



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BILL WILL BETTER PROTECT CONSUMERS' RIGHTS	1
SENIOR DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS	4
BILL TIGHTENS MEASURES AGAINST EMPLOYMENT OF II'S	5
MERCHANT SHIPPING REGULATIONS LOCALISED	6
AMENDMENT BILL TO ENHANCE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONTROL	6
CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER SECTION OF U.S. OMNIBUS TRADE ACT	8
BILL ON CONTROL OF OZONE DEPLETING CHEMICALS	10
STAGGERED RELEASE OF STAFF ADVISED WITH APPROACH OF TYPHOON ..	11
EMPLOYERS URGED TO MAKE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS	12
MORE SENIOR CLASSES IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS	12
DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION PAYS TRIBUTE TO STAFF	13
INTERIM REPORT ON SURROGACY AND ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FINALISED	13
RESULTS OF 1987 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS	15
AREA COMMITTEES TO STRENGTHEN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	18
MANDATORY OFF-STREET TRAINING FOR LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS	19
BUILDING MANAGEMENT SUCCESS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN	20
HOME SAFETY EXHIBITION IN SHA TIN	21
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION MOVES TO TUEN MUN	21
ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS ON HOME-BASED WELFARE TRAINING	22
FIRING PRACTICE IN JUNE	23
TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS IN TO KWA WAN	24
ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN WAN CHAI TO BE CLOSED	24
ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN HO MAN TIN TO BE CLOSED	25
ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN WAN CHAI TO BE CLOSED	25

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 1 -

BILL WILL BETTER PROTECT CONSUMERS' RIGHTS

* * * * *

THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES BILL 1989 WILL GIVE BETTER PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS' LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, MR CHAN SAID EXEMPTION CLAUSES WERE OFTEN USED IN CONTRACTS TO EXCLUDE OR RESTRICT LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT OR NEGLIGENCE.

"IN SOME CASES THEY ARE USED TO DENY A PERSON'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS," HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, A PERSON IN A STRONG BARGAINING POSITION MIGHT TRY TO IMPOSE ON A WEAKER OR LESS SOPHISTICATED PERSON A CLAUSE EXCLUDING LIABILITY FOR HIS NEGLIGENCE, OR A CLAUSE ENABLING HIM TO DELIVER GOODS OR SERVICES THAT WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE REASONABLY EXPECTED.

"IN OTHER CASES RECOURSE TO THE COURTS MAY BE DENIED BY CLAUSES PROVIDING THAT DISPUTES MUST BE REFERRED TO ARBITRATION," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD LIMIT THE AVOIDANCE OF LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT OR NEGLIGENCE BY MEANS OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES.

"IN GENERAL, THE LIMITATIONS APPLY WHERE THE LIABILITY IN QUESTION ARISES IN THE COURSE OF A BUSINESS.

"HOWEVER, THE LIMITATIONS ALSO APPLY TO LIABILITY ARISING, OTHERWISE THAN IN THE COURSE OF BUSINESS, BY VIRTUE OF THE IMPLIED UNDERTAKINGS IN A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF GOODS," HE SAID.

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IS AUTOMATICALLY INEFFECTIVE IF IT PURPORTS TO EXCLUDE OR RESTRICT LIABILITY FOR DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY RESULTING FROM NEGLIGENCE.

THUS, IF A NEGLIGENTLY INSTALLED LIFT CAUSES THE DEATH OF A WORKMAN ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE EXHIBITED AT THE SITE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE LIABILITY OF THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTALLING THE LIFT.

SIMILARLY, LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE CANNOT BE EXCLUDED OR RESTRICTED BY AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IN A GUARANTEE OF CONSUMER GOODS, IF LOSS OR DAMAGE AROSE FROM THE GOODS BEING DEFECTIVE OR RESULTED FROM NEGLIGENT MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF A CONSUMER'S CLOTHES ARE BURNT BY A NEGLIGENTLY MANUFACTURED HAIRDRIER, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IN A GUARANTEE OF THE HAIRDRIER COULD NOT RELIEVE THE MANUFACTURER OF LIABILITY FOR THAT DAMAGE.

/AN EXEMPTION

AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE WOULD ALSO BE INEFFECTIVE IF IT PURPORTS TO EXCLUDE OR RESTRICT LIABILITY FOR A SELLER'S IMPLIED UNDERTAKINGS AS TO THE TITLE TO GOODS SOLD OR THE QUALITY OF GOODS SUPPLIED.

"THUS, IF A PERSON SELLS A STOLEN CAR AND THE PURCHASER HAS TO RETURN IT TO THE TRUE OWNER, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE IN THE SALES CONTRACT COULD NOT RELIEVE THE SELLER OF HIS LIABILITY TO COMPENSATE THE BUYER," MR CHAN EXPLAINED.

"SIMILARLY, IF A CONSUMER AGREES TO BUY OR HIRE A WELL-KNOWN MAKE OF TELEVISION SET BUT A DIFFERENT MAKE OF SET IS DELIVERED, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE COULD NOT RELIEVE THE DEALER OF LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID THAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE PURPORTING TO EXCLUDE OR RESTRICT LIABILITY WOULD BE EFFECTIVE ONLY IN SO FAR AS IT SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENT OF REASONABLENESS.

AS ILLUSTRATIONS, HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- * IF A FIRM OF DRY CLEANERS NEGLIGENTLY LOSES A SUIT LEFT WITH IT BY A CUSTOMER, A CLAUSE PURPORTING TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY OF THE FIRM IN RESPECT OF THAT LOSS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST;
- * IF (I) A WOMAN BOOKS A CAR FOR HER WEDDING DAY AND THE CAR FAILS TO ARRIVE OR (II) A SUPPLIER OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT (WHO USES STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS) FAILS TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT CONTRACTED FOR, AN EXEMPTION CLAUSE PURPORTING TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY FOR A BREACH OF CONTRACT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST;
- * IF A PERSON HIRES FOR HIS BUSINESS A PHOTOCOPYING MACHINE AND, ON ARRIVAL, THE MACHINE DOES NOT WORK, A CLAUSE PURPORTING TO EXCLUDE LIABILITY FOR ANY DEFECTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST;
- * WHERE A RESTAURANT OFFERS A VALET PARKING SERVICE, A CLAUSE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLENESS TEST IF IT REQUIRED THE CUSTOMER TO INDEMNIFY THE RESTAURANT AGAINST LOSS CAUSED TO THIRD PARTIES BY THE NEGLIGENT DRIVING OF ITS EMPLOYEE.

SCHEDULE 1 OF THE BILL LISTS THE TYPES OF CONTRACT THAT ARE EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN OF THE STATUTORY CONTROLS.

THESE INCLUDE CONTRACTS RELATING TO INSURANCE, INTERESTS IN LAND, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, SECURITIES, THE FORMATION OR DISSOLUTION OF COMPANIES AND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS OF COMPANIES.

AS REGARDS INTERESTS IN LAND, A CONTRACT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE CONTROLS ONLY "SO FAR AS IT RELATES TO THE CREATION OR TRANSFER OF AN INTEREST IN LAND, OR TO THE TERMINATION OF SUCH AN INTEREST".

/THE CONTROLS

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 3 -

THE CONTROLS WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE INAPPLICABLE TO EXEMPTION CLAUSES IN AN ASSIGNMENT, MORTGAGE OR LEASE OF LAND WHICH RELIEVE THE ASSIGNOR, MORTGAGOR OR LESSOR OF LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF ANY ERROR, MISDESCRIPTION OR MIS-STATEMENT RELATING TO THE PROPERTY.

"THE CONTROLS WOULD, HOWEVER, APPLY TO EXEMPTION CLAUSES RELATING TO SUCH THINGS AS MIS-STATEMENTS IN A SALES BROCHURE OR AUCTION CATALOGUE, NEGLIGENT VALUATION REPORTS OR MIS-STATEMENTS BY THE VENDOR OR HIS SOLICITOR AS TO THE PERMITTED USE OR PAST PROFITABILITY OF THE PREMISES," MR CHAN SAID.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS CLOSELY MODELLED ON THE ENGLISH UNFAIR CONTRACT TERMS ACT 1977.

THIS WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION (LRC), WHICH PUBLISHED A "REPORT ON THE CONTROL OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES" IN DECEMBER 1986.

THE COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE PARTIES TO A CONTRACT DID NOT HAVE EQUAL BARGAINING STRENGTH, THE USE OF EXEMPTION CLAUSES LED TO ABUSE.

THE LRC ALSO CONSIDERED THAT THE BENEFITS OF SOME CONTROL WOULD OUTWEIGH ANY DISADVANTAGES THAT MIGHT BE CAUSED BY CHANGES TO THE LAW OF CONTRACT.

MR CHAN SAID THAT, IF ENACTED, THE LEGISLATION WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION UNTIL 12 MONTHS AFTER ENACTMENT. THIS WOULD ALLOW BUSINESSMEN TIME TO REVIEW EXEMPTION CLAUSES USED BY THEM AND, IF NECESSARY, TO AMEND THEM.

HE SAID EXTENSIVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION HAD BEEN CONDUCTED, INVOLVING MAJOR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, THE LEGAL PROFESSION, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE LRC'S REPORT.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 31 THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 4 -

SENIOR DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS

* * * * *

SUBSEQUENT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL OF THE CREATION OF CERTAIN DIRECTORATE POSTS, THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT TWO SENIOR DIRECTORATE APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

MR DONALD TSANG YAM-KUEN IS IN THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION; AND MR TONY MILLER IS IN THE POST OF INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

MR DONALD TSANG YAM-KUEN, JP

AGED 44. MR TSANG JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN JANUARY 1967 AND WAS APPOINTED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN JULY 1971.

HE HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHERE HE WAS DISTRICT OFFICER (SHA TIN) FROM 1982 TO 1984.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE (1984-85) AND DEPUTY SECRETARY (GENERAL DUTIES) (1986-89).

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN DECEMBER 1988.

MR TONY MILLER, JP

AGED 39, MR MILLER JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN SEPTEMBER 1972.

HE HAS HELD A VARIETY OF POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE (1979-82), PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION (1984-86) AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE (1986-89).

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 5 -

BILL TIGHTENS MEASURES AGAINST EMPLOYMENT OF II'S

* * * * *

AN AMENDMENT BILL SEEKING TO ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 31.

PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 PROPOSES AMENDMENTS WHICH FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL EFFORTS TO CURB THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

IT SEEKS TO CLARIFY THAT HOLDERS OF CHINESE TWO-WAY PERMITS ARE NOT EMPLOYABLE.

IT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HOLDERS OF A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT ARE ONLY LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE IF THE DOCUMENT IS NOT ENDORSED WITH A CONDITION OF STAY PROHIBITING THEM FROM TAKING EMPLOYMENT.

THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCES A NEW CERTIFICATE TO BE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

THIS ENABLES EVIDENCE THAT A PERSON IS NOT LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE TO BE ADDUCED BY THE CERTIFICATE AND AVOIDS THE LENGTHY DETENTION OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOR PROSECUTION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE EMPLOYER, AIDER OR ABETTOR.

TO FACILITATE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE ON EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BY LABOUR INSPECTORS AND SENIOR LABOUR INSPECTORS, THE BILL PROVIDES THEM WITH POWER, ON ENTRY TO EMPLOYMENT SITES, TO SEIZE AND REMOVE RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES KEPT BY EMPLOYERS.

THE EMPLOYER MAY MAKE COPIES OF THE SEIZED DOCUMENTS AND IN PRACTICE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL POST TO THE EMPLOYER A PHOTOCOPY OF THE RECORDS SEIZED WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS AND THE LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL GIVE THE EMPLOYER A RECEIPT CERTIFYING THAT THE RECORDS HAVE BEEN SEIZED.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL SEEKS TO ENABLE LABOUR INSPECTORS AND SENIOR LABOUR INSPECTORS, BY NOTICE IN WRITING SERVED ON AN EMPLOYER, TO REQUIRE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS WITHIN 72 HOURS.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE CASE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS OBLIGED, AS A MATTER OF LAW, TO RETURN THE RECORDS TO THE EMPLOYER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BILL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, SIXTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, OR TO OMELCO, 8 JACKSON ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 6 -

MERCHANT SHIPPING REGULATIONS LOCALISED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE INTRODUCTION OF A NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT MERCHANT SHIPPING REGULATIONS.

THEY ARE:-

- (A) MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (SIGNALS OF DISTRESS AND PREVENTION OF COLLISIONS) REGULATIONS 1989;
- (B) MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (USE OF SIGNALS OF DISTRESS) REGULATIONS 1989;
- (C) MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (CARRIAGE OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS) REGULATIONS 1989;
- (D) MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AUTOMATIC PILOT AND TESTING OF STEERING GEAR) REGULATIONS 1989.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THESE REGULATIONS REPLACED EXISTING UK REGULATIONS WITH HONG KONG EQUIVALENTS AND WOULD ENABLE THEIR CONTINUED APPLICATION TO HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS UP TO, AND BEYOND, 1997.

HE SAID MOST OF HONG KONG'S MERCHANT SHIPPING LEGISLATION WAS UK LEGISLATION WHICH APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

"A PROGRAMME TO REPLACE THIS WITH LOCAL HONG KONG LEGISLATION IS NOW UNDERWAY.

"THE REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE ARE THE FIRST OF A LARGE PACKAGE OF REPLACEMENT LAWS WHICH WILL BE GRADUALLY INTRODUCED.

"THE ULTIMATE AIM IS FOR HONG KONG TO HAVE ITS OWN BODY OF MERCHANT SHIPPING LEGISLATION WELL BEFORE 1997." HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMENDMENT BILL TO ENHANCE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONTROL

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING LEGISLATION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER TIGHTEN UP CONTROL ON THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE IN HONG KONG.

THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EARLIER THIS WEEK FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SEEKS TO PROHIBIT THE TRADE IN MEDICINES CONTAINING RHINOCEROS INGREDIENTS AND TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO EFFECT MORE EFFICIENT CONTROL ON THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN GENERAL.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION, IT SEEKS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE LAW FIVEFOLD TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY DETERRENT.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. IU, SAID ONE OF THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BILL AIMED AT EXTENDING THE PROHIBITION ON THE TRADE IN RHINOCEROS TO COVER ANY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING ITS INGREDIENTS.

RHINOCEROS IS AT PRESENT CLASSIFIED AS AN APPENDIX I SPECIES BY THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES). ITS IMPORT WAS BANNED IN 1979 AND THE BAN WAS EXTENDED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR TO COVER THE INTERNAL SALE OF ITS PRODUCTS.

"RHINOCEROS DERIVATIVES ARE TRADITIONALLY USED IN CERTAIN CHINESE PATENT MEDICINES. TO FULFILL OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION UNDER CITES, WE SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO PROHIBIT THE TRADE IN SUCH MEDICINES," MR IU SAID.

"IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE ANALYTICALLY THE PRESENCE OF RHINOCEROS INGREDIENTS IN MEDICINES, THE BILL WILL MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR ANYONE TO IMPORT, EXPORT OR POSSESS MEDICINE WHICH CONTAINS, OR IS CLAIMED OR REPRESENTED TO CONTAIN, ANY RHINOCEROS INGREDIENTS."

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS PROHIBITION SHOULD NOT BE CONCEIVED AS A MEASURE TO CONTROL CHINESE MEDICINES, WHICH WAS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINES FOR BREACHING THE LICENSING CONTROL FROM \$5,000 TO \$25,000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND FROM \$10,000 TO \$50,000 FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE WITH THE JAIL SENTENCE OF SIX MONTHS FOR THE LATTER REMAINING UNCHANGED.

"THE EXISTING MAXIMUM FINES WERE FIXED IN 1976. COMPARED WITH THE VALUE OF GOODS WHICH ARE LIABLE TO SEIZURE, THEY ARE NOW TOO LOW TO PROVIDE A PROPER DETERRENT," HE SAID.

MR IU POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL ALSO INTRODUCED ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO CONTROL ENDANGERED SPECIES IN TRANSIT, TO PRESCRIBE THE IDENTIFICATION OF INCOMPLETE SPECIMENS AS COURT EVIDENCE, TO MAKE THE FURNISHING OF FALSE INFORMATION AN OFFENCE, AND TO STRENGTHEN THE POWERS OF SEARCH OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS.

"THE EXISTING LEGISLATION DOES NOT CONTROL ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES IN TRANSIT. TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE ABUSE, THE BILL WILL AMEND THE TRANSIT PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE TRANSIT SHIPMENTS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LICENCE, PERMIT, CERTIFICATE OR OTHER DOCUMENT FOR EXPORT, ISSUED BY A RELEVANT AUTHORITY OF THE EXPORTING COUNTRY," HE SAID.

"IN THE CASE OF A LIVE ENDANGERED ANIMAL IN TRANSIT, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS TO BE NOTIFIED AT LEAST THREE WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO ITS ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG."

/MR IU

MR IU WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE DEEMING PROVISION IN THE BILL IN RESPECT OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF INCOMPLETE SPECIMENS AS COURT EVIDENCE.

"CURRENTLY, A SPECIMEN NEEDS TO BE IDENTIFIED BEFORE A PROSECUTION CAN BE BROUGHT.

"BECAUSE A LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIES ARE INVOLVED, AND IDENTIFYING AN INCOMPLETE SPECIMEN IS OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE, THE PROVISION ENABLES ANY OBJECT WHICH IS NOT READILY RECOGNISABLE BUT IS CLAIMED OR REPRESENTED TO BE A SCHEDULED SPECIES TO BE ACCEPTED AS EVIDENCE IN A PROSECUTION CASE."

MR IU SAID THE BILL IMPOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 FOR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO OBTAIN A LICENCE AND MAKING FALSE CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF SCHEDULED SPECIES AND CONTROLLED MEDICINES. IN THE PAST, SUCH ACTS ONLY RESULTED IN THE CANCELLATION OF THE LICENCE ISSUED.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE BILL EXTENDED THE POWERS DELEGATED TO AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO STOP, BOARD AND SEARCH ANY VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, TRAIN OR VEHICLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPORTATION OF SCHEDULED SPECIES TO COVER SUSPECTED CONTRAVENTION OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OR POSSESSION OR THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT FOR SCHEDULED SPECIES AND CONTROLLED MEDICINES.

"SIMILARLY, THE BILL EXTENDS THE POWER OF AN AUTHORISED OFFICER TO ENABLE HIM TO STOP AND SEARCH ANY PERSON WHO IS SUSPECTED OF POSSESSING ANY SCHEDULED SPECIES OR CONTROLLED MEDICINES WITHOUT A LICENCE," MR IU ADDED.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING IMPORTERS AND VENDORS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINES HAVE ALL BEEN CONSULTED. THEY GENERALLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICES TO THE TRADERS TO ENABLE THEM TO DISPOSE OF THE EXISTING STOCKS BEFORE THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE BILL COME INTO OPERATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER SECTION OF U.S. OMNIBUS TRADE ACT

* * * * *

THE MINISTER FOR HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON, MR PETER LO, SAID IN SEATTLE ON THURSDAY (MAY 18) HONG KONG WAS CONCERNED THAT THE SECTION OF THE U.S. OMNIBUS TRADE ACT OF 1988, KNOWN AS THE SUPER 301, CREATED THE RISK OF THE U.S. ADOPTING EITHER UNILATERAL ACTION OR BILATERAL APPROACHES TO ITS TRADE PROBLEM.

HE SAID THAT WOULD LEAD QUICKLY INTO THE REALM OF MANAGED TRADE AND UNDERMINE THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM.

/MR LO

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 9 -

MR LO WAS SPEAKING TO TOP BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND ACADEMICS AT A LUNCH JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE WASHINGTON STATE CHINA RELATIONS COUNCIL.

UNDER THE OMNIBUS TRADE ACT, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS REQUIRED TO DRAW UP BY MAY 30 A LIST OF PRIORITY FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SUPER 301 ACTION BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPOSITION OF MAJOR BARRIERS TO U.S. EXPORTS.

MR LO SAID HONG KONG HAD AN OPEN ECONOMY WITHOUT ANY TRADE BARRIERS AND WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE SUBJECT TO ANY THREAT OF THE SUPER 301 ACTION, BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

HE SAID HONG KONG SHARED AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE FROM WHICH BOTH STOOD TO GAIN SO MUCH IN AREAS SUCH AS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION AND TRADE IN SERVICES.

BUT, HE POINTED OUT, UNILATERAL ACTION UNDER SUPER 301 WOULD JEOPARDISE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE ROUND BY BEING READ AS A SIGNAL THAT THE U.S., THE BIGGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL PLAYER, WAS LOSING FAITH IN THE POST-WAR MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM IT HAD DONE SO MUCH TO CREATE.

MR LO SAID THERE WAS ANOTHER POSSIBLE PROTECTIONIST THREAT THAT COULD ALSO JEOPARDISE THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

THAT WAS THE POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO THE CARIBBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY EXPANSION ACT OF 1989, OR CBI II, TO INCLUDE SOME FORM OF TEXTILE QUOTA TRANSFER OR OFFSET PROVISION THAT WOULD WITHDRAW QUOTAS FROM ASIAN SUPPLIERS TO OFFSET INCREASED IMPORTS FROM THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IF THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED, IT WOULD ALSO VIOLATE THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT AND THE BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WHICH THE U.S. HAD CONCLUDED WITH OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS.

HE CALLED ON THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST THE PROPOSAL AND ON ANY OTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES THAT COULD DAMAGE THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

IN HIS TALK ON HONG KONG'S POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE ISSUES, MR LO ALSO SPOKE ABOUT ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HK-U.S. ISSUES, AND ITS ECONOMIC TIES WITH CHINA.

OTHER SUBJECTS HE TOUCHED ON WERE THE HK-U.S. DOLLAR LINK AND THE OPERATION OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 10 -

BILL ON CONTROL OF OZONE DEPLETING CHEMICALS

* * * * *

A BILL PROPOSING TO IMPOSE IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL ON A NUMBER OF OZONE DEPLETING CHEMICALS AND PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE OF THESE CHEMICALS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION BILL 1989 IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 31.

SUBJECT TO THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL NEXT MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT CONTROLS AS FROM JULY 1.

EXPLAINING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID: "THE BILL PROVIDES THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER."

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL WAS RATIFIED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM LAST YEAR AND HONG KONG WAS INCLUDED IN THE RATIFICATION.

IT CALLS FOR A FREEZE AT 1986 LEVELS AND SUBSEQUENT REDUCTIONS IN THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFC'S) AND HALONS.

THESE CHEMICALS ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE A DEPLETING EFFECT TO THE OZONE LAYER WHICH IS A THIN LAYER OF GAS SURROUNDING THE EARTH LIKE AN OUTER SKIN AND PROTECTING THE PLANET AND ITS INHABITANTS FROM THE SUN'S ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS. IT ACTS AS A SCREEN TO PREVENT HARMFUL AMOUNTS OF ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION FROM REACHING THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE MID-1970'S, SCIENTISTS HAVE OBSERVED A GRADUAL DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER. THIS WILL LEAD TO INCREASES IN THE INCIDENCE OF SKIN CANCER AND EYE CATARACTS IN HUMANS AS WELL AS EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

"THE BILL PROHIBITS THE MANUFACTURE OF THE EIGHT CONTROLLED CHEMICALS, THAT IS, CFC 11, 12, 113, 114 AND 115 AND HALONS 1211, 1301 AND 2402," MR BARNES SAID.

HONG KONG DOES NOT PRODUCE ANY OF THESE CHEMICALS. THE AIM IS THEREFORE TO BAN THE FUTURE SETTING UP OF SUCH PRODUCTION.

"AT THE SAME TIME IMPORT AND EXPORT OF THE FIVE CFC CHEMICALS WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL. ALL IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER THE BILL AND OBTAIN A LICENCE BEFORE IMPORTING OR EXPORTING THE CHEMICALS.

"THE CONTROL OF IMPORT AND EXPORT OF HALONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT A LATER STAGE."

A NOTICE WAS ALSO PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR QUOTA ALLOCATION FOR RETAINED IMPORTS. BOOKLETS WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY TO ADVISE ON THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 11 -

STAGGERED RELEASE OF STAFF ADVISED WITH APPROACH OF TYPHOON

* * * * *

WITH THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON BRENDA, THE FIRST CYCLONE OF THE YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEASING THEIR STAFF IN PHASES IF AND WHEN THE NO. 8 SIGNAL IS RAISED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF EMPLOYERS COULD THE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RETURNING HOME ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME BE REDUCED.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE RELEASING THEIR STAFF IN PHASES WHEN THE HOISTING OF A NO. 8 SIGNAL WAS IMMINENT. HE URGED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS WITH THEIR STAFF.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WAS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE NO. 8 SIGNAL WOULD BE HOISTED WITHIN TWO HOURS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ISSUE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ADVISING DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYERS TO RELEASE THEIR STAFF IN STAGES.

THIS SHOULD START WITH STAFF WHO HAD TO CATCH AN OUTLYING FERRY, FOLLOWING A BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FERRY SERVICES WOULD SOON BE SUSPENDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SECOND GROUP TO BE RELEASED SHOULD BE THOSE WHO HAVE TO MAKE A LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY HOME.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DEFINE A LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY, BUT NOTED THAT PEOPLE WHO WORK IN CENTRAL AND LIVE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, OR VICE VERSA, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY.

WHEN THE NO. 8 SIGNAL WAS HOISTED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID EMPLOYERS SHOULD RELEASE THOSE WHO HAD TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE TRIP ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO REACH HOME.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO RELEASE AT THIS TIME PEOPLE WHO HAVE STRONG OR PRESSING PERSONAL REASONS TO RETURN HOME, FOR EXAMPLE MOTHERS WHO HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN.

"THE LAST GROUP OF PEOPLE TO BE RELEASED SHOULD BE THOSE WHO LIVE NEAR TO THEIR PLACE OF WORK," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ASSURED COMMUTERS THAT MAJOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THREE TO SIX HOURS AFTER THE NO. 8 SIGNAL HAD BEEN HOISTED.

HE SAID THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF STAFF TO BE RELEASED IN PHASES WERE ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES AND THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYERS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN PRIORITIES ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 12 -

EMPLOYERS URGED TO MAKE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS DURING TYPHOONS

* * * * *

WITH THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 1 STAND BY TYPHOON SIGNAL. EMPLOYERS ARE URGED TO MAKE PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS.

SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE RULES FOR REPORTING TO WORK AND RELEASING EMPLOYEES FROM WORK, AND THE METHOD OF CALCULATING WAGES UNDER VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT ALTHOUGH THE LAW DID NOT LAY DOWN ANY PARTICULAR PROVISIONS, IT WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR SUCH AGREEMENTS TO BE REACHED.

HE SAID EMPLOYERS SHOULD GIVE PRIOR CONSIDERATION TO THEIR WORKERS' SAFETY, BOTH AT THE WORKPLACE AND WHILE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM HOME DURING A TYPHOON.

"NORMALLY, EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT REQUIRE EMPLOYEES TO REPORT FOR DUTY OR TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 8 OR A HIGHER SIGNAL IS HOISTED, OR WHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS ABOUT TO STOP," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE WHO ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL OR EMERGENCY DUTIES DURING A TYPHOON."

EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN DRAFTING OR PREPARING TYPHOON ARRANGEMENTS CAN SEEK ADVICE FROM ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE, OR TELEPHONE 5-282213, 3-232191 OR 0-4234496.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE SENIOR CLASSES IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

* * * * *

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WILL OPERATE MORE SECONDARY 4 CLASSES AND THEIR TEACHING ESTABLISHMENT WILL BE RESTRUCTURED AS PART OF THE PLAN TO FURTHER IMPROVE THIS SECTOR OF EDUCATION. THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARITAS CHAN CHUN HA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN YUEN LONG, MR LI SAID SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES. PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE FROM SEPTEMBER 1992.

MR LI NOTED THAT THERE WERE 21 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG. THE NUMBER WOULD INCREASE TO 28 ON COMPLETION OF SEVEN OTHER PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS BY 1992.

HE THANKED THE CARITAS FOR PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE SINCE THE 1960'S IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

/MR LI

- 13 -

MR LI SAID WITH THE OPENING OF THE YUEN LONG SCHOOL -- THE FIRST PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT -- MORE SECONDARY PLACES WOULD BE PROVIDED TO MEET THE DEMAND IN THE DISTRICT AND TO PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR A CAREER IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HANG SENG BANK, DR HO TIM PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CARITAS FOR THEIR WIDE-RANGING SERVICES TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG.

THE YUEN LONG SCHOOL, THE NINTH PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL OPERATED BY THE CARITAS, WOULD PROVIDE MORE VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE NEW SCHOOL PREMISES WAS BLESSED BY THE BISHOP OF HONG KONG, CARDINAL WU.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION PAYS TRIBUTE TO STAFF

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, TODAY (FRIDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO HIS STAFF FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEVOTION AT A PARADE TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

"THANKS TO THEIR EFFORTS, THE DEPARTMENT IS RECOGNISED BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE A REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN PROBLEMS," MR CARTER SAID.

"I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE IMMIGRATION TEAM," HE ADDED.

MR CARTER INSPECTED 202 MEMBERS OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE AT THE FAREWELL PARADE HELD AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON BAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INTERIM REPORT ON SURROGACY AND ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FINALISED

* * * * *

THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION HAS FINALISED ITS INTERIM REPORT ON SURROGACY AND ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BEGINNING IN JULY.

THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DR LEONG CHE-HUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AFTER THE COMMITTEE'S 11TH MEETING THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

/RECOMMENDATIONS ON

RECOMMENDATIONS ON SURROGACY

- * IN VIEW OF THE VERY COMPLICATED SOCIAL AND MORAL ISSUES CONNECTED WITH GENETIC SURROGACY, ONLY GENETIC INVITRO FERTILISATION (IVF) SURROGACY (THAT IS THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE CONTRIBUTE BOTH THE EGG AND SEMEN FERTILISED OUTSIDE THE SURROGATE MOTHER), SHOULD BE ALLOWED SUBJECT TO STRICT CONTROL.
- * COMMERCIAL SURROGACY SHOULD BE BANNED IN HONG KONG.
- * GENETIC IVF SURROGACY SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR INFERTILE MARRIED COUPLES WHERE NO ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IS POSSIBLE.
- * A WOMAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN MARRIED NOR HAS HAD A CHILD OF HER OWN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ACT AS A SURROGATE MOTHER.
- * PROPER PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING ON LIKELY PROBLEMS FOR BOTH THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE AND THE SURROGATE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SURROGACY SHOULD BE MADE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROCESS.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

- * ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY HUSBAND SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN ITS PRESENT FORM. SINCE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY DONOR (AID) HAS BEEN PRACTISED IN HONG KONG FOR OVER 15 YEARS AND SEEMS TO BE ACCEPTABLE, IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
- * THE LEGITIMACY OF CHILDREN BORN BY AID SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY LEGISLATION. THE COMMITTEE FAVOURS LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ALONG THE LINES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FAMILY LAW REFORM ACT 1987.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 27 OF THE ACT, A CHILD BORN AS THE RESULT OF THE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF A MARRIED WOMAN BY THE SEMEN OF A DONOR SHALL BE TREATED IN LAW AS THE CHILD OF THE MARRIED WOMAN AND HER HUSBAND, UNLESS IT IS PROVED THAT THE HUSBAND DID NOT CONSENT TO THE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.

- * THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SEMEN DONORS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN ALL CASES.
- * AN AID CHILD SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT OF VERIFICATION ON REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY, CURRENTLY, 21. THE INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE CONFIRMATION OF PERFORMANCE OF THE AID PROCEDURE ON HIS MOTHER. NO OTHER PARTIES SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO SUCH VERIFICATION.

/* ONLY

- * ONLY BANKED SEMEN SHOULD BE USED FOR AID IN HONG KONG. THIS WILL ALLOW TIME FOR DONORS TO BE CHECKED FOR DISEASES, AND DECREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCEST IN A SMALL AND CLOSED SOCIETY. FOR ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY HUSBAND, EITHER BANKED OR FRESH SEMEN CAN BE USED.
- * SEMEN OF ANY SINGLE DONOR SHOULD NOT BE USED TO PRODUCE MORE THAN THREE PREGNANCIES.
- * A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DONORS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, NOTING THAT THE SETTING UP OF A CENTRAL SEMEN BANK IS IMPRACTICAL.

DR LEONG STRESSED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INTERIM REPORT WERE NOT FINAL.

"THE COMMITTEE WILL CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC AND, IF NECESSARY, REVISE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING THEM TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN SEND THEIR COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ON THE INTERIM REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THROUGH THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RESULTS OF 1987 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION
AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS

* * * * *

RESULTS OF THE 1987 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED FROM APRIL 1988 TO EARLY 1989, INDICATED THAT 9,508 CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS HAD OPERATED IN 1987.

THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS DURING 1987 AMOUNTED TO \$55,837 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1986.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WERE RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

ALL VALUE FIGURES IN THE PRESS RELEASE ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICE TERMS. THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE/COST INCREASES.

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THESE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN 1987 WAS \$55,032 MILLION.

THIS INCLUDED \$14,457 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND PAYMENTS TO LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS; \$16,227 MILLION ON CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES; \$21,296 MILLION ON SUB-CONTRACT WORK RENDERED BY FEE SUB-CONTRACTORS; AND \$3,052 MILLION ON MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENSES.

AT \$16,450 MILLION, THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS 22 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT IN 1986. VALUE ADDED IS A MEASURE OF THE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

ABOUT 38 PER CENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS WERE ENGAGED IN RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. HOWEVER, THEY ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 11 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GENERAL TRADE CONTRACTORS OPERATING AT CONSTRUCTION SITES ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 8 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, BUT ACCOUNTED FOR \$35,640 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE REST OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR CONSISTED MOSTLY OF SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, SUCH AS CONTRACTORS SPECIALISING IN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FITTINGS, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 25 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED.

THE SURVEY DID NOT COVER LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS WHO MAINLY SUPPLIED LABOUR TO WORK ON A JOB-TO-JOB BASIS. HOWEVER, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THESE SUB-CONTRACTORS WAS INCLUDED IN THAT OF CONTRACTORS COMMISSIONING THEIR SERVICES.

APART FROM CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS, THE SURVEY ALSO ENUMERATED FIRMS ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT; AND ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS, 4,123 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT, LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES HAD OPERATED DURING 1987.

THEIR GROSS OUTPUT IN 1987 WAS \$26,014 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED \$11,807 MILLION FROM SERVICE AND RENTAL INCOME, \$13,906 MILLION FROM GROSS MARGIN OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (EXCLUDING LAND PRICE APPRECIATION) AND \$301 MILLION FROM OTHER INCOME. THEIR TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$7,972 MILLION.

AT \$22,589 MILLION, THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS 34 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT IN 1986.

THESE FIGURES DID NOT INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENTS THAT DEVELOPED REAL ESTATE PROJECTS FOR THEIR OWN OCCUPATION OR THOSE THAT OWNED LAND WITHOUT DEVELOPING IT DURING THE REFERENCE YEAR. ALSO EXCLUDED WERE REAL ESTATE LEASING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS OR HOUSEHOLDS.

REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES, THE SURVEY RESULTS INDICATED THAT 636 SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS HAD OPERATED IN 1987.

THEIR TOTAL BUSINESS RECEIPTS WERE \$2,762 MILLION, AND TOTAL EXPENDITURE WAS \$2,261 MILLION OF WHICH \$1,348 MILLION WAS ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES. THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS \$1,860 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT OVER 1986.

THE SURVEY ALSO COLLECTED DATA ABOUT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS, A TOTAL OF 1,913 SITE CONTRACTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN 1987 WITH THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AMOUNTING TO \$26,247 MILLION, WHICH WAS 24 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1986. THIS INCLUDED \$8,453 MILLION ON PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION SITES AND \$17,793 MILLION ON PRIVATE ONES.

THE SHARE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS 32 PER CENT IN 1987, COMPARED WITH 33 PER CENT IN 1986.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, AT \$11,991 MILLION IN 1987, WAS 13 PER CENT ABOVE THAT IN 1986.

THE INCREASE OCCURRED MOSTLY IN PRIVATE HOUSING PROJECTS WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 65 PER CENT OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN 1987, COMPARED WITH 70 PER CENT IN 1986.

FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THE VALUE ACCRUED TO PRIVATE PROJECTS DURING 1987 WAS \$29,004 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 37 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING VALUE IN 1986. THE TOTAL PROJECT OUTLAY WAS \$16,374 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED, FOR INSTANCE, PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS AND INTEREST PAYMENTS.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 1987 SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL 1989 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MORE DETAILED RESULTS WILL BE GIVEN IN A FULL SURVEY REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1989.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8234977.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 18 -

AREA COMMITTEES TO STRENGTHEN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

* * * * *

FOUR AREA COMMITTEES WILL BE SET UP IN TUEN MUN NEXT MONTH AS ADDITIONAL CHANNELS OF CONSULTATION TO STRENGTHEN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, SAID THE COMMITTEES WOULD COVER THE NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST, SOUTHWEST AND NORTHWEST SECTORS TO TIE IN WITH THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES.

"THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEES WILL PERFORM AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITY BUILDING, BY WAY OF FOSTERING NEIGHBOURLINESS, PROMOTING BETTER BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

MR WAN SAID EACH COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIST OF 20 TO 30 MEMBERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, VILLAGE OFFICES, RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SECTORS.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO SIT ON THE COMMITTEES WHILE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETINGS ON A NEED BASIS.

THE NORMAL TENURE OF AN AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER IS 12 MONTHS.

ON THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE AREA COMMITTEES, MR WAN SAID THAT THEY WERE STARTED IN 1972 TO ASSIST IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN AND THE FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME CAMPAIGNS.

"NOWADAYS, HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEES ARE NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH AREA PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO IN DISTRICT MATTERS AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES," HE SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT COMMENTS ON CONSIDERABLE OVERLAPPING OF WORK BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS, MR WAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE THE CROSS-MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CONSULTATIVE BODIES WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO RESOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS MORE EFFICIENTLY.

MR WAN CONCLUDED THE SEMINAR BY PRESENTING LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT TO SOME 100 AREA COMMITTEES MEMBERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/19

MANDATORY OFF-STREET TRAINING FOR LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS
* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS AND MOTOR TRICYCLISTS HAVE TO UNDERTAKE MANDATORY OFF-STREET TRAINING AND PASS A COMPETENCE TEST BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE ON THE ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, ANY PERSON AGED 18 YEARS OR ABOVE, AFTER OBTAINING A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE, CAN RIDE A MOTORCYCLE ON A ROAD WITHOUT ANY TRAINING OR SUPERVISION.

THIS HAS MADE LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS MORE PRONE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS. IN 1988, THE ACCIDENT RATE OF LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS WAS 9.3 PER 1,000 LEARNERS AS COMPARED TO 0.5 PER 1,000 FOR PRIVATE CAR LEARNER DRIVERS.

TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL ISSUE A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE FOR MOTORCYCLES OR MOTOR TRICYCLES ONLY IF THE APPLICANT HAS PASSED THE WRITTEN AND BASIC SKILL TESTS UPON COMPLETION OF A MANDATORY OFF STREET TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED IN A DESIGNATED DRIVING SCHOOL.

THE MOTORCYCLE DRIVING TEST WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS.

PART A IS A WRITTEN TEST ON THE ROAD USERS' CODE AND PART B A BASIC DRIVING SKILL TEST CONDUCTED BY TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED PARTS A AND B WILL BE ISSUED WITH A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE TO PRACTISE ON THE ROAD.

PART C IS THE NORMAL ROAD TEST AND SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE ISSUED WITH A FULL MOTORCYCLE DRIVING LICENCE.

UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE AUTHORISED TO DESIGNATE DRIVING SCHOOLS AND REGULATE THEIR OPERATIONS IN RESPECT OF MATTERS SUCH AS COURSE CONTENTS AND DURATION, FACILITIES AND SAFETY MEASURES AND EQUIPMENT.

THE BILL WILL ALSO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER TO SPECIFY THE TUITION FEES CHARGED BY THE DESIGNATED DRIVING SCHOOLS FOR OFF-STREET MOTORCYCLE AND MOTOR TRICYCLE TRAINING.

THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 31.

SUBJECT TO THE BILL BEING PASSED BY THE COUNCIL, IT IS PROPOSED THAT ITS PROVISIONS AND THE SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES) REGULATIONS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 20 -

BUILDING MANAGEMENT SUCCESS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN
* * * * *

THE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN 29 BUILDINGS TARGETTED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED IN THE PAST YEAR, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AS HE REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.

MR FISHER, WHO CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE, SAID THAT SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE IN MAY LAST YEAR, IT HAD ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO COVER 90 BUILDINGS THROUGH ITS BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM.

HE POINTED OUT THE COMMITTEE'S MAIN AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO UPGRADE THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF THEIR BUILDINGS THROUGH PARTICIPATION.

MEANWHILE, HEAD OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM, MR LEE CHI-SHING, POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMON PROBLEMS IN THE TARGET BUILDINGS WERE UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS, OBSTRUCTION OF FIRE ESCAPES, PUNCTURED CHIMNEYS AND LACK OF MAINTENANCE.

THESE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED THROUGH DAILY CONTACTS WITH RESIDENTS BY HIS TEAM MEMBERS.

"ONCE A BUILDING IS SELECTED AS A TARGET FOR IMPROVEMENT, A FLOOR-TO-FLOOR SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED AFTER WHICH THE TEAM WILL COMPILE A REPORT HIGHLIGHTING THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS," HE EXPLAINED.

THE NEXT STEP WAS TO GIVE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON FIRE SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, SECURITY, MAINTENANCE AND FINANCIAL CONTROL.

MR LEE ADDED THAT IN THE PAST YEAR, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE HAD ASSISTED THE COMMITTEE IN ORGANISING SEVEN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

ANOTHER LARGE SCALE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN JULY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 21 -

HOME SAFETY EXHIBITION IN SHA TIN

* * * * *

THE EIGHTH IN A SERIES OF NINE EXHIBITIONS TO DISSEMINATE HOME SAFETY MESSAGES WILL BE STAGED AT THE SHOPPING CENTRE OF WO CHEE ESTATE IN SHA TIN ON SUNDAY (MAY 21) FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM.

THE THEME OF THE EXHIBITION IS "HOW TO KEEP YOUR KITCHEN SAFE"

"THE EXHIBITION, IN THE FORM OF A MOCK KITCHEN, AIMS AT ALERTING THE PUBLIC TO POTENTIAL DANGERS IN THIS AREA OF THE HOME," A SPOKESMAN OF THE HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

A NEW BOOKLET "SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME" WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS AT THE VENUE.

"THE BOOKLET NOT ONLY OUTLINES THE MOST COMMON HAZARDS IN THE HOME BUT ALSO PROVIDES GUIDELINES ON HOW TO AVOID MISHAPS ARISING THROUGH THE USE OF GAS, ELECTRICITY, MICROWAVE, WATER, CHEMICALS AND MEDICINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT ALSO GIVES ADVICE ON FIRST AID AND THE CONTENT OF A FIRST AID BOX," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION MOVES TO TUEN MUN

* * * * *

AN EXHIBITION ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (MAY 22) AT THE TUEN MUN CITY PLAZA, TUEN MUN.

IT IS THE LAST IN A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS ON THE SUBJECT BEING STAGED JOINTLY BY THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HARBOUR JAYCEES.

APART FROM INTRODUCING SOME OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRY, THE EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS THE MORE COMMON HAZARDS TO OFFICE WORKERS SUCH AS THE EFFECTS OF VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS, WORK STRESS AND OTHER HAZARDS PRESENT IN THE OFFICE ENVIRONMENT.

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS AND MEDICAL STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM DAILY UNTIL MAY 28.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 22 -

ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS ON HOME-BASED WELFARE TRAINING

* * * * *

ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS ARE BEING HELD THIS MONTH FOR ABOUT 30 SOCIAL WORKERS INVOLVED IN HOME-BASED TRAINING FOR PERSONS WITH A MENTAL HANDICAP.

A GROUP OF 20 WELFARE WORKERS FROM THE KOWLOON UNION CHURCH AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ATTENDED THE FIRST TWO-DAY WORKSHOP.

ANOTHER GROUP OF WELFARE WORKERS FROM THE SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED WILL PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (MAY 24 AND 25).

THE WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A PACKAGE OF PROGRAMMES ON HOME-BASED TRAINING FOR PERSONS WITH A MENTAL HANDICAP.

THIS PACKAGE HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT JOINTLY WITH ACADEMICS AND EXPERTS FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTORS.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE PROVIDES GUIDELINES TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOME-BASED TEAMS TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR PERSONS WITH A MENTAL HANDICAP AWAITING PLACEMENT IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES OR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS.

THE PACKAGE CONSISTS OF FIVE PARTS. THESE ARE PROGRAMMES FOR TRAINING IN DOMESTIC AND COMMUNITY LIVING SKILLS, SOCIAL/INTERPERSONAL AND RECREATIONAL SKILLS, GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT, AND TEACHER ORIENTATION.

THE SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMMES ARE DESIGNED ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND TRAINING TECHNIQUES REQUIRED.

COMMENTING ON THE ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HOME-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME, MISS ESTHER HO, SAID THEY WOULD PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRAINING PACKAGE AND ENABLE THEM TO USE IT IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 23 -

FIRING PRACTICE IN JUNE

* * *

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 20 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE ----	TIME ----
JUNE 1 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 2 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 5 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 6 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 7 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 9 (FRIDAY)	7 AM - 11.59 PM
JUNE 10 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 12 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 13 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 14 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 15 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 16 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
JUNE 21 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
JUNE 22 (THURSDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM
JUNE 23 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
JUNE 24 (SATURDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM
JUNE 27 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
JUNE 28 (WEDNESDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM
JUNE 29 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
JUNE 30 (FRIDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM

----- 0 -----

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 24 -

TENDERS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS IN TO KWA WAN
* * * * *

SOME 1,900 METRES OF SEWERS WILL BE LAID FROM MA TAU CHUNG ROAD TO YUK YAT STREET IN TO KWA WAN AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IN THE AREA.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL PERMIT SEWAGE FROM THE TO KWA WAN DISTRICT TO BE CONVEYED TO THE FUTURE SCREENING PLANT AT TO KWA WAN RECLAMATION DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT MID-1990.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS RANGING IN SIZES FROM 225 MILLIMETRES TO 1,650 MILLIMETRES IN DIAMETER ALONG TO KWA WAN ROAD, MOK CHEONG STREET, KWEI CHOW STREET, SUNG WONG TOI ROAD, PAK TAI STREET AND TAM KUNG ROAD.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 9.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN WAN CHAI TO BE CLOSED
* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN THE REAR LANE OF 285-295 LOCKHART ROAD, WAN CHAI SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 19 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

- 25 -

ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN HO MAN TIN TO BE CLOSED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN HO MAN TIN SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

IT IS LOCATED AT FLAT B, 19TH FLOOR, DELTEC COURT, 73C WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 19 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURE TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN WAN CHAI TO BE CLOSED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN THE REAR LANE OF 279-283 LOCKHART ROAD, WAN CHAI, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE LAST NOVEMBER AND IN JANUARY THIS YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WITH WHICH THE OWNERS HAVE FAILED TO COMPLY.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 19 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF STRUCTURES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

- - - - 0 - - - -