING MAINLY THROUGH THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

"HENCE THE TRANSFER OF HIGHER DIPLOMA WORK FROM THE POLYTECHNICS TO THE VTC, THE CREATION IN THE VTC OF SUCH ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FACILITIES AS THE ASIC (APPLICATION SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT) DESIGN CENTRE, FOR WHICH PROVISION HAS BEEN SOUGHT IN THE 1990-91 DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE," HE SAID.

ALSO, THERE WAS THE INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A TRAINING FUND TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO GIVE MANAGERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN USEFUL NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

MR YEUNG SAID THE EXPANSION OF DEGREE PLACES AND THE UPGRADING OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SERVICES WERE BEING CO-ORDINATED AND MONITORED BY A STEERING GROUP UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP, AND GOOD PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES NOT YET COMMERCIALY VIABLE

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ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT ARE NOT COMMERCIALY VIABLE FOR GENERAL USE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM PROF THE HON C.K. POON, MR LEUNG SAID THAT WHILE THE USE OF THESE VEHICLES WOULD RESULT IN ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, THERE WERE PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS TO THEIR WIDER USE IN HONG KONG.

THE LIMITING FACTORS INCLUDED THEIR HIGH CAPITAL COST, THE NEED FOR FREQUENT RE-CHARGING OF THE BATTERIES, THUS REQUIRING AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF RE-CHARGING FACILITIES, AND HONG KONG'S TRAFFIC AND TOPOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS.

FOR THE LONGER TERM, MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS TO DEVELOP HIGH CAPACITY, TECHNOLOGICALLY EFFICIENT AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO VEHICLES POWERED BY CONVENTIONAL FUELS.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT PRESENT LEGISLATION ALREADY PROVIDED FOR THE REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN HONG KONG.

THERE WERE 34 ELECTRIC VEHICLES REGISTERED MAINLY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES, SUCH AS FORKLIFT TRUCKS AND INDUSTRIAL TRACTORS.

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NO INDICATION OF INCREASE IN USE OF FORGED TRAVEL PAPERS

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THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE USING FORGED OR ILLEGALLY OBTAINED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ROSANNA TAM, MR ASPREY SAID 46 SUCH CASES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED DURING PASSENGER EXAMINATIONS AT CONTROL POINTS IN 1989, COMPARED WITH 84 CASES IN 1988.

ALL SUCH CASES WERE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED WITH A VIEW TO PROSECUTION, AS WERE ALL RELATED REPORTS OF SYNDICATES ENGAGED IN THE FORGERY OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, OR OF THE PAYMENT OF BRIBES TO OBTAIN OR EXPEDITE THE ISSUE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

"ALL THE INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE ON SUCH CASES SUGGESTS THAT THOSE WHO PURCHASE FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, OR DOCUMENTS TO WHICH THEY ARE NOT ENTITLED, ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THEY ARE ACTING IMPROPERLY.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROTECTING PEOPLE WHO SUFFER ANY FINANCIAL LOSS THROUGH PURCHASING SUCH DOCUMENTS," HE SAID.

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STEPS TAKEN TO PROTECT INTEGRITY OF LEGAL DEPT

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DESCRIBED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE STEPS TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ICAC INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST A FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, MR C.W. REID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR MATHEWS SAID THAT FIRSTLY, WHEN MR REID WAS ARRESTED, HE DECIDED THAT THE ICAC SHOULD RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM LAWYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INVARIABLE PRACTICE THAT WHENEVER A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT IS THE SUBJECT OF AN ALLEGATION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT, INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE IS SOUGHT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO AS TO ENSURE IMPARTIALITY AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, SO AS TO BE SEEN TO BE IMPARTIAL," HE SAID.

SECONDLY, HE SAID, MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION HAD BEEN, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE, GIVEN TO THE ICAC TO ENSURE THAT THE VERY SERIOUS ALLEGATION WAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

THIRDLY, THE ICAC'S INVESTIGATIONS INCLUDED THE EXAMINATION OF SEVERAL CASES WHICH MR REID HANDLED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS.

"IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO SAY WHETHER ANY IMPROPRIETY OCCURRED IN THE WAY IN WHICH THESE CASES WERE DISPOSED OF, BUT MEMBERS MAY BE ASSURED THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM IS BEING MOST VIGOROUSLY AND INDEPENDENTLY INVESTIGATED," HE SAID.

FOURTHLY, IN PARALLEL WITH THE EXAMINATION OF THESE CASES BY THE ICAC AND HAVING REGARD TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ALLEGATION AGAINST MR REID, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE SEVERAL CASES HANDLED BY THE COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT THAT WERE NOT CURRENTLY UNDER ICAC INVESTIGATION BUT IN WHICH DEFENDANTS WERE REPRESENTED BY A BARRISTER AND A SOLICITOR INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGATION, SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY BARRISTERS OUTSIDE THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

FIFTHLY, MR REID WAS SUSPENDED FROM DUTY.

"I SHOULD STRESS THAT TO DATE NO ONE IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, APART FROM MR REID, IS THE SUBJECT OF THESE CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES THAT "A PERSON IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVED GUILTY AND THAT THE ONLY PROPER PLACE FOR DETERMINING GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF A CRIME IS A COURT".

MR REID, WHO WAS APPOINTED CROWN COUNSEL IN 1975, WAS ONE OF THREE DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS AND HEAD OF THE COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT, HAVING BEEN APPOINTED TO THAT POST IN 1983, HE SAID.

THE ALLEGATION AGAINST HIM WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS HE RECEIVED PAYMENTS FROM A BARRISTER AND A SOLICITOR IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVOURABLE TREATMENT OF THEIR CLIENTS.

"MEMBERS WILL APPRECIATE THAT, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ENSUING, IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ME TO GO FURTHER INTO DETAILS OF THE ALLEGATION OR MATTERS THAT MAY BE ISSUES IN ANY TRIAL," MR MATHEWS SAID.

MR REID WAS ARRESTED ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1989, QUESTIONED BY ICAC OFFICERS AND RELEASED ON CONDITION THAT HE REPORT TO THE ICAC ON DECEMBER 1, 1989.

THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, HE WAS SUSPENDED FROM DUTY BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE. HE WAS ORDERED BY THE COURT TO SURRENDER HIS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

HE WAS ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO HIS ASSETS. HE FAILED TO DO SO AND HE COULD NOT BE FOUND.

ON DECEMBER 29, 1989 THE ICAC OBTAINED A WARRANT FOR MR REID'S ARREST. HE WAS DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 22, 1990.

AS TO THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO FACILITATE MR REID'S RETURN TO HONG KONG, MR MATHEWS SAID THAT SINCE THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE ICAC AND ITS ADVISERS, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT HE COULD PROPERLY SAY AT THIS STAGE.

HE ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE QUESTION OF SECURING MR REID'S RETURN AND THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE EXTENT OF POSSIBLE CRIMINALITY WERE BEING THOROUGHLY AND URGENTLY PURSUED BY SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE ICAC.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN BOTH SADDENED AND ANGERED BY THE REVELATIONS CONCERNING MR REID.

"NO ORGANISATION RESPONDS HAPPILY TO THE COLLECTIVE EMBARRASSMENT OCCASIONED BY SUSPICION FALLING ON AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.

"THIS IS MORE SO WHEN THAT ORGANISATION DEPENDS ON PUBLIC TRUST IN ITS INTEGRITY.

"MY STAFF, AND I MYSELF, ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO THIS TRUST BY THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR REID, BUT THEIR PRIDE IN THEIR WORK AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE ARE UNDIMINISHED," HE SAID.

"MY STAFF RETAIN THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE THAT THEY HAVE A JOB TO GET ON WITH," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE SIX DIVISIONS OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WERE WORKING AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY.

"I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO PROVIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY THE VERY HIGH STANDARD OF LEGAL SERVICES THAT IT REQUIRES," MR MATHEWS SAID.

MEASURES TO DETER CRIME BY VIETNAMESE

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A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT AND DETER CRIME BY VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEES ACCOMMODATED IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR ASPREY SAID THE TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES WERE MONITORING THE LEVEL AND PATTERN OF CRIME IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

"POLICE RESOURCES ARE DEPLOYED IN RESPONSE TO PERCEIVED REQUIREMENTS AND PATROLS HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP IN AREAS IDENTIFIED AS CRIME BLACK SPOTS.

"CLOSE LIAISON HAS BEEN MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE POLICE IN THE DISTRICTS AND THE CENTRE MANAGEMENT TEAMS AND THIS HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN DETECTING AND DETERRING CRIME," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID THAT THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON CRIMINAL OFFENCES COMMITTED BY VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEES IN THE DISTRICTS WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1988 AS SEPARATE RECORDS WERE NOT AT THAT TIME KEPT ON CRIMES COMMITTED BY VIETNAMESE.

THERE WERE 334 CRIMINAL OFFENCES COMMITTED BY VIETNAMESE IN TUEN MUN LAST YEAR AND 73 UP TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, MAKING A TOTAL OF 407 CASES.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 185 OFFENCES WERE REPORTED IN YUEN LONG, WITH 166 COMMITTED LAST YEAR AND 19 UP TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

OF THE 407 OFFENCES REPORTED IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT IN 1989 AND 1990, 171, OR 42 PER CENT, TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE TUEN MUN, SAN YICK AND PILLAR POINT REFUGEE CENTRES, MR ASPREY SAID.

OF THE 185 OFFENCES REPORTED IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 57, OR 31 PER CENT, WERE COMMITTED OUTSIDE THE SEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE.

"THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEES WERE THEFT OR THEFT-RELATED," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS HAD ARRANGED CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR REFUGEES AND BOAT PEOPLE, AND, IN THE CASE OF TUEN MUN, ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO HELP REFUGEES COME TO TERMS WITH LIFE IN HONG KONG.

"LAW AND ORDER IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THESE PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

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HE ALSO NOTED THAT SECURITY HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED AT THE SEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE SINCE IT OPENED IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

"THE NUMBER OF ESCAPES HAS CONSEQUENTLY FALLEN, AND THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES COMMITTED BY VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CENTRE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO FALL," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY ADDED THAT THE CURRENT REFUGEE POPULATION IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT WAS ABOUT 9,200, AND WAS EXPECTED TO FALL STEADILY TO ABOUT 4,000 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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HIGH DEGREE OF VIGILANCE EXPECTED OF EMPLOYERS

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 17I OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE WHICH MAKES IT AN OFFENCE OF STRICT LIABILITY FOR AN EMPLOYER TO EMPLOY A PERSON WHO IS "NOT LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE", THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR ASPREY SAID THAT ANY SUCH AMENDMENT WOULD BE OPEN TO POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION, AND WOULD DETRACT FROM THE HIGH DEGREE OF CARE AND VIGILANCE EXPECTED OF EMPLOYERS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SECTION WAS INTRODUCED AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO CURB ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

THE AIM WAS TO EMPHASISE THE SERIOUS VIEW WHICH THE GOVERNMENT TOOK OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND TO REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO EXERCISE VIGILANCE OVER WHOM THEY EMPLOYED.

"IN PRACTICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT PROSECUTE UNDER SECTION 17I, IF HE IS SATISFIED THAT AN EMPLOYER HAS ACTED IN GOOD FAITH, HAS TAKEN ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO VERIFY AN EMPLOYEE'S IDENTITY, BUT HAS BEEN DECEIVED INTO BELIEVING THAT FALSE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ARE GENUINE," HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME AREAS

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THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES, WHICH HAS BEEN TASKED WITH THE DRAFTING OF A NEW WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE, IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF ALL SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME AREAS INCLUDING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MRS WONG SAID IN ITS DELIBERATIONS THE WORKING PARTY WOULD TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECT OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, INCLUDING THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF THE ELDERLY IN THE POPULATION.

"IN RECOGNITION OF THIS TREND AND OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ELDERLY SERVICES, A DEDICATED SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE WORKING PARTY WHICH WILL REVIEW THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, INCLUDING CARE AND ATTENTION FACILITIES," SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE SAID A COMBINATION OF ACCELERATING DEMAND AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLANNING RATIO, TOGETHER WITH THE LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR PHYSICAL PROVISION, ACCOUNTED FOR THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES.

THERE WAS, FIRSTLY, THE RAPID ACCELERATION OF SUCH DEMAND IN RECENT YEARS.

REFERRING TO THE WHITE PAPER "SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1980'S" PUBLISHED IN 1979, MRS WONG SAID A TARGET PROVISION OF FOUR PLACES FOR EVERY THOUSAND ELDERLY PERSONS (I.E. THOSE AGED 60 OR ABOVE) WAS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE DEMAND IN THE LONG TERM.

SINCE THAT TIME, THE PLANNING RATIO HAD BEEN REVIEWED ON TWO OCCASIONS, RESULTING IN A REVISION IN 1985 TO FIVE PLACES PER THOUSAND ELDERLY PERSONS AND A FURTHER INCREASE IN 1988 TO EIGHT PLACES PER THOUSAND ELDERLY PERSONS.

"THESE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PLANNING RATIO ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS OF THE SHARP INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES IN RECENT YEARS," MRS WONG SAID.

SECONDLY, THE CURRENT SHORTAGE WAS ALSO DUE TO THE LENGTHY LEAD TIME IN THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES.

AS SUCH HOMES WERE MAJOR FACILITIES REQUIRING A MINIMUM LEAD TIME OF SEVERAL YEARS FOR SITE IDENTIFICATION, PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND FITTING-OUT, ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE PLANNING RATIO THEREFORE TOOK A NUMBER OF YEARS TO IMPLEMENT IN TERMS OF PROVIDING NECESSARY ADDITIONAL PLACES.

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TO ADDRESS THE SHORTFALL IN CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES, MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN PLACE A PHASED EXPANSION PROGRAMME PROJECTED TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF SUBVENTED PLACES MORE THAN THREEFOLD TO 6,500 IN 1994-95, BY WHICH TIME THE PROVISION WOULD BE CLOSE TO MEETING PROJECTED DEMAND AS DERIVED FROM THE CURRENT PLANNING RATIO OF EIGHT SUBVENTED PLACES FOR EVERY THOUSAND ELDERLY PERSONS.

"IT IS ALSO RELEVANT THAT SUPPLY IS NOT CONFINED TO EXISTING OR PROJECTED SUBVENTED FACILITIES BUT ALSO INCLUDES NON-SUBVENTED NON-PROFIT-MAKING CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, THE CURRENT PROVISION OF WHICH STANDS AT 697 PLACES," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG SAID THAT AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE CENTRAL WAITING LIST FOR SUBVENTED PLACES, EXPERIENCE INDICATED THAT DEMAND TENDED TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED.

"FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE 1,927 WAIT-LISTED CASES WHICH WERE PROCESSED FOR ADMISSION DURING 1989, ONLY 1,246 ELDERLY PERSONS (I.E. 65 PER CENT) WERE FOUND, FOR ONE REASON OR OTHER, TO BE SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR ADMISSION INTO A CARE AND ATTENTION HOME," SHE SAID.

AMONG THE VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH HAD BEEN OR WERE BEING INTRODUCED TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECT OF THE SHORTAGE, MRS WONG SAID THEY INCLUDED THE EXPANSION OF THE HOME HELP SERVICE, INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF A HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, THE CONVERSION WHERE FEASIBLE OF HOSTELS INTO CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES, THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION UNITS IN NEW HOMES FOR THE AGED, AND A SCHEME TO BUY PLACES FROM PRIVATE HOMES WHICH MET APPROVED STANDARDS.

MRS WONG ALSO GAVE STATISTICS ON THE PROJECTED DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES BY DISTRICT AS AT MARCH 31, 1995.

BY THEN, THE PROJECTED ELDERLY POPULATION WOULD BE 871,900 AND THE DEMAND FOR CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES BASED ON A PLANNING RATIO OF EIGHT PLACES FOR EVERY THOUSAND ELDERLY PERSONS WOULD BE 6,977.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXISTING AND PLANNED CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES AS AT THE END OF MARCH, 1995 WOULD BE 7,269; COMPRISING 2,557 EXISTING PLACES (INCLUDING BOTH SUBVENTED AND NON-SUBVENTED NON-PROFIT-MAKING PLACES) AND 4,712 PLANNED ADDITIONAL CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES (INCLUDING SUBVENTED PLACES ONLY).

MRS WONG SAID ALTHOUGH THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES WAS PLANNED ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS, EFFORTS WERE MADE TO ACHIEVE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF PLACES HAVING REGARD TO THE ELDERLY POPULATION IN EACH DISTRICT.

"THE ONGOING CONVERSION OF SOME EXISTING HOSTELS INTO HOMES FOR AGED WITH CARE AND ATTENTION UNITS IS OF SOME ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL ALTHOUGH DISTRIBUTION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SOMEWHAT UNEVEN, DUE LARGELY TO DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SITES AND PREMISES IN THE OLDER URBAN DISTRICTS.

"THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF EVERY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO LOCATE SITES AND PREMISES FOR CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES IN OLDER DISTRICTS AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, IS ALREADY LIAISING WITH THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WITH A VIEW TO SECURING, WHERE POSSIBLE, THE PROVISION OF CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES THROUGH THE CORPORATION'S URBAN RENEWAL SCHEMES," SHE SAID.

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APPROPRIATE CROWD CONTROL AT LO WU

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APPROPRIATE CROWD CONTROL AND POLICING ARRANGEMENTS WERE CURRENTLY IN OPERATION AT THE LO WU BORDER CROSSING POINT TO ENSURE A SMOOTH PASSENGER FLOW, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR ASPREY SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION AT THE LO WU BORDER CROSSING POINT WAS CHAOTIC.

"POLICE OFFICERS ARE ON DUTY ON THE STATION PLATFORMS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST TRAIN EACH MORNING, AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY THEREAFTER.

"ADDITIONAL POLICE MANPOWER IS DEPLOYED AT LO WU DURING MAJOR FESTIVALS WHEN PASSENGER TRAFFIC INCREASES," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE SAID AS WITH PERSONNEL DEPLOYED ELSEWHERE, OFFICERS AT LO WU WERE REGULARLY REMINDED OF THE NEED TO BE COURTEOUS.

"I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND TRAVELLING PUBLIC AT LO WU ARE ANYTHING BUT CORDIAL.

"CERTAINLY, THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW COMPLAINTS ABOUT POLICE CONDUCT THERE," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT NEW CRUSH BARRIERS WERE INSTALLED AT LO WU IN 1989, AND THIS HAD IMPROVED CROWD CONTROL AND PASSENGER SAFETY. THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SUCH MEASURES WAS KEPT REGULARLY UNDER REVIEW.

IN 1989, 20 CASES OF PICKPOCKETING WERE REPORTED AT LO WU, AS A RESULT OF WHICH 16 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED.

"DETAILS OF KNOWN PICKPOCKETS ARE CIRCULATED TO OFFICERS ON DUTY AT LO WU AND ON KCR TRAINS," HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF FLAG DAYS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO ENSURE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF FLAG DAYS BY CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG WAS GIVING THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ROSANNA TAM WHO HAD REFERRED TO A RECENT CASE IN WHICH TWO ORGANISATIONS WERE FOUND TO BE SELLING FLAGS ON THE SAME DAY.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THIS OCCURRENCE WAS THAT THE HOLY CARPENTER CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN APPROVAL TO HOLD A FLAG DAY ON FEBRUARY 17, HAD DELIVERED THE FLAGS AND COLLECTION BAGS TO THE VOLUNTEERS AT TOO EARLY A DATE AND THAT THERE WAS A GENUINE MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE VOLUNTEERS CONCERNED AS TO THE DESIGNATED FLAG DAY.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY TO HOLD A FLAG DAY ON FEBRUARY 10.

HOWEVER, ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10, VOLUNTEERS OF BOTH ORGANISATIONS WERE FOUND SELLING FLAGS TO RAISE FUNDS OUTSIDE THE KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION.

MRS WONG SAID ENQUIRIES HAD REVEALED THAT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE HAD RECRUITED SOME 3,500 VOLUNTEERS TO SELL FLAGS ON FEBRUARY 17.

"SINCE IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE DELIVERY OF FLAGS AND COLLECTION BAGS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE TO DESPATCH A PROPORTION OF THESE AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 9 TO SOME OF THE VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST HOSPITAL'S AU SHUE HUNG HEALTH CENTRE.

"FIVE OF THE ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS OF THE HEALTH CENTRE, PROBABLY DUE TO OVER-ENTHUSIASM, MISTAKENLY CONCLUDED THAT THE FOLLOWING DAY, THAT IS, FEBRUARY 10, WAS THE DESIGNATED FLAG DAY INSTEAD OF THE CORRECT DATE OF FEBRUARY 17, 1990."

"THEY THUS COMMENCED TO SELL FLAGS OUTSIDE KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10," MRS WONG SAID.

THE HOLY CARPENTER CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, UPON NOTIFICATION OF THE INCIDENT, IMMEDIATELY RECALLED THE ELDERLY VOLUNTEERS THAT SAME MORNING, SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID THAT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING AND THE REASONS FOR IT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED IN A CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER ON FEBRUARY 11.

/SHE SAID

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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SHE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF FLAG DAYS HELD BY CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

"TWO LETTERS WERE ISSUED IN NOVEMBER AND IN DECEMBER 1989 TO ALL SUCH ORGANISERS, ADVISING THEM TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS IN MONITORING THE EXECUTION OF FLAG DAYS.

"THE ORGANISATIONS WERE ALSO ADVISED NOT TO DELIVER FLAGS AND COLLECTION BAGS TO VOLUNTEERS MORE THAN SIX DAYS IN ADVANCE.

"ON DECEMBER 27, 1989, THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A GENERAL PRESS RELEASE TO ANNOUNCE THAT ADVISORY LETTERS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO ALL FLAG DAY ORGANISERS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID SIMILAR SUCH INCIDENTS IN FUTURE, AS WELL AS TO ALLAY PUBLIC CONCERN, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY TAKEN FURTHER STEPS.

"BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, A CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED A FEATURE ARTICLE ON FEBRUARY 22 WHICH DETAILED THE CRITERIA AND PRINCIPLES ADOPTED IN THE ALLOCATION OF FLAG DAYS, THE FINANCIAL MONITORING PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS THE DATES WHICH HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS DURING 1990.

"FURTHERMORE, STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT GAVE TWO SEPARATE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS EARLIER THIS MONTH TO EXPLAIN, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FLAG DAYS AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR FLAG DAY ORGANISERS TO SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS RAISED.

"IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENTAL STAFF HELD DISCUSSIONS ON MARCH 9, WITH FLAG DAY ORGANISERS WITH A VIEW TO RESOLVING ANY COMMON DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES," SHE SAID.

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TSEUNG KWAN O CLINIC TO OPEN IN AUGUST

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THE FIRST CLINIC IN TSEUNG KWAN O, LOCATED IN AREA 22, WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAM WAI-KEUNG, MRS WONG SAID THAT TO COPE WITH INCREASED DEMAND ARISING FROM FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH IN TSEUNG KWAN O, THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD RECENTLY ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND CLINIC IN THE AREA.

/"THIS SECOND

"THIS SECOND CLINIC WILL BE LOCATED IN AREA 44 AND IS PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN 1996-97.

"BOTH CLINICS WILL PROVIDE OUT-PATIENT AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT IN RESPECT OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, RESIDENTS IN TSEUNG KWAN O, WHICH FORMED PART OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT, WERE AT PRESENT COVERED BY THE MONA FONG CLINIC IN SAI KUNG TOWN.

ALTERNATIVELY, THEY MIGHT MAKE USE OF THE CLINICS AT KWUN TONG, LAM TIN AND SHUN LEE ESTATE.

"A SITE HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THE BUILDING OF A THIRD CLINIC, AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO HOSPITAL SERVICES, MRS WONG SAID THE HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH WAS BUILT THREE DECADES AGO, AT PRESENT PROVIDED 300 BEDS, CONSISTING OF 54 MEDICAL BEDS, 144 TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST BEDS, 98 REHABILITATION/HOSPICE BEDS AND FOUR STAFF BEDS.

IN VIEW OF THE UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF SOME OF THE BUILDINGS IN THE HOSPITAL, MRS WONG SAID THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENDORSED A PROPOSAL IN MAY LAST YEAR TO REPROVISION THE HOSPITAL ON SITE TO PROVIDE IMPROVED SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

"CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO START IN 1991, WITH A TARGET COMPLETION DATE OF 1995.

"THE REPROVISIONED HOSPITAL WILL HAVE 316 BEDS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICES INCLUDING ACUTE, REHABILITATION, TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST, HOSPICE AND CONVALESCENCE," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT FOR THE LONGER TERM, THERE WAS A PLAN TO BUILD A 600-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TSEUNG KWAN O TO CATER FOR FUTURE NEEDS.

"A SITE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AND RESERVED IN TSEUNG KWAN O AREA 32 FOR THIS PURPOSE," SHE ADDED.

MEASURES TO REDUCE BYPASS TRAFFIC NOISE
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE TRAFFIC NOISE FROM THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS THAT IS AFFECTING RESIDENTS OF CLAGUE GARDEN ESTATE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEASURES WERE OUTLINED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAM WAI-KEUNG.

MR BARNES SAID THE TRAFFIC FLOW ON THE BYPASS, A BUSY ROAD LINKING KWAI CHUNG ROAD WITH TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, AVERAGED 2,400 VEHICLES PER HOUR BETWEEN 8.30 PM AND 11 PM.

DURING PEAK TRAFFIC HOURS, THE TRAFFIC FLOW MIGHT RISE TO 6,200 VEHICLES PER HOUR, AND THE MEASURED PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC FLOW NOISE LEVEL EXCEEDED THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARD AT TIMES.

"THE ROAD IS WIDE, STRAIGHT AND WELL MAINTAINED, AND ALTHOUGH THERE IS A SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KILOMETRE PER HOUR DRIVERS SOMETIMES SPEED AT NIGHT AND MAKE MUCH MORE NOISE THAN TRAFFIC WITHIN SPEED LIMITS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THE POLICE WERE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND CARRIED OUT FREQUENT RADAR OPERATIONS AS A DETERRENT.

"THE FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO MOUNT SIMILAR OPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE, WHICH SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE THE OCCURRENCE OF NOISE NUISANCE FROM HIGH SPEED TRAFFIC IN THE NIGHT," HE SAID.

ON THE DESIGN OF THE ROAD, MR BARNES SAID THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY PAVED THE SECTION OF THE BYPASS NEAR THE CLAGUE GARDEN ESTATE WITH A NOISE REDUCING BITUMINOUS MATERIAL WHICH HELPED REDUCE ORDINARY TRAFFIC NOISE, BUT NOT THAT OF CARS SPEEDING AT NIGHT.

"FURTHER ENGINEERING REMEDIES ON THE ROAD WOULD BE DIFFICULT, BECAUSE THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN ERECTING NOISE ATTENUATION INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS ENCLOSURES OR SCREENS ON HIGHWAY STRUCTURES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DESIGNED TO FACILITATE SUCH INSTALLATIONS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE BYPASS WAS OPENED BEFORE CLAGUE GARDEN ESTATE WAS BUILT.

"WHEN THE LAND WAS GRANTED TO THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESTATE, THE PLANNING BRIEF STATED THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES RELATING TO BUILDING DESIGN, ORIENTATION AND SITING SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF THE BYPASS.

"THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY TOOK THIS INTO CONSIDERATION IN SITING THE HOUSING BLOCKS AND HAS BEEN MONITORING THE NOISE PROBLEM BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE HOUSING ESTATE.

"IT IS WILLING TO LOOK AT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND THESE ARE NOW BEING DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS," HE SAID.

TIME TO UPGRADE BAPTIST COLLEGE STATUS

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THE TIME HAS COME FOR PROPER ACTION TO BE INITIATED WITH A VIEW TO CHANGING THE STATUS AND THE TITLE OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE TO THOSE OF A UNIVERSITY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE COUNCIL, THE HON LAU WAH-SUM, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE 1988-89 HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITORS' REPORT, MR LAU SAID THAT WITH THE RAPID PROGRESS MADE IN THE PAST YEARS, THE COLLEGE WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO FUNCTION LIKE A UNIVERSITY.

THIS APPLIED IN STYLE, ACADEMIC CONTENT, STUDENT PROFILE, QUALITY OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH WORK, CALIBRE OF STAFF; AND ALL COURSES WERE PROPERLY ACCREDITED AT BRITISH UNIVERSITY STANDARDS.

MR LAU ADDED THAT GIVING THE BAPTIST COLLEGE THE STATUS OF A UNIVERSITY WAS IN THE INTEREST OF FULFILLING THE MISSION OF EDUCATING THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG FOR A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID 1988-89 WAS HISTORIC FOR THE COLLEGE, WITH THE SUCCESSFUL ACCREDITATION OF THREE NEW DEGREE COURSES AND THREE NEW OPTIONS BEING PROVIDED WITHIN EXISTING DEGREE COURSES.

"THE THREE NEW DEGREE COURSES ACCREDITED DURING THE YEAR WERE CHINA STUDIES, COMPUTING STUDIES, AND MUSIC."

"WITH THESE ACHIEVEMENTS THE COLLEGE HAS BECOME A 100 PER CENT DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTION AND ALL STUDENTS ADMITTED, SINCE SEPTEMBER 1989, ARE ENROLLED IN DEGREE OR HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES -- A TOTAL OF NINE DEGREE COURSES WITH A CHOICE OF 29 OPTIONS," MR LAU SAID.

MR LAU SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR THE COLLEGE ADMITTED ITS FIRST GROUP OF RESEARCH STUDENTS INTO A MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME IN THE SCIENCE FACULTY.

HAND IN HAND WITH THIS, HE SAID EXTRA EFFORTS WERE MADE TO SUPPORT THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH WORK, BY DOUBLING THE FUNDING FOR DIRECT ALLOCATION TO PROJECTS AS RESEARCH GRANTS AND ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING THE FUNDING FOR STRENGTHENING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH, SUCH AS IN LIBRARY JOURNALS AND COMPUTING FACILITIES.

MR LAU ALSO SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, THE COLLEGE AWARDED ITS OWN BACHELOR'S DEGREE TO 203 GRADUATES FROM THE SCIENCE FACULTY AND THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR.

ON THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT ASPECT, MR LAU SAID THAT THE YEAR SAW THE COMPLETION OF ALL THE NEW BUILDINGS ON THE WATERLOO ROAD CAMPUS UNDER THE FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN FOR CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT.

"THE COMING INTO USE OF THIS NEW ACCOMMODATION HAS BROUGHT MUCH IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROVISIONS FOR TEACHING, RESEARCH, ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES," HE SAID.

MORE INTEREST IN RECREATION AND SPORT

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THE LAST DECADE SAW AN UPSURGE OF POPULAR INTEREST IN RECREATION AND SPORT, PROMPTED BY THE PURSUIT OF A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH, DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT FOR 1988 - 1989, DR IP SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME A REGULAR PARTICIPANT IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT AND HAD ACHIEVED SOME NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN MAJOR EVENTS.

SUCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS OWED MUCH TO THE DEDICATION OF ATHLETES AND SPORTS ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES, SHE NOTED.

"HOWEVER, CREDIT SHOULD ALSO GO TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT WHO LABOURED UNTIRINGLY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES THROUGH THE COUNCIL.

"ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL OFTEN HAD TO START FROM MODEST BEGINNINGS WITH VARIOUS INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP SPORT, SUCH GROUNDWORK WAS MOST VALUABLE IN PAVING THE WAY FOR FURTHER PROGRESS," DR IP SAID.

THE REPORT WAS THE LAST FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT WHICH WAS DISSOLVED ON NOVEMBER 1 LAST YEAR UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DR IP POINTED OUT.

"WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN APRIL THIS YEAR, SPORT IN HONG KONG WILL ENTER A NEW PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT," SHE ADDED.

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TWO BILLS PASSED

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THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL 1990, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES BILL 1990 AND THE RADIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

IN ADDITION, THREE RESOLUTIONS MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE WERE PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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NEW VESSEL TO TACKLE FLOATING REFUSE BEING TESTED

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A NEW VESSEL IS BEING TESTED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS SUITABILITY IN COLLECTING FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG WATERS.

TRIALS ON THE VESSEL, "DISFLOATER NO. 1", STARTED LATE LAST YEAR AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE DISFLOATER IS A TWIN-HULLED CATAMARAN BUILT IN HONG KONG TO A JAPANESE DESIGN, WHICH HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE IN JAPANESE HARBOURS.

REFUSE IS COLLECTED BY CHANNELLING IT BETWEEN THE HULLS INTO A SUBMERGED CONTAINER. A ROTOR AT THE FORWARD END IS USED TO INDUCE SUCTION TO FACILITATE THE COLLECTION. THE CONTAINER WHEN FULL IS LIFTED AND EMPTIED.

BESIDES ASSESSING THE VESSEL'S SUITABILITY IN COLLECTING FLOATING REFUSE, ITS MANOEUVRABILITY, SEA KEEPING BEHAVIOUR AND FUEL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS WILL ALSO BE MONITORED DURING THE TRIALS.

A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PURCHASE THE VESSEL HAS YET TO BE MADE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OF CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO THE PUBLIC.

"THE AMOUNT OF FLOATING REFUSE COLLECTED FROM HONG KONG WATERS IN RECENT YEARS HAS SHOWN A MARKED INCREASE: FROM 3,631 TONNES IN 1986 TO 4,876 TONNES IN 1989," HE SAID.

"SINCE THE EARLY 1960'S, A MARINE REFUSE SCAVENGING FLEET HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT FLOATING REFUSE," HE ADDED.

THE FLEET COMPRISES SIX "WATERWITCHES" AND A "HARBOUR SWEEPER", ALL OF WHICH ARE PURPOSE-BUILT VESSELS DESIGNED FOR COLLECTING FLOATING REFUSE.

THE DEPARTMENT REGULARLY ASSESSES OTHER TYPES OF FLOATING REFUSE COLLECTION VESSELS AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR OPERATING IN HONG KONG.

/"THE OPPORTUNITY

"THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO DEMONSTRATE THE DISFLOATER TO MEMBERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR GEORGE CARDONA, GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER, HONGKONGBANK AND THE GOVERNMENT'S STEERING GROUP ON FLOATING REFUSE CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF ABATING THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG WATERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) OF THE DISFLOATER NO. 1 COLLECTING REFUSE IN THE HARBOUR.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE STAR FERRY'S FIRST CLASS ENTRANCE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW, TO BOARD THE VESSEL "LADY STAR". TELEPHOTO LENSES ARE RECOMMENDED.

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TRADING COMPANY PARTNER FINED FOR EXPORTING WITHOUT VALID LICENCE
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A PARTNER OF A TRADING COMPANY WAS FINED \$72,000 TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR EXPORTING STRATEGIC COMMODITIES NOT UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LICENCE GRANTED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

THE DEFENDANT, LEUNG SIU-SING OF YUE FUNG TRADING COMPANY, TSIM SHA TSUI, ADMITTED THE CHARGE AT SOUTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY ON FEBRUARY 21 AND WAS FINED THIS AFTERNOON FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION OF HIS FINANCIAL BACKGROUND.

THE COURT HEARD THAT ACTING ON INFORMATION FROM THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT AN INVESTIGATION INTO YUE FUNG TRADING COMPANY IN APRIL 1985 AND FOUND THAT A TOTAL OF 200 APPLE MACINTOSH COMPUTERS WERE SHIPPED TO CHINA UNDER THE DEFENDANT'S INSTRUCTION ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN 1984 AND 1985.

HOWEVER, THE TWO SHIPMENTS WERE NOT COVERED BY ANY VALID LICENCE.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT THE COMPANY PLACED AN ORDER WITH A LOCAL COMPANY TO SUPPLY AND HANDLE THE EXPORT OF THE GOODS, WHICH WERE FALSELY CLAIMED TO BE DESTINED FOR MACAU, BUT WERE IN FACT SHIPPED ON TWO OCCASIONS DIRECTLY TO CHINA.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT LATER REFERRED THE CASE TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, WHO CLASSIFIED THE GOODS AS STRATEGICALLY CONTROLLED ITEMS.

UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) REGULATIONS, EXPORT FROM HONG KONG OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES AS LISTED IN ITS SCHEDULE MUST BE COVERED BY LICENCES ISSUED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

TOTAL VALUE OF THE TWO SHIPMENTS WAS ABOUT \$4 MILLION.

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CHILD CARE SERVICES BEING REVIEWED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE EXISTING CHILD CARE SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A MORE FLEXIBLE SERVICE TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF FAMILIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF PO LEUNG KUK TAI KOK TSUI NURSERY.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID IN THE REVIEW OF THE EXISTING CHILD CARE CENTRE POLICY, THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONSIDERING THE STAFFING RATIO OF CHILD CARE CENTRES OPERATED BY NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AGED UNDER TWO.

ON THE FEE-ASSISTANCE SCHEME, SHE SAID EXPENDITURE ON THE SCHEME AMOUNTED TO \$40 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO BENEFIT MORE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHICH REQUIRE DAY NURSERIES SERVICES," SHE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 170 AIDED DAY NURSERIES PROVIDING ABOUT 18,000 PLACES FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX.

ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED PROVISION OF 1,600 PLACES EVERY YEAR, THE NUMBER OF AIDED NURSERY PLACES WOULD INCREASE TO 25,000 IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SHE ADDED.

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DISTRICT SIGNS ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE EXISTING DISTRICT SIGNS OUTSIDE FU SHIN ESTATE AND KWONG FUK ESTATE AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE REPORTS BY THE WORKING GROUPS ON PUBLICATIONS AND ON THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MATTERS

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MRS PAMELA CHAN, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON A REVIEW ON THE COUNCIL'S FUNCTIONS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE CLOSING DOWN OF A VILLAGE SCHOOL IN PUN CHUNG AND A REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP ON A SURVEY ON YOUTH BEHAVIOUR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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NEW POST OFFICE OPENS AT LEI TUNG ESTATE

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A NEW LEI TUNG POST OFFICE, LOCATED AT SHOP NO. 103, GROUND FLOOR, COMMERCIAL CENTRE, PHASE I, LEI TUNG ESTATE, AP LEI CHAU OPENED FOR BUSINESS AT NOON TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS POST OFFICE PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES.

ITS BUSINESS HOURS ARE:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY : 9.30 AM TO 1 PM
2.15 PM TO 5 PM

SATURDAY : 9.30 AM TO 1 PM

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 814 7834.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS HELD THIS MORNING WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN, OFFICIATING.

WITH THE OPENING OF THIS NEW OFFICE, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG IS NOW 112.

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YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA RECRUITS MEMBERS

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YOUNG PEOPLE WITH APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATION ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE MUSIC OFFICE STRING ORCHESTRA WHICH IS RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR 1990-91.

THE ORCHESTRA WAS SET UP SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE REGULAR AND HIGH STANDARD ORCHESTRAL TRAINING IN A PLEASANT AND EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TO YOUNG STRING PLAYERS.

THE PERFORMANCES OF THE ORCHESTRA HAVE RECEIVED HIGH ACCLAIM FROM MUSIC LOVERS.

LAST SUMMER THE ORCHESTRA PAID A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO CALIFORNIA SO THAT THE YOUNG MUSICIANS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM BEFORE MUSIC CRITICS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME OF THE ORCHESTRA IS VARIED AND COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUDES WORKS BY COMPOSERS OF DIFFERENT PERIODS AND STYLES.

/TRAINING WILL

TRAINING WILL BE IN THE FORM OF SECTIONAL AND FULL REHEARSALS. EACH SECTION WILL BE COACHED BY AN INSTRUCTOR WHO WILL HELP MEMBERS TO OVERCOME BOWING, FINGERING AND OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS.

REGULAR REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAYS FROM 8.45 AM TO NOON AT THE MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE 23 YEARS OLD OR BELOW AND HAVE ATTAINED AT LEAST GRADE FIVE IN THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSIC OR EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WITH ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN AUDITION ON APRIL 1.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 475 0465.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE, THIRD FLOOR, SHAU FU STREET, YUEN LONG BY MARCH 24.

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DEMOLITION OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN KOWLOON

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE FLAT K, SECOND FLOOR, NATIONAL COURT, 240-252 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON SO THAT THE DEMOLITION OF AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE ON ITS ADJACENT FLAT ROOF CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPANTS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN MARCH 1987 REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 18 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE BUILDING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 16), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN WESTERN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS 24 HOURS DAILY:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF QUEEN'S ROAD WEST FROM A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WESTERN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POK FU LAM ROAD;
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF QUEEN'S ROAD WEST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WESTERN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF QUEEN'S ROAD WEST FROM THE ENTRANCE ROAD OF THE WESTERN POLICE STATION ON WESTERN STREET TO ITS JUNCTION WITH CHIU KWONG STREET;
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WESTERN STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD WEST TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WESTERN STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD WEST TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION;
- * THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POK FU LAM ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD WEST TO ITS JUNCTION WITH SECOND STREET; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POK FU LAM ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD WEST TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING RESTRICTED ZONES ON THE SAME SECTIONS OF ROADS FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY WILL BE CANCELLED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1990

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URBAN CLEARWAYS ON TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 16), TWO SECTIONS OF TING KOK ROAD IN TAI PO WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS.

TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PO TAI WO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES TO THE SOUTH WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

IN ADDITION, TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PO TAI WO ROAD AND ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD WILL BECOME A PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

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

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, ABOUT 650 METRES LONG OF ONE SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC LANE ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTH OF THE TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY ON MARCH 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 AND 22.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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